

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND
IUCN- THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION**

**Cooperation on
Global Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas**

Preamble

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), established by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), established in 1948, share a commitment to the conservation of the environment and the sustainable use of the Earth's resources, including implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements. An important component of global conservation strategies is the establishment and maintenance of protected area systems, including their role as indicators for global development targets, such as the Millennium Development Goals, and towards meeting biodiversity-related objectives set by the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
2. In 2000 the tripartite management arrangement of the then WCMC through IUCN, UNEP and the WorldWide Fund for Nature (WWF) changed to full association with UNEP. UNEP-WCMC is now integrated with UNEP as a biodiversity assessment and policy implementation arm. In order to facilitate continuing cooperation between IUCN and UNEP-WCMC a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the UNEP-WCMC Director and the IUCN Director General (see Annex 1 for text). That MoU, valid for three years, expired in May 2003. This new MoU aims to take the relationship forward.
3. One of the key roles of UNEP-WCMC since its inception has been to develop and maintain the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), and to produce UN List of Protected Areas (UN List). Production of the UN List originated in a resolution by the 27th Session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1959, which

requested IUCN's then Commission on National Parks to compile a *World List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves* in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Subsequently, the *United Nations List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves* was drawn up at the request of the UN following a resolution adopted by the 16th Session of the General Assembly in 1962 on "Economic Development and Nature Conservation", endorsing the earlier ECOSOC resolution.

4. Since 1981 UNEP-WCMC has supported UNESCO and IUCN (as the Advisory Body on Natural World Heritage) in the implementation of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WH Convention). Specifically, UNEP-WCMC assists in the annual WH nomination review process, the preparation and maintenance of WH Site datasheets and in the preparation of thematic and regional studies for the WH Global Strategy
5. Following a recommendation from IUCN/WCPA Steering Committee in June 2000, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC and the WCPA Information Management Task Force undertook a consultative process with various stakeholders to assess user needs and to review the WDPA. In 2001, as an outcome of the review, a WDPA Consortium was formed that included international conservation NGO members of IUCN (Annex 2). Consortium members subscribed to an agreed set of principles (Annex 3) designed to insure open access to the core WDPA data set, to maintain a consistently high standard of quality and comprehensiveness and to represent more broadly the global conservation community in future development of the WDPA. The WDPA Consortium has been instrumental in the development of the 2003 version of the WDPA.
6. The 22nd Session of the UNEP Governing Council (GC) held in February 2003 adopted Decision GC.22/1/III relating to UNEP-WCMC (see Annex 4). The decision, *inter alia*:
 - A. endorsed "the strengthening of the World Database on Protected Areas, including linking it with other databases on biodiversity and ecology [and] establishment of a global consortium";

- B. endorsed "the strengthening of the relationship between [UNEP] and [IUCN] on global protected area issues through a specific memorandum of understanding;" and
- C. requested the UNEP Executive Director, "working in collaboration with [UNESCO] and [FAO], to seek a renewed mandate for the United Nations list process from the Economic and Social Council/General Assembly that reflects the role of [UNEP] and its agreement with [IUCN] on new partnership arrangements for the World Database on Protected Areas."
7. This MoU specifically addresses Point B, taking into account the implications and interrelationships with Points A and C, and the intent of the previous MoU between UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. In relation to Points A and C, UNEP and IUCN recognize and endorse the key role of the WDPA Consortium, as set out in the WDPA Consortium Principles, in contributing to and guiding the ongoing development of the World Database on Protected Areas.

Article 1

Collaboration on Biodiversity and Protected Areas Monitoring

8. UNEP has the formal mandate for the environment in the UN system, and has an established role in global assessments. It has a major strength in the Global Resources Information Database (GRID), in the Global Environment Outlook Programme and in the biodiversity assessment and policy implementation role of UNEP-WCMC.
9. UNEP-WCMC provides objective, scientifically rigorous products and services that include ecosystem assessments, support for implementation of environmental agreements, regional and global biodiversity information, research on threats and impacts, and development of future scenarios for the living world.
10. Through its Commission, networks, Global and Regional Programmes, and through its worldwide membership of governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), IUCN has extensive access to biodiversity-related information. Through these

mechanisms it provides information on the status and conservation needs of species, ecosystems and protected areas and advises international conventions, governments, and civil society in the policy and practice of biodiversity conservation and ecologically sustainable development.

