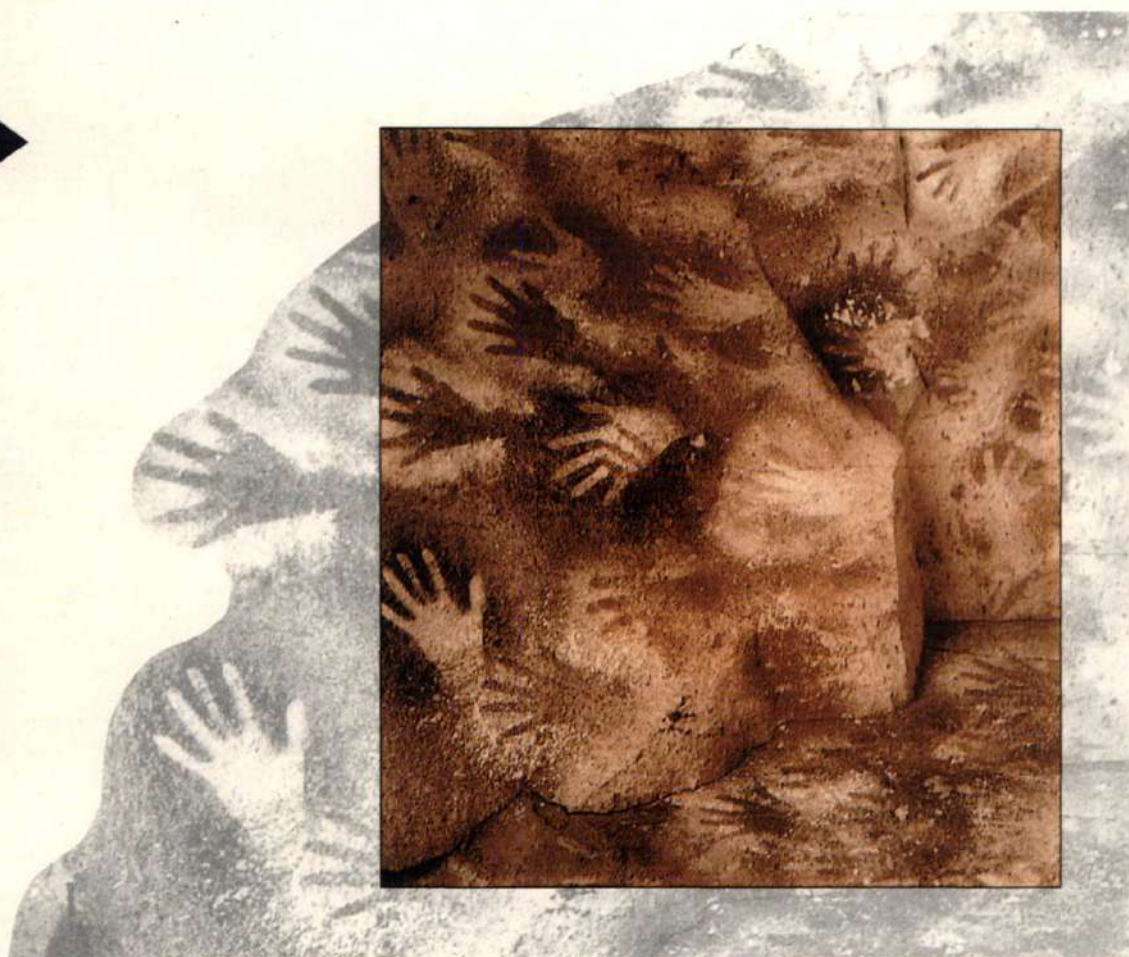


IUCN
19th General Assembly

Resolutions and Recommendations

19th Session of the General Assembly of
IUCN – The World Conservation Union
Buenos Aires, Argentina
17-26 January 1994



BUENOS AIRES - 1994



IUCN
Unión Mundial para la Naturaleza

Resolutions and Recommendations

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1994

This One



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Draft motions once adopted by the General Assembly, are termed **Resolutions** if they are directed principally at IUCN or one of its components, and **Recommendations** if they are directed principally at third parties.

