

RECALLING that civilization depended and depends entirely on its natural resources and on their cycles and recuperation periods;

***The World Conservation Congress at its 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008:***

1. CALLS on IUCN's members to:
  - a. Reduce and eliminate the current unsustainable modes of production and consumption, encouraging the priority introduction of those contributions from science and technology that recognize the existence of limits in natural resources and in productive capacity, and that consider the human and social aspects of the communities involved and integrate them into the economy; and
  - b. Adopt immediate mitigation strategies and adaptation actions that can be the basis for the design of policies aimed at increasing the protection of natural and human ecosystems, their resources, environmental services and their productivity, and that encourages their rational use;

***In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008, provides the following guidance in the implementation of the Programme 2009–2012:***

2. REQUESTS the Director General, in cooperation with the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) and Agencies of the United Nations, to explore the possibilities of organizing a “World Conference of Economists and Ecologists/ Environmentalists” with the goal of advancing toward a unified vision of sustainability that will enable us to confront the current Global Environmental Change.

Sponsors:

Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable Argentina  
Fundacion Patagonia Natural  
Fundacion PROTEGER

Comment:

*The activities provided for in this motion are in accordance with the Programme 2009–2012, but would require new resources for implementation.*

*This motion is referred to a Programme Hearing and an ad hoc contact group in conjunction with other motions which make reference to climate change.*

*COSTS: Core resources on the order of CHF 200,000 would be required to undertake the actions called for as presented.*

**CGR4.MOT102**  
**Equitable access to energy**

NOTING that access to reliable and sustainable sources of energy underpins human development;

NOTING FURTHER that the current energy mix contributes significantly to biodiversity loss, pollution of the Earth's air and water and is the primary cause of climate change, which threatens the future of the Earth's environment;

AWARE that *Agenda 21* of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) called upon all nations to promote sustainable development utilizing the precautionary principle; that the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-9, New York, 2001) called on all nations to promote clean energy policies; that the *Plan of Implementation* adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, Johannesburg, 2002) contained specific prescriptions for implementing those policies, and that the *Chairman's Summary* of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15, New York, 2007) highlights the role of energy as crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, and notes it is generally acknowledged that access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services is crucial, particularly for developing countries;

UNDERSTANDING that there is a need to further diversify the energy supply by developing advanced, cleaner, healthy, more efficient, reliable, affordable, socially acceptable, environmentally sound, cost effective and economically viable energy technologies;

UNDERSTANDING FURTHER that decentralized systems of energy production and distribution are more appropriate for increasing equitable access to sustainable energy alternatives on the basis that they are generally less harmful to the environment than large infrastructure-based centralized systems, and require lower levels of capital investment and thus are more economically viable for cash-poor communities;

CONCERNED at the slow pace with which the national governments, private sector and civil society are moving towards creating equitable access to such a sustainable energy future;

RECALLING that the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) adopted Res 3.86 (*Coordination of sustainable development programmes for energy*) recognizing the importance of energy to IUCN's mission and Res 3.059 (*IUCN's energy-related work relevant to Biodiversity Conservation*); that the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) adopted Res 2.17 (*Climate and energy*) which requests the IUCN Director General to "request IUCN regional offices [...] to help educate government officials, civil society and the private sector about the *World Energy Assessment* and about cleaner, more affordable available energy options evaluated therein";

WELCOMING the work currently undertaken by IUCN to accelerate transition to energy systems that are ecologically sustainable, socially equitable and economically efficient;

NOTING the inclusion of energy in the proposed IUCN Programme 2009–2012; and

THANKING the Commission on Environmental Law and its Energy Law and Climate Change Specialist Group for their leadership since the 1<sup>st</sup> World Conservation Congress in relation to the Union's technical advice on energy policy and law;

***The World Conservation Congress at its 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008:***

1. REQUESTS IUCN's members to inform national and sub-national level policy and investment decisions for increasing access to energy by:

- a. Identifying the social, economic and ecological implications of rural and urban energy options available to poor communities;
  - b. Understanding and communicating the importance of ecosystem services to the viability of energy alternatives under consideration by national and local governments; and
  - c. Developing and promoting practices, including guidelines, assessments and payments for ecosystem services, which ensure the maintenance of ecosystem services which underpin energy systems;
2. RECOMMENDS that governments pursuing agendas to increase equitable access to energy give preference to decentralized systems of production and distribution;
  3. INVITES all IUCN members, within their mandates, to work with the IUCN Director General in the implementation of the IUCN Programme 2009–2012, particularly with respect to energy issues; and
  4. URGES all stakeholders and donors to give every consideration to providing the support necessary to enable the development and implementation of ecologically sustainable, socially equitable and economically efficient energy systems;

***In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008, provides the following guidance in the implementation of the Programme 2009–2012:***

5. CALLS on the Director General to provide leadership in advancing equitable access to ecologically sustainable, socially equitable and economically efficient energy systems, as a necessary part of the biodiversity conservation and social equity objectives of the Union; and
6. INVITES all IUCN Commissions to work with the IUCN Director General in the implementation of the Programme 2009–2012, particularly with respect to energy issues.

Sponsor:  
IUCN Council

Comment:  
*The activities provided for in this motion are in accordance with the Programme 2009–2012, but would require new resources for implementation.*

*This motion is referred to a Programme Hearing for consideration.*

*COSTS: Core resources on the order of CHF 500,000 to CHF 1,000,000 would be required to undertake the actions called for as presented.*

**CGR4.MOT103**  
**Environmental impact of wind-based power production in Spanish and Portuguese mountain areas**

RECALLING that the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit and the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, both held in 2002, have reinforced the calls to action and to the definition of priority actions for sustainable development in mountain areas;

CONSIDERING that IUCN has acknowledged the importance of mountain systems through Res 3.038 (*Conservation and Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions*) adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the World Conservation Congress, which recognizes that they provide goods and services to half the global population and calls for a sustainable use of their resources and biological diversity;

CONSIDERING ALSO Res 3.039 (*The Mediterranean mountain partnership*) adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004), which recognizes that in spite of its rich biodiversity, the Mediterranean biogeographic region is among those most threatened by deforestation and other land transformation processes, although mountain areas are home to the highest concentration of biodiversity and endemic species;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that Res 3.039 notes that many Important Bird Areas and Important Plant Areas are located in these regions, which thus host most of the existing protected areas of the Mediterranean region; and that it recognizes that their landscape results from the interaction over millennia between environmental conditions and human cultures and identities;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000), aimed at promoting landscape protection, management and land-use planning, as well as to organizing European cooperation in this field;

NOTING the current wind power industry development in the Spanish and Portuguese mountain areas, which entails direct impacts and impacts from auxiliary infrastructure on the mountain landscapes including soil erosion, and on epiphytic and animal species, including several that are included in Annex II of the Habitats Directive, Annex II of the Birds Directive and Red Lists;

ASSUMING that the renewable character of wind power production does not exempt it from adequate location, feasibility and sustainability studies appropriate to the concerned geographical location; and

CALLING FOR due compliance with Articles 6 and 7 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, whereby Member States shall apply appropriate management plans, specific to the sites or integrated into other development plans, and shall avoid deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species, as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated;

***The World Conservation Congress at its 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008:***

1. URGES the Governments of Spain and Portugal to:
  - a. Avoid wind power production development in their mountain areas and not to authorize the establishing of related facilities within protected areas, including those of the Natura 2000 network;
  - b. Establish buffer zones around the aforementioned areas banning wind power production facilities, as environment and species do not know boundaries, and the

vicinity of these facilities to breeding areas such as forests or rock areas is harmful to their populations in periods of higher vulnerability;

- c. Carry out environmental impact assessments for projects having an impact on national and regional boundary areas, pursuant to the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (1991), whereby the Parties commit to take all appropriate and effective measures to prevent, reduce and control significant adverse transboundary environmental impact from proposed activities; and
- d. Develop wind power plans identifying areas where wind power production is authorized or banned on the basis of environmental considerations and not only the wind resource.