11. UNEP and IUCN consider that knowledge about the global status of biodiversity, and the application of that knowledge, is critical for informed decisions to be taken that support ecologically sustainable development. Accordingly, UNEP and IUCN agree to collaborate on the implementation of the following objectives through a joint programme of work:

11.1 To deploy, within the available resources, the complementary strengths of the two organisations in order to enhance the quantity and quality of biodiversity and protected areas data and information that is available to inform policy- and decision-making processes, including the World Database on Protected Areas. In the latter case, the active engagement of the WDPA Consortium will be key to this process.

11.2 To draw the attention of the international community to the urgent need for greater priority to be given to biodiversity monitoring and assessment, and in this context to collaborate with other organisations and stakeholders in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the objectives set by the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and other relevant global biodiversity initiatives that may develop from time to time.

11.3 To develop joint global and regional analyses of the status and trends of species and ecosystems and the measures needed to mitigate threats.

11.4 To promote capacity development at the national level to monitor and assess biodiversity and the effectiveness of protected area management, and to develop and strengthen, within available resources, global, regional and national partnerships and networks through "centres of excellence".

11.5 To integrate biodiversity concerns into the wider environmental agenda, and to bring a

stronger voice for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to other global concerns, including trade, economic development, climate change, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, desertification, security and human health.

- 11.6 To seek the allocation of significant financial resources from the international community to programmes focusing on biodiversity monitoring and assessment. In particular to seek resources to continue to develop and to maintain the WDPA as a core global dataset assisting governments and conservation organizations to measure the adequacy of their responses to the requirements of global conservation.

Article 2

Support for the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

12. UNEP and IUCN recognise that the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is the result of the joint efforts of UNEP-WCMC, the IUCN Programme on Protected Areas (PPA) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) over many years. It is also noted that many other organisations have contributed to its development, including those in the WDPA Consortium.
13. UNEP and IUCN agree to support, and collaborate, within the available resources, on the continuing development of the WDPA in accordance with the UNEP GC22 endorsement (see Annex 4). This support and collaboration aims to ensure that:

13.1 the WDPA is the Global Standard for Protected Areas data and information. In this regard it should be maintained to the highest quality, accessibility and interoperability on behalf of the global community and IUCN Commissions. Management of the data base will rely on a set of WDPA Consortium Principles (Annex 3) that will set out the role of the Consortium in the WDPA process and will provide for the establishment of a WDPA Executive Board and a WDPA Advisory Council. The WDPA Consortium Principles, the structure and composition of the Executive Board and of the Advisory Council and their respective Terms of Reference will be jointly defined and agreed by UNEP, IUCN and the WDPA Consortium.

13.2 up-to-date data and information is made freely available for global biodiversity, protected areas and other environmental assessment, monitoring and reporting processes, events and activities, including but not limited to: the UN List of Protected Areas, State of the World's PAs Report, World Parks Congress, Millennium Development Goals, WSSD Plan of Implementation, Convention on Biological Diversity, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention and other international agreements and programmes (such as the UNESCO/MAB Programme) as well as projects undertaken by the conservation and academic communities focusing on protected areas;

13.3 national and regional biodiversity centres and networks are linked to the inputs and outputs of the WDPA, and that strategies for capacity building for these centres are developed and their implementation promoted.

Article 3

United Nations List of Protected Areas

14. UNEP and IUCN recognise that the UN List of PAs is an important output of the WDPA and represents an historic and ongoing record of intergovernmental commitment to the world's natural heritage. Both parties agree to:

14.1 seek a renewed mandate from the Economic and Social Council/UN General Assembly that updates the 1959/1962 resolutions that established the UN List process, in collaboration with UNESCO and FAO, and reflects the role of the United Nations Environment Programme established in 1972 and the development of the WDPA;

14.2 cooperate to improve the efficiency and accuracy of future UN Lists in collaboration with national and sub-national agencies, the WDPA Consortium, the IUCN Programme on Protected Areas, WCPA, and national and regional biodiversity centres through regular updating of the WDPA;

- 14.3 produce regular *State of the World's Protected Areas* reports that coincide with the periodic release of the UN List of PAs.

