

# **Proceedings of the Members' Business Assembly**



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Compiled and edited by Tim Jones  
Chief Rapporteur to the Bangkok Congress

World Conservation Congress

Bangkok, Thailand  
17–25 November 2004

IUCN – The World Conservation Union  
2005

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Published by: IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK



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Citation: IUCN (2005). *Proceedings of the Members' Business Assembly*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. vi + 58 pp.

ISBN: 2-8317-0799-4

Cover design by: L'IV Com Sàrl

Layout by: Tim Davis, DJEnvironmental, Berrynarbor, Devon, UK

Printed by: Atar Roto Presse SA, Geneva, Switzerland

Available from: IUCN Publications Services Unit  
219c Huntingdon Road  
Cambridge CB3 0DL, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 1223 277894, Fax: +44 1223 277175  
E-mail: [books@iucn.org](mailto:books@iucn.org)  
[www.iucn.org/bookstore](http://www.iucn.org/bookstore)

A catalogue of IUCN publications is also available.

*The text of this publication is printed on Recystar recycled paper made from 100 percent post-consumer waste, with no optical brighteners.*

The compiler would like to thank the many colleagues from the IUCN Commissions and Secretariat who provided invaluable assistance with rapportage at the Congress and with the finalization of these Proceedings. Special thanks to Deborah Murith of IUCN's Publications Unit for proof reading and editorial support.

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## Foreword

*by the President of IUCN, Yolanda Kakabadse*

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I cannot begin to describe the emotions I felt during the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok.

First, there is my appreciation for the tremendous efforts of our gracious host, the Royal Thai Government. I thank the staff of its Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and its National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department for their efforts.

I still frequently and vividly remember the moment I said goodbye as your President, and received your heartfelt appreciation for my contribution. Here, I wish to once again thank you for the honour to have led this wonderful network of passionate individuals, and express my hope that you will give the same support and friendship to my successor Valli Moosa.

Bangkok was also a moment to reconnect to old friends and make new ones. Never before have we brought together so many different people: 1,000 of the world's top scientists, 200 business managers, 40 Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Agriculture, Tourism and Fisheries, as well as thousands of environmental activists, development workers, community representatives and religious figures.

This variety of people demonstrates the growth and relevance of the Union and our work. It means we are not afraid to engage with those who have different opinions. It means we are confident that conservation is of importance to the development and business sectors. And, in turn, it means that the conservation community is seen as a credible partner in our efforts for sustainable development.

The Forum confirmed the crucial contribution of ecosystem goods and services to our economic and social systems. The conclusion is that conservation therefore can and has to play a role in the fight against poverty, and that likewise other sectors need to do what is in their reach to contribute to the conservation of our natural wealth.

To me, the Forum was a wonderful experience not just because of the intellectual questions and answers it put before us, but mainly because it showed that we agree on the common goals of poverty reduction and conservation, and that we are working together to achieve these goals. We have the knowledge and tools to make an impressive contribution.

In the Assembly, we saved valuable time by voting electronically and an efficient motions management process. We had the pleasure of electing a new President, Treasurer, Councillors and six Commission Chairs who have taken on the challenge to govern our Union. We were eager to approve an exciting, results-based Programme for 2005–2008, which in my view is the best programme of work we have ever had.

I also wish to highlight an achievement we sometimes underestimate: the 118 Resolutions and Recommendations that were approved. Certainly, they are not law to the world, not even to our own members. Yet, to me, they represent the essence of our Union.

They demonstrate that The World Conservation Union remains *the* place to discuss emerging issues in conservation and beyond. They reveal the extent of our growing knowledge and practical experience to undertake conservation action and how those contribute to our authority. And finally, they show that in a complex world where sometimes everything looks mixed and garbled, a multitude of organizations and individuals share common ideals, goals and ambitions.

Simply put, it comes down to the same sentiment I felt when I stood there on stage, receiving your gratitude: I am not alone. I share the same ideas and ideals with millions of others.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress has challenged and inspired us all intellectually, and charted a course for the future of conservation. But, in the end, what made the whole Congress unique, outstanding and unforgettable is that we reconnected to each other – and to the quintessential quality of humanity itself: the hope for a better future.

**Yolanda Kakabadse**

*President,  
IUCN – The World Conservation Union*



## Resolution 3.080

### Vote of thanks to the host country

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NOTING that the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress has brought together almost 5,000 participants from 160 countries, making this the largest assembly in the history of IUCN;

MINDFUL of the vital importance of locating appropriate facilities and of ensuring the smooth logistical running of such a large gathering;

AWARE that a number of significant innovations were introduced at this Congress and that these presented many challenges for the venue and local organizers;

RESPECTFUL of the fact that a gathering of this size can only occur with the support of a large team of volunteers, workers and sponsors; and

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING that these conditions were more than fully met at the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress held in the Queen Sirikit National Conference Centre in Bangkok;

#### **The World Conservation Congress at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:**

1. EXPRESSES its deepest gratitude to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit for her gracious presence and for officially opening the Congress;
2. RECORDS its warmest appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand for the very generous support given by the Royal Thai Government;
3. CONVEYS its deepest thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Suwit Khunkitti, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment for his very warm and generous support, hospitality and participation in the Congress;
4. ACKNOWLEDGES with gratitude the invaluable support of Mr. Petipong Puengboon Na Ayudhaya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Mr Apiwat Sretarugsa, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; and Mr Somchai Pienstaporn, Director General of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, as well as all of their staff;
5. APPLAUDS the hard work and efforts of the Royal Thai Government Organizing Committee, officials and supporting staff, local sponsors, National Convention Management and Development Company Ltd., as well as the many local volunteers who gave so generously of their time;
6. CONVEYS its thanks to the people of Bangkok for sharing the beauty of their culture, customs, language and scenic sites, thus enriching the experience of all Congress participants; and
7. DECLARES this 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress to have been a successful and memorable event.

## Acknowledgements

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IUCN and the Royal Thai Government wish to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who made the Bangkok Congress possible through their in-kind and financial contributions. Support from IUCN framework donors, corporate sponsors and other bilateral, multilateral, NGO and foundation contributors allowed the facilitation of a worldwide preparatory process, the development of an innovative programme for the Congress and ensured that members from across the globe could attend and actively participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress.

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## Minutes of the Members' Business Assembly of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress

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### Opening Ceremony for the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress, Presided over by Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand (28.1)

The ceremony commenced with the entrance of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand, accompanied by Police Lieutenant Colonel Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand. Her Majesty the Queen was welcomed by the Prime Minister, who presented an overview of the Congress, including the programme for the World Conservation Forum. The Prime Minister paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's work to further conservation and sustainable development, both in Thailand and around the world.

The President of IUCN, Ms Yolanda Kakabadse, welcomed participants to Bangkok, and highlighted some of the milestones reached since the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conservation Congress, held in Amman, Jordan, in 2000. She applauded the role of Thailand in hosting the present Congress, saying, "The Royal Thai Government has shown its commitment to the cause of international conservation cooperation, hosting meetings of CITES last month, IUCN this month and the Convention on Biological Diversity next year", and praised Her Majesty Queen Sirikit as, "A leader in forest and wildlife conservation", whose work had earned worldwide recognition. Ms Kakabadse underlined four critical challenges to be addressed by the Congress:

- Inequitable access to knowledge and scientific information
- The loss of biodiversity as a result of unsustainable development
- The need for corporate responsibility towards sustainable development and biodiversity conservation
- The connection between biodiversity and human well-being

Concluding, the President said, "For more than half a century, IUCN has fostered understanding of ecosystems as a dynamic communion of interdependent subjects. Let us now extend this definition from nature to humans, recognizing that *People and Nature* are forever locked together in only *One World*, the best of all possible worlds: *A Just World that Values and Conserves Nature.*"

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit granted an audience to Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan who presented the IUCN Gold Medal in recognition of Her Majesty's dedication and exceptional contribution to the cause of conservation, and her untiring efforts to support community development and environmental management projects. These included work with the Chaipattana Foundation, promotion of Thai crafts through the SUPPORT Foundation, and enhancing the quality of the environment through the 'Bang Sai Center' in Ayutthaya Province.

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit delivered the Inaugural Address, saying, "His Majesty the King and I have very much appreciated the dedication and ability of Thai scientists and other personnel from both the public and private sectors... Because of their contributions, conservation efforts have produced much benefit to Thailand as well as to the rest of the world. But we need to increase our efforts... My dream is that one day soon ordinary people everywhere will have a greater desire to protect their children's future livelihood by not only refraining from harming the environment themselves but also help the authorities to prevent others from doing so." Her Majesty then inaugurated the Congress and expressed her wish that its deliberations would be both successful and of great benefit to the people of the world.

Her Majesty viewed the special exhibits prepared for the Congress and the Opening Ceremony was drawn to a close by the playing of the Royal Anthem.

## Appointment of Credentials Committee (29.1)

Referring to Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/3 and Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure, which provides for appointment of a Congress Credentials Committee, the President presented draft Terms of Reference proposed by Council to facilitate the Committee's work. These Terms of Reference were approved by consensus. The President then presented Council's proposal for membership of the Congress Credentials Committee:

Chair:

Ms Diane Tarte, Australia

Members:

Mr Ali Akbar, Pakistan  
Dr Grethel Aguilar, Costa Rica  
Mr Alistair Gammell, UK  
Dr Jesada Luangjame, Thailand (Host Country)  
Mr Boyman Mancama, Zimbabwe  
Ms Elaine Peebles, Canada  
Ms Sonia Rigueira, Brazil

There were no comments or questions in relation to Council's proposal, which was therefore approved by consensus.

## Report of Credentials Committee (29.2, 30.1, 33.1, 34.1, 37.1)

The Congress Credentials Committee met regularly between 18 and 25 November. Five reports were presented to Congress, with the final report submitted to the 37<sup>th</sup> Sitting on 25 November. At that time, the Chair of the Credentials Committee, Ms Diane Tarte, reported the number of potential votes held by all active IUCN members to be as follows:

Category A:

States and governmental agencies: 225 votes

Category B:

national and international non-governmental organizations: 753 votes

Of these potential votes, the voting power represented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conservation Congress, as of 19:30 on 24 November 2004, was:

Category A:

States and governmental agencies: 178 votes

Category B:

national and international non-governmental organizations: 546 votes

The required quorum of half of the total votes held by IUCN members had therefore been met in both categories of membership.

The Committee determined that, as of the 37<sup>th</sup> Sitting, a few members' credentials were not in order, and that these members represented the following potential votes:

Category A:

States and governmental agencies: 15 votes

Category B:

national and international non-governmental organizations: 14 votes

As part of its work the Committee reviewed the issues linked to the non-payment of membership dues and suspension or rescission of voting rights. The Committee endorsed the substantial work undertaken by both Council and the Secretariat prior to the Congress to alert members on the status of their dues payment and their consequential rights at the Congress. Considerable effort, including the measures foreseen in Articles 25 and 26 of the IUCN Regulations, was directed to assisting members whose dues were in arrears.

The Committee expressed concern that there is a pattern of non-payment of dues by a number of members, but recognized that some members, in both categories A and B, experience severe financial difficulties due to circumstances beyond their control. The Committee also acknowledged that Council and the Secretariat had sought to find mechanisms, within the boundaries defined by the Statutes and Regulations, to make it easier for members with dues in arrears to rectify this situation.

The following table summarizes the number of members whose dues were two or more years in arrears at the time of the Bangkok Congress:

---

	<b>Total</b>
State members (Category A)	11
Government Agencies (Category A)	11
International NGOs (Category B)	10
National NGOs (Category B)	106
Affiliates	7

---

The Committee drew the attention of Congress to the list of members who were two years or more in arrears, and whose remaining statutory rights Congress might now decide to rescind pursuant to the terms of Article 13(a) of the Statutes.

The Committee further noted that, if within one year of a Congress decision to rescind the rights of such members, any dues owed up to the date of rescission remain outstanding, that member shall be deemed to have withdrawn from IUCN pursuant to the terms of Article 13(b) of the Statutes. The Committee also recommended that the Council and Secretariat should work closely with these members over the coming 12 months to resolve, where possible, the problem of arrears, taking into consideration Articles 25 and 26 of the Regulations.

The Committee noted that, for the first time, the IUCN Membership database had been used as part of the Union's Knowledge Network. This had permitted real-time interaction with the financial and membership systems in Headquarters, and greatly facilitated the prompt updating of membership information and status of dues payments.

The Committee recommended that at future World Conservation Congresses the Credentials Committee should report on:

- Potential voting power of the overall IUCN for Categories A and B
- The actual voting power of Category A and Category B members present at the Congress and whose credentials are in order
- The potential voting power of Category A and Category B members present at the Congress but whose credentials are not in order

The Committee considered that the Bangkok Congress had seen considerable improvements in the procedures for accreditation of credentials and issuing of voting cards and ballot packs. This had significantly facilitated the Committee's work. However the following additional improvements were recommended:

- A handbook based on the procedures and organization of the Bangkok Congress should be prepared to provide guidance in the preparations for future Congresses.

- Adequate training of Secretariat support staff should be provided prior to the Congress to assist the work of the Headquarters Membership Unit staff.

The Chair of the Congress Credentials Committee concluded by thanking her fellow Committee members, as well as the Secretariat staff (Membership Unit and Regional Membership focal points) who had supported the Committee's work.

### **Adoption of Agenda (29.3)**

The President tabled the revised Provisional Agenda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/1.Rev1). There were no comments or questions and the Agenda, as revised, was adopted by consensus.

### **Discussion and Adoption of Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress (29.4, 31.1, 35.1)**

#### **29<sup>th</sup> Sitting**

During the 29<sup>th</sup> Sitting, the President outlined Council's proposals for amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the World Conservation Congress, as detailed in Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/2:

- Amendment to Rule 21, pertaining to the role and composition of the Credentials Committee, recommending that the Council may confer on the Credentials Committee other functions than those specifically listed in the current text of Rule 21. Council proposes adding the phrase: *'to perform such other functions as may be conferred by Council'*.
- Amendments in connection with the Council's decision to introduce electronic voting which calls for amendments concerning voting cards and method of voting (Rules 63–70 inclusive).

The President moved the following Decision for adoption by Congress:

*The Members' Business Assembly of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress approves the proposed amendments to Rule 21 (regarding the Credentials Committee) and Rules 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 and 70 (regarding Voting Cards and Methods of Voting on Motions) of the Rules of Procedure proposed by Council.*

The representative of the International Centre for Environmental Law, intervened from the floor stating that there had been a lengthy meeting to prepare the electronic voting procedures. Based on discussions at that meeting, he wished to propose two additional changes to Rules 69 and 70:

Rule 69 – delete the first sentence (*'When voting is carried out by delegates holding voting cards'*) Thus, amended Rule 69 would read: *On a request by delegates from at least ten members eligible to vote, the vote shall be taken by roll call. The roll shall be called in each Category separately for each delegation in the order of the printed membership list beginning with a country chosen at random. Voting shall be expressed by 'yes', 'no', or 'abstain'. Abstentions shall not be counted as votes cast.*

Rule 70 – in the last sentence, replace *'ensure'* with *'confirm'*. Thus the last sentence of Rule 70 would read: *In the case of electronic voting, the Elections Officer shall confirm that the system is programmed so as to guarantee the anonymity of all votes.*

The representative of Fundación RIE – Red Informática Ecológica raised concerns that electronic voting could lead to the manipulation of results. It was important that details of who voted how in each motion were made public.

Dr Antonio Machado, IUCN Election Officer, explained that under the existing Rules of Procedure it was his duty to compile and make publicly available the voting results for all motions, unless a secret ballot was called for. This element of the process was unaltered by the introduction of electronic voting.

The President invited Congress to adopt the previously tabled Decision, accepting the additional amendments to Rules 69 and 70 proposed by the International Centre for Environmental Law. The Decision, as amended, was approved by consensus.

### **31<sup>st</sup> Sitting**

During the 31<sup>st</sup> Sitting, the Chair, Dr Dan Martin, IUCN Vice President, referred delegates to Congress Document CGR/3/2004/23 *Report of the IUCN Council on Governance Reforms and Proposed Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure*. He invited Councillor Ms Lynn Holowesko, Chair of the Council Task Force on Governance to introduce the report and Mr Juan Mayr, Chair of the Congress Governance Committee to outline the process for responding to Council's findings and recommendations.

