

4.075 Climate change mitigation targets and actions for biodiversity conservation

RECALLING Resolution 2.16 *Climate change, biodiversity, and IUCN's Overall Programme*, Resolution 2.17 *Climate and energy* and Recommendation 2.94 *Climate change mitigation and land use* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

RECALLING FURTHER Resolution 3.057 *Adapting to climate change: a framework for conservation action* and Recommendation 3.084 *Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the *Bali Action Plan* adopted by the 13th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP13) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and by the 3rd Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (December 2007), which sets out the framework for further negotiations on agreements for climate mitigation;

RESPONDING to the findings of the *Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC) and recognizing the growing body of scientific evidence that:

- (a) climate change is already happening at an increasing rate of change that could make its impacts irreversible and that delay in reducing emissions significantly constrains opportunities to achieve greenhouse gas concentration stabilization levels and increases the risk of more severe climate change impacts;
- (b) a global temperature increase of more than 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels would cause, with a very high probability, the following impacts for ecosystems and livelihoods:
 - (i) irreversible Greenland ice-cap melting;
 - (ii) ice-free Arctic Ocean in summer and threats to the west Antarctic ice sheet;
 - (iii) loss of Andean glaciers;
 - (iv) risk of extinction for one-third of species;
 - (v) uninhabitable low-lying islands;
 - (vi) more frequent coastal storm surges and cyclones;
 - (vii) substantial reduction in rice-crop yields; and
 - (viii) increased bleaching of coral reefs including iconic areas such as the Great Barrier Reef;
- (c) an atmospheric concentration of 450 ppm CO₂eq still only gives a median probability of 50% of avoiding a temperature increase of more than 2°C; and
- (d) keeping the global temperature increase below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels and stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at 450 ppm CO₂eq would require cuts in global emissions from all sources by 50%-85% by 2050;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the information provided in the *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, namely that the overall costs and risks of climate change will be equivalent to losing 5% to 20% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) each year, while the costs of action - reducing greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change - can be limited to around 1% of global GDP each year;

RECOGNIZING that the rate of change of temperature is also a concern as the ability of ecosystems and livelihoods to adapt is highly dependent on the time in which they have to adapt;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that climate change will pose significant risks to protected areas, protected area systems, the ecosystem services they provide and to the people and other

species that depend on these services, and that this in turn will significantly affect the achievement of the *Millennium Development Goals* including the 2010 Biodiversity Target;

NOTING that poor and vulnerable communities, including indigenous peoples and women, will be the most severely affected by climate change; and FURTHER NOTING that nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries in the context of sustainable development should be supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity building;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008:

1. URGES Parties to the UNFCCC to conclude negotiations on an effective, comprehensive and equitable climate-change regime beyond 2012 in line with the ultimate objective of the Convention, by COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, so as to ensure that there is no gap between the first and second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol;
2. CALLS ON Parties to the UNFCCC, in order to keep global temperature increase below 2°C, to adopt a shared vision that balances climate stabilization, adaptation, sustainable development and the means of implementation, including as noted in the Bali Action Plan a long-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50%-85% below 1990 levels by 2050. This goal should be underpinned by binding, quantified emission-reduction targets for all developed countries towards the upper end of the range of 25% to 40% below 1990 levels by 2020, and 80% to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050, as identified in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, reductions from baseline in some developing country regions by 2020, and in all regions by 2050, on the basis of voluntary and nationally appropriate mitigation actions, supported and enabled by technology transfer, financing and capacity building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner; and
3. CALLS ON Parties to the UNFCCC to:
 - (a) urgently plan and promptly implement policies and measures for mitigation and adaptation, with special attention to land use, land-use change, forestry, agriculture, livestock, reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), and from the energy, transportation and urban and industrial sectors of their economies;
 - (b) explicitly consider the role that ecological connectivity and systems of protected areas can play in mitigation and adaptation to climate change for biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods, and to ensure that climate funds are invested in building and effectively managing protected area systems to maintain their functions in the face of climate change;
 - (c) find innovative mechanisms and sources of funding to promote technological research, development and diffusion to enable all countries to utilize the best available technologies for reducing emissions that do not have adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods; and
 - (d) find innovative mechanisms and significantly increased sources of funding for adaptation, with special attention to the most vulnerable ecosystems and livelihoods at risk from climate change;

In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the IUCN Programme 2009-2012:

4. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - (a) promote the adoption of the mitigation targets detailed in sub-paragraphs 3 (a) and (b) above at UNFCCC COP 14 (Poznan, 2008) and COP 15 (Copenhagen, 2009);
 - (b) support the development of mechanisms for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries (REDD);

- (c) examine and report on the role of non-forest ecosystems, such as wetlands, mangroves, sea grasses, soils and peatlands as important carbon stores, with a view to consideration of the role of non-forest ecosystems as eligible carbon sinks by the UNFCCC negotiating parties;
- (d) promote the allocation of additional sources of funding and the development of innovative funding and other mechanisms for adaptation and technology transfer;
- (e) support capacity building for developing countries to participate more actively in the negotiating process; and (f) encourage links between the UNFCCC and other biodiversity-related conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

State members Australia, Japan and New Zealand indicated that they were unable to support the motion.

State and agency members of the 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 U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.