Article 4

World Heritage Convention

15. Natural and Mixed Natural and Cultural World Heritage Sites are an important component of global conservation efforts. UNEP and IUCN, in consultation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and World Heritage Committee, agree to continue cooperation and mutual technical support in the evaluation of WH nominations, monitoring the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties, and implementation of the World Heritage Global Strategy.

Article 5

Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding

16. UNEP and IUCN agree that the objectives set out in this MoU will be implemented through a joint programme of work, including an annual workplan with measurable goals and objectives, proposed on an annual basis by a Joint Programme Committee (JPC) of relevant senior staff of the two organisations, and relevant collaborators as agreed (e.g. the Chair of WCPA and the Chair of the WDPA Consortium). The JPC will advise the Executive Director of UNEP, the Director General of IUCN and Director of UNEP-WCMC on specific activities that should be included in the joint programme of work, as well as other issues and opportunities that will ensure the efficacy of bilateral cooperation. Final approval of any implementation activities to be undertaken by UNEP is at the discretion of the Executive Director of UNEP. IUCN and UNEP will host alternately annual JPC meetings.

17. The JPC will address:

- 17.1 an annual review of the WDPA in conjunction with the WDPA Executive Group

and its Advisory Committee;

17.2 development of projects and strategies that support global biodiversity conservation and protected areas;

17.3 production and delivery of the UN List and *State of the World's Protected Areas* report;

17.4 support to implementation of the WH Convention, in collaboration with the UNESCO WH Centre;

17.5 joint fund-raising initiatives;

17.6 any other relevant issues and opportunities that can facilitate global biodiversity conservation and protected areas data and information management.

17.7 a process to promote activities covered above (points 17.1 to 17.6), planned and implemented in collaboration with the IUCN Programme on Protected Areas, WCPA WDPA Consortium, and other relevant partners as required (e.g. national biodiversity centres).

18. UNEP and IUCN agree to publicise the WDPA, UN List, *State of the World's Protected Areas* report, and any other relevant products as a joint enterprise between each organisation, including - as appropriate – PPA, WCPA, WDPA Consortium and other bodies with suitable acknowledgement.

19. This MoU and joint programme will not preclude either UNEP or IUCN from entering into agreements with other parties for the preparation of information management products and services.

Article 6

Review of the MoU

20. UNEP and IUCN agree that the arrangement concluded between them in this MoU will remain in force for three years from the date of the second signature, at which time it may be continued upon the written agreement of both parties. In addition, the present agreement may be terminated by either party at any time, upon the provision of six months' written notice to the other party. In the event that the agreement is so terminated, UNEP and IUCN agree that they will use their best offices to ensure that, to the extent practicable and subject to applicable legal restrictions, (a) each party will continue to have (i) free and undiminished access to and use of the WDPA and the data and information stored therein, (ii) quality control, jointly with the other party, over the data and information stored or to be stored in the WDPA, and (iii) control, jointly with the other party, over users' access to and utilization of WDPA data and information; and (b) free access to the WDPA by the WDPA Consortium, WCPA and other entities related to IUCN and to UNEP will continue.

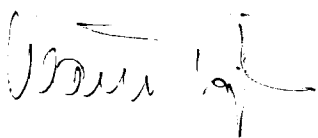
Article 7

General Provisions

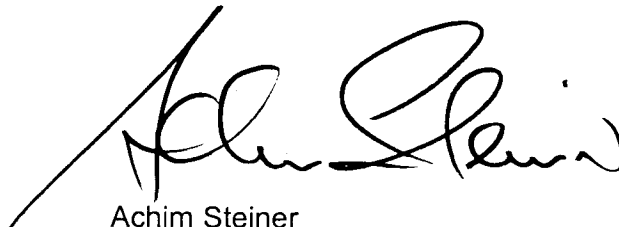
21. The activities and priorities of UNEP are governed by its official mandate and the decisions of its Governing Council. Nothing herein may be deemed to impose an obligation inconsistent with these requirements. Any and all action to be taken by UNEP pursuant to this MoU is also subject to availability of funding in the context of UNEP's mandates, priorities and programme of work.
22. Nothing herein shall be deemed a waiver of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.
23. This MoU may be amended or modified only by written agreement of both parties.
24. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this MoU shall be settled by amicable

negotiation between the two parties. Should attempts at amicable negotiation fail, any such dispute shall, upon request by either party, be referred to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL arbitration rules then prevailing.

