

2.40 Natural resource security in situations of conflict

RECALLING Resolution 19.41 *Armed Conflict and the Environment* adopted by the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);

NOTING that ‘conflict’, for the purpose of this Resolution, means various forms of struggle, often armed, between different groups, either within one country or between two or more countries, that results in disruption of civil society;

RECOGNIZING that the impacts of conflicts cut across boundaries, cultures, and communities and may lead to the overuse and misuse of natural resources, environmental degradation, and loss of species;

NOTING the profound immediate and long-term scale of environmental damage caused as a result of conflict;

CONSIDERING that there are many national, regional, and global processes that try to mitigate against conflict and the effects thereof, most notably the UN Security Council which has prime responsibility for the reduction and responsible management of conflict;

EMPHASIZING that this is a global priority for governments as much as responsible conservation;

EXPRESSING appreciation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other national and international bodies concerning their humanitarian work in this field and the complementarity this will have with the IUCN initiative;

CONCERNED that a number of critical biodiversity areas are prone to, or actually are in, a conflict situation;

NOTING that responsible conflict management (and understanding of the underlying causes) and mitigation is an important conservation objective as it is a security issue; and

FURTHER NOTING that some existing conflicts relate to natural resources and that it is likely that conflicts over natural resources, especially water, will increase in future;

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

1. URGES all members and components of IUCN to develop a greater understanding of the underlying causes of conflict, particularly in the manner it affects the conservation of biodiversity;
2. CALLS ON members to identify those conflict situations that relate to the control of natural resources and to bring these situations to the attention of the UN Security Council or other appropriate entities with proposals for measures to deter those who would sustain such conflicts;

3. REQUESTS the Director General, Commissions, Councillors and members of IUCN to endorse a set of activities to enhance the understanding of conflict and its context to conservation, including:
- (a) review and analysis of existing knowledge and experience with conflict and its context to biodiversity:
 - (i) at different levels (e.g. local, national, regional);
 - (ii) in different societies (e.g. sedentary, nomadic, indigenous);
 - (iii) under different regimes (e.g. political, land); and
 - (iv) from different points of view (e.g. those of Governments, different factions, NGOs, local communities);
 - (b) sharing such knowledge and experience among IUCN members and partners concerned with conflict management and its effects on the conservation of biodiversity; and
 - (c) working with the international community to identify approaches that could assist in limiting environmental degradation in situations of conflict.

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).