The Chair of the Council Task Force on Governance noted that the key objective of the Report on Governance Reforms was to address the need for more effective, efficient and accountable governance of the Union, addressing long-standing issues raised by members, partners and donors, as well as the need for governance reform highlighted in the 2003 External Review. She outlined the consultative process followed, which had resulted in the following four priority areas being identified:

- World Conservation Congress
- IUCN Council
- IUCN Commissions
- Regional Governance

The report recommended holding the World Conservation Congress in two parts, namely a Conservation Forum and a Members' Business Assembly, on a four-year cycle, and called for more efficient management of motions. In relation to Council, recommendations included developing a Council Handbook and Performance Tools, maintaining the current composition of Council, further developing the role of the four Vice Presidents elected by Council, and providing for Council Committees to undertake strategic work between Council meetings. With regard to the IUCN Commissions, the report suggested the concept of a single IUCN Programme integrating the work of the Commissions and the Secretariat. Further recommendations included improved reporting and accountability to Council, the Director General and Congress, and commissioning a strategy paper on the future of knowledge networks in IUCN.



The Chair announced that a meeting of the Congress Governance Committee, devoted specially to discussion of the proposed Governance Reforms and open to all members, would be held later in the day.

Juan Mayr, Chair of the Congress Governance Committee, outlined how the Committee thus far envisaged taking forward the proposed reforms. These include assisting the Congress Resolutions Committee with governance-related motions, consulting with members on governance matters, facilitating relevant Contact Groups, and advising members on the rationale for, content, and intent of, the proposed Governance reforms and proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure. If necessary, the Committee would recommend specific adjustments to the proposals, based on discussion with members. He invited all those interested to attend the Committee's open meeting that evening.

The Chair thanked Ms Holowesko and Mr Mayr for their reports and opened the floor to questions or comments.

The International Centre for Environmental Law presented three additional amendments, which were all supported by the Congress Governance Committee, to the proposed changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure (Annexes 1 and 2 to Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/23):

- On pages 6 and 7 (English version), the proposed footnotes numbered 1 and 2 to Article 24 and Article 74 should be deleted since they are unnecessary and improper in a statutory context (third column).
- In the first line of Article 24 (third column) the term '*normally*' should be deleted because it is relevant whether the number of years is 3, 4, 5 or 6, and use of '*normally*' introduces uncertainty and reduces transparency. A possible consequence of leaving this term in the text could be Council's extension of its own term of office and that of all elected officers. Deleting the term enhances the accuracy and consistency of interpretation.
- On page 9 (English version), third column, footnotes 1 and 2 should be deleted because they provide unnecessary cross-referencing.

The Chair requested that these and other comments, questions or proposals concerning Governance Reforms or amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure be dealt with by the Congress Governance Committee.

### 35<sup>th</sup> Sitting

During the 35<sup>th</sup> Sitting the Chair of the Congress Governance Committee, Juan Mayr, presented his report and drew attention to the recently circulated Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/23-Rev1, which included amendments based on the work of the Committee and comments from members. He confirmed that the footnotes included in Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/23 were to be deleted, but their gist noted for the record.

The President invited comments on the final proposals for amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

The United States Department of State read a formal statement for the record, as follows: "*The United States congratulates the Council on the impressive job they have done in addressing governance reforms for the IUCN. As we move into the next quadrennial program, we note that the task is not yet complete. We need to use this next program cycle to develop intersessional consultative approaches or mechanisms that enhance communications between the Council, Secretariat, members and donor governments.*"

The President presented an explanatory statement concerning the proposed amendments to the Statutes, Regulations and Rules of Procedure, noting that Council had authority to amend the Regulations, but that changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure required the approval of Congress.

The President asked if there were any objections to adopting the proposed amendments to the Statutes, as set out in Annex 1 of Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/23-Rev1.

Fundación RIE, Argentina, objected to the process for arriving at the proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure. In RIE's view, the amendments implied substantial changes to the powers of members and adopting them so quickly would be harmful to the institution.

Environment & Conservation Organizations of New Zealand proposed that either paragraph 49*bis*, point (b) of the newly circulated amendments to the Rules of Procedure be deleted, or the initial amendment for 49*bis*, circulated in the original Council Report, be retained.

The President requested a vote on adoption of the amendments to the Statutes.

The motion to adopt the proposed amendments to the Statutes was carried as follows:

Category A (government house):  
Yes 85 votes, No 0 votes, Abstentions 16

Category B (NGO house):  
Yes 202 votes, No 17 votes, Abstentions 38

The President called on Congress to vote on the amendments to the Rules of Procedure, as presented in Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/23-Rev1. She reminded members that amendments to the Rules of Procedure may be adopted by a simple majority.

A vote took place but the result was rendered redundant by discussion following a point of order raised by Environment & Conservation Organizations of New Zealand.

Mr Antonio Claparols, Regional Councillor, supported the New Zealand intervention, saying that there had not been time to read the newly circulated amendments to the Rules of Procedure.

Fundación RIE, Argentina, suggested adopting the Rules of Procedure article by article.

The President reminded members that there had been an extensive consultation process.

Environment & Conservation Organizations of New Zealand said it would also prefer adoption article by article. In relation to paragraph 49*bis* it proposed either deletion or further amendment.

The President moved a vote on the entire text of the amended Rules of Procedure except for paragraph 49*bis*.

This motion was carried as followed:

Category A (government house):  
Yes 100 votes, No 11 votes, Abstentions 16

Category B (NGO house):  
Yes 186 votes, No 44 votes, Abstentions 27

The President invited further observations on paragraph 49*bis*.

Environment & Conservation Organizations of New Zealand proposed adopting the newly circulated version of paragraph 49*bis* without point (b).

Savanna Conservation Nigeria was concerned that removing point (b) would imply that sponsors of motions at future World Conservation Congresses would not have to provide any evidence of consultation.

The President moved a vote on adoption of the newly circulated version of paragraph 49*bis* with point (a), but excluding point (b). This motion was not carried, with the result as follows:

Category A (government house):  
Yes 35 votes, No 47 votes, Abstentions 19

Category B (NGO house):  
Yes 132 votes, No 95 votes, Abstentions 37

The President moved a vote on adoption of the newly circulated version of paragraph 49*bis*, including both point (a) and point (b). This was carried as follows:

Category A (government house):  
Yes 86 votes, No 9 votes, Abstentions 14

Category B (NGO house):  
Yes 161 votes, No 40 votes, Abstentions 33

## **Appointment of Congress Committees (29.5)**

The Members' Business Assembly approved the terms of reference (Congress Papers CGR/3/2004/4, CGR/3/2004/5, CGR/3/2004/6, CGR/3/2004/24) and membership of the following Congress Committees, as proposed by Council:

### **(a) Resolutions Committee**

Dr Pierre Hunkeler, Switzerland (Chair)

Prof. Purificació Canals, Spain  
Mr George Greene, Canada  
Ms Aroha Te Pareake Mead, New Zealand  
Mr Isaac Malasha, Zimbabwe  
Ms Christine Milne, Australia  
Mr Suphavit Piamphongsant, Thailand (Host Country)  
Mr Gabriel Robles, Costa Rica  
Mr Alexei Yablokov, Russia

**(b) Finance and Audit Committee**

Mr Jorge Caillaux, Peru (Chair)  
Mr Claes de Dardel, Sweden, Treasurer (*ex officio*)  
Ms Huguette Labelle, Canada (*ex officio*)  
Mr Webster Masvikwa, South Africa  
Mr Sven Sandström, Sweden  
Mr John Tuminaro, USA  
Dr Chaweewan, Thailand (Host Country)

**(c) Programme Committee**

Ms Angela Cropper, Trinidad and Tobago (Chair)  
Prof Amadou Ba, Senegal  
Ms Caroline Caceres, Canada  
Dr Taghi Farvar, Iran  
Dr Julius Francis, Tanzania  
Dr Wren Green, New Zealand  
Dr Hillary Masundire, Zimbabwe  
Ms Khawar Mumtaz, Pakistan  
Prof Manfred Niekisch, Germany  
Ms Silvia Sánchez-Huamán, Peru  
Mr Mohammed Shabaz, Jordan  
Dr Monthip Sriratana Tabucanon, Thailand (Host Country)

**(d) Governance Committee**

Mr Juan Mayr, Colombia (Chair)  
Mr Ravi Algama, Sri Lanka  
Mr David Brackett, Canada  
Dr Wolfgang Burhenne, Germany  
Ms Juliana Chileshe, Zambia  
Ms Augusta Henriques, Guinea Bissau  
Mr Johan Holmberg, Sweden  
Ms Lynn Holowesko, Bahamas

The President confirmed that a schedule of Committee meeting times and venues would be made available to members.

## **Presentation by Chair of Resolutions Committee (30.2)**

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee, Dr Pierre Hunkeler, explained the process followed by the Resolutions Working Committee of Council in reviewing motions and preparing the Congress motions booklet. He thanked members for their cooperation in transmitting motions to the Secretariat by 20 July 2004, ahead of the statutory deadline. This had facilitated the process of review and booklet production considerably. 127 motions were dealt with by the Resolutions Working Committee and the Motions booklet was sent out to members on 17 September 2004, within the statutory deadline of 60 days before the opening of the Congress. A small number of errors had been overlooked, but these had now been corrected and a corresponding list tabled (Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/CRP 01 *Draft Motions – Corrigendum*).

Dr Hunkeler presented the procedure set up by the Resolutions Committee for handling motions during the Congress. While the Committee strongly encouraged informal dialogue and exchange of views on all motions, Contact Groups had been established to deal with several potentially contentious issues. These groups would hopefully enable consensus texts to be agreed for forwarding to plenary sessions of Congress. In accordance with Rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee had set a deadline for submission of new motions of 21 November 2004 at 17:00. As the Resolutions Committee had almost reached the limits of its capacity, the Chair urged members to seek to amend existing motions and to refrain from tabling entirely new texts. Adopted Resolutions and Recommendations would form an integral part of the Congress Proceedings and would also be annexed to the *IUCN Programme 2005–2008*. Actions required or requested of IUCN would be implemented at the appropriate level, subject to funding.

In response to questions from members the Chair of the Resolutions Committee confirmed that all motions had been analysed in terms of their potential financial implications and that additional Contact Groups could be established if required.

### **Presentation by Chair of Programme Committee (30.3)**

The Chair of the Congress Programme Committee, Ms Angela Cropper, referred to Congress Papers CGR/3/2004/18 *The IUCN Programme 2005–2008* and CGR/3/2004/19 *Proposed Mandates for IUCN Commissions*, noting that these documents had been sent to all members within the statutory deadline of 150 days prior to opening of the Congress. She explained the process leading to the development of the draft IUCN Programme for 2005–2008, emphasizing that it brought together the proposed activities of the Secretariat and Commissions in one coherent document, thereby providing an overarching framework for all components of the Union. This approach had been agreed by Council, with the support of each Commission Chair. The draft Programme was based on the orientations provided by the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conservation Congress, a situation analysis examining the ultimate drivers of biodiversity loss, and a review of the IUCN Programme 2001–2004. The Bangkok Congress therefore represented the final step in an extensive consultative process, including consultations at regional level, over the preceding 18 months.

Ms Cropper concluded by drawing members' attention to an open discussion session on the IUCN Programme 2005–2008 to be held on 24 November 2004. She noted that Contact Groups and Congress plenary sessions would provide further opportunities for debating programme-related motions.

### **President's Report (30.4)**

In presenting her final report after two consecutive four-year terms as President of IUCN, Ms Yolanda Kakabadse highlighted moves by Council to raise the profile of the Union. Key events had included the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), and the V<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, South Africa, 2003).

She highlighted IUCN's ongoing contributions to multilateral environmental agreements including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on

Biological Diversity (including the Cartagena Protocol), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as relevant institutions and agencies, such as the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Considerable progress had also been made in strengthening the Union's relationship with the United Nations, notably through securing Observer Status for IUCN in the UN General Assembly. In this endeavour, the President particularly acknowledged the efforts of the Legal Counsel to IUCN Council, and of the Ecuadorian Government.

Working closely with the Chairs of the Commissions, a major effort had been made to integrate the Commissions' Mandates more closely with each other and with the activities of the Secretariat. The fruits of this effort were reflected in the draft IUCN Programme 2005–2008. Contacts with donors, members and partners had also been strengthened and the President cited a number of examples, including intensification of discussions with the Governments of Peru and Brazil, which she was confident would result in both countries rejoining the Union as State members.

### **Director General's Report (30.5)**

The Director General began by paying tribute to the work of his predecessor Directors General, Dr Maritta von Bieberstein Koch-Weser and Mr David MacDowell, in spearheading the development of the IUCN Programme 2001–2004.

He underlined the changed global context since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Conservation Congress in 2000 and noted that the net effect of such change had been to render conservation work increasingly difficult. In particular, the Director General reflected on events since 11 September 2001, as well as the world economic slowdown and decline in Overseas Development Aid, the growing corporate influence on the world stage, the emergence of the 2000 *Millennium Development Goals*, the 2002 *Johannesburg Plan of Action*, the increasing attention being paid to good governance, and the rising importance of information and communication technologies.

The Director General recalled that the mandate emerging from the Amman Congress included responding to new strategic directions, implementing 98 Resolutions and Recommendations, improving the structure and management of the Secretariat, strengthening regionalization and decentralization, enhancing Commission/Programme linkages, developing a membership strategy, reforming IUCN governance for greater effectiveness, strengthening IUCN's financial base and system, raising IUCN's profile and policy impact, and developing a new draft Programme for 2005–2008.

Some 78 percent of the Amman Congress Resolutions and 70 percent of the Recommendations could be considered as “largely” or “fully” completed, as shown in Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/9 *Draft Report by the Director General on Follow-up to the Resolutions and Recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Conservation Congress*. The Secretariat had also reviewed all 788 Resolutions and Recommendations adopted since 1948, as well as a comprehensive review of the Union's policy system.

The IUCN Programme 2001–2004 represented a new strategic framework for the Union, providing a unifying vision and enabling synergies to be built across the different components of the Union. The 59 Results and 7 Key Result Areas were reflected in the introduction of a results-based approach to management, while increased interaction between Commissions and the Secretariat represented a new social contract.

Examples of successful IUCN initiatives and policy interventions included the Conservation Commons Initiative, the World Conservation Learning Network, the European Union's 2010 biodiversity target, and a renewed focus on trade/environment linkages. Through a series of engagements in the policy arena, notably as an Observer in the UN General Assembly and by working with specialized agencies, IUCN was rediscovering the power of its policy leadership.

The Director General listed some of the steps taken to introduce innovation and to transform the operations of the Secretariat. These included a new management structure; the regionalization and decentralization process; the establishment of a Corporate Strategies Group; the adoption of a private sector strategy; the strengthening of knowledge management (including

publications but also innovative products, such as the Species Information Service); the finalization of a Global Human Resources Policy; the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation as part of increasing the Secretariat's accountability; looking into the Secretariat's own corporate social responsibility through initiatives such as a CO<sub>2</sub> audit and a commitment that IUCN travel would be ‘carbon neutral’ by the end of 2005; the appointment of an Internal Auditor and a Legal Counsel; and the launch of a 3I–C fund.

Referring to Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/8 *Report on Membership Development 2001 to March 2004*, the Director General noted that the Union now numbered 1,063 members. A new membership strategy had been drafted, membership support had been strengthened, the rescission list had been reduced, and membership services had been improved, including the creation of a fund for national and regional committee meetings. In terms of governance, key issues included reforming Congress, improving the effectiveness of Council, strengthening the accountability of Commissions, and reinforcing regional governance structures and roles.

Turning to financial matters, the Director General stated that the Secretariat had experienced no liquidity difficulties during the past three years, thanks to the renewed support of donors for the IUCN Programme and good financial management of the Union.

Introducing a short film highlighting aspects of IUCN's work over the last four years, in particular the contribution of IUCN Commissions, the Director General recalled that the core of what IUCN provided remained the same, namely knowledge provision; standard and norm setting; a convening power, as illustrated during the World Conservation Forum; and the provision of advice. However, it was important to remember that the Union also represents a series of social contracts, being owned by literally thousands of people. This poses special challenges to the Director General, but is also an enormous privilege.

In closing, the Director General paid tribute to former Chief Financial Officer, Véronique Lavorel, and WCPA Chair, Kenton Miller, neither of whom had been able to attend the Congress. The Director General also acknowledged the work of Secretariat

staff and Council members, and stressed the highly productive and cordial relationship between himself and the outgoing President whose support to the Union had been exceptional.

### **Report on the External Review (31.1)**

The Chair referred members to the findings and recommendations of the *2003 External Review of IUCN* and *IUCN's Response to the Review* (Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/10) as approved by Council in April 2004.

The Director General outlined the rationale for the External Review which is primarily an assessment of IUCN's strategic positioning, programme strategy and implementation, management and operational systems, governance and financial viability. The External Review had concluded that IUCN is in better health and in better heart than it was at the time of the last external assessment but that the Union must move fast and decisively to maintain its leading contribution to human and ecosystem well-being and to achieve more in its second half century than it did in its first. The Director General and Council had welcomed the findings of the External Review, noting that it provided an opportunity to address key issues facing the Union. Key recommendations related to Governance, the Programme, Knowledge Management, the role of members in IUCN and the strategic management and leadership of the Union, the management of growth, financial management, and strategic positioning.

