

**RESWCC3.070 Environmental protection of the Mediterranean Sea from the risk of maritime traffic**

**Congress reference: CGR3.RES054 ERev-1**

RECOGNIZING that the Mediterranean region, because of its distinctive geomorphology and history, is one of the richest areas of biological and landscape diversity in the world, with unique ecosystems and endemism, which makes it a global biodiversity hotspot;

NOTING that the Mediterranean is a closed sea with a water exchange period of 80 years, where water temperature and climatic conditions make the risk of pollution particularly dangerous;

CONSIDERING the importance of the Mediterranean Sea for global maritime traffic;

UNDERLINING the important role of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its specific protocols and of the International Maritime Organization in providing support to Parties in dealing with issues related to maritime traffic risks, prevention and response to accidents;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the *Naples Declaration*, agreed by IUCN Mediterranean members in June 2004, particularly where this requests a renewed and enhanced effort for implementation of the Barcelona Convention, encouraging states to ratify and implement the Convention's protocols especially those on navigational safety, on Specially Protected Areas and the *Strategic Action Plan on Biodiversity* (SAP-BIO);

RECOGNIZING the important role played by IUCN in deepening knowledge on transboundary environmental issues and issues related to the high seas, in raising awareness of these issues and in empowering members and other parties with this knowledge; and

RECOGNIZING the increased attention of IUCN to Mediterranean issues, for instance through its establishment of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17-25 November 2004:

REQUESTS the Director General to:

- (a) assess the current and future threats to Mediterranean biodiversity arising from maritime traffic through the Mediterranean Sea, including with the assistance of the Specialist Group on Ocean Law and Governance of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, and to propose appropriate forms of action drawing on existing international agreements;
- (b) propose pilot actions and support the activities of IUCN Mediterranean members in the context of international agreements focused on this topic; and
- (c) raise in relevant international fora, including the International Maritime Organization, and as appropriate, the United Nations General Assembly, the issues related to environmental protection of the Mediterranean Sea from the risk of maritime traffic.

*State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.*