



EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE

Newsflash

November, 2004

The World Conservation Union – IUCN endorses the Earth Charter

Thailand, 17-25 November 2004. The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd session in Bangkok approved a resolution endorsing the Earth Charter. Prior to the Congress, the Council of IUCN submitted the Earth Charter motion for the consideration of its members. During the Congress, following discussions in a small group held on 21 November, where government representatives and interest groups expressed their concerns about the motion, the original wording received some modification. The resolution approved states that the Congress:

1. *ENDORSES the Earth Charter as an inspirational expression of civil society's vision for building a just, sustainable and peaceful world.*
2. *RECOGNISES, consistent with IUCN's mission, the Earth Charter as an ethical guide for IUCN policy and will work to implement its principles through the IUCN Programme.*
3. *RECOMMENDS that the Earth Charter be used by the IUCN to help advance education and dialogue on global interdependence, shared values, and ethical principles for sustainable ways of living; and*
4. *ENCOURAGES member organizations and states to examine the Earth Charter and to determine the role the Earth Charter can play as a policy guide within their own spheres of responsibility.*

The World Conservation Congress is the general assembly of IUCN members, which takes place every four years. The main functions of the Congress are among others to: a) Define the general policy of IUCN; b) make recommendations to governments and to national and international organizations on any matter related to the objectives of IUCN; c) receive and consider the reports of the Director General, the Treasurer and the Chairs of Commissions. IUCN is a unique Union with over 1,000 member organizations. Its members are from some 140 countries including 77 States, 114 government agencies, and 800-plus NGOs. In addition, more than 10,000 internationally-recognized scientists and experts from more than 180 countries volunteer their services to its six global commissions. For the Bangkok Congress, received more than 4,800 participants.

This represents a major step forward for the Earth Charter Initiative as it helps build legitimacy to the Earth Charter text and reinforces the wide political support it has been receiving since it launch in the year 2000.

For more see: <http://www.iucn.org/congress> or <http://www.earthcharter.org>

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