Sponsors:

Fundación Naturaleza y Hombre  
Española de Entomología  
Diputación Provincial de Málaga

Comment:

*The activities provided for in this motion are in accordance with the Programme 2009–2012, but would require significant new resources for implementation.*

*Interested parties are invited to confer on the contents of this motion with the aim of achieving an agreed text prior to the Members' Assembly. This motion is referred to an ad hoc contact group for consideration.*

*COSTS: Core resources on the order of CHF 500,000 would be required to undertake the actions called for as presented.*

## **CGR4.MOT104**

### **Sustainable biomass-based energy**

RECOGNIZING that demand for energy is growing in many parts of the world, driven in part by increasing *per capita* incomes in highly-populated developing countries;

AWARE that oil is the most convenient source of energy for many applications particularly as fuel for transportation, but that it releases substantial amounts of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide) to the atmosphere, thereby contributing significantly to climate change;

AWARE FURTHER that oil prices are increasing at a rapid rate (reflecting a supply-demand imbalance), driving substantial new investments in alternative sources of energy that may be both more efficient and have a positive affect on greenhouse gases;

RECALLING that the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) adopted Res 3.059 (*IUCN's energy-related work relevant to biodiversity conservation*) which “calls on IUCN to provide leadership in advancing ecologically-sound energy systems for sustainable development, as a necessary and core part of the biodiversity conservation objectives of the Union ...” and Rec 3.086 (*Coordination of sustainable development programmes for energy*);

RECALLING FURTHER that the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) adopted Res 2.17 (*Climate and energy*), which “calls on the Director General [...] to help educate

government officials, civil society, and the private sector [...] about cleaner, more affordable available energy options”;

NOTING numerous government policies and rapidly-growing investments in renewable sources of energy, especially based on biomass, and that such investments have potentially significant negative impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods, as well as climate change mitigation;

APPRECIATING the progress that has been made by governments, universities, the private sector and civil society on developing principles, criteria and guidelines for sustainable bioenergy, such as the *Cramer Report*; *OECD Performance Based Guidelines*, *Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels*, *IRGC Risk Governance Guidelines for Bioenergy Policies*;

AWARE that major technological investments in sustainable biofuels are highly likely to generate new approaches to bioenergy, especially those based on cellulose, algae, municipal, industrial and agricultural waste, and other sources that would not otherwise be used as food (so-called “second generation” bioenergy), and that the resulting new approaches may be significantly more sustainable than the current use of biomass such as sugarcane, maize, canola, soy and oil palm – all of which are also important for food security (so-called “first generation” bioenergy);

RECOGNIZING that innovation in this field may require economic incentives, including public subsidies to test potential options, but that for the long-term sustainability of the sector, such support should decline over time; and

REALIZING that even with the application of advanced technology and production methods, biomass-based energy will meet only a relatively modest part of the global demand for energy, and therefore needs to be considered within the context of comprehensive energy plans that include demand management, conservation, efficiency, appropriate carbon sequestration technologies, other renewable sources of energy and others;

***The World Conservation Congress at its 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Barcelona, Spain, 4-15 October 2008:***

1. RECOMMENDS that Governments who choose to develop bioenergy adopt criteria for the sustainable production of the biomass that will be required as feedstocks to bioenergy production, including measures that:
  - a. Ensure no net loss of biodiversity;
  - b. Provide benefits to feedstock producers, particularly vulnerable groups such as the rural poor and women;
  - c. Ensure that global biomass energy markets reduce the production of greenhouse gases as compared to fossil-fuel alternatives; and
  - d. Are based on production methods that use water efficiently and sustainably, favour the planting of native species, and avoid the planting of bioenergy crops that have a significant likelihood of becoming invasive; and
2. CALLS on the World Trade Organization to adopt sustainability criteria for any biofuels in international trade, and remove or reduce tariff barriers to trade in sustainable biofuels while putting in place appropriate measures to discourage trade in bioenergy that is produced using unsustainable methods;

***In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008, provides the following guidance in the implementation of the Programme 2009–2012:***

3. CALLS on the Director General to continue to support efforts to develop sustainable biofuels that conserve biodiversity, bring significant benefits to climate change mitigation and adaptation, contribute to social development objectives (especially benefiting the rural poor and the women who are largely responsible for agricultural production in many countries).