The Chair invited the External Review Team Leader, Mr Gabor Bruszt, to highlight the key challenges emerging from the Review. Mr Bruszt thanked the President for her confidence in the team's ability to undertake the Review as well as the wider IUCN family for their contributions and hospitality during the Review process.

He noted that the Review represents the most comprehensive analysis to date of the Union and the state of the Union, in terms of the programme, programming process, management, governance and internal dynamics. He also underlined the broad, consultative and thorough process through which the Review was undertaken and drew out the major issues from the Review in terms of the programme, governance and management, commending the

corresponding recommendations, as contained in the relevant Congress Paper, to the attention of members. He pointed out that the Review highlights issues in the Governance structure of IUCN that need addressing, recommends that the business model for IUCN should change from its current project orientation to a much more strategic orientation, and that the Review also sends a message to donors concerning the need to invest in the Union, particularly in terms of framework agreements rather than funding for specific projects.

The President thanked the Review Team Leader for a comprehensive and challenging report and extended her thanks to the five Review Team members.

There were no comments or questions from the floor.

### **Report on Commission Reviews (31.2)**

The President referred members to Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/11 *External Review of IUCN Commissions – Summary of Report*. She recalled that Resolution 19.2 *The Role of the IUCN Commissions* (19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Buenos Aires, 1994) requires independent, end-of-term Commission reviews to be undertaken and reported to the following session of the Members' Business Assembly.

The Director General highlighted the importance of the review of the six Commissions undertaken by one team, which addressed the relevance of the Commissions, their effectiveness and efficiency, their knowledge products and services, and their positioning in relation to the poverty-environment agenda. The Chair asked Dr Anne Whyte, the leader of the Commission Review Team to present the key findings and recommendations of the Review.

Dr Whyte highlighted the Review Team's conclusion that the Commission Mandates could all be improved for better governance and oversight by including clear objectives and expected results for the intersessional period. All Commissions should produce an intersessional plan with explicit links to the Statutes and Commission Mandates, and with clear objectives, targets, results and reporting requirements for the intersessional period.

She stressed that leadership of a Commission is demanding and that a policy is required to enlarge the pool of outstanding candidates for election. It is essential that potential Chairs of Commissions have adequate institutional and communications support to fulfil the functions of the position. A focal point is needed in the Secretariat to address lack of financial accounting and support to the Commissions, and there is a need to ensure greater use of Commission knowledge products and services and to monitor their impacts to safeguard IUCN's reputation and credibility.

Other issues include how to manage the growth of Commissions, and how to ensure better working relations with the Secretariat, particularly in terms of the ability of the Commissions to help deliver on the Programme. In terms of future action, three cross-cutting reviews are recommended:

- A review of the social and economic sciences input required to mainstream the poverty-environment link and to maximize the Commissions' effectiveness in delivering the IUCN Programme
- A review of the role of communications in knowledge management and corresponding implications for reconfiguring Commissions
- A review of integrated approaches to ecosystems and human well-being

The President thanked Dr Whyte and the review team for their work.

The President invited David Brackett, Chair of the IUCN Commission Chairs, to summarize the views of the Commission Chairs on the results of the Review, referring members to Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/CRP 02 *Comment from the Commission Chairs to the End-of-term Review of the Commissions*. Among the key points of the *Comment* reiterated by Mr Brackett were the need for:

- a volunteerism policy from Council;
- urgent action on a knowledge management framework;
- better-defined regional governance;
- more open budget processes;

- an orientation process for Commission Chairs.

The Chair opened the floor for comments and questions.

The Sierra Club enquired about the availability to members of the full report of the External Review of Commissions and the opportunity for members to discuss its recommendations. The Director General replied that the report is available on the IUCN website and from the Secretariat. The Sierra Club expressed disappointment that the report was not available in printed form at the Congress.

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums appealed to Council to find a way to address the funding dilemma affecting the Commissions. The Chair ruled that this issue should be taken up by the Congress Programme Committee.

The Norwegian Ministry of Environment agreed that a Commissions focal point is needed in the Secretariat and requested that members be provided with additional information to assist coordination with the Commissions, particularly with regard to fundraising. He noted the need to reconsider the issue of payment to Commission Chairs, given the level of demands on their time.

The Centro de Derecho Ambiental y de los Recursos Naturales, Costa Rica, remarked that they would have liked to participate in the Commission Reviews and felt that they would have been able to make useful contributions. The member noted the need for greater equality (participation, sharing out of work and coordination) between the three pillars of the Union – the members and Commissions are constantly required to look for resources to support their work in the region.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK, welcomed the findings of the Review and enquired whether the recommended intersessional goals and expected outputs for each Commission would be adopted during the present Congress. The Chair responded that it would be unrealistic to prepare these by the end of this Congress but that these issues should be taken forward as priorities for 2005.

The Chair thanked Mr Brackett for his report.

### Reports of Commission Chairs (31.3)

The Chair referred members to Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/12 *Reports from the Chairs of Commissions*. He then introduced a video report from the Chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), Dr Kenton Miller, who was unable to attend the Congress in person but was represented by the Deputy Chair, Dr Mohamed Bakarr. In his report, Dr Miller emphasized the central importance of cooperative arrangements being developed with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the role of WCPA in becoming a strong partner supporting the implementation of the CBD. Future priorities include implementing the outputs from the WPC and publishing reports on achievements, identifying priority sites to cover the gaps in the protected areas network, making PALNet a centrepiece of the Commission's function and having the courage to interrogate the role of protected areas in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dr Bakarr added that partnerships are supporting the development of a global protected areas system. He thanked Conservation International for their support in making his involvement in the WCPA possible and noted opportunities to work more closely with the other Commissions.

The Chair thanked Dr Miller and Dr Bakkar and invited Prof. Michael Jeffrey, Deputy Chair of the Commission for Environmental Law (CEL), to present his report and advised that an Addendum to the CEL report had been tabled as Annex 4a to CGR/3/2004/12. Prof. Jeffrey noted that the report was made on behalf of the Chair of CEL, Professor Nicholas A. Robinson, who was unable to be at the 31<sup>st</sup> Sitting of the Assembly. The key achievements of the Commission included the creation of robust knowledge networks, such as the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, the promotion of new ethical and legal concepts primarily through its Specialist Groups, building capacity in all regions through collaboration with partner centres, and supporting a more active role of the judiciary in the implementation of law and policy.

Mr David Brackett, Chair of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) recalled that SSC is made up of over 120 Specialist Groups with over 8,000 members. Important developments have included commissioning a Volunteerism Study and developing an awards system that recognizes specific contributions. Mr Brackett extended particular thanks to

some leaders in the SSC. Some of the achievements of the SSC included the *2004 Red List of Threatened Species: Global Species Assessment*, the development of the Species Information Service, a range of activities on the ground to improve conservation and others that have influenced the policy and management of sustainable use and wildlife trade.

Ms Denise Hamú, Chair of the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), presented her report on video. The mandate of the CEC is to provide IUCN with support in communications and learning, to support environmental Conventions and Agreements in communication and education and to apply these skills to reaching new external audiences. Achievements included boosting the image of IUCN at global gatherings such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development, promoting more interactive events at IUCN gatherings, and support to global Conventions such as CBD, Ramsar and UNFCCC. Comments were forthcoming from several IUCN programme heads about the role of CEC in their work and Ms Hamú thanked the CEC steering committee, members and IUCN staff for their work in the Commission.

Dr Taghi Farvar, Chair of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), outlined the context of the world today and the challenge for the Union – to understand the complexities of the current situation and the implications for the conservation of biodiversity. CEESP has prioritized five programme components including: sustainable livelihoods; co-management of natural resources; environment, trade and investment; environment and security; and indigenous and local communities, equity and protected areas. CEESP aims to provide strong and active fora for discussion and the exchange of information among members. CEESP's mandate for 2005–2008 includes governance of natural resources, equity and rights; economics, markets, trade and investment; sustainable livelihoods and pro-poor conservation; culture and conservation; human and environmental security; and social and environmental accountability of the private sector.

Dr Hillary Masundire, Chair of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), reported that after a difficult beginning to the 2001–2004 inter-sessional period for CEM, 2002 began with the activities to rebuild the Commission and address



its governance, as well as the identification of four priority areas, namely: promoting the application of the ecosystem approach; cost-developing effective ecosystem restoration methods; developing indicators of ecosystem status; and developing and disseminating ecosystem management tools. The Chair of CEM outlined specific activities and achievements in each of these priority areas. The Chair noted the achievements of the Commission, particularly in building a stable and credible Commission.

The Chair thanked Dr Masundire and the other Commission Chairs for their reports and invited the ‘Chair of Chairs’, Mr David Brackett, to make closing remarks, including the award of the Sir Peter Scott Medal for Conservation Merit, the highest award that SSC can make, to Dr Georgina Mace in recognition of her outstanding contribution to IUCN, including leadership in development of the IUCN Red List Criteria and related activities in conjunction with the SSC.

## **Reports from recognized Regional Committees and Forums (32.1)**

The Chair invited Mr Alistair Gammell, the Chair of the Council Membership Committee to preside over this agenda item.

### **Meso America**

Presented by Lic. Marco Cerezo, Chair of the Regional Committee for Meso America (RCMA). Established in August 1997, the RCMA includes Mexico, the Central American countries and the Hispanic Caribbean countries. It includes 82 members.

The objectives of the committee are to facilitate collaboration amongst members through various mechanisms, including a regional forum meeting and member collaboration. During the period 2001–2004 the Committee focused on: participation of members in Programme formulation 2005–2008; strategic development of the Programme and regional collaboration amongst members and between members and the Secretariat; formulation of a framework programme with NORAD to be implemented by the IUCN Secretariat and members. The Committee facilitated the submission of 14 Resolutions to the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress.

Priorities for the period 2005–2008 include: working on the Plan Puebla Panama, including linkages to Protected Areas management; formulation and presentation of projects of a regional, multi- or bi-national nature to donors jointly by the Secretariat and members; and supporting members and building capacity to make better use of the resources available throughout the Union.

### **Oceania**

Presented by Dr Wren Green, Chair of the Oceania Regional Committee. The main theme was Oceania joining the IUCN mainstream. The region includes Australia, New Zealand and 22 countries in the South and North Pacific. Set up in 1998, the Committee is focused on the major challenges faced by the region: threats to many unique species and to a diverse array of marine and terrestrial habitats, especially the impacts of over-use, climate change and invasive alien species. The work over the last few years has focused in particular on the Pacific islands. These have a high value, face immediate threats, but have limited capacities for addressing them. The Committee wishes to improve the representation of the region in the Union and the Union’s involvement in Oceania.

Since 2003, an Oceania strategy has been developed into a full Component Programme as part of the IUCN Global Programme. For the period 2005–2008, the Committee wishes to support the establishment of a Regional Office in Fiji and to continue acting as a voice for Oceania in the Union’s work.

### **Southern Africa**

Presented by the Mr Lovemore Simwanda, Chair of the Regional Committee for Southern Africa. The Committee is comprised of the Chairs of national committees and representatives of the private sector. The purpose of the Committee is to:

- advise, monitor and assist the IUCN ROSA programme development and implementation;
- facilitate collaboration at regional level amongst members and between members and other regional entities;
- advise on budgetary and management issues within IUCN ROSA.

Key areas of the Committee's work for the period 2001–2004 included: stressing the need for linking economic and conservation issues; highlighting the need for stronger involvement of members; addressing financial deficits and the non-payment of member dues; establishing an IUCN national office in Zimbabwe; involving the private sector in IUCN's work; scoping and enlargement of investment opportunities for IUCN; and promoting sound corporate governance for IUCN and its members.

In the coming intersessional period, attention will be given to: effective and efficient programme development; increased emphasis on human and environment security; livelihoods and ecosystems; strategic engagement of members in delivering the programme; Genetically Modified Organisms and agro-biodiversity.

#### West Africa

Presented by Mr Mamadou Diallo, Chair of the Regional Committee for West Africa. The Committee was established in 1998 and covers 16 countries, with 44 members including 10 State Members. The growth rate of membership is high: a doubling in six years. The focus of the Committee's work has been:

- strengthening the capacity of members, including in management, monitoring and evaluations;
- working on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
- providing input into the planning of the new intersessional Programme;
- preparation of the West Africa membership for the present Congress;
- supporting visits of the IUCN President and Director General and maintaining good relationships with the regional and national IUCN offices.

For the period 2005–2008 the Committee will focus on: maintaining good relations with the Secretariat; further developing mutually beneficial collaboration with other regional mechanisms; improving communication among members and sharing of information on environmental issues; and developing communications at national and regional levels.

The Chair of the Council Membership Committee thanked all the Committees for their reports and expressed the hope that Regional and National Committees would play an ever more prominent role in future.

The Chair announced that ballot papers for the elections for IUCN President, Treasurer, Regional Councillors and Commission Chairs were being distributed to all those members whose credentials are in order.

### **Presentation and Discussion of the 2005–2008 Programme and Commission Mandates and Report of Congress Programme Committee (32.2)**

The Chair invited Dr Wren Green, the Deputy Chair of the Congress Programme Committee and Chair of the IUCN Council's Programme and Policy Committee to present the *IUCN Programme 2005–2008* (Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/18) and *Proposed Mandates for IUCN Commissions* (Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/19).

Dr Green underlined that the draft Intersessional Programme 2005–2008 provides:

- one guiding framework for the Union;
- a single integrated programme for the Secretariat and the Commissions;
- a framework that builds on IUCN's core competencies with a focus on the organization's strengths and niche.

He formally tabled the draft Intersessional Programme 2005–2008, in accordance with IUCN Statute 20(e), and the proposed Commission Mandates in accordance with Regulation 69 noting that members would be invited to approve both documents on the closing day of the Congress.

The Chair invited Ms Angela Cropper, Chair of the Congress Programme Committee to present the Committee's report.

Ms Cropper stated that the Programme Committee had been meeting twice daily to review approximately

70 programme-related motions and had forwarded comments to the Resolutions Committee concerning:

- the consistency of these motions with the draft Intersessional Programme;
- the implications of the scope of activities foreseen for component programmes;
- the cost implications.

These comments had in turn been passed on to Contact Groups, where relevant.

Where motions call on a Commission to undertake specific activities, the Committee suggests that the texts should be revised to request the relevant Commission to give effect to the motion in accordance with its mandate.

The Committee did not consider the conservation merits of the motions, as this is an issue for members to determine. Furthermore, the Committee had not yet considered either new motions, or motions revised in Contact Groups, which may have programme-related implications.

The Chair then opened the floor to discussion.

#### **Comments from the floor**

The Sierra Club, United States, commented that it did not see the link with the previous Programme and doubted whether the capacities exist in the Secretariat to carry out the new Programme especially in relation to social issues.

The Sudanese Conservation Society considered the world population aspect to be emphasized too much in the description of poverty. It considered the problem not to be about consumption but about distribution of economic wealth. This is related to social justice and inequality which have political implications. It requested a clarification on how the political dimensions of these issues are addressed in the Programme.

Nature Uganda asked how we plan to address the emerging issues that fall outside our niche, and whether we assume that our niche is static.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Vietnam, considered the proposed

Programme focused but ambitious and challenging. It requested information on the resources available for implementation. An assessment of the available resources over the last four years would be helpful. It considered that there should be more support for national and regional efforts.

The Centre for Russian Environmental Policy asked whether it is possible to increase the link between health and environment as part of an inter-Commission initiative, and perhaps cooperation with WHO, WWF and/or UNDP.

#### **Responses from the podium**

IUCN's Director, Global Programme, Dr William Jackson, replied that the Programme is not a business plan and does not describe how IUCN will carry out the Programme. He indicated that the Finance and Audit Committee would define what resources and capacities are needed to implement the Programme at its meeting on 24 November.

Wren Green replied that the Council could address the political aspects of the Programme in annual plans. IUCN's UN Observer Status could be used more effectively in this respect. There has been considerable change in the Programme to reflect the changes in the world in the last four years.

#### **Comments from the floor**

The International Society of Naturalists asked for more integration of the Programme and implementation by Regional and Country Offices.

The Wildlife and Environment Society of Malawi requested more involvement of countries that do not have IUCN Country Offices.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan expressed the opinion that the enhancement of activity should not lead to increased membership dues.

Vien Kinh te sing thai, Vietnam, expressed its opinion that too much emphasis was given to poverty reduction.

#### **Responses from the podium**

Wren Green commented that various programme-related motions provided opportunities for discussion of the degree of emphasis on poverty reduction.

He added that the transaction costs of implementing the Programme more through the Regional and Country Offices would need looking at.

William Jackson indicated that there is a strong linkage between the current and proposed future Programmes and that this guarantees strong continuity. He also noted that IUCN does have programmatic activities in countries where there is no IUCN office.

