

4.120 Protected areas and biological diversity management programmes: steps towards ensuring effective management

OBSERVING that the adoption of Resolution 3.047 *Durban Action Plan and CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas* by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) decided that the *Programme of Work on Protected Areas* of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was "... a programmatic priority for all relevant IUCN component programmes, including at national and regional levels";

CONCERNED with the effectiveness of protected areas and biological diversity management globally;

NOTING that international conventions and agreements require that protected areas assess and report on management effectiveness;

FURTHER NOTING that many important biological diversity conservation and management programmes, such as those dealing with invasive alien species control and wetland rehabilitation, are often conducted outside or partially outside of formally protected areas; and

RECOGNIZING that:

- (a) appropriate and objective management effectiveness assessments and reporting are absent from many protected areas and important biological diversity conservation programmes;
- (b) management effectiveness assessments and reporting as required in Goal 4.2 of the *CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas*, are not sufficient on their own to ensure effective management; and
- (c) appropriate management systems that ensure continual improvement, and which include management effectiveness assessments as key components of the management system, would meaningfully assist in improving the effectiveness of protected areas management as further required in the above-mentioned Goal 4.2;

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

ENCOURAGES IUCN's members, governments, civil society, and local and international NGOs and foundations to provide support for initiatives towards ensuring effective management by:

- (a) allocating adequate resources to institute appropriate protected area and biological diversity conservation programme management systems and appropriate management-effectiveness assessments in support of international conventions and national conservation legislation;
- (b) working with IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to develop an appropriate set of indicators and standards against which such systems and assessments will be evaluated, to provide third parties with the ability to assess and report on progress accordingly; and
- (c) complying with Goal 1.4 of the *CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas*, to "Ensure that protected areas are effectively managed or supervised through staff that are well trained and skilled, properly and appropriately equipped, and supported, to carry out their fundamental role in the management and conservation of protected areas".