Signed



Klaus Töpfer
Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme
Conservation Union



Achim Steiner
Director General
IUCN–The World

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN IUCN AND UNEP- WCMC**

**REGARDING A JOINT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR ASSESSING AND
MONITORING BIODIVERSITY**

Preamble

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), established by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) share a commitment to the conservation of the environment and the sustainable use of the Earth's resources.

Article 1

Joint Programme of Work

UNEP and IUCN consider that the worldwide level of investment in assessing and monitoring biodiversity is inadequate. Consequently, knowledge about the status of biodiversity and how this changes over time is poorly understood. They consider that unless this shortcoming is resolved quickly, it will become increasingly difficult for informed decisions to be taken that support ecologically sustainable development. Accordingly, UNEP and IUCN have agreed to implement a joint programme of work with the following objectives:

- To deploy the complementary strengths of the two organisations in order to enhance the quantity and quality of biodiversity information that is available to inform the policy- and decision-making processes.
- To draw the attention of the international community to the urgent need for greater priority to be given to biodiversity monitoring and assessment.
- To seek the allocation of significant financial resources from the international community to programmes focusing on biodiversity monitoring and assessment.
- To develop joint global analyses of the status and trends of biodiversity and the measures needed to mitigate threats.
- To develop capacity at the national level to monitor and assess biodiversity.
- To integrate biodiversity concerns into the wider environmental agenda, and to bring a stronger voice for biodiversity to other global concerns, including trade, economic development, climate change, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, desertification, security and

human health.

UNEP has the formal mandate for the environment in the UN system, and has an established role in global assessments. It has a major strength in the Global Resources Information Database (GRID), and in the Earthwatch Programme. The transition of WCMC to an out-stationed office of UNEP will enhance UNEP's role in biodiversity information.

Through its Commission networks, its staff and through its worldwide membership of governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), IUCN has extensive access to biodiversity information. IUCN has long provided information on biodiversity, especially on the status and conservation needs of species, ecosystems and protected areas. On the basis of such information, IUCN advises a number of international conventions and governments.

In implementing a joint programme of work, UNEP will seek to enhance the priority given to biodiversity assessment and monitoring by the intergovernmental community. IUCN for its part will seek to bring the information resources held by its secretariat, commissions and networks into the partnership with UNEP. A joint UNEP-IUCN programme of work will strengthen the influence of biodiversity information on the policy- and decision-making throughout the world. IUCN and UNEP will host alternately, an annual joint planning meeting to identify specific opportunities for joint work.

Article 2

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) has been designated as an outposted office of UNEP in the United Kingdom. WCMC is in a position to play an important role in the implementation of the UNEP-IUCN joint programme of work on biodiversity assessment and monitoring. UNEP and IUCN agree to establish a Joint Programme Committee (JPC) of relevant staff of the two organisations. The JPC will advise the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director General of IUCN on specific activities that should be included in the joint programme of work. In addition, IUCN, to the extent funds are available, agrees to fund work on protected areas information at WCMC, as described in Article 3 below.

Article 3

IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

UNEP and IUCN agree that it is of vital importance that WCMC continues to collaborate with IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in the provision of information on protected areas. UNEP recognizes the special working relationship that WCPA has with WCMC, and the role of WCPA in supporting compilation of data and advice on protected areas. UNEP agrees that WCMC should continue to give support to WCPA in relation to its data and information needs. For its part, IUCN expects to Continue to purchase services from WCMC in relation to its work on protected areas.

In particular, UNEP and IUCN recognise that the World Database on Protected Areas is the product of the joint efforts of WCMC and WCPA over many years; it is noted too that many

other organisations have also contributed to its development. WCMC is the custodian of this database on behalf of the global community in general and WCPA in particular. It will publicize the database — and products from it, such as the UN List — as a joint enterprise between WCMC and WCPA, and will provide WCPA with free and ready access to it when required.

A joint programme of work, guided by the IUCN Quadrennial Programme, including continuing work to improve the reliability of the database and joint fund-raising initiatives, will form part of the annual agreement between IUCN and UNEP. Details of this work will be discussed at an annual IUCN-WCMC protected area information planning meeting, attended by the Chair of WCPA, and senior representatives of the Director General of IUCN and the Director of WCMC. The joint programme will not preclude either WCMC or WCPA from entering into agreements with other agencies for the preparation of specific information management products.

Article 4

Sunset Clause

UNEP and IUCN agree that the arrangement concluded between them will remain in force for three years, at which time it may be continued upon the agreement of both parties. In addition, the present agreement may be terminated by either party at any time, upon the provision of six months' written notice to the other party. In the event that the agreement is terminated, UNEP and IUCN agree that WCPA may continue to have free and ready access to the World Database on Protected Areas as specified in Article 3.

Signed:

Mark Collins
Director UNEP-WCMC

5th May 2000

Maritta von Bieberstein Koch-Weser
Director General IUCN

26 [month illegible] 2000

Preliminary List of WDPA Consortium Members

This preliminary list of members of the World Database Protected Areas Consortium includes institutions that manage data on protected areas and that expressed commitment to cooperate with the consortium efforts to build a freely available, accurate and up-to-date protected areas database that is accepted as a global standard by all stakeholders. This WDPA Consortium Member list is not limited to those included here, but rather is to be expanded as additional institutions express interest to join the Consortium.

American Museum of Natural History
BirdLife International
Conservation Biology Institute
Conservation International
Flora & Fauna International
The Nature Conservancy
UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Wildlife Conservation Society
World Heritage Centre
World Resources Institute
World Wildlife Fund — WWF-US
World Wildlife Fund for Nature — WWF-International

Other key stakeholders (not intended to be a comprehensive listing):

Biosphere Reserve program (UNESCO)
Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat
Ramsar Convention Secretariat
World Heritage Center (UNESCO)

WORLD DATABASE ON PROTECTED AREAS CONSORTIUM PRINCIPLES

The following broad principles provide the basis for a consortium for compilation and delivery of the World Database on Protected Areas. The process to review and update the WDPa is a proposal that resulted from the WDPa User Needs Review that was presented to and endorsed by the WCPa Steering Committee meeting in December 2001.

The vision for the WDPa is to have a freely available, accurate and up-to-date World Database on Protected Areas that is accepted as a global standard by all stakeholders. In practical terms, the aim is to ensure that the development, review and update of the WDPa and its placement in the public domain becomes a continuous sustainable process, with consortium members working together to find the necessary resources. The WDPa will also be a central component of the Biodiversity Knowledge Commons, capable of attracting abundant related information.

Institutional Arrangements

1. Review and update of the existing WDPa and design, development and maintenance of the new WDPa should be a consortium effort based on:
 - 1.1. Long term (Umbrella) agreement for implementing the WDPa between IUCN and UNEP at the highest level.
 - 1.2. A consortium established between UNEP-WCMC, WCPa, PPA and international NGOs (IUCN members) for the updating and development of the WDPa.
 - 1.3. An institutional structure for the consortium with clear roles and responsibilities for each member, and clear mechanisms for participation of all WDPa stakeholders including international conventions and intergovernmental organizations, multilateral institutions, protected areas agencies and NGO organizations.
 - 1.4. Consortium members will jointly fundraise for developing and maintaining the database.

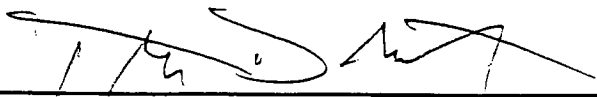
On the update of the WDPa

2. The information review and update process should:
 - 2.1 be global in scope both in terms of coverage of all biogeographical realms and types of site included, with the UN List as a product being a subset of the WDPa updating effort;
 - 2.2 focus on the Core Data Set agreed August 2001;
 - 2.3 be web-based to the extent possible; and
 - 2.4 have a clear quality control process that involves the WCPa membership.
3. The review and update process should involve directly:
 - 3.1 Agencies responsible for protected areas management;

- 3.2 WCPA members, as an expert network on protected areas;
 - 3.3 IUCN regional and country offices;
 - 3.4 UNEP regional offices;
 - 3.5 the regional and country focal points of consortium members; and
 - 3.6 other IUCN Commissions and networks as required.
4. Complete updated database will be distributed at the World Parks Congress and its content available in the public domain.

