

the incidences of poverty showing that both are interlinked; and

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

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

RECOMMENDS that IUCN and IUCN members:

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

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Resolution as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 107).

2.37 Support for environmental defenders

UNDERSTANDING that the participation of non-governmental organizations and individual advocates is essential to the fundamentals of civil society to assure the accountability of governments and multinational corporations;

RECOGNIZING that grassroots organizing and environmental advocacy are often viewed as politically threatening activities and can thus be dangerous and sometimes life-threatening;

CONCERNED that human rights violations may lead to environmental degradation and that environmental degradation may lead to human rights violations;

REALIZING that citizen organizations have an important role in making the public more aware of questions relating to environmental protection and ecologically sustainable development issues through activities such as education, training, and research; and

AWARE that a nation's environment is only truly protected when concerned citizens are involved in the process;

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

1. RECOGNIZES and affirms the importance of grassroots environmental organizing and action;
2. APPRECIATES the concerns raised, by both environmental and human rights organizations, that environmental advocates are increasingly in danger for exercising the basic rights of a civil society, including the rights of freedom of opinion, expression, and assembly;
3. FURTHER RECOGNIZES that for the purposes of protecting the environment, promoting ecologically sustainable development, and protecting the rights of persons affected by environmental harm, everyone has the right, in accordance with the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, individually and in association with others, at the local, national and international levels to:
 - (a) meet or assemble peacefully;
 - (b) form, join, and participate in non-governmental organizations, associations, or groups;
 - (c) communicate with non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations;
 - (d) participate actively, freely, and meaningfully in environmental decision-making activities and processes that may have an impact on the environ-

ment or ecologically sustainable development; and

- (e) submit to governmental bodies and agencies and organizations concerned with environmental affairs, criticism, proposals for improving their functioning, and proposals for environmental law reform, and to draw attention to any aspect of their work which may hinder or impede the protection of the environment or the promotion of sustainable development;
4. CALLS ON the Director General to speak out publicly and forcefully:
- (a) in support of freedom for individuals to participate in grassroots environmental activities as articulated in paragraph 3;
 - (b) in support of environmental advocates who are suffering harassment or persecution; and
 - (c) to discourage harassment or persecution of environmental advocates and environmental organizations using all appropriate means;
5. ENCOURAGES members to inform the Director General of instances of threats, harassment, or persecution of environmental advocates;
6. CALLS ON the Council to regularly publish in member mailings the names of those individuals or communities whose harassment or persecution has been brought to the attention of the Director General.

2.38 Cooperation among international and national participants in conservation programmes

CONSCIOUS that IUCN is a large gathering of countries and national and international organizations sharing a mission and common princi-

ples oriented to the conservation of nature and natural resources for which positive interaction and mutual cooperation is extremely desirable, especially in light of the context of increasing globalization;

CONSIDERING that this positive cooperation is of special relevance in the case of international and national non-governmental conservation institutions, especially when they are working in the same countries or places and on common topics, given their often complementary capacities and interests;

NOTING that, nonetheless, more and more frequently there are many situations in which relations among international and national organizations are not cooperative or complementary and, on the contrary, they are interventionist and work competitively, making the work of conservation in a country difficult;

RECOGNIZING that this inconvenient situation is related to the existence of uncoordinated institutional agendas and competition for financial resources; and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that there are many examples of positive interactions and cooperation from which to learn and that an effort should be made to promote cooperation among non-governmental members of IUCN;

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1. REQUESTS the Council and Director General to:
 - (a) study mechanisms that promote closer cooperation and strategies among international and national non-governmental members of IUCN; and
 - (b) encourage National and Regional IUCN Committees to act as facilitators for the creation of strategic alliances and groupings among national and/or regional organizations;