Sponsor:  
IUCN Council

Comment:  
*This motion and the motion entitled “Industrial agrofuels production” address distinct issues related to biofuels. They are referred to an ad hoc contact group to see if they can be harmonized and if not, to avoid contradictory policy guidance to clearly indicate those operant paragraphs in each motion that would be contradictory if adopted, so as to provide members a clear choice when forwarded to the Members’ Assembly.*

## **CGR4.MOT105**

### **Consolidated motion: Industrial agrofuel production**

RECALLING that the mission of IUCN is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable;

RECALLING FURTHER Rec 2.94 (*Climate change, mitigation and land use*) adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), which, among other actions, calls for “... (g) involvement of relevant stakeholders including local communities and indigenous peoples in the design and implementation of projects; and (h) sustainable development activities that provide economic benefits to local communities, and recognize the rights of indigenous peoples”;

AWARE of the serious global problems created by the exponential growth of industrial agrofuel production – biofuels produced by intensive industrial agriculture, generally as monocultures, often covering thousands of hectares, most often in developing countries;

AWARE ALSO that traditional and local biomass production is conducted to meet basic needs, while industrial agrofuel production is destined to fuel cars and airplanes to which the majority of the world’s poor do not have access;

CONCERNED that industrial agrofuel production is:

- a. Forcing people off their lands and eliminating their ability to grow the food they need to survive;
- b. Preventing the use of common lands needed by settled people for gathering uncultivated foods; and
- c. Closing off the option of mobile pastoralism in lands where indigenous and non-indigenous communities have lived mobile lifestyles for millennia;

CONCERNED that industrial agrofuel production is a major cause of the worsening world food crisis, with more people than ever experiencing chronic hunger and famine;

CONCERNED FURTHER that industrial agrofuel production damages biodiversity and soil productivity, consumes scarce water resources, increases water pollution from soils and chemical runoffs, encroaches on wildlife habitat, and threatens the survival of some species;

ALARMED that so-called “sustainable” industrial agrofuel production provides incentives to expanding the agricultural frontier and destroying forests and pasture areas;

ALARMED FURTHER that industrial agrofuel production is currently receiving important incentives, including tax breaks, subsidies and financing through carbon-trading mechanisms, international development aid or loans from international finance organizations, while at the same time available and more sustainable alternative crops have been generally neglected and should be considered;

AFFIRMING that, when properly implemented, bioenergy production can be part of a democratic, decentralized framework of land use where communities have a voice in deciding what crops will be grown and where and how projects will be implemented; and

AFFIRMING FURTHER that industrial agrofuel production, because of energy and chemical inputs as well as related deforestation and soil disturbance which releases sequestered carbon dioxide, does not appear to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions, does not mitigate global warming, and can actually cause serious added harm to people and ecological systems;

***The World Conservation Congress at its 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008:***

1. URGES governments, non-governmental organizations and international development organizations to call for:
  - a. A global moratorium on the expansion of existing and new industrial agrofuel production until the potential social, environmental and human rights impacts can be fully examined and appropriate regulatory structures put in place to prevent or mitigate any negative impacts; and
  - b. Immediate suspension of all incentives for agrofuels and agroenergy from industrial monocultures including GMO crops and tree plantations;
2. CALLS on IUCN’s Commissions to collaborate on a report that describes how biomass production and use might be effectively, sustainably and equitably integrated into local agricultural and pastoral food and livelihoods systems; and
3. REQUESTS that this information be shared in other fora such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, which has concerns about this issue;

***In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008, provides the following guidance in the implementation of the Programme 2009–2012:***

4. CALLS on the Director General to urge governments, non-governmental organizations and development organizations to support:

- a. A global moratorium on the expansion of existing and new industrial agrofuel production until the potential social, environmental and human rights impacts can be fully examined and appropriate regulatory structures put in place to prevent or mitigate any negative impacts;
- b. Immediate suspension of all incentives for agrofuels and agroenergy from industrial monocultures including GMO crops and tree plantations; and
- c. Initiatives that promote and support environmentally sustainable and pro-poor strategies to produce and use biomass in a sustainable manner, that provide more opportunities for women to benefit their families, and that increase the resilience of agro-ecosystems to climate change.

Sponsors:

Sierra Club  
 Pro Natura (Friends of the Earth Switzerland)  
 Asociación para la Conservación e Investigación de la Biodiversidad y el Desarrollo Sostenible - SAVIA  
 Nigerian Conservation Foundation  
 Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation

Comment:

*This motion and the motion entitled “Sustainable biomass-based energy” address distinct issues related to biofuels. They are referred to an ad hoc contact group to see if they can be harmonized and if not, to avoid contradictory policy guidance, to clearly indicate those operant paragraphs in each motion that would be contradictory if adopted so as to provide members a clear choice when forwarded to the Members’ Assembly.*

**Explanatory memorandum**

The goal of this resolution is a moratorium that will buy time for a comprehensive examination and response to the social, environmental and human rights impacts of large-scale industrial agrofuels. A growing number of organizations are speaking out about the need to protect the Earth’s forests, biodiversity and human livelihoods from the damage being caused by these projects.

