

CGR3.RES061

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and biodiversity

Whereas there is widespread concern and increasing controversy concerning the effects on biodiversity of GMOs;

Recognising the consequent importance of implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and applying the precautionary approach as set out in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and as reflected in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and in numerous international treaties;

Concerned that the current developments in GMOs, as applied to agriculture, could affect the whole food chain and its associated ecosystems, and thereby potentially threaten biodiversity;

Appreciating the potential IUCN sees in Organic and other forms of agriculture, in which the use of GMOs is incompatible with their principles and therefore forbidden, and that it is seeking ways to conserve biodiversity while expanding production;

Recalling Resolution 2.31 (Genetically Modified Organism and biodiversity) adopted by the 2nd Session of the World Conservation Congress (Amman 2000), that among other things requests the Director General to propose to Council options for an IUCN contribution that will advance leadership, research, analysis and the dissemination of knowledge regarding the potential environmental impact of the release of genetically modified organisms into the environments, focusing especially on biodiversity, socio-economic impacts, and food security;

Appreciating the work IUCN has undertaken to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

Noting the approval by Council, at its 58th Meeting held on 2-4 June 2004, of the background paper on Biosafety and Genetically Modified Organisms; and

Concerned about the lack of knowledge and information development on the co-existence of GMOs with biodiversity and ecosystems;

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

1. Calls upon the Director General, in the context of Key Result Areas 4 and 5 of the draft IUCN Intersessional Program for 2005-2008, to undertake substantive work within reasonable time and within reasonable resources to develop credible knowledge and information development concerning biodiversity, nature conservation and associated risks of GMOs, based on the existing IUCN background paper;
2. Calls upon IUCN's Council to develop a plan of action, including reasonable resources, to guide IUCN members on biodiversity and nature conservation in relation to GMOs; and
3. Requests IUCN to promote and support initiatives to ratify and implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety