

the incidences of poverty showing that both are interlinked; and

CONCERNED that the Asian, African, Latin American and Caribbean countries cannot address environmental issues without linking it to poverty alleviation;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

RECOMMENDS that IUCN and IUCN members:

- (a) address poverty simultaneously with environmental rehabilitation;
- (b) design projects so as to reflect both environmental rehabilitation and poverty alleviation simultaneously; and
- (c) adopt the above as part of their policy.

*This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Resolution as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 107).*

### **2.37 Support for environmental defenders**

UNDERSTANDING that the participation of non-governmental organizations and individual advocates is essential to the fundamentals of civil society to assure the accountability of governments and multinational corporations;

RECOGNIZING that grassroots organizing and environmental advocacy are often viewed as politically threatening activities and can thus be dangerous and sometimes life-threatening;

CONCERNED that human rights violations may lead to environmental degradation and that environmental degradation may lead to human rights violations;

REALIZING that citizen organizations have an important role in making the public more aware of questions relating to environmental protection and ecologically sustainable development issues through activities such as education, training, and research; and

AWARE that a nation's environment is only truly protected when concerned citizens are involved in the process;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. RECOGNIZES and affirms the importance of grassroots environmental organizing and action;
2. APPRECIATES the concerns raised, by both environmental and human rights organizations, that environmental advocates are increasingly in danger for exercising the basic rights of a civil society, including the rights of freedom of opinion, expression, and assembly;
3. FURTHER RECOGNIZES that for the purposes of protecting the environment, promoting ecologically sustainable development, and protecting the rights of persons affected by environmental harm, everyone has the right, in accordance with the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, individually and in association with others, at the local, national and international levels to:
  - (a) meet or assemble peacefully;
  - (b) form, join, and participate in non-governmental organizations, associations, or groups;
  - (c) communicate with non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations;
  - (d) participate actively, freely, and meaningfully in environmental decision-making activities and processes that may have an impact on the environ-

ment or ecologically sustainable development; and

(e) submit to governmental bodies and