

2.22 IUCN's work in the Arctic

RECALLING Resolution 1.7 *An IUCN Strategy for the Arctic* adopted by the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress and other Resolutions endorsing IUCN's Arctic involvement that were adopted by earlier General Assemblies;

RECOGNIZING the work undertaken by the IUCN Canada Office, and taking note of the February 2000 IUCN Council meeting that agreed on the importance of the Arctic in IUCN's programme and recommended that the IUCN Office for Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) lead in providing secretariat support and that this work be undertaken in conjunction with, in particular, the IUCN offices in Canada, the USA, Europe, and Russia;

ACKNOWLEDGING the important role of IUCN and its members in protecting and conserving biodiversity and ecosystems globally;

RECOGNIZING that the circumpolar Arctic ecosystem and its proper functioning is critically important for, *inter alia*, Arctic residents, for the world's climate and ocean regimes and for migratory species from all hemispheres;

AWARE that the Arctic ecosystem is under increasing threat from anthropogenic activity, especially pollutants from other areas, and climate change;

NOTING the establishment of home rule and land claim organizations for indigenous peoples as a distinct level of democratic governance;

NOTING the valuable cooperation that exists among the Arctic countries and indigenous peoples' organizations through, *inter alia*, the Arctic Council, and that IUCN is expected to receive full Accredited Observer Status to the Arctic Council in October 2000 at the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Barrow, Alaska;

CONFIRMING IUCN's intention to add value, to complement, and to contribute to existing Arctic organizations and their activities; and

WELCOMING the initiatives of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), such as convening a Circumpolar Marine Workshop in Montreal, Canada (28 November – 2 December 1999) in association with Working Groups of the Arctic Council, publishing the Report and Recommendations of that workshop, establishing a network of Arctic specialists, convening a Planning Session in Illulissat, Greenland (21–23 June 2000), and development of an Action Plan and Statement of Goals for WCPA's Arctic activities;

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

1. RECOGNIZES AND AFFIRMS the circumpolar Arctic as a priority ecosystem for IUCN;
2. RECOGNIZES the need for an IUCN Arctic Strategy and Action Plan and notes that it must be consistent with IUCN's goals and mission, complement the work of the Arctic Council, and it must address IUCN's Key Result Areas in the Overall Programme;

3. REQUESTS IUCN to pay particular attention to:

- (a) integrated ecosystem management and ecological integrity and environmental security in the Arctic, notably *inter alia*, the conservation and management needs of species and habitats, to protected areas, to the northern timberline forests, to the Arctic marine environment, and to pollution;
- (b) the rights, needs and involvement of Arctic indigenous peoples, their dependence upon, and traditional knowledge of, the sustainable use of natural resources; and
- (c) the needs of other permanent residents in the Arctic, and their involvement in IUCN activities;

4. REQUESTS the Director General to:

- (a) prepare and implement an IUCN Arctic Strategy and Action Plan; and
- (b) establish Arctic activities as part of IUCN's Overall Programme until the next World Conservation Congress and to provide appropriate Secretariat support.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States abstained from the adoption by consensus of this Resolution.