

RES 3.063 Cities and conservation

RECOGNIZING that almost half the world's people live in cities and that this proportion is expected to grow to 60 percent by 2030;

CONSIDERING that nature provides many significant benefits to cities and urban residents;

CONSIDERING that conservation organizations depend on support from voters, leaders, opinion-shapers, and financial resources largely concentrated in cities;

RECALLING that IUCN has acknowledged the critical roles that cities, urban people, and urban institutions play in achieving its mission, for example, in *Caring for the Earth* (1990) and at the Union's 50th Anniversary Celebration (Fontainebleau, 1998);

AWARE that Recommendation V.14 *Cities and protected areas* noted by the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003) calls on IUCN to:

- (a) incorporate an urban dimension into its *Intersessional Programme 2005–2008*;
- (b) link biodiversity conservation to human settlements to advance implementation of sustainability objectives, including the United Nations *Millennium Development Goals*;
- (c) recruit as members organizations engaged in urban environmental issues, and invite prominent leaders and experts in urban management to participate in IUCN; and
- (d) develop partnerships with key organizations engaged in the urban environment;

AWARE that several activities have been organized at the present Congress to demonstrate that protecting nature and improving city life are interdependent goals; and

CONCERNED that consideration of urban issues is inadequately represented in the IUCN *Intersessional Programme 2005–2008*;

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

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General, in consultation with IUCN's Commissions and members, to:

- (a) systematically review the *Intersessional Programme 2005–2008* to identify opportunities for strengthening existing and planned themes, component programmes, and projects by incorporating an urban component in them;
- (b) consider how the urban dimension of conservation can best be represented within IUCN's structure, for example by a focal point in the Secretariat, and an inter-Commission task force; and
- (c) identify and recruit as IUCN members, and develop partnerships with, key international and national organizations engaged in the urban environment; and

2. ENCOURAGES Commissions to recruit and actively involve in their work prominent leaders and experts in urban management.