

2.41 International Ombudsman Centre for Environment and Development

AWARE that the process of globalization poses a new generation of challenges and opportunities, but also increases the potential for environment-related conflicts;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that conservation and sustainable development can only be achieved through the participation of all stakeholders in decision-making processes and that victims of conflicts are often the disadvantaged who are least able to protect their interests or assert their rights;

ACKNOWLEDGING the initiative of the Director General to enter into an executive agreement with the Earth Council and the United Nations University for Peace, establishing, on a pilot basis, an International Ombudsman Centre to provide mechanisms for addressing such contentious issues;

NOTING that IUCN, through its members and partners, is well-positioned to assist in addressing environmental conflict at transboundary and local levels; and

FURTHER NOTING that this initiative responds to a long-perceived need for a non-adversarial, non-judicial but flexible mechanism to address current and potential conflicts pertaining to environment and development issues;

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

1. WELCOMES the announcement that an International Ombudsman Centre for the Environment and Development (OmCED) has been established on a pilot basis;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - (a) make contact with OmCED during the pilot phase; and
 - (b) present a report on the outcome of this contact in order to facilitate a decision by IUCN on its relations with OmCED.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus, having been formally introduced by the delegation of the State member the Netherlands. The delegation of the Belize Audubon Society, speaking on behalf of the Mesoamerican IUCN Members' Committee, made a formal Statement for the Record underlining that, in the Committee's view, the Earth Council and the University for Peace should become members of IUCN before negotiations with IUCN continued. The full texts of the formal Statements referred to are reproduced in the Congress Proceedings.