

RES 3.010 HIV/AIDS pandemic and conservation

NOTING that AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is the late stage of infection caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), commonly referred to as HIV/AIDS;

FURTHER NOTING that over 8,000 people die every day of AIDS-related complications, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa, and that there are over 39.4 million people worldwide living with AIDS;

RECOGNIZING that HIV/AIDS is a pandemic, which is seriously affecting conservation success in Africa, and is likely to have devastating impacts in next-wave countries in Eastern Europe, Asia and the Caribbean;

FURTHER NOTING that HIV/AIDS is reducing the biodiversity management capacities of conservation organizations including protected area staff, and local communities and mobile peoples, and that as AIDS-affected households lose salary earners and capacity for heavy agricultural labour, they turn increasingly to natural resources as a safety net, often resulting in unsustainable use of natural resources and greater poverty;

RECOGNIZING the multiple roles of women in natural resources management, given that in most households agricultural production is the responsibility of women and girls, and that most women and girls are disproportionately vulnerable to HIV infection and are also called upon to provide the majority of care and support;

RECALLING the commitment of world leaders in 2000 to the *Millennium Development Goal* of combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and the listing of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic and Conservation as *Emerging Issue 11* at the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003) in recognition that the pandemic impacts IUCN's Mission and the broader mission of the conservation community; and

AWARE of the need to acknowledge the problem, to work to understand conservation impacts better, and to take action to mitigate impacts in affected countries;

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

1. RECOMMENDS that actions needing to be taken by the conservation community, in collaboration with other sectors, including health and agriculture, as appropriate, include:

- (a) promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention among conservation organization staff and communities;
- (b) developing HIV/AIDS policies and procedures in conservation organizations in line with the ten institutional principles recommended by the International Labour Organization (ILO); and
- (c) finding solutions to relieve unsustainable harvesting (e.g. through non-labour-intensive micro-enterprise to support community livelihoods); and

2. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to work with the members of IUCN to:

- (a) play a leadership role in highlighting the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on biodiversity and natural resources;
- (b) encourage the development of institutional human-resources policies to reduce HIV/AIDS impacts;

(c) further encourage integration of HIV/AIDS considerations into components of conservation programmes and projects; and

(d) facilitate information exchange on HIV/AIDS and conservation linkages to address this devastating issue affecting people and nature and the future of sustainable development.