

2.77 Conservation of marine turtles on the Atlantic coast of Africa

RECALLING that the six species of marine turtles found on the Atlantic coast of Africa, from the Straits of Gibraltar to Cape Hope, and in Macaronesia, are all included in the IUCN Red List of Endangered Animal Species;

ALSO RECALLING that marine turtles are listed in Annex I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and in Annexes I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS or Bonn Convention);

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED by the many threats to marine turtles during all stages of their life cycle, including destruction and pollution of coastal and marine habitats, coastal urbanization, industrial fishing activities, irrational exploitation, and international trade;

RECOGNIZING the shared responsibility of States for the conservation of populations of marine turtles on the Atlantic coast of Africa;

CONSCIOUS that planned and coordinated measures should immediately be taken to counter threats to existing populations;

WELCOMING with satisfaction the Memorandum of Understanding for the conservation of marine turtles on the Atlantic coast of Africa, put forward by the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and adopted by 17 States at an international conference organized in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (25–29 May 1999), in partnership with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the Government of France, and the French Committee for IUCN;

CONGRATULATING the Governments of Benin, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Nigeria and Togo for having signed the Memorandum of Understanding; and

NOTING Resolution 2000-11 adopted at the 20th Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Marine Turtles held in Orlando, USA (29 February to 3 March 2000);

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. REQUESTS the States on the Atlantic coast of Africa to continue their efforts for the conservation of marine turtles, and the Governments of Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Morocco, Namibia, Portugal (Azores and Madeira), Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Spain (Canary Islands) to sign promptly the Memorandum of Understanding put forward by the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;
2. REQUESTS other States to participate in and support this international effort, specifically by limiting and orienting their activities in the region concerned in order to promote the conservation of marine turtles and their natural habitats;

3. ALSO REQUESTS all Contracting Parties of CITES to implement and closely monitor the total ban on international trade covering all species of marine turtles, in accordance with the listing of these species in Annex I of CITES.