The presentations of material in this book and the geographical designations employed do not imply expressions of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or concerning the delineation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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A. The Strategy, Development, Commissions, Governance and Management of IUCN

19.1 The Strategy of IUCN – The World Conservation Union

RECALLING Resolution 18.3 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly concerning a Strategy for the World Conservation Union;

NOTING that this Resolution requested the Director General to continue to consult with the membership in order to develop the Strategy further and to prepare a revised and updated text for consideration by the 19th Session of the General Assembly;

ALSO RECALLING Resolution 18.4, approved at the 18th Session of the General Assembly, regarding the Role and Mandates of the IUCN Commissions, Standing Committees and Task Forces;

EMPHASIZING that IUCN has a diverse membership, and that members from all parts of the world must be able to participate in its work in an equitable and effective manner;

RECOGNIZING that while IUCN must give particular support to its members in developing countries it should also encourage change in consumption and resource use patterns in the developed world;

WELCOMING the increasing decentralization of the Secretariat and the Commissions, and the emergence of regional meetings of members as an important component of the democratic processes of the Union;

HAVING RECEIVED the Strategy for IUCN – The World Conservation Union, prepared by the Director General in partnership with the Council, as General Assembly paper GA/19/94/8;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. ADOPTS the Strategy, subject to its amendment to take account of discussion during the General Assembly, as policy guidance for the development of the Union in the coming Triennium, 1994-1996;
2. SPECIFICALLY ENDORSES the following principal recommendations of the Strategy:

(a) That the Mission of IUCN, the World Conservation Union, 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;

(b) That IUCN will perform its Mission by:

- harnessing the strengths of its members, Commissions and other constituents to build global alliances for conservation;
- strengthening the institutional capacity of its members to conserve biological diversity and safeguard ecological life-support processes at local, regional and global levels;
- promoting enhanced cooperation between governmental and non-governmental members leading to a strengthening of the human skills of the member organizations and partners;
- providing a forum for discussion of conservation issues, including their scientific, educational, legal, economic, social and political dimensions, at global, regional and national levels, and by supporting this with appropriate services;
- developing expert networks and information systems in support of its members and other constituents, especially at regional and national levels;
- communicating authoritative statements on conservation, drawing on the expertise of its members, Commissions and Secretariat;
- influencing national and international legal and administrative instruments with the aim of guaranteeing populations the right to enjoy the benefits provided sustainably by the environment;
- mobilizing the Union's distinctive strengths so as to influence international environmental policies, including those of

the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and Programmes and of international financial institutions;

- assisting in the development of mechanisms for debating and resolving transboundary and transnational environmental issues;
 - participating actively in the preparation of international Conventions relevant to the conservation of nature and natural resources, thereby enhancing the leadership role of the Union in environmental affairs;
- (c) That IUCN commits itself to maintaining the highest ethical and professional standards in carrying out its Mission, and urges its members to make a similar commitment;
- (d) That the Director General, under the guidance of the Council, should conduct an analysis of existing and potential constituents, and especially members, of the Union, and formulate and implement a plan of action with the goal of securing the kind of membership, partnerships and relationships that would most effectively advance the Mission of the Union;
- (e) That the IUCN Programme should integrate the work of the Commissions and Secretariat and address the following main themes:
- (i) monitoring and assessing what biological diversity exists, under what conditions, identifying the threats to its conservation, and developing an enhanced capacity to define priorities for conservation action;
 - (ii) understanding how species and ecosystems function, how they might be sustained by conservation practice, and how to ensure that any use of wild living resources for human benefit is sustainable;
 - (iii) developing and testing methods for the conservation and adaptive management of species and ecosystems;
 - (iv) identifying, analyzing and understanding how human behaviour, value systems, knowledge systems, social policy, development approaches and economic activities relate to the above functions and actions;
 - (v) understanding how these relationships may affect conservation, sustainable use and equitable access to natural resources;
 - (vi) assessing what policies, changes in behaviour, management, social organization, legal framework and international

arrangements are necessary to implement sustainable forms of development which recognize these relationships;

- (vii) where damaging impacts do occur, assessing what adjustments are necessary and what tools (processes, policies, methods, instruments) are most effective in compensating for, or correcting, those impacts;
 - (viii) promoting the continuing training and education of conservationists at all levels, and encouraging their involvement with local communities worldwide in the development of sustainable ways of living;
 - (ix) communicating the work of the Union, and advocating its agreed policies directly and through media and interpretative systems, so as to influence societies in accordance with the Mission;
- (f) That the Operational Plan to be prepared by the Director General and Secretariat should ensure that the Programme is balanced in its themes and geographical emphasis, is prepared and implemented in partnership with IUCN members and other constituents, and includes a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating progress within the Union in programme implementation and by governments, inter-governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in pursuing appropriate agendas for conservation;
- (g) That in discharging the Union's role, following the procedures outlined in the Strategy, the Council, Director General and Secretariat must be bound by the decisions of the General Assembly, and guided by the conclusions of the technical programmes and the expertise of the Commissions and Secretariat;
- (h) That the Council, advised by the Director General and in consultation with the membership, undertake a critical review of the national links and regional units in IUCN, and make proposals for any necessary changes, including changes in Statutes, to the 20th Session of the General Assembly, paying particular attention to:
- (i) the establishment of a regional system which takes account of the political, social and economic characteristics of the various countries in the regions, and guarantees an equitable numerical representation by Councillors;
 - (ii) the possibility of statutory definition of the role of National Committees in IUCN;

