

REC 3.105 Conservation of the Cantábrico-Burgalesa mountain range

RECOGNIZING the outstanding natural and ecological value of the Cantábrico-Burgalesa mountain range and the great biodiversity it is home to; that it contains various habitats and species which are listed in Annex I of the European Union (EU) 'Habitats Directive' (92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna, for example temperate Atlantic wet heaths, endemic oro-Mediterranean heaths, European dry heaths and Atlantic acidophilous beech forests, degraded raised bogs capable of natural regeneration, and caves not exploited for tourism, etc; and the presence of various additional species of flora such as the Iberian endemic *Gentiana boryi* Boiss;

RECOGNIZING LIKEWISE that these mountains are noted for being home to certain species of fauna which are explicitly protected by the EU Habitats Directive, such as Pyrenean desman *Galemys pyrenaicus* – classified as 'Endangered' by IUCN in 2001, wild cat *Felis silvestris*, Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, or European smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*, as well as other species of fauna such as wolf *Canis lupus*, polecat *Mustela putorius*, the European otter *Lutra lutra* or the Cantabrian chamois *Rupicapra pyrenaica parva*; and also birds listed in Annex I of the EU 'Birds Directive' (79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds), such as Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* and eagle owl *Bubo bubo*, among others;

CONSIDERING that these mountains are spread across several natural protected areas, both under European standards (the 'Sites of Community Importance' of Montes de Valnera, Montaña Oriental, the rivers Asón and Gándara, the rivers Miera and Pas) and under Spanish regional standards (the Nature Park of los Collados del Asón and the Natural Monument of Ojo Guareña); and

ADDING to this outstanding natural heritage certain unquestionable scenic, cultural and ethnographic qualities, illustrated by the 'pasiego' people, characterized by its lifestyle, architecture and its unique relationship with the environment, which has remained unchanged over the centuries, giving shape to a human community without parallel in Western Europe;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

URGES the Autonomous Regional Governments of Castilla-León and Cantabria, belonging to the Kingdom of Spain, to declare the whole of the Cantábrico-Burgalesa mountain range a natural protected area, to ensure maximum conservation of its biodiversity and ethnographic heritage, recognizing explicitly the unique character, both natural and cultural, of this area.

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 x).

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

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 Resolution Process.