

# IUCN Policy on Gender Equity and Equality

May 2007

IUCN's mission 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.

Gender is an essential component in the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources. Women and men have different roles and responsibilities in relation to natural resources, which vary greatly across cultures and regions. Women often make contributions to their family, community and society while facing unequal access to, control over, and benefits from resources and resource use. Gender equality and equity are matters of fundamental human rights and social justice, as well as a pre-condition for sustainable development and the achievement of IUCN's mission.

## **Why gender?**

IUCN understands that gender refers to the socially constructed roles and opportunities associated with women and men, as well as the hidden power structures that govern relationships between women and men. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in access to and control over resources and decision-

achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will require an integrated approach that recognizes the inherent linkages between Goal 1 on poverty eradication, Goal 3 on gender equality, and Goal 7 on environmental