

Annexe 4

The 3RD IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 17-25 NOVEMBER 2004 Bangkok, Thailand

The 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress, which took place from 17-25 November 2004 in Bangkok, was considered by most participants as the most successful and better organized so far. It brought together over 5,000 participants from governments, NGOs, scientists, and more than ever before, representatives from the business and private sector.

The Congress comprised three principal elements: **the Commissions at Work** to assess the work of IUCN's six Commissions, **the World Conservation Forum** and the **Members' General Assembly** to address governance, policy and programmatic issues of the Union. Throughout the Congress, ministers and representatives from the business and NGO sectors discussed in numerous roundtables and workshops numerous conservation and sustainable development challenges.

The World Conservation Forum

The Forum, which took place for three days, before the General Assembly, was considered the most interesting part of the Congress. It was composed of over 350 sessions, including Global Synthesis Workshops, Sponsored Workshops, Futures Dialogues, Conservation Platforms, Training Workshops, etc...

The Global Synthesis Workshops and Sponsored Workshops focused on **four main themes**:

- 1- Ecosystem Management -bridging sustainability and productivity-
- 2- Health, Poverty and Conservation
- 3- Biodiversity Loss and Species Extinction
- 4- Markets, business and the Environment

The Forum addressed an important number of issues from governance to financing, mountain areas, marine issues, climate change, forestry, gmos, etc... Amongst all the issues addressed, the **marine issues** received great attention. In fact, it was one of the issues that came out the strongest at the Forum. Therefore, marine issues will be of top priority in IUCN future programmes.

Workshop on “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries”

EBCD had offered to sponsor on behalf of the ESUSG Fisheries Working Group a workshop on “**Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries**”, with the objective of bringing balance to the numerous debates and activities during the Congress. The aim of the workshop was to debate practical steps towards an ecosystem-wide approach to fisheries management. In this respect, the workshop looked at what steps are taken in the various regions of Europe (Mediterranean, North Sea, Barents Sea and inland waters) towards implementing the ecosystem approach with main focus the stakeholder participation especially working with the fishers.

The Workshop counted on the participation of Professor A D Hawkins (North Sea Regional Advisory Council), Matthew Camilleri (Malta Centre for Fisheries Sciences), Robert Aps (Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu), Mr Gjosaeter (Institute of Marine Research, Norway), and Mr Chalabi (IUCN-Med).

The workshop was considered very useful and provided background for the Resolution which EBCD had tabled.

Resolution - Strengthening stakeholder participation in fisheries management (*REC020-Rev1*)

This Recommendation was tabled by the following sponsors:

European Bureau for Conservation and Development

Miljoverndepartementet, Norway

Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Spain

This **Recommendation (*REC020-Rev1*)**, was tabled by EBCD and sponsored by Norway and Spain with the aim of ensuring that IUCN works more closely with the Fisheries sector (governments and industry) in its work on fisheries management issues. It was not surprising that this caused the concern of protectionist groups. It became controversial and was refereed to a contact group. A new paragraph was inserted asking IUCN to also request Fisheries Management Bodies to involve all stakeholders including environmental NGOs.

In the Recommendation, the Congress requests the various components of IUCN to work more closely with fisheries authorities to ensure that all stakeholders, including fishers, are involved in initiatives and/or actions related to fisheries and oceans management; and IUCN to encourage the involvement of all stakeholders, including fishers, in research to improve the protection of the marine environment. The Congress also calls on IUCN to promote transparency

in fisheries management by requesting all fisheries management authorities to engage in full stakeholder consultation and participation.