#### **Comments from the floor**

The Africa Resources Trust expressed the opinion that IUCN should have a national office in Zimbabwe. It considered that the office could recruit more members, and assist with the implementation of the Programme. It requested the IUCN Secretariat to look into this.

The Australian Conservation Foundation indicated its desire to see greater emphasis on communicating the Programme.

#### **Responses from the podium**

Wren Green replied that communication should be a major focus in the next four years. He noted that IUCN faces a major challenge if it is to become the world's best-known environmental organization.

William Jackson replied that the establishment of a national office in Zimbabwe can be discussed in 2005. He emphasized further that the proposed Programme is the most consultative conservation programme ever developed with over 60 meetings held around the world.

The Director General confirmed that communications constitutes a major priority. The world is paying attention, even if IUCN is not in the newspaper headlines. He gave the example that over 1.3 million hits were recorded on the IUCN website after the launch of the 2004 Red List. He expressed appreciation to Wren Green and especially to William Jackson, as the architect of the draft Programme.

Save the Environment, Afghanistan, requested IUCN to step up its work in Afghanistan.

The Chair acknowledged this and indicated her willingness to discuss this matter with Save the Environment.

## **Elections of President, Treasurer, Regional Councillors, Commission Chairs (33.2, 34.2)**

### **33<sup>rd</sup> Sitting**

The Chair invited the Election Officer to detail the election process.

The Election Officer, Dr Antonio Machado, announced that the ballot papers for the elections for the President, the Treasurer, the Regional Councillors and the Commission Chairs were being distributed to IUCN members whose credentials were in order. The Election Officer urged members to collect these papers from the Registration desk to allow them to cast their votes when the polls opened from 14:30 until 20:30 on 22 November 2004. The Election Officer provided the following additional information:

- Withdrawals – since the Congress documentation had been circulated to IUCN members, two candidates had withdrawn: Dr George Rabb, USA had withdrawn as a candidate for Regional Councillor for the North America and Caribbean Region; and Professor Hermelindo Castro, Spain, for the position of Chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas.
- Election of President – Mr. Mohammed Valli Moosa, South Africa, and Dr Parvez Hassan, Pakistan, had presented their candidature.
- Election of Treasurer – there was a single candidate, Mr. Sven Sandström, Sweden.
- Election of Regional Councillors – only three candidates per region could be elected. The number of candidates for each of the statutory regions were as follows: Africa (4), Meso and South America (3), North America and the Caribbean (4), South and East Asia (4), West Asia (4), Oceania (3), East Europe, North and Central Asia (4) and West Europe (3).
- Election of Commission Chairs: the number of candidates were as follows: CEC (1), CEESP (1), CEL (2), CEM (1), SSC (1) and WCPA (2).

The Chair invited members to cast their votes.

### 34<sup>th</sup> Sitting

The Election Officer, Dr Antonio Machado announced the results of the elections for the President, the Treasurer, the IUCN Regional Councillors and the Commission Chairs. He thanked the team of 40 people who had worked solidly to count the votes, following Swiss voting standards with additional efforts to make the process more rigorous. He presented the summary of voting statistics as shown below. Invalid votes were due to incorrect marks.

Votes	Government	NGO
Valid	2824	7742
Invalid	199	345
Blanks	50	238
Ballot Packs	192 <sup>1</sup>	521

He announced that the following candidates had been elected as Regional Councillors:

#### Africa

Hon. Amina A. ABDALLA, Kenya  
 Prof. Amadou Tidiane BA, Senegal  
 Prof. Zohir SEKKAL, Algeria

#### Meso and South America

Mr Juan Marco ALVAREZ, El Salvador  
 Dr Cláudio C. MARETTI, Brazil  
 Ms Silvia SÁNCHEZ HUAMÁN, Peru

#### North America and the Caribbean

Ms Lynn P. HOLOWESKO, Bahamas  
 Ms Huguette LABELLE, Canada  
 Dr Russell A. MITTERMEIER, USA

#### South and East Asia

Mr Nobutoshi AKAO, Japan  
 Dr Xingguo HAN, China  
 Dr Monthip Sriratana TABUCANON, Thailand

#### West Asia

Dr Talal AL-AZIMI, Kuwait

Dr Ali DARWISH, Lebanon  
 Mr Javed JABBAR, Pakistan

#### Oceania

Mr Lionel GIBSON, Fiji  
 Ms Christine MILNE, Australia  
 Ms Diana SHAND, New Zealand

#### East Europe, North and Central Asia

Prof. Kalev SEPP, Estonia  
 Prof. Alexey YABLAKOV, Russian Federation  
 Mrs Marija ZUPANCIC-VICAR, Slovenia

#### West Europe

Prof. Dr Purificació CANALS, Spain  
 Mr Alistair GAMMELL, United Kingdom  
 Prof. Dr Manfred NIEKISCH, Germany

The following had been elected as Commission Chairs:

#### Commission on Ecosystem Management

Dr Hillary MASUNDIRE, Zimbabwe

#### Commission on Education and Communication

Ms Denise HAMÚ DE LA PENHA, Brazil

#### Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy

Dr Taghi FARVAR, Islamic Republic of Iran

#### Commission on Environmental Law

Ms Sheila ABED DE ZAVALA, Paraguay

#### Species Survival Commission

Dr Holly T. DUBLIN, USA

#### World Commission on Protected Areas

Mr Nikita LOPOUKHINE, Canada

Finally the Election Officer announced the results of the Elections for the positions of Treasurer and President:

<sup>1</sup> Observation: 13 votes were cast in error in the Government House instead of the NGO house, but with no impact on the results. Additionally, 1 vote was attributed twice to the same government agency member.

**Treasurer**

Mr. Sven SANDSTRÖM, Sweden

**President**

H.E. Mr Mohammed Valli MOOSA, South Africa

The President thanked the Election Officer and his team for their efforts. She noted that members had been fortunate to have a choice of two excellent candidates for President and that the Union would have been well off under either of them. She thanked both candidates for standing.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolutions and Recommendations (32.3, 33.3, 35.2, 36.1, 37.2)**

As shown in the summary table below, 80 Resolutions and 38 Recommendations were adopted by the Bangkok Congress. The *Motions* booklet, containing 114 motions (78 Resolutions and 36 Recommendations) had been sent out to members on 17 September 2004, within the statutory deadline of 60 days prior to the opening of the Congress. A further 17 motions were submitted during the Congress, in line with Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure.

As pointed out by Pierre Hunkeler, Chair of the Congress Resolutions Committee, in his Foreword

to the separate *Resolutions and Recommendations* volume that accompanies these Proceedings, the number of motions considered and adopted in Bangkok represented a 30 percent increase over the Amman Congress, 25 percent more motions were discussed by Contact Groups (as well as in Plenary Session), while a third less time was available for dealing with motions in Plenary.

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee has also observed that: “*The motions process remains a central element of IUCN’s governance system. It is a very important means by which members can influence future directions in the conservation community; convey their priorities for implementing IUCN’s intersessional Programme; and seek international support and/or recognition of conservation issues. I would therefore like to call on members to give priority attention to following up on the Resolutions and Recommendations which they adopted.*

*While both the process by which motions were received, reviewed and screened by the Resolutions Working Group and the procedures followed at the Congress were improved, we have reached the upper limit of the number of motions that can be handled equitably and fairly at a sitting of the Congress. There is a need to consider how the process can be further refined for future sittings of the Members’ Business Assembly.”*

**Number of motions considered and adopted at Bangkok**

Status of motions at stages in the process	Number
Draft motions submitted before the Congress	127
Draft motions consolidated with other motions by the Resolutions Working Group, or rejected	-13
<b>Total approved motions forwarded for consideration at the Congress</b>	<b>114</b>
New motions submitted at the Congress	+17
<b>Total of motions managed at Congress</b>	<b>131</b>
New motions not meeting sponsorship or rejected by Resolutions Committee	-6
Motions withdrawn at the Congress	-3
Motions consolidated with other motions	-2
<b>Total motions put to the vote</b>	<b>120</b>
Motions not approved	-2
<b>Total adopted: 80 Resolutions and 38 Recommendations</b>	<b>118</b>

### Withdrawn, defeated and combined motions

Of the motions submitted for consideration by members, the following were withdrawn, either by the sponsors or upon the ruling of the Congress Steering Committee, as advised by the Congress Resolutions Committee:

- CGR3.RES003 Broadening the criteria for membership admission in the NGO category
- CGR3.RES005\* Including local IUCN members in the Union delegation at multilateral agreement meetings
- CGR3.RES041 Policy on climate change and adaptation: adapting biodiversity conservation approaches
- CGR3.RES045\* Safeguarding the protected areas of the Andean zones against open-pit mining
- CGR3.RES070\* Promoting the use of *Artemia persimilis*
- CGR3.RES075\* Inclusion of two new categories within the classification of wild flora and fauna species: protected species of commercial value and circumstantially harmful species
- CGR3.REC030 Conservation needs of the Tiger (*Panthera tigris/Panthera pantheris*)

\*See President's statement below for further information

The following motions were defeated:

- CGR3.RES060 IUCN promotion of Ecoagriculture
- CGR3.REC044 Gran Chaco Americano

The following two motions were combined to form RESWCC3.012 Governance of natural resources for conservation and sustainable development:

- CGR3.RES062 Governance of natural resources
- CGR3.RES063 'Good Governance' for Sustainable Development

The following two motions were combined to form RESWCC3.026 Establishment of the World Conservation Learning Network:

- CGR3.RES025 Establishment of the World Conservation Learning Network

- CGR3.RES026 Establishment of the World Conservation Learning Network

### President's statement, 32<sup>nd</sup> Sitting

During the 32<sup>nd</sup> Sitting on 22 November, the President announced that the Congress Steering Committee had received six appeals, all coming from the same member, concerning rulings made by the Resolutions Working Group. The President's statement was as follows:

*"Pursuant to Rule 55, I am announcing that on 21<sup>st</sup> November the Steering Committee denied the appeal of the exclusion of the following motions by the Congress Resolutions Committee:*

*'Inclusión de la temática de los refugiados ambientales dentro de la agenda de protección de los recursos naturales del programa de la UICN' submitted by Fundación REI Red Informática Ecologista, Argentina (NG 1181).*

*The rationale for the decision of the Steering Committee is that this motion calls for actions that are beyond the scope of IUCN's mission.*

*'Creación de los sitios de la evolución de historia natural' submitted by Fundación REI Red Informática Ecologista, Argentina (NG 1181).*

*The rationale for the decision of the Steering Committee is that the subject of the motion is already inherent in the existing IUCN categories of protected areas and the activities called for are already planned in the proposed Intersessional Programme 2005–2008.*

*The Steering Committee at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November denied the appeal of the exclusion of the following motions by the Resolutions Committee:*

- CGR3.RES005: Inclusión de miembros locales de la UICN en la delegación de la Unión ante reuniones de los acuerdos multilaterales
- CGR3.RES045: Salvaguardia de las áreas protegidas de las zonas andinas frente a las explotaciones mineras a cielo abierto
- CGR3.RES070: Fomento del aprovechamiento de la *Artemia Persimilis*

- CGR3:RES075: Inclusión de dos nuevas categorías dentro de la clasificación de las especies de fauna y flora silvestre: especie protegida de valor comercial y especie circunstancialmente perjudicial

*The rationale for the decision of the Steering Committee is that the above motions did not meet the statutory requirements of sponsorship prior to the opening of the Members' Business Assembly at the World Conservation Congress.*"

### **Formal statements for the record by State members**

Statement of the Dutch Government (speaking on behalf of the EU) on the IUCN Motions Process

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The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Union, read out the following general statement on the motions process during the 35<sup>th</sup> Sitting of Congress on 24 November 2004:

*The European Union strongly supports the work of IUCN and welcomes this opportunity to discuss a broad range of issues concerning biodiversity and the natural environment. We support the majority of the motions. However, the European Union feels that the process of discussion and adoption of motions during this Congress results in decisions that are not always based on a balanced consideration of all relevant views and positions.*

*An example is the motion on a moratorium on GMOs. This moratorium is not supported by the EU. The EU believes that decisions on GMO approval must be taken in a case-by-case fashion on the basis of a risk assessment, and taking into account the precautionary principle. Risk management measures taken by decision makers, while based on risk assessments, must also take into account all other relevant considerations, such as human health and environment. This is the approach chosen by European Union law and by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.*

*Other motions seem not to recognize that IUCN's mission is primarily linked to biodiversity. For instance, the EU believes that the commitment to alleviate global poverty is extremely important and*

*should be integrated in IUCN's work to conserve biodiversity. However, it should not be the other way round.*

*The EU State Members believe that future congresses should hold focused discussions on the implementation of the global programme of IUCN in order to promote further involvement of the members in its implementation and to provide for the integration of the motions into the programme.*

Statement of the Swedish Government on the IUCN Motions Process

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The following formal statement for the record was provided by the delegation of the State member Sweden during the 37<sup>th</sup> Sitting of Congress on 25 November 2004:

*Sweden has abstained from voting on motions that concern regional or local issues, or in cases where the Swedish Government lacks information and knowledge to assess the proposed motion. This concerns the following motions:*

*Resolutions 3.004, 005, 014, 024, 035, 039, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 046, 053, 056, 070, 076, 079.*

*Recommendations 3.093, 094, 096, 097, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, 115, 117.*

*Sweden would suggest that the Council considers, in consultation with the Secretariat, measures to streamline and make more effective the motions process at the next World Conservation Congress with regard to motions that relate solely to local or regional matters.*

Statement of the US Government on the IUCN Motions Process

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The following formal statement for the record was provided by the delegation of the State member United States during the 32<sup>nd</sup> Sitting of Congress on 22 November 2004:

*"The United States recognizes the importance of the motions process, which is a major feature of the World Conservation Congress.*



*We are very interested in the perspectives and priorities of IUCN members, particularly NGOs, as reflected in the 100-plus motions put forward for consideration by this Congress. We recognize that IUCN as an organization has an important contribution to make to the international environmental dialogue.*

*Since Amman 2000, we have continued to reflect on how best we, as a State member, can participate in this motions process. Because of the high priority we place on IUCN's programs which contribute significantly to conservation goals we share, we have concluded that, in keeping with our approach at the last Congress, we should focus our attention on those motions that deal with IUCN institutional, governance and broad programmatic issues.*

*We found the new procedures of screening motions to avoid duplication and repetition to be a valuable and welcome approach and applaud the Resolutions Committee, particularly its Chair, and the IUCN secretariat for their efforts. We greatly appreciate the outstanding efforts made by the Resolutions Committee to review and provide guidance on all motions and to identify their relevance to the proposed IUCN Quadrennial Program and their cost implications.*

*As the Resolutions Committee indicates, a number of motions would require a significant shift in priorities, resources and funding allocations within the Quadrennial Program. This raises the central issue of how the motions process fits into the ongoing process of formulating the Quadrennial Program, which we are to finalize during this Congress. We appreciate the efforts made to ensure that we do not allow the tail to wag the dog.*

*We would note, however, that a number of motions reflect the strong views of a few members on what actions State members should take nationally, regionally or internationally on complex and often controversial issues.*

*We remain convinced that there are some types of resolutions on which it may not be appropriate for us, as a government, to engage or negotiate.*

*Among these is a large group of motions directed primarily to a single government or group of governments on national, bilateral or regional issues.*

*We often lack sufficient factual information about such issues and believe that responses to these motions are best left to the country or countries affected. We will not take a position as a government on such motions, except as they have direct implications for the US Government. In such instances, we may provide a statement for the record to help clarify the issues raised and provide our perspective.*

*A second group of motions are those focused on global issues that we agree are important but that are topics of ongoing international policy debate in other fora, such as climate change, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and undersea noise. We respect the interest of members in issues of global concern and we share many of these interests, especially on emerging issues such as the importance of complex major river systems, such as the Mekong, and the illegal trade in wildlife. However we do not intend to take national government positions on the particular views presented in motions here or to vote on the outcome.*

*We will provide you with a list for the record of those resolutions the US Government will refrain from engaging on.*

*We would like this statement entered for the record in the report of this Congress.”*

On 24 January 2005 the United States provided the Director General with a further written statement identifying the positions taken on each motion, dividing them into four categories:

*“State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations and took no national government position on the motions as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process” for the following motions:*

Resolutions 3.004, 005, 007, 008, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 020, 025, 027, 034, 035, 039, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 052, 053, 055, 056, 058, 068, 069, 070, 075, 077, 078, 079.

Recommendations 3.082, 084, 085, 086, 087, 088, 089, 090, 091, 092, 093, 094, 096, 097, 101, 103, 104, 105, 106, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 115, 117, 118.

“State and agency members United States abstained during the vote” on the following motions:

Resolutions 3.002, 006, 012, 019, 026, 028, 029, 031, 032, 036, 037, 038, 040, 054, 059, 060, 064, 066.

Recommendations 3.081, 083, 095, 098, 099, 114.

“State and agency members United States voted against” the following motions:

Resolutions 3.021, 022, 046, 061, 072, 074.

“State and agency members United States voted in favor of all other motions.”

### **Record of Resolutions and Recommendations adopted**

The following is a complete summary of the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Congress, including any formal statements for the record made by members. All motions were adopted by electronic voting, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, as amended by Congress during the 29<sup>th</sup> sitting on 18 November 2004. The full and final texts of all Resolutions and Recommendations can be found in a separate volume that accompanies these *Proceedings*.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

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### **3.001 Precedence clause – Establishing precedence in regard to IUCN general policy**

### **3.002 Improving the transparency of the IUCN Council**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.003 Engagement by IUCN with local and regional government authorities**

### **3.004 Ratification and implementation of the revised African Convention**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.005 European policy and biodiversity in overseas territories**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.006 Protecting the Earth's waters for public and ecological benefit**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.007 A moratorium on the further release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**

The delegations of Japan, The Netherlands and Sweden indicated that they were unable to support this Resolution.

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

The Ministry of Environment, Sweden, provided the following statement for the record:

*Sweden is supportive of much of the sentiment of this resolution. However, we cannot support the call for a moratorium on the release of GMOs. Our regulation is strict and we assess the environmental impact on a case-by-case basis.*

**3.008 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and biodiversity**

The Ministry of Environment, Seychelles, provided the following statement for the record:

*This motion is calling for a moratorium to be placed on the use of GMOs until its safe nature can be ascertained. We do not support this motion, even though it has been approved. First it is contrary to the Cartagena Protocol which Seychelles is a party to. The safe nature of GMOs is unlikely to be established anytime soon. In the meantime, useful values of GMOs, especially in the medical field will be ignored.*

The Ministry of Environment, Sweden, provided the following statement for the record:

*We are in support of the IUCN working to integrate food related issues in biodiversity conservation, but [this resolution] is drafted in such a way that it would mean IUCN starts to work with food safety issues in general, which goes beyond its mandate and experience.*

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.009 Establishing gender equity as a mandate in the strategic activities and themes of IUCN**

**3.010 HIV/AIDS pandemic and conservation**

**3.011 Addressing the linkages between conservation, human and animal health, and security**

**3.012 Governance of natural resources for conservation and sustainable development**

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey provided the following statement for the record:

*Turkey is not a Party to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Turkey objects to making any reference to the mentioned Convention.*

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

**3.013 The uses of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**

**3.014 Poverty reduction, food security and conservation**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

The Wildlife Conservation Society provided the following statement for the record:

*We would like to bring to the attention of Congress the highly effective cooperation which took place in the contact group discussing Resolutions 3.014, 015 and 016. Working together, we reconciled our differences in approach, whilst respecting the integrity and intent of each of the three motions. All agreed that IUCN should incorporate and respect human rights approaches to conservation (3.015), needs-based approaches to conservation with emphasis on food and water (3.014) and biodiversity related approaches to conservation (3.016).*

**3.015 Conserving nature and reducing poverty by linking human rights and the environment**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.016 On the role of conservation organizations in poverty alleviation and development**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and

took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.017 Promoting food sovereignty to conserve biodiversity and end hunger**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

The Nature Conservancy Council of New South Wales provided the following statement for the record:

*We are concerned that [this resolution] equals a major shift in the focus of IUCN policy away from biodiversity conservation and towards dealing with socio-economic issues (deserving of attention) that will weaken IUCN's capacity. The alternative approach could be to form partnerships with social issue-based organizations.*

### **3.018 Mobile peoples and conservation**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.019 Horizontal evaluation of international conventions, treaties and agreements on the environment**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.020 Drafting a code of ethics for biodiversity conservation**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.021 International Covenant on Environment and Development**

State and agency members United States voted against this motion.

### **3.022 Endorsement of the Earth Charter**

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

*There are many laudable goals in the Earth Charter with which the United States agrees. However, there are many controversial propositions in that document with which the United States takes issue.*

*In the view of the United States, a wholesale endorsement of the Earth Charter would not be appropriate, and it is not advisable to adopt an unqualified requirement that the Earth Charter be used as an "ethical guide" for IUCN policy.*

State and agency members United States voted against this motion.

### **3.023 Providing support for IUCN's Observer Status in the United Nations**

### **3.024 The Harold Jefferson Coolidge Medal**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

### **3.025 Education and communication in the IUCN Programme**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.026 Establishment of the World Conservation Learning Network**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.027 Education for sustainable development**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.028 Policy on capacity building and technology transfer**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.029 Capacity building of Young Professionals**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.030 Capacity building in applied and demand-driven taxonomy**

### **3.031 Cherishing volunteers**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.032 Volunteer translators and interpreters to serve IUCN**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.033 Implementation of an IUCN programme for the Insular Caribbean**

The Bahamas National Trust, the Negril Environment Protection Trust and the Government of Jamaica wished their endorsement of this Resolution to be noted for the record.

### **3.034 Strengthening the action of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.035 Aral Sea Basin as the hot spot for biodiversity conservation**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.036 Antarctica and the Southern Ocean**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, provided the following statement for the record:

*Although this Resolution includes some items which Japan can and does support, such as steps to stop the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, other items are problematic. For example, no scientific and logical reason is presented to justify the proposed declaration of the whole Ross Sea as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA). Therefore, Japan cannot support this Resolution.*

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

Dr Wolfgang Burhenne provided the following statement for the record:

*The organizations I represent\* have voted in favour of [this Resolution] in spite of the fact that a protocol on liability (legally required in the Protocol Protection of the Antarctic) has not yet been finalized – mainly due to opposition from the US government.*

\*Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsches Wild (Organisation zur Erhaltung der freilebenden Tierwelt), Germany; German Water Protection Association; Commission Internationale pour la Protection des Alpes, Liechtenstein; Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald Bundesverband, Germany; Bund Heimat und Umwelt in Deutschland, Germany; Verband Deutscher Sportfischer, Germany.

### **3.037 Arctic legal regime for environmental protection**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.038 Conservation and sustainable development of mountain regions**

#### **3.039 The Mediterranean mountain partnership**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

#### **3.040 Transboundary cooperation in mountain areas**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

#### **3.041 Protection of the Macal River Valley in Belize**

The Environment Department, Norway, provided the following statement for the record:

*We regard [this resolution] as debating an internal matter and will urge members not to forward such resolutions to a world congress as it is out of line for others to take a stand on it.*

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

#### **3.042 Biodiversity in Southern Sudan**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish

Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

#### **3.043 Resource-based conflicts in Darfur, Sudan**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

#### **3.044 The Haitian environmental crisis**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

#### **3.045 Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers Commission**

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, India provided the following statement for the record:

*Integrated Water Resources Management of Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers is primarily a bilateral issue between respective countries of the region. It is therefore important that such bilateral issues have wider stakeholder consultations and consensus is evolved at the political level. Such a motion may set a bad precedence.*

*While we share technical expertise and international experiences in this regard, we urged that the motion be withdrawn.*

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.046 Conservation in regions in violent conflict of West Asia – strengthening IUCN's presence to protect the natural and human environment**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States voted against this motion. The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

*The United States believes that the World Conservation Congress should not consider this resolution. Whereas the resolution contains some useful elements related to some very real conservation needs, these elements are unfortunately lost in political rhetoric that is outside the mandate of IUCN.*

**3.047 Durban Action Plan and CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas**

**3.048 IUCN Guidelines for protected areas management categories**

**3.049 Community Conserved Areas**

**3.050 Integrating protected area systems into the wider landscape**

**3.051 Freshwater protected areas**

**3.052 Protected areas in the Mediterranean**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.053 Protection of Chile's first Ramsar site, threatened by a cellulose factory**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.054 Threats from Olympic Games and other major sporting events to protected areas and biodiversity**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

**3.055 Indigenous peoples, protected areas and the CBD Programme of Work**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.056 Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation and conservation of nature in the Amazon region and Chaco**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and

took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.057 Adapting to climate change: a framework for conservation action**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.058 Military activities and the production, stockpiling and use of weapons that are of detriment to the environment**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.059 IUCN's energy-related work relevant to biodiversity conservation**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

**3.060 Influencing private sector actions in favour of biodiversity**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

**3.061 IUCN's interaction with the private sector**

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey, provided the following statement for the record:

*Turkey objects to any reference to the World Commission on Dams.*

State and agency members United States voted against this motion.

**3.062 The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**

**3.063 Cities and conservation**

**3.064 Conservation and sustainable management of high-seas biodiversity**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, provided the following statement for the record:

*Although Japan can support some parts of this resolution such as the idea to implement measures to eliminate the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, we cannot support the other parts of this resolution. We believe that it is the responsibility of regional fisheries management organizations to conduct conservation and management measures that are appropriate in view of the characteristics of each region. We should recognize that most of the issues mentioned in this resolution are already being dealt with by many regional fisheries management organizations.*

*Also, we believe that all marine resources, both within and beyond national jurisdiction, should be used in a sustainable manner, with due consideration to marine environment, on a scientific basis. The issue of marine protected areas has not been well discussed what types of measures are appropriate in order to conserve marine environment. Further, the influence of fishery activities to the environment has not been discussed. Therefore, Japan cannot support this Resolution.*

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey, provided the following statement for the record:

*Turkey is not a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Turkey objects to making any reference to the mentioned Convention.*

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

**3.065 A landscape/seascape approach to conservation**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, provided the following statement for the record:

*Protected areas should be established based on scientific evidence and after careful consideration regarding its necessity among all relevant sectors and stakeholders.*



**3.066 The protection of seamounts, deep-sea corals and other vulnerable deep-sea habitats from destructive fishing practices, including bottom trawling, on the high seas**

The Government of Canada provided the following statement for the record:

*Canada is very concerned about destructive fishing practices, as is everyone at this Congress. The preamble to this Motion summarizes the shared concerns about this issue well.*

*However, there are differences of opinion at the Congress and in the world community about the best way forward to reduce and eliminate destructive fishing practices on the high seas.*

*Canada indicated within the contact group that we would have to have some further internal discussion on the two options put forward [Editor's note: for operative paragraphs 1(d) and 1(e)], to see whether we could support either of these.*

*After such reflection we are not able to support either of the options – we simply do not feel that a moratorium on high seas trawling is an option which should be pursued at this time. The recent UNGA discussion spent long hours on this and developed wording like that in operative paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b) of this Motion, which we strongly support – and we feel that the next steps are to work along the lines of the GA resolution.*

*We believe that it is extremely important and urgent for States to ensure that their fishing fleets are adequately regulated, and for regional organizations with mandates for fisheries management and marine conservation to ensure that their mandates cover destructive fishing practices – mandates should be upgraded where necessary. States and regional organizations should ensure that fisheries management is consistent with the UN fish stocks agreement and with the FAO Code of Conduct, both of which insist on an ecosystem approach and a precautionary approach to fisheries management.*

*Accordingly we support paragraphs 1(a) to 1(c) and 1(f) of this Motion but do not support 1(d) or 1(e).*

The Government of Iceland provided the following statement for the record:

*Iceland, being a responsible fisheries nation, considers it important to respond to vulnerable marine ecosystems located beyond and within national jurisdiction. Iceland has worked on this issue with other States within the Regional fisheries management organizations in its region and was a party to an agreement within The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, at its last meeting, to close five seamounts within its area.*

*A call from the IUCN upon States, to act in relevant fora for an action to be taken within a defined timetable to address the issue of vulnerable marine ecosystems, is a reasonable way for the IUCN to communicate its concern.*

*In the working group on the motion, a consensus could not be reached as some of the participants would not accept to use a text carefully negotiated at the UN General Assembly that defines the problem to be addressed, by whom it should be done on what basis.*

*The UN text, paragraph 66, reads: “calls upon states, either by themselves or through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, where these are competent to do so, to take action urgently, and consider on a case by case basis, and on a scientific basis, including the application of the precautionary approach, the interim prohibition of destructive fishing practices, including bottom trawling that has adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals located beyond national jurisdiction, until such time as appropriate conservation and management measures have been adopted in accordance with international law”.*

*Iceland regrets that a consensus on such a call could not be reached at this Congress. Iceland is of the view that such a call, endorsed by both NGOs and the majority of States that conduct fisheries, would have sent a much stronger message on the urgency of action to States and relevant international fora than the one we have now. It was for this reason that Iceland abstained from voting on this motion.*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan provided the following statement for the record:

*Demanding a general moratorium that only applies to bottom-trawling is inconsistent with the basic idea of this year's United Nations resolution that "calls upon States to consider on a case-by-case basis, and on a scientific basis, the interim prohibition of destructive fishing practices".*

*Further, issues on fisheries regulation should be discussed in such organizations as Food and Agriculture Organization or regional fisheries management organizations with enough scientific knowledge and experience. It is not appropriate to discuss fishery topics in the United Nations General Assembly as there is no expert on fisheries.*

*The Japanese basic point of view is that all marine resources, both within and beyond national jurisdiction, should be used in a sustainable manner on a scientific basis, with due consideration for marine environment. This issue of bottom trawling regulation should be discussed from this viewpoint.*

*Thus, Japan cannot support this Resolution.*

The Ministry of Environment, Norway, indicated its support for the positions taken by Canada, Iceland and Japan.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey, provided the following statement for the record:

*Turkey is not a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Turkey objects to making any reference to the mentioned Convention.*

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.067 Strengthening stakeholder participation in fisheries management**

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey, provided the following statement for the record:

*Turkey is not a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Turkey objects to making any reference to the mentioned Convention.*

### **3.068 Undersea noise pollution**

The Ministry of Environment, Norway provided the following statement for the record:

*We think the resolution is premature and the extent of the problem first should be identified.*

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey, provided the following statement for the record:

*Turkey is not a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Turkey objects to making any reference to the mentioned Convention.*

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26). The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

*The United States shares the underlying concerns with the potential effects of anthropogenic ocean sound on marine life and would like a number of clarifying points included in the Record.*

- *We recognize that some anthropogenic ocean sound may have adverse effects, ranging from chronic to acute, on marine life.*
- *The United States is a leader in funding research on all aspects of the issue.*
- *The United States is a leader in implementing science-based management programs to assess and mitigate the adverse effects of some anthropogenic sound on marine mammals and endangered and threatened species.*
- *The United States supports continued reliance upon science in making regulatory decisions about activities associated with anthropogenic ocean sound.*
- *The United States encourages an international approach to advance scientific understanding of this issue and to promote science-based means of addressing adverse effects.*

**3.069 Status of floating atomic power stations in the world's oceans**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.070 Environmental protection of the Mediterranean Sea from the risk of maritime traffic**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.071 International cooperation on forest management**

**3.072 Legal aspects of the sustainable use of soils**

State and agency members United States voted against this motion.

**3.073 Conservation of medicinal plants**

**3.074 Implementing the *Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity***

State and agency members United States voted against this motion.

**3.075 Applying the Precautionary Principle in environmental decision-making and management**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.076 Illegal and unsustainable international trade in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Mekong river riparian states**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China, provided the following statement for the record:

1. *The Chinese Government supports controlling illegal international trade of wildlife and international cooperation in this regard.*
2. *China strictly controls commercial use and illegal trade of wildlife species.*
3. *To effectively combat wildlife-related crimes, China set up a forest police force in the 1980s and a special police unit to crack down on smuggling of wildlife species. Perpetuators are robustly prosecuted and sentenced to maximum terms of punishment according to Chinese Criminal Law.*
4. *China is also a strong supporter and active player in international cooperation. China hosted a series of international meetings and workshops, the recent example being the workshop on CITES Implementation in the Mekong River Riparian States co-sponsored by China and the CITES Secretariat.*

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

**3.077 Urgent measures to secure the survival of the critically endangered Western Gray Whales *Eschrichtius robustus***

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.078 Sturgeon (Acipenseriformes) conservation within the Caspian, and Azov and Black Sea Basins**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and

took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.079 Conservation of *Gyps* species of Vultures in South and Southeast Asia**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.080 Vote of thanks to the host country**

The adoption of this resolution was marked by acclamation from members.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **3.081 Implementation of Principle 10 by building comprehensive good governance systems**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.082 *The Extractive Industries Review***

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.083 Improving capacity to achieve sustainable development and address the consequences of globalization**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

### **3.084 Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.085 Principles of knowledge sharing of the Conservation Commons**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.086 Coordination of sustainable development programmes for energy**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.087 Financial institutions and the World Commission on Dams recommendations**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China, provided the following statement for the record:

*The Government of China takes a very cautious approach to proposals of dam development. Any new proposal will be subject to comprehensive assessment according to relevant laws. Environmental impact assessment is an essential component of the comprehensive assessment process. Decisions on new proposed dams will be made on the basis of balancing social, economic and environmental considerations.*

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, India, provided the following statement for the record:

*Bilateral issues should not be discussed at such international fora.*

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey, provided the following statement for the record:

*Turkey registers its objection to making any reference in this Recommendation to the World Commission on Dams.*

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.088 Support for the ‘Ban Amendment’ to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, provided the following statement for the record:

*The Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention has not come to a conclusion on whether the Convention shall apply to end-of-life ships. Under such circumstances, it is not appropriate for IUCN to adopt a Recommendation on this specific issue.*

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.089 Humane trapping standards**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.090 Implementation of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.091 Fulfilling the right to optional use of the official languages in the internal and external communication documents of IUCN and its members**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.092 Conservation and sustainable use of Seals**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.093 Application of the IUCN Sustainable Use Policy to sustainable consumptive use of wildlife and recreational hunting in southern Africa**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government’s general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.094 Management of large terrestrial herbivores in southern Africa**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government’s general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.095 Nomination of large-scale multi-state serial World Heritage Routes**

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

**3.096 Inclusion of the Mont Blanc massif in UNESCO's World Heritage List**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.097 Conservation of the Wetland Corridor of the Fluvial Littoral, Argentina**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.098 Conservation and sustainable management of high-seas biodiversity**

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey, provided the following statement for the record:

*Turkey is not a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Turkey objects to making any reference to the mentioned Convention.*

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

**3.099 The protection of seamounts, deep-sea corals and other vulnerable deep-sea**

**habitats from destructive fishing practices, including bottom-trawling, on the high seas**

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Turkey, provided the following statement for the record:

*Turkey is not a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Turkey objects to making any reference to the mentioned Convention.*

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

**3.100 Reef-fish spawning aggregations**

**3.101 Advancing boreal forest conservation**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.102 Conservation of Mediterranean-type ecosystems**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

**3.103 The Biosphere Reserve of the Chaco and indigenous peoples**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.104 Consolidation of a national system of protected areas in the Dominican Republic**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.105 Conservation of the Cantábrico-Burgalesa mountain range**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.106 Mitigation of the environmental impacts of the 'Plan Puebla Panama' and strengthening of protected areas adjacent to new road sections and other infrastructure works**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.107 Threats to the Danube Biosphere Reserve**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish

Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

**3.108 Great Barrier Reef**

**3.109 Transboundary protected areas in South-east Asia**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

**3.110 Promoting responsible management of water resources in the Mekong Region**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China, provided the following statement for the record:

*The delegation of the State Member of China is disappointed with the process followed in considering this motion. It runs counter to the spirit of goodwill and consensus building which is a great value of the Union.*

*The Delegation has a strong objection to operative paragraph (c) of this Recommendation, which is not consistent with the positive views and understanding expressed by environment ministers of the Mekong Region countries in the high-level round-table discussion during the WCC in Bangkok.*

*The Chinese Government wishes to reiterate that China attaches great importance to comprehensive assessment of water resources projects in the Mekong Region, taking into account economic, social and environmental impact and interests of all parties.*

*China is actively engaged in and stands ready to enhance dialogue and cooperation among all countries on sustainable development in the Mekong Region.*

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish

Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.111 Impact of roads and other infrastructure through the ecosystems of Darién**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.112 Establishing a marine protected area for Blue Whales *Balaenoptera musculus* in the gulf of Corcovado, Chile**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.113 Conservation of Saiga antelope *Saiga tatarica tatarica* and *Saiga tatarica mongolica***

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.114 Conservation of Dugong *Dugong dugon*, Okinawa Woodpecker *Sapheopipo noguchii*, and Okinawa Rail *Gallirallus okinawae* in Japan**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, provided the following statement for the record:

*The Government of Japan has been taking active measures for the conservation of natural environment in the areas referred to in this Recommendation.*

*The Government of Japan has decided that, with regard to construction of a Futenma relocation Facility (referred to in the text as "a joint United States military/Japanese civilian airport") and the relocation of Helicopter Landing Zone in Northern Training Area (referred to in the text as "seven United States military helipads"), the Government will make efforts for minimizing negative impact on the natural environment, while having in mind the important function which US facilities/areas in Okinawa are performing. The Government is now working for relocation of Futenma Airport from the present populated area, with a view to relieving the uneasiness in the neighbouring communities as soon as possible.*

*The Government of Japan has decided that it will make the utmost efforts to prevent substantial impact on the natural environment in construction of these facilities. And the Government is now conducting environment impact assessment in accordance with, or in line with domestic laws and regulation on environment impact assessments, and will continue to do so regardless of whether a new recommendation before us is adopted or not.*

*Moreover, in order to avoid serious impact on the environment in conducting underwater drilling and seismic reflection surveys, the Government of Japan is taking measures for the environment protection, although such measures are not required by the Environmental Impact Assessment Law.*

*The Government of Japan and the sponsors of the recommendation had intensive consultations in the Contact Group to find compromised languages for the recommendation, and I personally thank the sponsors for showing to us a spirit of cooperation. My thanks also go to the skilful guidance by*



facilitators from IUCN at the Contact Group. But unfortunately, we could not come to an agreement on the languages for the recommendation. Therefore, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, as State member of IUCN will abstain from voting for the present draft recommendation.

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

*Considering the intent of this Recommendation, concerning the conservation of the Dugong, the Okinawa Rail and the Okinawa Woodpecker, the United States supports efforts to conserve these and other endangered and threatened species. We respect and share the concern the sponsors of this motion have shown for the continued survival of these three species.*

*We remain committed to a comprehensive and transparent environmental impact assessment on the proposed Futenma relocation. We are prepared to cooperate in an environmental impact assessment for the area in question conducted by the Government of Japan, if requested by the Government of Japan.*

*The United States has committed publicly to making all efforts to protect the environment in Japan, consistent with relevant laws and regulations. In the course of these efforts, we welcome dialogue with those concerned.*

State and agency members United States abstained during the vote on this motion.

Save the Dugong Campaign, Okinawa, provided the following statement for the record:

*Japanese Environmental Impact Assessment Laws do not require a zero option. In other words, the Government has not included the option to cancel these projects if it finds that these projects cause unreasonable environmental damage. As the Government has not included related underwater drilling and seismic reflection surveys, drilling is now taking place at 63 sites on the coral reef without any assessment. We urge the Japanese Government to include a zero option, and the related surveys in its EIA. We also urge the US Government to recognize its responsibilities and to cooperate in the process of EIA.*

Responding to this statement, the Ministry of Environment, Japan, noted that:

*'Zero Option' can be required based on the results of EIA, according to the Japanese domestic EIA laws.*

### **3.115 Protection of the Great Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps***

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.116 Shark finning**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, provided the following statement for the record:

*This resolution is inconsistent with the last year's and this year's United Nations resolutions, as well as the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in several points such as a requirement for landing shark bodies with their fins adhered and a ban on transfer of shark fins in international waters.*

*The Key point of shark conservation issue is that fishery activities that only target shark fins are deteriorating shark resources. We have to recognize that a ban on finning without identifying species and areas with a real problem will never lead to a real conservation and management of shark resources.*

*Further, it is not appropriate to discuss fishery issues in the United Nations General Assembly, since there is no expert on fisheries. Therefore we cannot support this recommendation.*

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

*The United States supports strong and effective efforts to conserve and manage shark populations, including through bans on the practice of shark finning. We would just like to make a brief statement specifically in regard to operative paragraph 4. Given recent advances on this issue in the United Nations General Assembly, we believe that future efforts are best directed towards the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and other relevant international bodies with direct responsibility for the conservation and management of living marine resources. We support specific measures by these organizations to address this issue, consistent with the resolution recently adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).*

### **3.117 Conservation of the Bandula Barb *Puntius bandula* in Sri Lanka**

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page 26).

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

### **3.118 Continued prohibition of shahtoosh production and trade**

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process (see page 26).

## **Presentation and Adoption of Membership Dues (34.3)**

The President referred to Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/17 *Membership Dues for 2006 to 2008* in the Agenda and Documentation booklet sent to all members on 16 June 2004, in line with

the statutory deadline of 150 days prior to the opening of Congress.

She recalled that at the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress in Amman, members expressed concerns about continuing the use of a pre-defined percentage increase in calculating dues. While the Amman Congress Finance and Audit Committee highlighted the need to maintain the real value of membership dues in order not to diminish the services rendered to members, the Committee had requested the development of a new methodology on which to base future dues increases to be approved by the present Congress. It further requested that such methodology refer to a published, recognized inflation index.

To replace the pre-defined percentage increase, Council proposed that the current scale of dues be indexed annually by applying the latest year-to-year increase of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Switzerland published by the Swiss National Bank, available at the time when invoices are sent to members, noting that invoices are normally sent out in October of each year for the following year.

Council was of the view that the CPI inflation index for Switzerland would provide reasonable protection to the Secretariat to maintain the expenditure currently funded from membership dues during the period 2005 to 2008.

The President then moved the following draft Decision for discussion:

*The World Conservation Congress APPROVES the proposal of Council to index membership dues annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Switzerland published by the Swiss National Bank.*

There were no comments from the floor and the Decision was adopted, as moved, by consensus.

Fundación RIE, Argentina, called for an exception to be added to the text of the decision to take account of NGO members that have withdrawn from IUCN because of membership dues being excessive in relation to national circumstances; in some countries, for example, IUCN dues may represent 20 times the minimum salary. Council should examine means of waiving or reducing the dues in

such cases as a means of helping to bring former members back into the fold.

The President noted that this had been an ongoing discussion and she requested the Council elect to examine RIE's request and to take the issue forward.

## **Report on Results of the World Conservation Forum (34.4)**

The President invited the Director General to present an overview of the results from the World Conservation Forum (WCF). Mr Achim Steiner was joined on the podium by the WCF Synthesis Stream Leaders, Mr Joshua Bishop, Dr Sue Mainka, Mr Gonzalo Oviedo, and Mr Simon Rietbergen, as well as by Dr Steve Edwards, the WCF Coordinator.

The Director General observed that the present World Conservation Congress had been the first to separate the technical events of the Forum from the Members' Business Assembly and that this had proven to be quite a success. The Forum had given a set of points of orientation, with a number of significant directions emerging from 500-plus events, ranging from small market places to large platforms. The Forum brought together the state of art of conservation and the state of the world in 2004, as far as this community had been able to assess it.

He acknowledged that it would be impossible to summarize the whole effort in a few minutes but nevertheless he wished to highlight a few aspects from each of the four synthesis streams:

### **Synthesis Stream: Biodiversity Loss and Species Extinction – managing risk in a changing world**

- In the 1950s and 1960s the conservation community worked with ad hoc observations and hypotheses. The evidence today is that we are dealing in irrefutable proof, with the information to back us up. For example, alien invasive species and climate change are already having dramatic impacts on the future of Small Island States.
- As we are faced with immediate threats, we need to address the underlying root causes and to work at scales that are meaningful.

- We have the knowledge to act. We can identify how trends can be reversed and how action can be taken, but we need to mobilize institutional sources of funding to act.

Sue Mainka recalled that Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado had implored the Congress to start thinking about the health of our world with the same seriousness as we think of our own long-term health.

### **Synthesis Stream: Health, Poverty and Conservation – responding to the challenge of human well-being**

- Debate in this stream was central to the Congress theme 'People and Nature – only one world' and really came alive. Who looks after whom? What are the priorities? Conservation cannot underwrite all of the problems associated with poverty and livelihood issues, but needs to contribute to solving them and to play its part in poverty alleviation. We need to make sure that nature sustains livelihoods. There is no 'either or' choice between people and nature.
- Rights, for example the right to water, are a key meeting point for poverty reduction and environmental protection.
- The impact of change – over ninety percent of natural disasters in the last ten years have been in the developing world.

Gonzalo Oviedo underlined that the stream had seen many voices coming together and calling out for partnerships and alliances to accelerate the race to fulfil the objectives of the *Millennium Development Goals*.

### **Synthesis Stream: Markets, Business and the Environment – strengthening corporate social responsibility, law and policy**

- The conversation in this stream could not have happened ten years ago. It was not a stream about business, but rather about conservation understanding the market place.
- One major challenge is reaching out to consumers and changing their behaviour; businesses and governments have important roles in this.

- The introduction of carbon dioxide trading is an example of how markets are being used to govern resource use; new forms of markets are working for conservation.

Josh Bishop observed that the debate had moved on from a dialogue of the deaf to a constructive discussion. Substantive discussions were now happening and there had been a broad shift of thinking from *whether* to engage with markets and business to *how* we engage with markets and business.

**Synthesis Stream: Ecosystem Management – bridging sustainability and productivity**

- The ecosystem approach has emerged as a unifying core to bring various other elements together. It represented an orientation point where we can speak together to influence wider debates.
- The valuation of ecosystem goods and services remains a challenge; how do we adequately capture what ecosystems provide to society?
- Marine and mountain ecosystem conservation emerged as priorities, with strong interest and commitment from participants to take these issues forward.

Simon Rietbergen noted that, some years ago, ecological networks were positioned as a way of physically linking up protected areas, but they have grown bigger – they now give us a strategy for linking into development frameworks.

The Director General highlighted key cross-cutting issues that emerged from the Synthesis Streams; these included:

- rights issues in many forms;
- communications: the environmental community's biggest operational challenge. If we cannot relate effectively what we know and what we do, we cannot expand the movement;
- the need to form more strategic alliances: a tactical issue for the community;
- gender and youth: taking forward the notion of the role of our youth in terms of receiving as well as contributing to a call to action.

Finally, five global target-based instruments and processes had emerged repeatedly, around which the Union could organize in the years ahead:

- the 2010 biodiversity target
- the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*
- the *Millennium Development Goals*
- the *Durban Accord and Action Plan*
- the Kyoto Protocol

The President thanked the Synthesis Stream Leaders and the Director General. She personally had been impressed by the Forum because it represented an opportunity for members to contribute and share experience and expertise. She invited comments from the floor.

Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano, Ecuador, thanked the organizers of the WCF, and picked out the session on markets as excellent due to the quality of presentations and the participants. It would be useful if a record of the discussion could be made available to members.

The Chair of the Species Survival Commission, Mr David Brackett, commented that the biodiversity conservation workshop had a chance to hear some of the early results of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA). Those results were showing the importance of ecosystem services and the threats to those services. The MEA is following a process modelled on that of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and would hopefully have the same impact on shaping world opinion. IUCN should help ensure continuity of the MEA process.

A Rocha International, UK, contributed its perspective as a conservation NGO with a Christian identity and its belief that a framework of belief underlines how we treat nature. The WCF had been a great occasion for IUCN to reflect on this theme.

The Sierra Club, USA, appreciated that there are some companies who make positive efforts for the environment, but there is still a question of 'green washing'. The ultimate test will be what happens on the ground. There is also the issue of ethics and how it relates to our dialogue with companies. The strongest thing we bring to the table with companies is moral authority.

Association Tunisienne pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement, Tunisia, reinforced the message that the environmental community needs better communication; IUCN needs to participate fully in the new information society.

Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa, commented that the level of WCF debate had been excellent and thanked the Director General for his useful summary.

The Ministry of Environment Sweden had been deeply impressed by the organization of the WCF. It had been excellent to see such a diversity of people meeting and interacting to work towards the conservation of biodiversity around the world.

Sociedad de Historia Natural del Soconusco, Mexico, had been gratified to see livelihoods, poverty and health issues being discussed alongside nature conservation, but stressed the need to find means of better coordinating with the development agenda, especially at regional level.

Al-Khat Al Akhdar, Lebanon, speaking on behalf of young professionals, thanked IUCN for providing the opportunity to participate in the WCF.

The Center for Russian Environmental Policy underlined the opportunity provided by the WCF to make technical steps towards sustainable development. In terms of wider involvement of civil society it was good to see the close relations between biodiversity conservation and human health being emphasized.

Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales Australia believed that the involvement of the business sector had been the most radical innovation. It would be helpful if the Secretariat ensured that all the presentations, including names and contact details, are posted on the website for follow-up.

The Nature Conservancy, USA, identified several strengths of the WCF: as a live area for discussion of the issues at different levels (e.g. global/regional/landscape); in providing an opportunity for members and staff of IUCN to participate together; and in actively linking WCF discussions, Congress motions, and global conservation instruments and goals.

The Director General indicated that the Secretariat will work with the teams to compile a full resource centre relating to the Forum and he once again thanked Steve Edwards for his efforts as WCF Coordinator.

### **Report on the Finances of IUCN in the Intersessional Period 2000–2003 (34.5)**

The President recalled that Article 88(d) of the IUCN Statutes states that the Director General shall: “with the Treasurer submit to each ordinary session of the World Congress, a report on the consolidated accounts of IUCN together with the auditors’ report for the relevant years.” She referred members to Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/20 *Evolution of the Financial Situation over the period 2000–2003*. She invited the Director General to take the floor, who in turn introduced the outgoing Treasurer of IUCN, Mr Claes de Dardel, to present his report on the finances of IUCN for the Intersessional period 2000–2003.

The Treasurer began by underlining the progress that has been achieved in a number of areas as a consequence of strong teamwork by the Director General, Chief Financial Officer, the Finance and Audit Committee of Council and the Treasurer. He mentioned specifically the following points:

- Substantial improvement of the accounting system
- Improved procedures for budgeting and financial forecasting
- Implementation of new rules and procedures for liquidity and investment management
- Development and implementation of a risk management policy
- Creation of an internal audit function and appointment of in-house legal counsel

The enhanced accounting system allows IUCN to produce consolidated accounts in a substantially more timely and accurate manner. The organization is also now equipped with efficient tools for analysing and reporting on financial performance and has improved the reliability and transparency of its financial information.

An important and longstanding objective has been to integrate better the development of the annual programme and the annual budget. Under new procedures, development of the programme is leading the preparation of the budget. It is now easier to analyse and evaluate the degree of uncertainty and thus the level of risk inherent in any budget and this provides Council with an improved basis for decision-making. New tools also allow IUCN to monitor financial performance against budget on a regular and timely basis. Liquidity management previously represented a major problem for IUCN. Over the last two years or so efficient cash-flow forecasts have been made at both HQ and regional levels. This allows the Union to predict and plan for possible liquidity problems.

One of the most important achievements has been a thorough analysis of the various financial risks that IUCN is exposed to. The purpose of this exercise was not only to create an awareness of the risks but also to determine ways of how to deal with them. This led to a system of setting clear targets for the levels of specific and general provisions against actual and potential liabilities as well as for the levels of general reserves. There are now clear rules for the delegation of financial authority throughout the organization.

Internal financial control was strengthened by the appointment in 2001 of an internal auditor, reporting directly to the Director General. In a complex and highly regionalized organization such as IUCN this function is vital for detecting potential problems at an early stage. Finally, the creation in 2003 of the position of in-house legal counsel has also strengthened financial management by enabling the identification of potential legal risks before they become actual liabilities and to take appropriate preventative action.

### **Financial performance 1999–2003**

#### *Income*

Core income consists of membership dues, other restricted income (e.g. sales of publications), and framework agreement income (i.e. funds received from donors to support the programme). Restricted income is either project components of framework agreements or project agreements.

During the reporting period total income increased by some 10 percent from CHF 93 million to CHF 102 million. While this may appear as a modest growth rate, the Swiss Franc underwent strong appreciation against the US dollar and the Euro. Core funding from donors doubled during the period and the Secretariat successfully managed to diversify sources of donor income. There was an increase of core framework agreement income which almost doubled from CHF 9 million to CHF 18 million. Invoiced membership dues increased slightly from CHF 8.5 million to CHF 9.1 million, due mainly to an increase in the number of members.

Although restricted income remains the most important element of IUCN income, its relative importance diminished from about 80 percent of total income in 1999 to some 70 percent in 2003. Core framework agreement income increased from 10 percent of total income in 1999 to almost 17 percent in 2003.

IUCN's Council has long urged the Secretariat to diversify sources of donor support. The dependence on a very small number of key donors posed a severe risk, which needed to be limited. Considerable progress has been made so that, in 2003, 12 donors accounted for 80 percent of total donor income, compared with only five donors in 1996.

The income from membership dues may seem relatively insignificant. However, its importance for IUCN cannot be underestimated. Not only does the income represent almost the only truly unrestricted income item, it is also a very important part of the cash flow of the Union. Only 65 percent to 75 percent of the membership dues are usually paid within 12 months of invoicing, rising to 90 percent within 24 months. This situation generates significant accumulated arrears, which continue to be around CHF 4 million. In 2000 and 2001 IUCN had to write off a total of almost CHF 3 million of unpaid dues. It is imperative that all members do their utmost not only to pay their dues but also to pay them as promptly as possible.

#### *Expenditure*

The growth in expenditure over the last intersessional period has closely matched the growth in income. Over the four years, turnover increased by 8 percent from CHF 90 million to CHF 97 million.

Over the last 10 years expenditure has almost doubled from CHF 52 million to CHF 97 million.

Gross regional expenditure increased from CHF 59 million to CHF 72 million, representing two thirds of the total gross expenditure. Gross expenditure by thematic units went from CHF 16 million to CHF 25 million, or about 22 percent, while other gross expenditure, i.e. general administrative expenditure, increased marginally from CHF 14.1 million to CHF 14.7 million, down from 16 percent to 13 percent of total expenditure, indicating a lean operation.

#### *Balance sheet*

There has been a significant improvement in financial management and thus liquidity. From the low point of CHF 2.5 million in 1998 and 1999, liquidity steadily improved to over CHF 20 million in 2003. This was reflected in an increase in the average number of months that the liquidity at headquarters covers both headquarters cash outflows, including cash advances to regional offices, from 4.2 months in 2001 to 5.8 months in 2003. The IUCN Fund, which can be defined as the organization's equity base to be used only as a last resort, is managed separately and its assets are not mixed with IUCN's other accounts. The Fund has shown a small but steady growth, achieved in spite of very difficult recent market conditions.

IUCN's reserves, which are not classified as specific provisions, nowadays defined as the Secretariat contingency fund, have shown growth and stood at almost CHF 7 million at the end of 2003. Although this may seem a large amount, it corresponds to less than one month's total expenditure for the Union as a whole.

The Treasurer concluded by advising that while much had been achieved, it was important that the organization should not become complacent and rest on its laurels. The continued strength of IUCN finances would depend on sustaining the policy of vigilance that the Director General and the Secretariat has so successfully pursued over the last four years.

The President thanked the outgoing Treasurer for his presentation and for his dedication and service to IUCN. She then moved the following Decision for discussion and invited comments from the floor:

*The World Conservation Congress APPROVES the audited Financial Statement for the years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. The 2000–2003 statements are included in Annexes 1–3 respectively.*

There being no interventions from members, the Decision was approved by consensus, as moved by the President.

### **Presentation of the Financial Plan for the new Intersessional Period (34.6)**

The President referred members to Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/21 *Financial Plan for the Period 2005–2008* and invited the Director General to present the document.

The Director General indicated that the Financial Plan had been developed to support the Intersessional Programme 2005–2008, taking into consideration the recommendations of the 2003 external review of IUCN as well as financial trends identified during the preceding four years. The forecast for income growth is a conservative 5 percent, in part to allow for currency fluctuations, which would give a figure of CHF 126 million for 2008.

There was a significant forecast increase of income from membership dues, with an ambitious target of 29 new State members by 2008. Income from donors is forecast to increase by 5 percent, with a target of three new framework agreements during the intersessional period. It is assumed that restricted income will match the expenditure forecast. The emphasis is on large multi-year projects.

Expenditure over the new intersessional period was forecast to grow from CHF 103 million to CHF 126 million. The corresponding expenditure plan is based on the targets and objectives of the Intersessional Programme. Expenditure will be distributed proportionally across regions, thematic programmes, and service units with a plan to reduce overheads by one percent.

There would be more strategic investment in core functions and positions in regional offices. Investments will continue to support regionalization and geographical presence in WESCANIA, Oceania, the Americas and Europe. There will be consolidation in

both America and Europe. Global investment is expected to continue to strengthen core thematic and knowledge functions, i.e. species and ecosystems, and their relationship with social and economic systems. There will be greater engagement in business and market-related issues, and enhanced investment in linking practice to global policy. The Secretariat is also investing in innovation and integration. Innovative ideas will be integrated into the Programme through enhancing and refining the 3I-C fund as an incubator for new issues that also bring the three pillars of the Union together. Focus will be given to strengthening joint Commission/Secretariat initiatives and to developing cross-cutting initiatives.

In terms of staff and administrative costs, a new structure for global operations and systems management would be implemented in January 2005 to create efficiencies. The ratio between Headquarters and Regional Country Office staff is expected to remain 1:9. Growth in the overall budget is reflected in regional budgets.

Risks included fluctuations in exchange rates which affect the value of core framework agreement income. IUCN has been overstretching core resources and needs to look to the project portfolio for cost recovery. The incubation period of 2–3 years is too long and 5–7 percent overheads unreasonably low. We are managing financial risk with conservative forecasting, quarterly reporting, internal audit and legal counsel. But we will always have to deal with unpredictable risks.

The President thanked the Director General for his presentation and opened the floor for comment, reminding members that the Financial Plan would only be submitted for adoption, along with the Inter-sessional Programme 2005–2008, during the 37<sup>th</sup> Sitting of the Members' Business Assembly.

The Ministry of Environment, Finland, enquired about implementing the provisions of Articles 13(a) and 20(k) of the IUCN Statutes, which deal with the suspension and rescission of membership rights in the case of unpaid dues. The Ministry also considered that the allowance for average growth of one percent in Commission budgets was too modest and should be reconsidered.

Fundación RIE, Argentina, requested that the budget should be dealt with only after the motions before

Congress had been dealt with, so that their likely financial implications could be taken into account.

Aktion Fischotterschutz eV, Germany, pointed out that only 5 percent of core expenditure was allocated to the Commissions. Commission Chairs should be part of the payroll of IUCN.

The Director General deferred to the President on the issue raised by Fundación RIE. In response to the Finnish Ministry of Environment, he confirmed that information on the status of members with dues substantially in arrears and therefore subject to the provisions of Articles 13(a) and 20(k) of the Statutes would be forthcoming. With regard to the concerns raised relating to the Commissions, he clarified that what had been presented did not reflect the full financial situation of the Commissions, but rather the portion for which IUCN assumes funding responsibility. There was existing fundraising capacity within the Commissions that successfully mobilized far more funding than the CHF 1.4 million operational funding provided by IUCN to cover basic governance, communications and operations.

### **Report of the Finance and Audit Committee, including Accounts and Auditors' Report for 2000–2003 (34.7)**

At the President's request, the Chair of the Financial and Audit Committee of Congress, Dr Jorge Caillaux presented the Committee's report, including the Accounts and Auditors' Reports for 2000–2003.

Dr Caillaux thanked the finance team at headquarters. He explained that IUCN is a system with inter-dependent elements. The decisions taken at the Congress reflect and have an impact on the finances. Thus there is a need for a strong relationship between the decisions taken and the financial situation. The Finance and Audit Committee was able to act as the 'eyes' of IUCN's members and was therefore key to IUCN's future. The mandate of the committee was to review the financial outcomes of the period 2000–2003 and the ongoing situation for 2004.

Liquidity is an indicator of the impact of decisions which have been taken. As reported by the Treasurer, the situation has improved and strengthened the financial capacity of the Union.



Donor confidence has increased as reflected in the growth of our core framework funds. Global service unit costs decreased from 16 percent to 13 percent of total expenditure indicating an increase in efficiency.

Looking at the financial environment, improvements highlighted by the Treasurer underline the process of better risk management. The Committee is satisfied with the operation of the internal audit function and considers it an essential innovation. The 2004 expenditure figures are within forecast levels; thus it can be expected that IUCN will close the year as forecast.

Looking to the future, growth projections appear realistic and a higher growth rate (e.g. up to 8 percent) could be serviced without incurring higher costs. In terms of risk management, external factors such as exchange rates, donor conditions, and implementation of projects might hamper the rate of growth. The Secretariat ought to look closely at the financial implications of the motions approved by the congress. Cost recoveries from the project portfolio might be inadequate to cover operating costs, thus forcing subsidies to be made from core funds.

With respect to management, it is essential to continue improving information systems for more effective interface between programme managers and finance managers. IUCN also has to assess risk exposure from hosting third parties. The new Treasurer should also review IUCN's exposure to exchange rates. Finally, IUCN should develop policies for opening and closing IUCN offices and for the management of offices that have no legal status.

Income from membership makes an important contribution to IUCN's overall finances. The target of 29 new State members might seem ambitious, but is possible and significant. Each member can contribute actively in engaging new State members. Every Swiss franc from a member leverages and attracts an additional ten Swiss Francs. If members don't pay dues, that effectively equates to a considerable loss, affecting the Union's reserves.

In terms of recommendations for the future, the Committee wished to highlight:

- the need for new procedures and tools for identifying and reporting on the financial implications of motions submitted to Congress;

- the possibility of expanding the terms of reference for the Finance and Audit Committee to report on the financial implications of motions during Congress.

In closing the Chair of the Committee observed that as members of the IUCN system we need to follow a systemic business approach and to apply best practice if we are to be a powerful and a truly credible Union.

The President thanked the Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee for his careful presentation and invited comments from the floor.

The Nature Conservancy, United States, thanked the Chair of the Committee for his analysis and presentation. With regard to the financial implications of motions, Congress should have the possibility not just to evaluate the financial implications of the motions, but also to measure the efficiency of the motions and efficacy in term of conservation.

### **Appointment of Auditors (34.8)**

The President referred members to Congress Paper CGR/3/2004/22 *Appointment of External Auditors*. She recalled that Deloitte & Touche had been appointed as external auditors by the Amman Congress in 2000. They had conducted their first audit of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2000. Their original contract had been to perform audits of the 2000, 2001 and 2002 accounts. However, given the date of the present Congress late in 2004, IUCN Council at its 58<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2003 had decided to extend the contract for Deloitte & Touche for a further two years, up to and including the audit of the 2004 accounts. The President then moved the following Decision for approval:

*The World Conservation Congress APPROVES the appointment of Deloitte and Touche as external auditors for the 2005–2008 intersessional period.*

There being no comments from members, the Decision was approved by consensus.

## Adoption of Programme, Commission Mandates and Financial Plan (37.3)

The President referred members to the following Congress Papers:

- CGR/3/2004/19 *Proposed Mandates for IUCN Commissions*
- CGR/3/2004/18 *IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008 – People & Nature: Only One World*
- CGR/3/2004/21 *Financial Plan for the Period 2005–2008*

Wren Green, Deputy Chair of the Congress Programme Committee and Chair of the IUCN Council's Programme and Policy Committee presented the mandate of the Congress Programme Committee and the principles applied by that Committee in reviewing motions. These principles included:

- assessing the likely impact on the draft IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008;
- assessing the likely impact at component programme level;
- making a rough estimate of additional funding likely to be required;
- ensuring that, if adopted, motions or elements thereof did not unintentionally amend the draft Programme or duplicate existing work either within or external to IUCN.

The recommendations of the Programme Committee were as follows:

- Adjustment to procedures for formulating the Programme. Historically there has been little connection between the Programme development and Resolutions, leaving members feeling disempowered and frustrated. Also inadequate reporting back. IUCN now has a framework programme which allows for easier identification of strategic issues. Process of consultation allows for more specific integration of national and regional issues into the Programme document.
- Only had four days to discuss over 100 motions. Need to think carefully about advances to

programme framework and how members interact with and respond to process. If number of motions continues to increase then congresses need to be longer.

- Need to think how to improve process of consultation on draft Recommendations and Resolutions before coming to Congress. Need for greater dialogue between Council and members – despite the good work in the development of this Programme, there is still some way to go.
- Adjustment to draft programme framework: Resolution 3.025 *Education and communication in the IUCN Programme* may require an amendment to the proposed programme framework.
- Financing – motions have financial implications and should be adopted subject to available resources. Efforts were made to cost motions ahead of congress. CHF8 million which represents 30 percent of IUCN's core funds. Impossible to make such rapid changes to programme priorities. Key issue is how to prioritize and where/how to raise funds and engage.
- Programme Committee recommends an analysis by Council of the impacts of these new motions on the Programme and assess their implications.
- Adjustments of priorities and activities need to be communicated to members.
- Members asked how to do this within next four years. It could be possible to do this in the midterm report back to members.
- Combine the functions of the Resolutions and Programme Committees into a single committee for WCC4 to streamline the motions.
- Conclusions: seen major improvements in development of Programme; draft Programme is an excellent conceptual and analytical document; high degree of coherence between Commission Mandates and Programme; further improvements needed to ensure that members make more effective use of the consultation process and simplify and rationalize the entire resolutions process. Take into consideration recommendations from previous Congress Programme Committees.
- Notes that the Programme comprises the Programme document, the Commission Mandates and all the Resolutions that affect the programme.

Asks the Chair to move the Programme for approval after some discussion.