Projects proceed without enforceable criteria, standards and certification. The International Food Policy Research Institute is calling for a major reform of biofuels policies: <http://www.ifpri.org/presrel/2008/20080516.asp>: “Governments should revoke biofuel subsidies and excessive blending quotas.” “Political leaders should consider a range of additional measures, including or enacting a moratorium on the use of grains and oil seeds for biofuels.”

Studies reported in the journal *Science* find that industrial agrofuel production, because of energy and chemical inputs as well as related deforestation and the soil disturbance which releases sequestered carbon dioxide, do not appear to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions. Using a worldwide agricultural model to estimate emissions from land-use change, they found that corn ethanol, instead of producing a 20% savings, nearly doubles greenhouse emissions over 30 years and increases greenhouse gases for 167 years. <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/319/5867/1238>. Biofuels from switchgrass, if grown on U.S. corn lands, increase emissions by 50%.

Another study: [www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/319/5859/43](http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/319/5859/43) “Nearly half (12 out of 26) of the biofuels—including the economically most important ones, namely U.S. corn ethanol, Brazilian sugarcane ethanol and soy diesel, and Malaysian palm-oil diesel—have greater aggregate environmental costs than do fossil fuels”.

Communities worldwide are negatively impacted. A new report from Vandana Shiva (<http://www.navdanya.org/news/5dec07.htm>) provides examples of how even some of the more

promising crops have led to serious problems. “In Chhattisgarh, agricultural crops of tribals have been destroyed to plant *Jatropha*. The tribals were denied their inherent right to decide upon what to do with their commons and it’s a violation of the legal recognition of collective rights under the Panchayats Act, 1996.”

Biodiversity is threatened everywhere when croplands are expanded and forests are cleared and burned. The UNEP report “The Last Stand of the Orangutan” describes how Indonesian wildlife are seriously endangered by forest fires and deforestation associated with the rapid spread of oil palm plantations. This has also caused substantial emissions of carbon dioxide.

The IPCC Report states: “Barriers to community-scale biofuels systems include a lack of institutional and human capital to ensure biofuel projects that meet local needs rather than foreign investors’ carbon credit priorities.”

In conclusion, there is an urgent need for IUCN members to support a moratorium that will strengthen the resilience of the Earth’s ecosystems to climate change. We must protect forests and biodiversity and assist developing countries in increasing agricultural productivity by supporting environmentally sustainable and pro-poor development strategies.

This motion will enable IUCN to fulfil its mission “to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to ensure the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable”.

## **CGR4.MOT106**

### **Mining explorations and exploitations in and near Andean protected areas**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that protected natural and cultural areas and sites already exist or are in the process of being created in the South American Andean zone: Natural and Cultural World Heritage sites; Biosphere Reserves; national, provincial and municipal parks and reserves; Natural Monuments; Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR); special sites for migratory and other species;

RECOGNIZING that the preservation of these areas constitutes the basis for the conservation of high Andean ecological corridors and the survival of endemic species of flora and fauna, and that they are highly fragile ecosystems;

CONSIDERING that the majority of Andean countries have protection legislations against the negative environmental impact of mining exploitations, but not for explorations; and that the international norms that gave rise to protected areas in an international protection category (Biosphere Reserves, Natural and Cultural World Heritage Sites, Wetlands of International Importance, among others) establish in their articles protection and prevention measures that countries must comply with in conducting mining activities;

AWARE that mining engineering has currently advanced to such a degree that explorations and exploitations can be conducted with low or no environmental impact; that palliative and mitigation measures have already been developed and exist that are effective if they are implemented correctly from the beginning of each stage of the different types of exploitations and mines; that the implementation costs of the palliative measures are minimal compared to the profit margins the mining industry is experiencing and that they should be included in the cost structures;

WARNING that authorizations for open-air mining explorations and exploitations have increased;