

2.83 Armed conflicts in natural areas (Panama and Colombia)

CONSIDERING the effects of armed conflicts in natural areas of national, regional, and global importance on the indigenous peoples and local communities that inhabit such areas;

RECOGNIZING that an example of such a case is found along the frontier between Panama and Colombia, where the Darien National Park (also designated as a Biosphere Reserve and Natural World Heritage Site) is located in Panama and Los Katios National Park (which is also designated a Natural World Heritage Site) is located in Colombia; and

AWARE 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. EXPRESSES its commitment to support the efforts of States and involved parties in resolving their conflicts through dialogue, contributing in this way to the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of humanity;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to seek to ensure that IUCN promotes cooperation and conservation measures between Colombia and Panama for natural areas that are located in these two States and endangered by armed conflict.

This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Panama indicated that had there been a vote the delegation would have abstained. 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).