- (iii) other issues listed in Resolution 19.5;
- (i) That the Council, advised by the Director General and in consultation with the membership, undertake a critical analysis of the decentralization process in the Secretariat and Commissions so as to ensure that the pattern serves the members and partners in an optimal way, and formulate proposals for consideration by the 20th Session of the General Assembly;
- (j) That IUCN take all appropriate steps to expand and strengthen its membership, especially among NGOs in developing countries, by:
 - (i) reviewing its criteria for eligibility for membership to take into account the inter-relationship between conservation and development issues and objectives, and so as to maintain the cohesion and focus of the Union and ensure a high degree of consistency between the Mission of IUCN and the missions of individual members;
 - (ii) exploring alternative procedures and mechanisms for the payment of dues by members in the most economically disadvantaged countries;
- (k) That:
 - (i) the General Assembly be re-named "The World Conservation Congress" and maintained as a forum for discussion of global conservation issues, and as the main opportunity for sharing information and experience and harmonizing views among the members of the Union;
 - (ii) the General Assembly programme should include a separate section dealing with governance issues, restricted to members and with a limited size of delegations;
 - (iii) Regional Forums of members be held, as a rule at least once between each Session of the General Assembly, in each region or sub-region to involve members more closely in the preparation of the programmes and strategies of the Union, in networking and sharing of experiences, and in arranging for joint action and implementation of activities;
 - (iv) the Council continue to be the principal organ of central governance between Sessions of the General Assembly and should meet at least twice a year, and that the Bureau should be retained in case of urgent need;
 - (v) the accountability of the Council to the membership should be enhanced through better reporting procedures;
- (vi) the Council strengthen the central machinery of the Union for the consideration of scientific and programmatic matters by establishing an appropriate Committee of Council to serve as the Union's scientific and technical advisory body;
- (vii) that, in addition to Commission Chairs and other Councillors as full members, the Director General and representatives of ICSU, UNEP, UNESCO and WWF, should be non-voting members of this Committee, which should have the power to invite additional experts to participate in appropriate components of its work;
- (l) That, in order to enhance the work of the IUCN Commissions as a vital component of the Union:
 - (i) the Council, in consultation with the membership, Commissions and Director General, should develop for each Commission a clear mission which derives from the Mission of the Union, and conforms with the objectives determined by the General Assembly;
 - (ii) the Council, in consultation with the Director General, should establish procedures for achieving more integration of Commission strategic planning and other activities into the IUCN Programme, more active support by Commissions of members' activities in their regions and sub-regions, and more involvement of Commissions in the Policy Development Programme to be managed from IUCN Headquarters;
 - (iii) the Director General should ensure that the Secretariat actively provides support to the work of the Commissions, that as a minimum two full-time Secretariat members are assigned to work with each Commission, and that, in addition, consideration is given to the possibility of providing additional support to Commission Chairs, and where appropriate, Deputy and Vice Chairs;
 - (iv) Commission Chairs shall continue to be elected by the membership at the governance session of each General Assembly on the basis of nominations from the Council, and shall remain full members of the Council;
 - (v) the continuing process of strategic planning should keep the number, roles and mandates of the Commissions under review;

- (vi) reviews of the Commissions should be undertaken periodically, and should identify the minimum resources needed for efficient operation;
 - (m) That the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Councillors shall have as their first duty the implementation of the Mission of IUCN;
 - (n) That their specific duties shall be:
 - (i) The President
 - (a) to chair the General Assembly, the Council and the Bureau;
 - (b) to convene meetings of the Council, when deemed necessary or when so requested by at least one-third of the members of the Council;
 - (c) to convene meetings of the Bureau;
 - (d) to represent the Union at high level, both globally and nationally;
 - (e) to undertake any other task assigned to the President by the General Assembly or, on behalf of the General Assembly, by the Council;
 - (ii) Vice-Presidents
 - (a) to assist the President in the discharge of his/her functions, especially in the region that the Vice-President represents;
 - (b) when requested by the President, or in the absence of such a request, when elected to do so, to chair Sessions of the General Assembly, Council or Bureau;
 - (iii) Elected Councillors from the Regions
 - (a) to serve on the Council, and if elected, on the Bureau, in a personal capacity;
 - (b) to advise on applications for membership from the regions they represent;
 - (c) to chair Regional Forums and other gatherings of members from their regions as appropriate;
 - (d) to chair Regional Advisory Councils as appropriate;
 - (e) to consult the membership on issues to be discussed in the Council, and convey their opinions to the Council;
 - (f) to represent their region on the Council;
 - (g) to advance the interests and Mission of the Union in their regions;
 - (h) to undertake such other tasks as may from time to time be entrusted to the Councillor by the Council;
 - (o) That the Director General shall, within available resources and within the budget and policies approved by the General Assembly and Council, support the work of Councillors, especially from developing countries, so as to make their role on behalf of the members more effective; the budget to be allocated in each case shall be agreed annually with the Director General;
 - (p) That the Director General and Secretariat shall prepare, and after approval by the Council shall implement, a Revenue Generation Plan, as part of the Operational Plan to give effect to this Strategy;
3. That the strategic planning process shall be continued during the Triennium 1994-1996, under the leadership of the Director General guided by the Council, and that the next stage of the process must be planned so as to permit useful input from the membership, and must treat outputs, responsibilities, time scales and financial implications explicitly;
 4. That the Director General be requested to report to the 20th Session of the General Assembly on the measures taken to implement and develop the Strategic Plan, and to provide an up-dated version to guide the Union's continuing development in the Triennium 1997-1999.

