

2.24 Establishment of an IUCN International Academy of Environmental Law

RECOGNIZING the important contributions to the field of environmental law made by IUCN – The World Conservation Union since 1965;

RECALLING that one of the objectives of IUCN since its founding in 1948 has been the drafting of laws and treaties for the protection of nature;

AWARE that environmental law has become a field of law whose scope is exceptionally broad, ranging from the legal systems of local authorities and the customary law of traditional societies and indigenous peoples, through to the laws of States and international law among States;

CONVINCED that the future effectiveness of environmental law will depend on building the capacity of lawyers and others involved in environmental law, policy, and decision-making to further its development and implementation in all regions of the Earth; and

ACKNOWLEDGING that the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, at the 50th Anniversary of IUCN celebration in Fontainebleau, France, proposed the creation of an IUCN Academy of Environmental Law;

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

1. WELCOMES the initiative taken by the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law to pursue the establishment of an IUCN International Academy of Environmental Law, and requests the Council to give urgent consideration to this endeavour within IUCN's Overall Programme before the next World Conservation Congress;
2. NOTES that the role of the Academy will be to provide a framework to further advance the development and implementation of environmental law at global, regional and national levels, through teaching, training, research, and related activities;
3. REQUESTS the Chair of the Commission on Environmental Law and the Director General to identify, take into account, and collaborate with existing international and regional training and research institutions and programmes, and to develop a detailed statement of goals, functions, structure, and legal form of the Academy for the consideration of Council;
4. INVITES all IUCN members with an interest in advancing the field of environmental law to provide all possible assistance to the Environmental Law Programme in this process.