

2.27 The Durban World Parks Congress

RECALLING the decision of the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas (the World Parks Congress), Caracas, Venezuela, 1992 that the Vth such Congress should be held in Africa;

GRATEFUL to the Government of South Africa for its generous offer to host that meeting in Durban, South Africa, in September 2003;

NOTING the excellent work already done by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in preparation for the next World Parks Congress, under the title of ‘Vth World Parks Congress – Benefits Beyond Boundaries’;

ACKNOWLEDGING the support already given to IUCN in preparation of the World Parks Congress by South African National Parks, the National Wildlife Service of New South Wales, Australia, the United States National Park Service, and the Global Environment Facility/The World Bank;

NOTING the Union’s orientation towards producing measurable progress in each of the seven Key Result Areas, including ecosystem protection, which are described in IUCN’s Overall Programme;

ALSO NOTING that the World Parks Congress will review the global status of protected areas, assess the critical issues facing them, and map out directions for the next decade and beyond; and

FURTHER NOTING that it is expected that the World Parks Congress will confirm the central role of protected areas in the broader economic, social, and environmental agenda for humankind in the 21st century, especially in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;

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

1. AGREES that the World Parks Congress should be a central feature in the Secretariat’s Component Programmes between the 2nd and 3rd World Conservation Congresses;
2. CALLS ON the Director General to mobilize all parts of the Secretariat to work in support of the Vth World Parks Congress;
3. INVITES all within the IUCN family to participate actively in the Congress;
4. URGES IUCN members and donors to give all possible financial, technical, and intellectual support to ensure the success of the Durban World Parks Congress, in particular to the Secretariat and WCPA in preparing for the event, through assistance to developing country participants, and in the preparation and dissemination of Congress outputs.