

RES 3.034 Strengthening the action of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

RECALLING that previous General Assemblies of IUCN and Sessions of the World Conservation Congress have approved Recommendations calling for specific IUCN action in the Mediterranean, because of the serious problems faced by the marine, coastal and insular ecosystems of the region caused by demographic concentration, economic activities and pollution;

CONSCIOUS that these serious problems still exist despite the best efforts of governments, international bodies and non-governmental organizations;

NOTING more specifically Resolution 2.7 *Implementation of the IUCN Component Programme for the Mediterranean* adopted by the 2nd World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), as well as Recommendation 19.17 *An IUCN Office for the Mediterranean* (Buenos Aires, 1994) and Resolution 1.10 *IUCN's Work in the Mediterranean* (Montreal, 1996) calling on the IUCN Director General to work with IUCN members in the establishment of a Mediterranean Regional Office;

AWARE of the work carried out under the auspices of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the Barcelona Convention) through its Contracting Parties, the Mediterranean Action Plan's (MAP) Co-ordinating Unit in Athens and its Mediterranean Regional Activity Centres (RACs);

NOTING the active role played by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSA) in recent years;

SENSITIVE to the serious problems of desertification encountered in many Mediterranean countries, notably those in the south and east of the region, and appreciating the work of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the importance of the work on global climate change carried out by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular as it affects the Mediterranean region;

NOTING the contribution to conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Mediterranean made by the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971), and in particular of the *MedWet* initiative which concentrates on the Mediterranean region;

AWARE of the considerable efforts made by the European Union to find solutions for these Mediterranean problems (in particular through its Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme – SMAP), the more so as several additional Mediterranean states have recently become members of the European Union;

NOTING the long-term work on fisheries in the Mediterranean carried out by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, based in Rome; and

RECOGNIZING the role played in sustainable development of the Mediterranean by regional and national non-governmental organizations, many of them members of IUCN;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

1. REASSERTS concerns expressed in previous IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations over environmental issues in the Mediterranean and calls for increased attention to be paid to finding solutions;

2. WARMLY WELCOMES the establishment of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in Malaga (Spain) in 2001 and thanks those who have supported the establishment of this office, notably

the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente de España (Ministry of Environment of Spain) and the Consejería de Medio Ambiente de la Junta de Andalucía (Ministry of Environment of the Autonomous Regional Government of Andalucía);

3. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to recognize the specific qualities of Mediterranean culture and the wish of members to work together at the regional level, and to take appropriate actions to elevate the status of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in response to the IUCN Regionalization and Decentralization Review;

4. FURTHER REQUESTS that the aforementioned Review be completed by December 2005;

5. REAFFIRMS that the primary function of the IUCN Centre for the Mediterranean Cooperation remains the support and promotion of the activities of the Mediterranean members of IUCN and cooperation with other organizations, notably those mentioned in the Preamble to the present Resolution, which share the Union's objectives (see Resolution 2.7 *Implementation of the IUCN Component Programme for the Mediterranean* adopted by the 2nd World Conservation Congress, Amman, 2000); and

6. RECOMMENDS that the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation:

(a) continues its present activities to support IUCN members in the Mediterranean region in their work on the numerous environmental problems affecting the region;

(b) pays particular attention to strengthening and extending its network of contacts and cooperation with other environmental organizations active in the Mediterranean region;

(c) devotes particular attention during the next triennium to three issues, likely to be of critical importance to the Mediterranean:

(i) establishment of transboundary protected areas;

(ii) effects in the Mediterranean of global climate change and its implications for the management of water resources; and

(iii) issues of marine governance, both in territorial and extra-territorial waters; and

(d) develops, in particular in the three fields mentioned above, concrete projects, capable of enhancing the mobilization and cohesion of IUCN members from the whole Mediterranean basin.

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

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.