The President thanked Wren Green and congratulated the Congress Programme Committee on their work. She then opened the floor for comment:

Mr George Greene, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Canada, read the following statement and requested that it be included in the record:

*IISD lauds the move towards a unitary IUCN program carried out by the Commissions and the Director General.*

*We are further encouraged by the report of the Governance Task Force, which recognizes the need for strengthening accountability of the Commissions – to both the Council and the members in Congress – in order to allow the Council and Congress to fulfil their oversight responsibilities vis a vis the performance of the Commissions.*

*We see that good progress has been made in integrating Commission Mandates into the Program.*

*We also recognize that progress has been made in the consultation of members in the development of this integrated Program.*

*We now see the need to go further, to ensure that Commission Mandates are also open for scrutiny and comment by the IUCN membership.*

*This is in line with the:*

- *results of the Review of the Commissions 2004, regarding Commission Mandates,*
- *the work being undertaken by the Director General on knowledge networks, and*
- *the ongoing work of the Governance Task Force.*

*My delegation therefore calls for a full and open review and debate by members of the proposed Commission Mandates during the development of the next quadrennial Program and at the 2008 World Conservation Congress.*

*This should include but not be limited to:*

- *relevance of each Commission and its Mandate to the Quadrennial Program,*
- *operating principles for good knowledge networks as stated in the 2004 Review of the Commissions, as per the 1990 IUCN General Assembly results,*
- *effective forms of knowledge networks, and*
- *performance against the 2004–2008 Commission Mandates, Strategic Plans and the Triennial Program.*

Miljoverndepartment, Norway congratulated the Congress Programme Committee for its work and underlined the need for sufficient information to be provided and for improved standards in verification in the motions process, in line with the general statement on the motions process made by Sweden. Council should look at the motions and programme process and set aside a budgetary reserve to take account of the financial implications of motions that are adopted.

Adrian Phillips, speaking on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society, provided the following general statement for the record:

*My congratulations to the Programme Committee. I agree with the analysis presented by Wren Green. I strongly agree with the Committee's concerns about the number of motions, many of which relate to the Programme. But we have been here before; at every previous WCC and IUCN GAs.*

*So we need to ask why many members submit so many programme-related motions. Not because members are wilful or irresponsible. There are many reasons, but let me suggest three:*

1. *The motions process, before and at the Congress, is the major opportunity that members have to interact with each other, often face to face, and through this to develop an agreed position which IUCN can advocate to the world.*
2. *The result is a decision whose impact can be fairly easily measured – and followed up – see the mining resolution of Amman.*

3. *Because adoption (or rejection) of a motion represents an achievement, one might say perhaps a 'trophy' that members can take home with them and share with their constituents (and this applies both to governments and NGOs).*

*If we are to make progress and encourage members to direct programme motions to the programme process, we will have to find a way of giving members the same sense of direct involvement in the finalization of the Programme, through national and regional processes before the congress and at the congress itself, as they feel they get through the resolutions process.*

The Ministry of Environment, Finland, provided the following general statement on the motions and programme processes:

*Finland would also like to comment on the process of motions and the Global Programme we have and should implement during 2005–08. We all have very ambitious targets to reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and to reach the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 7. We need coherent and targeted work for these targets by IUCN and this seems not to be clear if we look at the huge amount of motions adopted; so we think really we need priorities and hereby we fully support the Council to do priority work. Council should undertake an assessment of priorities among the programme-related resolutions adopted at WCC3. But my delegation is also concerned if the number of motions is even increasing in the future. We need a new mechanism or criteria before next WCC for doing these; additionally we think a Financial Committee/financial analysis may need to be established in the future.*

*We also would like to thank all the volunteers working in the Commissions, which we think have a very important role as knowledge-base for this Union.*

The President called for a vote on the following draft Decision:

*The World Conservation Congress APPROVES the Commission Mandates.*

The Decision was approved by electronic voting.

The President re-opened the floor for comments on the draft IUCN Intersessional Programme 2005–2008.

Mr George Greene, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Canada, read the following statement and requested that it be included in the record:

*My delegation has noted with satisfaction the place given to economic and social issues in the new Programme of the Union.*

*We are pleased to see IUCN strengthening its staff complement on economic and social issues, both at Headquarters and in the regions.*

*We believe that continued strengthening of IUCN's capacities in these important areas is essential.*

*This will require further efforts to:*

- *strengthen and extend staff capabilities;*
- *encourage new members with an economic and social orientation;*
- *strengthen the networks of volunteers in the economic and social dimensions of conservation.*

*In respect of this last point, I wish to emphasize two further points.*

*The economic and social aspects of conservation are sufficiently broad and complex that the Union needs to keep itself open to a range of mechanisms to mobilize knowledge, and make it available to the Union.*

*This will require a particular effort and spirit of innovation on the part of the Secretariat and the employment of knowledge networks which open channels through which economic and social perspectives can be fed into all components of the Union's work on conservation.*

*For this to happen, every effort must be made to move forward in a spirit of harmony and cooperation among all components of the Union working on or concerned with the social and economic aspects of conservation.*

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales, Australia, commended IUCN's efforts in trying to serve the needs of members at the same time as having a financially efficient programme. But we need to recognize that if we want more members we

need more time to address motions. This needs to be addressed in organizing the next Congress. The Resolutions Committee needs an ongoing dialogue on how this could be achieved.

The President called for a vote on the following draft Decision:

*The World Conservation Congress APPROVES the Programme for the period 2005–2008.*

The Decision was approved by electronic voting.

The President then called for a vote on the following draft Decision:

*The World Conservation Congress APPROVES the Financial Plan for the period 2005–2008.*

The Decision was approved by electronic voting.

### **Presentation of Wolfgang Burhenne Award, John C. Phillips Memorial Medal, Honorary Memberships and Commission Awards (38.1)**

The President announced the presentation of the Wolfgang Burhenne Award to Professor Alexander Kiss for outstanding service to the Commission on Environmental Law. She explained that Professor Kiss was unable to be present in Bangkok, but that he would receive the award at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Colloquium of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, to be held in Sydney, Australia, in July 2005.

The President announced the granting of Honorary Membership of IUCN to Professor Adrian Phillips and to Professor Marshall Murphree. She recalled Adrian Phillips' long association with the World Commission on Protected Areas, including his role as WCPA Chair from 1993 to 2000. During this period, he developed WCPA as the world's leading network of protected area professionals and mobilized membership at all levels. The results provide a model of what an IUCN volunteer network can achieve.

After receiving his Honorary Membership from the President, Professor Phillips paid tribute to IUCN as

a diverse, vibrant, and complex organization, in which he was but a cog. He thanked friends and colleagues, including Secretariat staff, Commission members and IUCN members, making special mention of three individuals who had been mentors in his work with the Union – David Munro, Bing Lucas and Michel Batisse.

The President summarized Marshall Murphree's remarkable career, saying: "His commitment to scholarship and teaching has enhanced our understanding of the relationships between rural people and their environment and provided globally recognized leadership in the field of common property resources management, which also guided the adoption of IUCN's principles of sustainable use." Professor Murphree was instrumental in development of the Community Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) programme in Zimbabwe, now recognized globally as a pioneer programme for achieving conservation through sustainable use of natural resources while contributing to rural community development.

Professor Murphree's award was received on his behalf by Mr James Murombedzi, IUCN Regional Director for Southern Africa.

At the Director General's invitation, the French Ambassador for the Environment, Monsieur Denys Gauer, took the floor to announce the bestowing of Honorary Membership upon the outgoing President of IUCN, Ms Yolanda Kakabadse. Presenting the award, M Gauer said: "It is thanks to you that IUCN is a strong voice for all who are concerned about the future of our planet and its biodiversity. The role of President is a thankless task – it is voluntary, but full time. It is important to be authoritative, but also to listen to everyone and to show respect to everyone. You have been devoted in your work, directing our discussions effectively and with warmth and respect. It is only natural for this title to be conferred on you."

The President expressed her delight at receiving Honorary Membership and thanked the Ambassador for his words.

She then presented certificates of recognition to all outgoing IUCN Councillors, thanking them warmly for their constructive collaboration and friendship

over the past four years. Certificates were presented to:

- Mr Claes de Dardel, IUCN Treasurer
- Ms Juliana Chileshe, Regional Councillor for Africa
- Ms Sonia Rigueira, Regional Councillor for Meso and South America
- Mr Gabriel Robles, Regional Councillor for Meso and South America
- Dr Dan Martin, Vice President of IUCN and Regional Councillor for North America and the Caribbean
- Mr Antonio Claparols, IUCN Regional Councillor for South and East Asia
- Dr Abdulaziz Abuzinada, IUCN Regional Councillor for West Asia
- Mr Ali Akbar, IUCN Regional Councillor for West Asia
- Dr Wren Green, IUCN Regional Councillor for Oceania
- Ms Suliana Siwatibau, IUCN Regional Councillor for Oceania
- Dr Anna Kalinowska, Regional Councillor for East Europe, North and Central Asia
- Prof. Ivan Voloscuk, Regional Councillor for East Europe, North and Central Asia
- Dr Ali Hatough Bouran, IUCN Councillor
- Mr Johan Holmberg, IUCN Councillor
- Ms Aroha Te Pareake Mead, IUCN Councillor
- Ms Sunita Narain, IUCN Councillor
- Mr Juan Rada, IUCN Councillor
- Prof. Nicholas Robinson, Chair, Commission on Environmental Law
- Prof. Kenton Miller, Chair, World Commission on Protected Areas
- Mr David Brackett, Chair, Species Survival Commission

The President also moved a Vote of Thanks to Mr Antonio Machado, IUCN Election Officer, for his role in ensuring the smooth running of election and voting procedures during the Congress.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of four leading figures in the development of IUCN who had passed away since the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conservation Congress:

- Dr Jay Hair – former President of IUCN
- Dr David Munro – former Director General of IUCN
- Mr Bing Lucas – former Chair of WCPA
- Dr Michel Batisse – John C. Phillips Memorial Medallist

The President presented the John C. Phillips Memorial Medal, IUCN's highest honour, to Dr Luc Hoffmann in recognition of his outstanding contribution to conservation over more than 60 years. She recalled his work as an ecologist, ornithologist and pioneer in wetland conservation, including his role as one of the founders of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and as a seminal figure in the history of IUCN, WWF, Wetlands International and BirdLife International, as well as the author of more than 60 technical and scientific publications. She praised his wisdom, vision and perseverance.

Accepting the award, Dr Hoffmann said: "I do not know how to thank you for having bestowed on me the John C. Phillips Medal, which may well be the highest award in the conservation world. When I look through the list of 13 recipients between 1963 and 2000, I see the most prestigious names; people who have, by mighty ideas or decisive actions, left their footprint in world conservation, and I feel ashamed because I think that my modest achievements cannot stand a comparison." Speaking of the need for joint efforts to achieve conservation goals, Dr Hoffmann said: "I believe that an increasing number of conservation problems can no longer be solved by individual organizations, but only by partnerships of all those committed to their solution. The partnership between IUCN, WWF, the International Foundation for the Banc d'Arguin, Wetlands International and the governments of West African countries for the Regional Conservation Programme for the Coastal and Marine Zone of West Africa is one of the most recent and successful examples. It has attracted much attention during this Congress. I am proud to participate in the promotion of this approach."

The presentation of the John C. Phillips Memorial Medal to Dr Hoffmann was greeted by a standing ovation.

## Closure of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (38.2)

IUCN's President Elect, Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa took the floor. He began by paying tribute to the outgoing President, Ms Yolanda Kakabadse, saying: "If courage is defined as 'grace under pressure', Yolanda defines 'grace' when we all say *gracias*." He also acknowledged a debt of gratitude to his "eminent and worthy opponent" in the Presidential elections, Dr Parvez Hassan. He thanked the outgoing Councillors and congratulated those who had just been elected and looked forward to working closely with the Secretariat, praising the "exceptional leadership" of the Director General.

Turning to urgent priorities for the future, Mr Valli Moosa stressed that extinction is happening at an ever more rapid rate, and that: "All of us – particularly governments – are committed to reducing the current trend of biodiversity loss by 2010. However, the work being done is not yet sufficient. For many, it is still business as usual. We must leave here determined to do what it takes. We have a strong Union, but we must strengthen ourselves."

He highlighted the following areas as key challenges for IUCN to address over the next inter-session period:

- Engaging with governments that have not joined IUCN, or whose membership has elapsed, in order to promote unity around a common message
- Ensuring that the Union is bold, assertive, and everywhere: "conservation is everyone's responsibility"
- Engaging more vigorously with the private sector
- Ensuring that nature conservation is seen and presented as an economic opportunity
- Being more assertive at the United Nations: "The previous Council has done excellent work in getting IUCN recognized as the authentic, legitimate, representative voice of conservation in the world. We now need an experienced, respected permanent representative at the UN"
- Building on IUCN's strengths as a user and generator of knowledge, backed up by the best-available science

- Greatly strengthening the Union's communications work

Reflecting on the nature of the Union, Mr Valli Moosa remarked: "We do not take decisions easily because we are many. However, when we do take a stand, it is one which is representative of a world view and one which must be taken seriously as the voice of THE World Conservation Union." In closing, he said: "It is an honour and privilege for me to serve in this capacity in the interests of conservation."

During a cultural interlude, delegates enjoyed performances of Thai music and dance.

His Excellency Mr Suwit Khunkitti, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, presented closing remarks on behalf of the host country, saying: "It gives me great pleasure and honour to say a few words at the successful conclusion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conservation Congress. I am pleased that the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand has been a partner in this Congress, attended by over 5,500 global experts." He continued: "This Congress, the world's largest democratic environmental forum, played a unique and urgent role in bringing knowledge about biodiversity into the mainstream of development decision-making." His Excellency congratulated IUCN's President Elect and expressed his deep appreciation to the outgoing President. He then underlined his concern over the situation facing both Asian and global biodiversity and thanked the Congress for drawing the attention of the international community to this matter and its critical implications for human well-being.

His Excellency referred to the benefits gained by Thailand and its people from the Congress, including the opportunity to honour, through presentation of the IUCN Gold Medal, the conservation achievements of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit and the contributions of Royal projects toward the betterment of livelihoods of local communities. He also acknowledged IUCN for awarding a Bangkok Climate Legacy award to a Thai NGO, and thanked the Union for organizing a number of Ministerial round tables, noting that the Asian Environment Round Table and the Mekong Round Table had been particularly useful to Thailand and her neighbours.

The Minister also highlighted a variety of other opportunities that hosting the Congress had brought

to Thailand. He concluded by inviting members to join the Thai people in celebrating the Loy Krathong Festival, being held the following day, saying: "We will wish during Loy Krathong that this Congress will bring about a change in our attitudes towards conservation of natural resources, and that IUCN will have an enriched and committed programme of work for the next four years. We wish you all the very best and a safe journey home."

The President thanked the Minister for his words and invited IUCN Regional Directors and representatives of Secretariat staff from across the world to join her on stage.

The President then gave her closing address, remarking that 'evolution' is the one word that encapsulated her time as President of IUCN. She outlined several of the key areas within which progress had been made and identified priority issues for the incoming Council to address. These included:

- facilitating full participation in the work of the Union;
- building a culture of continuous self-evaluation;
- strengthening further the role of National and Regional Committees;
- implementing the new single IUCN Programme, which incorporates the work of the Commissions;
- reaching out to the private sector;
- engaging even more fully with communities.

The President expressed her deep gratitude to the Kingdom of Thailand for hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress, in particular to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit for her gracious presence and for officially opening the Congress. She also recorded her warmest appreciation to His Excellency Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, for the generous support given by the Royal Thai Government, and to His Excellency Suwit Khunkitti, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, for his personal support and participation, as well as the invaluable support of Mr Petipong Puengboon Na Ayudhaya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Mr Apiwat Sretarugsa, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural

Resources and Environment and Mr Somchai Pienstaporn, Director General of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, and their respective staff. The President applauded the efforts of the Royal Thai Government Organizing Committee, officials and supporting staff, local sponsors, National Convention Management and Development Co. Ltd, as well as the many local volunteers who had given so generously of their time. Finally, she thanked the people of Bangkok for sharing the beauty of their culture, customs, language and scenic sites, thus enriching the experience of all Congress participants.

The President continued by thanking the Director General and other key members of the Secretariat, especially Aban Kabraji, William Jackson, Jane Ganeau, Steve Edwards, Enrique Lahmann, Ursula Hiltbrunner, Jean-Yves Pirot, Corli Pretorius, Miguel Araujo, Peter Shadie and Andrew Ingles, as well as each of the Regional Directors and their teams. She paid special tribute to the dedication and discretion of Fiona Hanson, who had worked closely with her throughout her term of office.

She thanked the Earth Negotiations Bulletin team from the International Institute for Sustainable Development for communicating the activities of the Congress to a wider audience, the 'Brähler' company and the Congress audiovisual team for the smooth operation of the technicalities of the voting process, and paid special tribute to the work of the young professionals attending the Congress, thanking them for their energy, dreams and aspirations. In conclusion, she said: "I leave happy because I am leaving a Union with a happy face."

The Director General introduced a video in which family, friends and colleagues paid tribute to Yolanda Kakabadse's dedication to conservation and sustainable development and to her remarkable qualities as a human being. This was followed by a standing ovation.

The President expressed her sincere thanks to everyone present and pronounced the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress closed.