

2.53 Nature conservation on the Guiana Shield

CONSIDERING that the region of the Guiana Shield, which includes parts of Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Venezuela, possesses one of the last large areas in the world of still relatively intact primary rain forest;

CONSCIOUS of the importance of forming a regional network of protected areas capable of ensuring the transmission to future generations of a natural heritage of great biological importance and preserving the life style of the indigenous populations of the region;

RECOGNIZING the Government of Guyana's contribution to the world through its generous donation of forest land for establishment of the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development to promote sustainable forest management;

SPECIFICALLY SUPPORTING the creation of the national park with international implications planned for southern French Guiana, as foreseen in the decisions taken at the 1992 Earth Summit and at the time of the 50th Anniversary of IUCN – The World Conservation Union in 1998; and

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED by the use of intensive and unwise practices in the exploitation of natural resources, such as mining activities, specifically gold panning, which is causing considerable negative impacts on natural environments and seriously affecting the health of human populations, for example through mercury poisoning;

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

1. REQUESTS the governments concerned to continue their efforts to ensure conservation of a large part of the total tropical forest in the region of the Guiana Shield in close consultation with the indigenous and traditional populations;
2. ASKS the governments concerned to harmonize and expand the application of nature conservation measures at the scale of all of the Guiana Shield through the establishment of a coherent network of protected areas;
3. INVITES the relevant States to take into account guidelines issued by the World Commission on Protected Areas on:
 - (a) mining and related activities affecting protected areas; and
 - (b) principles and guidelines on indigenous and traditional populations and protected areas that were drafted in cooperation with WWF;
4. REQUESTS the Director General to mobilize the expertise of members, specialists, and the IUCN Secretariat to meet the internationally important challenge of nature conservation on the Guiana Shield.

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).