19.2 The Role of the IUCN Commissions

RECALLING Resolution 18.4 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly on the role and mandates of the IUCN Commissions, Standing Committees and Task Forces;

REAFFIRMING that the Commissions and other voluntary networks are a vital component of the World Conservation Union;

NOTING the immense success achieved by certain expert Commissions of IUCN, some of which have several hundreds, or even thousands of members;

AWARE of the potential difficulties in managing, coordinating, collating and taking account of the skills

and opinions of such a diversified group of scientists and other specialists;

NOTING that Resolution 18.4 requested the Council to establish a procedure for a mid-term and end-of-term formal independent evaluation of the performance of each Commission;

NOTING FURTHER that the Resolution requested the Council to review the role, structure, mandate and operation of all Commissions for the next triennium prior to each General Assembly, based on these evaluations;

HAVING RECEIVED the report of the review of the Commissions undertaken by Dr David Munro and Mr Gabor Bruszt, with the assistance of individuals nominated by the Chairs of each of the six IUCN Commissions, together with the comments of the Council and Director General on that evaluation;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. NOTES with approval the report of the independent evaluation of the Commissions, and expresses its thanks to the consultants for undertaking this important task;
2. REAFFIRMS that the IUCN Commissions and other voluntary networks are a distinctive and essential part of the work of the Union and should be strengthened as important agents in the pursuit of its Mission, as indicated in Resolution 19.1;
3. ENDORSES the recommendations of the review of the Commissions, except as noted below;
4. DECIDES, in addition to conclusions in Resolution 19.1, section 2 (e) and (f), that:
 - (a) the Commission on Education and Communication should have a membership focused on policy advice, advocacy and capacity building in the field of education and communication related to the Mission of IUCN and its programmes, and supportive of the work in other Commissions;
 - (b) the Commission on Environmental Strategy and Planning should continue to elaborate a more clear and focused role aimed at a more manageable mandate, including exploring the potential for institutional collaboration to cover fields of special interest to IUCN;
 - (c) each Commission should be subject to a triennial end-term review, to be prepared by an independent evaluator, nominated by the Director General and confirmed by Council, and undertaken in consultation with the Chair or his/her nominee; regular mid-term reviews should not be required but Council may

commission a mid-term review of any Commission if special circumstances require it;

- (d) there should in future be an in-depth review every six years of the role, structure, mandate and operation of each Commission, carried out according to a schedule providing for three Commissions to be reviewed during each three-year period;
 - (e) the conclusions of the reviews under (c) and (d) should be reported to each succeeding session of the General Assembly;
 - (f) high priority should be given to defining performance indicators and ensuring that the mission statements and objectives are drafted in terms that enable such definition;
 - (g) Commission Chairs, in consultation with the Membership and Nominations Committee of Council, should address the task of identifying candidates for succession to their posts;
 - (h) greater effort should be made to increase the regional diversity of Commission members and to reflect the reality of regions in planning and undertaking Commission activities;
5. DECIDES to maintain five of the existing Commissions for the Triennium 1994–1996, namely:
 - (a) Species Survival Commission (SSC);
 - (b) Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA);
 - (c) Commission on Environmental Law (CEL);
 - (d) Commission on Environmental Strategy and Planning (CESP);
 - (e) Commission on Education and Communication (CEC);
 6. AGREES to establish a Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), requests Council in consultation with the membership and the Director General to agree on a mandate for the Commission within one year, and agrees that the inaugural chair will be the individual elected by the 19th Session of the General Assembly as Chair of the Commission on Ecology;
 7. DECIDES to adopt the mandates for each of the Commissions listed in paragraph 5, as proposed by Council and modified by discussion in the course of the 19th Session of the General Assembly.

