

2.36 Poverty reduction and conservation of environment

NOTING that Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean are experiencing rapid depletion of their natural resources in addition to high incidences of poverty;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the majority of poor people live in areas that are described as environmentally vulnerable, where minor changes in climate, water quantity or land use can have a dramatic, sometimes disastrous effect on the quality of the local environment and its ability to support the local populations;

RECOGNIZING that poverty is a deprivation of essential assets and opportunities to which every human is entitled, such as education, health care, nutrition, water and sanitation, as well as income, employment and wages;

NOTING that the environment constitutes the natural conditions such as land, air and water in which people, animals, and plants live;

ACCEPTING that poverty due to a multiplicity of factors, including population growth, results in resource depletion, which further exacerbates the incidences of poverty showing that both are interlinked; and

CONCERNED that the Asian, African, Latin American and Caribbean countries cannot address environmental issues without linking it to poverty alleviation;

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

RECOMMENDS that IUCN and IUCN members:

- (a) address poverty simultaneously with environmental rehabilitation;
- (b) design projects so as to reflect both environmental rehabilitation and poverty alleviation simultaneously; and
- (c) adopt the above as part of their policy.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Resolution as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).