

4.089 Establishing Citizens' Advisory Councils for large-scale extractive industry projects

CONSIDERING the potential impacts of large-scale extractive industry development projects (oil, natural gas, coal, minerals) on ecological, economic, social and cultural systems;

RECOGNIZING that local people potentially affected by large-scale extractive industry projects can play a critical oversight role in ensuring that the highest environmental, economic, social and cultural standards are met by companies and government; that local peoples are often at a significant financial and political disadvantage in engaging industry and government; and that local peoples have an inalienable right to know about, provide prior consent to, advise, consult with, and otherwise engage with such projects;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that multinational extractive industries would benefit from the greater engagement of local citizens, in an honest, transparent and truly representative process, to enhance the responsible conduct of their industrial operations;

NOTING that Citizens' Advisory Council models exist around the world whereby local people are empowered and funded to provide effective oversight to such projects;

RECALLING that Resolution 38 of the 8th World Wilderness Congress (30 September – 6 October 2005) resolved that “Extractive industries should support an independent citizens’ advisory group that will observe, verify, advise, and inform for the life of projects they start”;

ALSO RECALLING that the World Bank’s 2004 *Extractive Industry Review* recommended, among other things, the improvement of stakeholder consultation, as well as prior informed consent by local people as a precondition to project approval; and

CONSIDERING that IUCN is in a unique position to advocate the establishment of such mechanisms for citizen oversight of extractive industries in ecologically and culturally sensitive areas;

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

1. CALLS ON the extractive industry to embrace and support the formation of local Citizens’ Advisory Councils being comprised of representatives of civil society in the vicinity of extractive industry projects being undertaken in ecologically sensitive areas, and having the function to provide informed public oversight of these projects in order to minimize their environmental and social impacts; and
2. URGES IUCN’s members and governments, in those countries in which extractive industry projects are being undertaken in ecologically sensitive areas, to support and encourage the formation of local Citizens’ Advisory Councils;

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:

3. REQUESTS the Director General to:
 - (a) prepare a list of large-scale extractive industry projects in ecologically sensitive areas around the world in consultation with the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) and the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP); and
 - (b) inform IUCN’s members and governments in those countries where extractive industry projects are being undertaken in ecologically sensitive areas of the value of such Advisory Councils.

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.