19.3 Species Survival Commission

ACKNOWLEDGING the long track record of effectiveness of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC);

APPRECIATING the very positive review that SSC received during the recent review of the IUCN Commissions;

RECOGNIZING that the high international regard for IUCN's expertise in species conservation is based largely on the work of the members of SSC;

EMPHASIZING the crucial need for IUCN to maintain and enhance its ability to provide leadership on species conservation issues in an impartial and technically rigorous manner;

NOTING the need for SSC to adapt to the changing international situation, especially since the Convention on Biological Diversity has now entered into force;

AWARE of the recommendations in the Strategy of IUCN on the need for increased decentralization of IUCN's programmes;

NOTING with satisfaction the moves already taken by SSC to develop new directions in the light of the changing international situation, most notably the current process of developing a new strategic plan for the Commission as a contribution to the overall Strategy of IUCN;

WELCOMING the increasingly close relationship between SSC and the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA);

AWARE that, although the SSC strategic plan has not yet been completed, the general future directions are now emerging;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Chair of SSC to guide the process of developing the SSC strategic plan to completion as soon as possible, after due consultation with key interested parties;
2. ENDORSES the general directions already apparent in the strategic plan, notably:
 - (a) the continuation of taxa-based specialist groups, with particular emphasis on continued expansion of activities on plants, invertebrates, fish, reptiles and amphibians;
 - (b) the enhancement of disciplinary activities on captive breeding, invasive species, re-introductions, sustainable use of wild species, trade and veterinary matters;
 - (c) the formation of new SSC groups at a national level, cutting across taxa and disciplines, and providing technical information on biodiversity to assist countries in the development of national plans and strategies, as required under Article 6, and identification and monitoring, as required under Article 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
3. CALLS UPON interested IUCN members to consider how they might assist in the implementation of the SSC strategic plan, in particular through the
 - (d) the closer integration of SSC activities with those of other IUCN programmes, most notably that of the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA), with a particular emphasis on pursuing such integration at national level;
 - (e) a review of the ways in which SSC interacts with IUCN members to enhance species conservation with a view to improving the effectiveness of such interactions;
 - (f) an ongoing review of the effectiveness of all SSC programmes aimed at assessing conservation priorities and promoting activities to address those priorities, notably the specialist group action planning programme, the Conservation Assessment and Management Planning (CAMP) workshops, and Population and Habitat Viability Assessments (PHVAs);
 - (g) the positioning of SSC and IUCN as the custodians of the global threatened species list;
 - (h) the development of an effective and responsive information system, integrating the data gathered by different components of SSC, based on an analysis of the overall information needs of IUCN and the other partners in the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC);
 - (i) in collaboration with the Commission on Education and Communication, improved communications concerning SSC's expertise on biological diversity to relevant audiences, including policy- and decision-makers, donors, and close partner organizations;
 - (j) improved internal communications within SSC, with a particular emphasis on new forms of electronic communication;
 - (k) improved communications between SSC and other IUCN programmes;
 - (l) a review of the role and future direction of *Species* newsletter; and
 - (m) the development of an overall fundraising plan to achieve the effective implementation of the strategic plan in a timely fashion;

provision of institutional support for national SSC groups, and increased support for the operation of key specialist groups;

4. REQUESTS the SSC Chair to report to the 20th Session of the General Assembly on progress in the implementation of the strategic plan;
5. REQUESTS the SSC and CNPPA Chairs to increase cooperative efforts between the two Commissions, to work with the other Commissions and relevant IUCN programmes to advance the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to develop methods for inter-Commission cooperation for biodiversity conservation at regional and national levels.

19.4 National Parks and Protected Areas

RECALLING the importance of the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas (Caracas, Venezuela, February 1992) and the central role played by the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA) in planning that event;

RECALLING that the Caracas Action Plan (CAP) recognizes the crucial and growing importance of both terrestrial and marine protected areas, especially their key role in conserving biological diversity, and urges an array of actions at the national and international level to ensure their better planning and management;

RECALLING also the recommendations of the Caracas Congress, especially Recommendation 21 which called for: an immediate action programme to follow up the Congress to be presented to major donors; the continued development and extension of the IUCN programme to accommodate the many initiatives stimulated through the Caracas Congress; and the provision of increased support to the CNPPA constituency through IUCN Regional and Country Offices so that this Commission is better able to promote the Caracas Action Plan and its recommendations;

RECOGNIZING the long track record of effectiveness of CNPPA, the strong endorsement given to its work during the recent review of the IUCN Commissions, that IUCN's expertise in protected areas is based largely on the work of CNPPA, and that IUCN is—and should remain—the leading world authority in protected areas through impartial and technically rigorous work;

AWARE of the recommendations in the Strategy of IUCN on the need for increased decentralization of IUCN's programmes;