On the development of the new WDPA

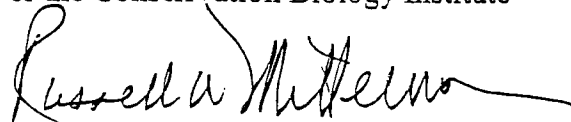
- 5. The new WDPA should be designed by the consortium and its experts, drawing on other expertise as appropriate, and ensuring wide consultation.
- 6. The new WDPA must be open and its content available in the public domain both on the Internet and CD-ROM.
- 7. The new WDPA must be linked to all other relevant data sets and initiatives of the Commissions as well as in government and non-government sections, as advised by the consortium.



For American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)


For Birdlife International (BI)

For the Conservation Biology Institute



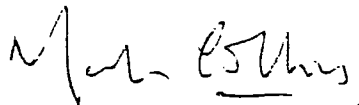
For Conservation International (CI)

For Fauna & Flora International (FFI)

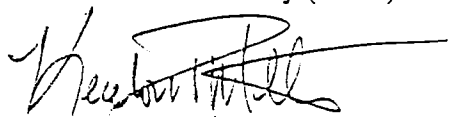


For The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

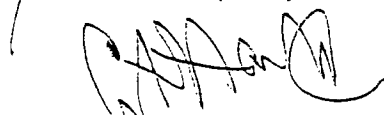
For UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)



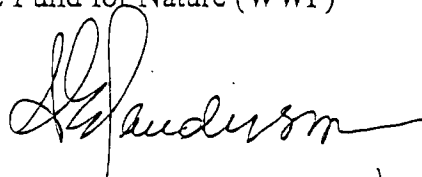
For Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)



For World Resources Institute (WRI)



For World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS TWENTY-SECOND SESSION/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

GC.22/1/III: United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the longstanding relationship and cooperation on biodiversity information and assessment work between United Nations Environment Programme, the biodiversity-related conventions (particularly the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage) and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which was initially under tripartite United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Union -World Wide Fund for Nature sponsorship between 1988 and 2000,

Noting with satisfaction the successful integration of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre into the United Nations Environment Programme's biodiversity-related activities since the Centre's change of status in June 2000 to that of a specialist biodiversity information and assessment centre of the United Nations Environment Programme and the fact that the Centre derives the majority of its revenue from non-United Nations Environment Programme sources,

Supporting the Executive Director's policy of broadening the Centre's role to provide a range of biodiversity-related services to the United Nations Environment Programme, the biodiversity-related conventions and their constituent party States, and other bodies in the non-governmental and private sectors, and stressing the importance of partnerships and capacity-building of national biodiversity centres and networks,

Noting with approval the review by the Centre, the World Conservation Union-World Commission on Protected Areas and other stakeholders of the World Database on Protected Areas and of the process for maintaining and updating the United Nations List of National Parks and Protected Areas,

Agreeing that the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution of 1959, subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in 1962, needs to be renewed and updated,

- **Requests** the Executive Director to continue to support the development of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, including its work in providing data and information of the highest quality and accessibility and interoperability, in cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and consistent with the need to monitor progress towards meeting biodiversity-related objectives set by the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

*Excerpt from GC.22 Final Document (3-7 February 2003, Nairobi, Kenya) – full text available from:
http://www.unep.org/GoverningBodies/GC22/Document/GC22_GMEF_decisions.doc*

- **Requests** the Executive Director, subject to availability of voluntary contributions, to establish a network of collaborating centres in developing countries to cooperate with the Centre and to assist them in undertaking relevant parts of their work programme;
- **Endorses** the strengthening of the World Database on Protected Areas, including linking it with other databases on biodiversity and ecology; establishment of a global consortium; and the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Conservation Union on global protected area issues through a specific memorandum of understanding;
- **Requests** the Executive Director, working in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to seek a renewed mandate for the United Nations list process from the Economic and Social Council/General Assembly that reflects the role of the United Nations Environment Programme and its agreement with the World Conservation Union on new partnership arrangements for the World Database on Protected Areas.