

RES 3.038 Conservation and sustainable development of mountain regions

NOTING that mountain regions occur on all continents, occupy almost a quarter of the Earth's terrestrial surface, and are inhabited by almost one eighth of the world's human population;

RECOGNIZING that mountain regions provide vital goods and services to at least half the global population, including the provision of not only water, food, forest products, and minerals, but also places for recreation and tourism, and are of spiritual value;

ACKNOWLEDGING the increased awareness of the values of mountain regions that resulted from the *International Year of Mountains, 2002*, during which the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg, South Africa, specifically addressed mountain regions in Chapter 42 of its *Plan of Implementation*;

ACKNOWLEDGING the establishment of the *International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions*, which, in Resolution 57/245, adopted at its 78th plenary meeting on 20 December 2002, the General Assembly of the United Nations invited the international community and other relevant partners to join;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that mountain regions support distinctive ecosystems and species constituting an important component of global biodiversity, and that these include animals, plants and other organisms of economic importance, including the ancestors of many of the world's major crops;

HAVING CONSIDERED the *Programme of Work on Mountain Biological Diversity* adopted by the 7th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD (Kuala Lumpur, 2004);

RECOGNIZING the large number of projects undertaken in mountain regions by IUCN and its members;

RECALLING Resolution 2.45 *Conservation of mountain ecosystems in Europe*, which was adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

RECALLING Workshop Recommendation V.6 *Strengthening Mountain Protected Areas as a Key Contribution to Sustainable Mountain Development*, which was noted by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003); and

APPRECIATING the joint establishment of the Mountain Initiative Task Force by the Chairs of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas;

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

1. CALLS ON national governments, international agencies and the non-governmental community, in particular those that are members of IUCN, to implement the effective conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity and ecosystem resources of mountain regions, as called for in the CBD *Programme of Work on Mountain Biological Diversity* and in other recent fora cited in the preamble; and

2. URGES the IUCN Director General to recognize the vital global importance of IUCN activities in mountain regions in contributing to IUCN's Global Programme, particularly with regard to Key Result Area 5 of the *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008 on Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods*, by:

(a) considering the expansion of the Mountain Initiative Task Force to include representatives from all relevant Commissions and Programmes of IUCN in order to ensure that IUCN takes a comprehensive, Union-wide approach to its activities in mountain regions;

(b) making appropriate provision to the Mountain Initiative Task Force to undertake a critical review of past and current projects of IUCN and its members in mountain regions, in order to widely promote and facilitate the sharing of lessons learned from experience with mountain-related policy and practice;

(c) Ensuring that IUCN engages fully in the *International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions* and in the implementation of the *CBD Programme of Work on Mountain Biological Diversity*, capitalizing on its unique and diverse membership and its convening capacity to contribute to improved policy-making for conservation and sustainable development in mountain regions; and

(d) Ensuring that IUCN works with member countries and organizations in conducting its mountain initiatives by engaging in local and regional partnership arrangements.

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

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.