ALSO NOTING that

- Agenda 21, in Chapters 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17, specifically recognizes the value of protected areas in the pursuit of sustainable development;
- the Convention on Biological Diversity calls on contracting parties to develop systems of protected areas, and in other ways to support the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity (Article 8);
- *Caring for the Earth* (Action 4.9) and the *Global Biodiversity Strategy* (Chapter VIII) both recognize the importance of developing and maintaining protected areas with international support;

and that these developments call for CNPPA to adapt to a changing international situation;

NOTING with satisfaction the moves already taken by CNPPA to develop new directions in the light of this changed international situation, most notably the current process of developing a strategic plan for the Commission as a contribution to the overall Strategy of IUCN;

NOTING also the increasingly close working relationship between CNPPA and SSC;

FURTHER NOTING Recommendation 17 from the Caracas Congress on Protected Area Categories, Management Effectiveness and Threats;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. RESOLVES that the Protected Areas Programme of IUCN should properly reflect the new understanding of the role and importance of protected areas which is set out in the Caracas Action Plan, and should be designed to lead to the realization of the aims of that Plan;
2. REQUESTS the Council and the Director General, within available resources, to:
 - (a) give priority within the Protected Areas Programme to strengthening and developing the protected areas activities of IUCN at regional and national levels to help secure the global aims of the Caracas Action Plan, which may include support for the preparation of regional action plans and/or national system plans;
 - (b) ensure that other elements of the IUCN Programme are in accord with the aims of the Caracas Action Plan and help to support and implement it;
 - (c) ensure that IUCN, in fundraising activities, and in the advice it may give funding agencies, seeks to secure the resources to enable IUCN's

network of protected areas experts to function effectively at both global and regional levels;

- (d) within the resources available, give increased support to developing the expert network on protected areas of IUCN, especially through the work of the Regional and Country Offices of IUCN who should work closely with the CNPPA network;
- (e) encourage members of IUCN to take an active part in implementing the Caracas Action Plan in their own countries; and
- (f) invite members of IUCN to consider how they might assist the work of CNPPA, in particular through the provision of institutional support for regional, thematic and, where appropriate, national CNPPA groups, increased support for the operation of key programmes and the secondment of staff to support the Protected Areas Programme;

3. REQUESTS the Chair of CNPPA to:

- (a) guide the process of developing the CNPPA strategic plan to completion as soon as possible, after the consultation with key interested parties;
- (b) report to the 20th Session of the General Assembly on progress on the implementation of the strategic plan; and
- (c) with the SSC Chair, increase cooperative efforts between the two Commissions to work with other Commissions and relevant IUCN programmes to advance the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to develop methods for inter-Commissional cooperation for biodiversity conservation at regional and national levels;

4. NOTES and ENDORSES the following revised international system of categories of protected areas according to their management objectives, (which will be explained in greater detail in a forthcoming IUCN publication), adopted by CNPPA and the IUCN Council in accordance with Recommendation 17 of the Caracas Congress:

- I **Strict Nature Reserve/Wilderness Area:** Protected area managed mainly for science or wilderness protection;
- II **National Park:** Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation;
- III **Natural Monument:** Protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features;
- IV **Habitat/Species Management Area:** Protected

area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention;

V **Protected Landscape/Seascape:** Protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation;

VI **Managed Resource Protected Area:** Protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems;

- 5. URGES all governments to consider the relevance of these categories to national legislation;
- 6. ENCOURAGES CNPPA to develop guidance on the application of these categories at the regional level;
- 7. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, and working with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, urgently to develop and apply a system for monitoring management effectiveness and threats to protected areas for application by management authorities.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus. A proposal to add a further operative sub-paragraph 3(b) on indigenous people was defeated by a show of hands.

19.5 Review of the IUCN Statutes

AWARE that the IUCN Statutes were last subjected to comprehensive revision in 1978, and that since that time there have been substantial changes in the Union's membership and mode and scale of operation and in the context within which it works;

RECOGNIZING in particular the increasing role of Regional Forums, National Committees and other gatherings of members, Regional and Country Offices of the Secretariat, and regional groups within the Commissions, and also the devolution of responsibility for the development and implementation of many of the Union's programmes and policies to the regional level;

NOTING that a number of recent meetings of members have concluded that the boundaries of the Regions used by IUCN are no longer appropriate, and that it is imperative that the composition of the IUCN Council, which is largely elected on a regional basis, should reflect the distribution of the Union's membership and be able to cover worldwide conservation issues in an informed and balanced way;

RECOGNIZING that since the system of Regions and the number of Councillors to be elected from each Region are defined in the Statutes, no changes can be made unless the Statutes are amended;

AWARE that for a number of State members, revisions of the IUCN Statutes are equivalent to revisions of treaties and require strict procedural measures;

RECOGNIZING that aspects of IUCN's Statutes are governed by applicable Swiss Law;

