

2.81 Mining concessions and protected areas in Mesoamerica

AWARE of the need to promote the sustainable development of the people of Mesoamerica through wise and sustainable use of renewable and non-renewable resources in the region;

CONVINCED that the eradication of extreme poverty, economic growth, and raised standards of living for the population are essential for ensuring that nature is conserved in the Mesoamerican region;

INFORMED of the growing number of concessions for mineral and petroleum exploration and extraction in all of the region's countries;

RECALLING that, further to a motion forwarded by the 1st World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), the IUCN Council approved a resolution on the exclusion of mining and oil concessions in protected areas corresponding to IUCN categories I, II and III;

CONCERNED about the possible social and environmental impacts of unsustainable, unplanned and uncontrolled processes involved in the use of non-renewable resources in the region; and

ACKNOWLEDGING that the 5th Mesoamerican IUCN Forum held in Guatemala City (3–7 October 1999), adopted a comparable motion;

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

1. URGES States and civil society in the region to carry out participatory, consultative, and transparent processes in awarding concessions to explore and exploit mineral and hydrocarbon resources;
2. REQUESTS that processes for awarding mining and petroleum concessions be consonant with policies and commitments acquired by all the States in the region with respect to biodiversity conservation, and in particular, with the urgent need to establish and/or consolidate national systems of protected areas and preserve representative samples of all natural ecosystems in Mesoamerica, within the framework of the Presidential Initiative for the Mesoamerican Corridor;
3. URGES, in this context, the different governments in the region to analyze current legislation on mining and effect adjustments responding to this need, making it possible for this Recommendation to be effective in the region;
4. RECOMMENDS that processes for mining and hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation be conducted under the strictest and most modern techniques of control, monitoring, and environmental administration, including processes of correction, mitigation, compensation, restoration, and environmental certification.

This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government

position on the Recommendation as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).