

2.23 Improving IUCN capacity for strategic information management/information technology

NOTING that the past decade has seen unprecedented growth and expansion in tools and methodologies for information technology and information management and that these developments include expansion of global computer networks, rapid advances in more affordable computing capacities, and greatly enhanced capacity to manipulate electronic documents, maps, and images;

RECOGNIZING that a global 'digital divide' has emerged, separating those with access to information technology networks and resources from those without, and that IUCN should play a leading role in redressing denials of access and inequities of resources within the conservation community;

NOTING the importance of the initiative of IUCN, together with that of several organizations, to establish the Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS) aimed at redressing the inequities described in the preceding paragraph;

FURTHER NOTING that IUCN has taken several important initiatives to contribute to BCIS (notably the PARC project, the Species Information Service, the IUCN Digital Library, the Ecosystem Management Information System, and the Environmental Law Information System) and that these initiatives will improve the capacity of IUCN to provide conservation information to its members, Commissions, and staff;

EMPHASIZING that these initiatives deserve strong, continuing support by IUCN;

ACKNOWLEDGING that although the IUCN Information Management Group has functioned at a high level of efficiency within its current constraints of staffing and resources, IUCN has not yet planned and implemented for optimal application of information technology and resources which are now available and commonly used by many smaller organizations; and

NOTING the need to achieve implementation of Key Result Area 6 *Information and Communication* in IUCN's Overall Programme;

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

1. CONFIRMS that IUCN must make a serious and sustained commitment to build an information technology and information management infrastructure which is commensurate to its size and international mission;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, in consultation with members and Commissions, to identify resources to develop and implement a strategic plan for information technology which is adapted to the organization's international mission and the Secretariat's Component Programmes, and which supports implementation of IUCN's Overall Programme;
3. CALLS ON the Director General, working closely with the IUCN Information Management Group, to recruit a Union-wide group of expert volunteers from among its Commissions and

members to undertake a comprehensive review and develop the strategic plan for information technology.