AWARE that under Article XIX of the IUCN Statutes, the English, French and Spanish versions shall be equally authentic, but that none the less, minor inconsistencies exist between the English and French texts, while the Spanish translation has yet to be accepted by the IUCN membership as an official text;

ALSO NOTING that there are other deficiencies in the Statutes which may be remedied at this time and that the various provisions of the Strategy of IUCN, as adopted by the 19th Session of the General Assembly, can best be reflected in and facilitated by the Statutes of the Union;

EMPHASIZING that all organizations must adapt their constitutions to new policies, developments and conditions;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Council to establish in 1994 a Statutes Review Committee to undertake a full review and appropriate revision of the IUCN Statutes, and Regulations and the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly;
2. DECIDES that this Committee should, *inter alia*, give particular attention to how:
 - (a) the boundaries of the statutory Regions in use in IUCN should be adjusted so as to achieve appropriate geographical, environmental and cultural coherence, and meet the needs of each Region equitably;
 - (b) the role of National Committees can be optimized and, if appropriate, defined in the IUCN Statutes;
 - (c) the composition of the IUCN Council can most equitably and effectively reflect the balance of the membership and of conservation priorities worldwide;
 - (d) effect can be given to the provisions of Resolution 19.6 on North-South proportionality;
 - (e) the process of election of Regional Councillors can give due weight to regional preference;
 - (f) any inconsistencies between the English, French and Spanish versions can be reconciled and acceptance of the Spanish version facilitated;
 - (g) clear and readily applicable criteria for the

admission of members can be developed and implemented;

- (h) the process for submitting motions to the General Assembly, and the criteria for their admissibility, can be improved, for example by providing guidelines on their scope, style and format;
 - (i) consideration of General Assembly Resolutions can be streamlined, for example by greater use of the Resolutions Working Group provided for in the General Assembly Rules of Procedure (Para. 13.2) before convening the General Assembly, and by scheduling more contact discussion groups early in the Session of the General Assembly;
3. REQUESTS the Director General to establish effective machinery for assisting participation of the membership in the process of review of the Statutes;
 4. REQUESTS the Council to transmit the Statutes Review Committee's report to the IUCN membership no later than six months before the 20th Session of the General Assembly, with any comments by the Council, and to provide for a Special Session of the General Assembly immediately preceding its 20th regular Session, at the same venue, with the revision of the Statutes as the sole item of business.

19.6 North-South Proportionality and Equality of Opportunity

CONSIDERING:

- ☐ that IUCN is the oldest and one of the most prestigious international ecological institutions;
- ☐ that it has an important role to play in both developing countries and developed countries;
- ☐ that there is serious concern that IUCN management is dominated by individuals from a few countries of the developed world;
- ☐ that there is need for much more openness regarding the governance and administrative processes of IUCN;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON the Council to ensure that the Director General of IUCN is appointed according to the highest standards of merit and that the nominations made to the General Assembly of candidates for the

office of President are from the economic region other than that of the Director General;

2. REQUESTS the Director General:

- (a) to make efforts to ensure that in the minimum practicable time, the number of senior positions in IUCN Headquarters is shared equitably by developed and developing countries;
- (b) to ensure that in the minimum practicable time, the principle of equal opportunity employment is adopted and gender equity, particularly in senior positions, is achieved in the IUCN Secretariat;
- (c) to make efforts to ensure that in IUCN Country Offices, particularly those in developing countries, preference is given to nationals of these countries;

3. RECOMMENDS that the Statutes Review Committee when established be authorized to examine the above issues for purposes of their institutionalization in the IUCN system.

Note. When this Resolution was adopted, the Director General stated that it should not be interpreted as implying that balance at Headquarters should be established by terminating the employment of individuals, many of whom had served the Union loyally and competently for many years. Opportunity would be taken to correct the balance as vacancies arose.

19.7 Enhanced Use of the Work and Skills of French-speakers, as well as Improved Circulation and Dissemination of Knowledge in the French Language

NOTING that the work, writings and, in general, expertise of French-speakers are inadequately taken into account by IUCN in its studies, work and publications;

NOTING also the wish expressed by the Director General to establish a better symbiosis between IUCN and the French-speaking world;

NOTING with appreciation the special and major financial contribution made by the French Government to the new IUCN Library;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS all French-speaking members of IUCN and French-speaking research institutes to establish a French-speaking working group and make a significant effort to increase knowledge of their work and skills and to contact IUCN and/or the working group set up for this purpose;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to take measures to ensure that IUCN is more attentive in granting the skills and writings of French-speakers their rightful place, particularly in the case of topics or geographical regions where such expertise is evident.

