

CGR4.MOT047
IUCN's engagement on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

RECALLING Res 2.54 (*Antarctica and the Southern Ocean*) adopted by the 2nd Session of the World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) and Res 3.036 (*Antarctica and the Southern Ocean*) adopted by the 3rd Session of the World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

ALSO RECALLING Res 16/9 (*Antarctica II*) adopted by the 16th Session of the General Assembly (Madrid, 1984), Res 18.74 (*The Antarctic Conservation Strategy*) and Rec 18.75 (*Antarctica*) adopted by the 18th Session of the General Assembly (Perth, 1990), and Res 19.96 (*Antarctica and the Southern Ocean*) and Rec 19.95 (*Improved Protection for Wildlife in Subantarctic Island Ecosystems*) adopted by the 19th Session of the General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);

NOTING Annex V to the *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty on Area Protection and Management* allows establishment of Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs) in both terrestrial and marine environments;

CONCERNED about the potential for cumulative impacts on wilderness and scientific values of the Antarctic should the numbers of tourists coming to the Antarctic continue to rapidly grow, along with the sizes of tourism vessels, without effective and legally binding regulations covering the tourism industry being in place;

NOTING the increasing numbers of vessels using the Southern Ocean and the absence of an integrated approach to setting appropriate ice-classification standards for those vessels, regulating discharges of waste and ballast water, or controlling the types of fuels used by the vessels;

WELCOMING the progress made in recent years in reducing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in Antarctic waters.

CONCERNED HOWEVER by the continued IUU fishing in Antarctic waters for certain fish species, especially toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) and the increasing interest in the Antarctic krill fishery (*Euphausia superba*);

CONCERNED at the slow pace of Parties to the *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty on Area Protection and Management* to ratify and bring into force Annex VI on liability and emergency response action;

RECALLING the *IUCN Strategy for Antarctic Conservation* (1991) which is now well out of date and the commitment from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) to assist in revising and updating this strategy;

NOTING IUCN's previous engagement with SCAR on Antarctic protected areas and Antarctic environmental education and training;

NOTING FURTHER that no IUCN region represents Antarctica and that there is no longer an Antarctic Region and associated Vice-Chairperson of the World Commission on Protected Areas;

RECOGNIZING the important role of IUCN in providing a forum for the discussion of issues affecting Antarctica's environment by governmental and non-governmental bodies and in contributing to the work of the components of the Antarctic Treaty system;

WELCOMING the interests in Antarctic issues from a range of IUCN members; and REAFFIRMING the importance to conservation of IUCN's engagement in Antarctic and Southern Ocean issues;

The World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008, provides the following guidance in the implementation of the Programme 2009–2012:

1. CALLS on the Director General to:

a. Reactivate and strengthen the IUCN Antarctic Advisory Committee with membership appointed by Council, and representative of interested members and commissions;

b. Seek funding to establish and resource an Antarctic Network with membership from the Antarctic Advisory Committee, the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the Species Survival Commission (SSC), the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL), interested members, and relevant components of the Secretariat to strengthen IUCN's Antarctic engagement;

c. Establish Vice-Chair positions for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean within WCPA and CEL, reporting to the Director General through the Chairs of the Commissions, to ensure that Antarctic issues receive high level attention and there is a locus of accountability for IUCN's work in this region;

d. Ensure that IUCN is represented by appropriate experts at all relevant Antarctic Treaty System meetings and other meetings addressing Antarctic issues, including the International Maritime Organization.

2. REQUESTS the Director General, chairs of the WCPA, CEL and other Commissions as appropriate, to work closely together to:

a. Complete and implement the Strategy for IUCN's programme and policy on Antarctic issues as a matter of priority and a locus of accountability for IUCN's work in Antarctica;

b. Undertake, as a priority, and in consultation with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), a review and update of the *1991 IUCN Strategy for Antarctic Conservation*, including its application to marine areas (the Southern Ocean) to guide IUCN's engagement on Antarctic and Southern Ocean issues;

c. Assist the Antarctic Treaty System to develop a comprehensive and representative network of marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean pursuant to Annex V of the *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty on Area Protection and Management* by 2012; and

d. Promote Antarctic conservation and protection and IUCN policy at Antarctic fora by ensuring strategic use of IUCN's observer seats to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

Sponsors:

Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC)

Sierra Club

The Wilderness Society

WWF-Australia

ECO-New Zealand

Endorsement:

Pew Environment Group

Australian Conservation Foundation