

REC 3.092 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Seals

RECALLING Recommendation 2.92 *Indigenous peoples, sustainable use of natural resources, and international trade* adopted at the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) which urges “all national governments, without prejudice to their obligations under international law, to put their sustainable use principles into action in order to improve the viability of indigenous and local communities, which depend on the harvesting of renewable resources, by eliminating tariff, and non-tariff barriers, which discourage the sustainable use of natural products derived from non-endangered species”;

RECALLING that Decision V/24 *Sustainable use as a cross-cutting issue* of the 5th Conference of Parties (COP5) to the Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD (Nairobi, 2000) urged Parties, governments and organizations to develop or explore mechanisms to involve indigenous communities in initiatives on the sustainable use of biological diversity, and in mechanisms to ensure that indigenous communities benefit from such sustainable use;

FURTHER RECALLING that in response to Decision VI/13 *Sustainable use* of CBD COP6 (The Hague, 2002) an open-ended workshop was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (6–8 May 2003), and produced the draft *Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity*,

NOTING that the 9th meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA–9, 2003) recommended that COP7 should adopt the *Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines*; and

FURTHER NOTING that these *Principles and Guidelines* were duly adopted at CBD COP7 as a framework for advising governments, resource managers and other stakeholders, including indigenous communities, about how they can ensure that their uses of biodiversity components will not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity;

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

1. URGES IUCN members that are Party to the CBD to honour the commitments made at SBSTTA–9 and COP7 to apply the *Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity*; and
2. URGES IN PARTICULAR IUCN members to put their sustainable use principles into action by not introducing new legislation that bans the importation and commercialization of seal products stemming from abundant seal populations, provided that obligations and requirements under other international conventions such as CITES are met.

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

State and agency members 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 US General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.