19.8 IUCN Headquarters

RECALLING the discussion during the 17th Session of the General Assembly, held in San José, Costa Rica, 1–10 February 1988, at which the acceptance by the Council of the offer by the Governments of the Swiss Confederation and the Canton of Vaud to provide a new Headquarters for IUCN was recorded with deep appreciation;

NOTING that a site has been provided on generous terms by the Commune of Gland and that the completed building, financed by the generous donations of the Governments of the Swiss Confederation and the Canton of Vaud, and furnished and equipped with the help of generous contributions from a number of IUCN members was opened by Mr René Felber, the President of the Swiss Confederation, on 3 November 1992;

CONSCIOUS that the excellent facilities provided in the new Headquarters have greatly aided the work of the IUCN Secretariat and of the Ramsar Bureau which is also located there;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. RECORDS its deep gratitude to the Swiss Confederation, the Canton of Vaud and the Commune of Gland for their generosity;
2. FURTHER RECORDS its appreciation to all those IUCN members and well-wishers who have contributed to the Headquarters building.

19.9 Smoking at IUCN Events

RECOGNIZING that medical authorities have established that exposure to tobacco smoke in the environment significantly increases the risk of disease and death among non-smokers;

NOTING that the World Health Organization has found that passive smoking is a serious environmental threat to human health;

CONSCIOUS that IUCN, an organization committed to improving the human environment, should set an example by establishing the highest standards for its own activities;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

DECIDES that smoking will be prohibited at events organized by IUCN, including official social functions, unless everyone present agrees to permit smoking, or unless smoking areas are designated that substantially reduce exposure to non-smokers.

19.10 The Use of “Environmentally-Appropriate” Paper by IUCN

RECOGNIZING that destruction of the world’s forests is a major environmental problem of global significance;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the need to conserve valuable resources and reduce waste;

CONSIDERING that IUCN – The World Conservation Union has a special responsibility as the world’s premier conservation organization to lead by example;

AWARE that IUCN uses considerable amounts of paper products for communication purposes;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. DECIDES that IUCN – The World Conservation Union’s policy is:
 - (a) to avoid use of paper derived from pristine forest;
 - (b) wherever possible to use paper produced from least polluting technologies;
 - (c) to be as efficient as possible in the use of paper;
2. URGES all member Governments and organizations to move towards using “environmentally-appropriate” paper, in line with IUCN’s above policy, for all their publishing and stationery needs.

Note. The delegation of the State member Canada indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have voted against because no definition was included of the phrase “pristine forest”.

B. Cooperation between IUCN and other Institutions or Sectors

19.11 Cooperation between IUCN and the Ramsar Convention

RECALLING that the text of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971) states in Article 8 that "the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources shall perform the continuing Bureau duties under this Convention";

EMPHASIZING that this is the only global Convention on conservation and the wise use of natural resources which entrusts IUCN with such duties;

WELCOMING the agreement reached between the Standing Committee of the Convention and the Director General of IUCN in 1993 to refine the administrative arrangements for the Bureau of the Convention;

NOTING the importance attached by regional meetings of IUCN members and Ramsar Contracting Parties, especially in South America, to wetland conservation generally and cooperation between IUCN and the Ramsar Convention in particular;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION that the Ramsar Convention now has some 80 Contracting Parties, that the Parties have designated some 650 wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance, and that Ramsar Contracting Parties are paying growing attention to formulating and implementing their planning so as to promote the wise use of wetlands in their territory;

RECOGNIZING that IUCN, especially through its Wetlands Programme, seeks to conserve the planet's wetlands and that IUCN provides important professional support to the Ramsar Bureau, Conference of Parties and Standing Committee;

APPRECIATING the growing influence and effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention, as demonstrated at the Fifth Conference of the Contracting Parties, hosted in the City of Kushiro, Japan, in June 1993, in which 100 States and 1200 participants took part, which adopted a series of new mechanisms for improving the implementation of the Convention, and which emphasized the essential contribution which Ramsar can make to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. EMPHASIZES that IUCN has a particular role in providing both administrative and technical support to the Ramsar Convention;
2. TAKES NOTE of the many expressions by the Ramsar Contracting Parties of their wish for cooperation and interaction between the Ramsar Bureau and partner organizations, notably the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB), the Asian Wetlands Bureau (AWB) and IUCN;
3. WELCOMES the major contribution made in the past to the work of the Convention by IUCN technical programmes and in particular the IUCN Wetlands Programme;
4. STRONGLY ENDORSES the statements made by the Director General of IUCN at the Kushiro Conference and in other fora on the need for other IUCN technical programmes dealing with wetlands (such as Marine and Coastal Conservation, Species Survival, Biological Diversity, Protected Areas), as well as IUCN Conservation Services and Regional Programmes and Regional Offices to work much more closely with the Ramsar Bureau, both in joint programming of activities and in execution of projects;
5. REQUESTS the Director General of IUCN to ensure that, to the maximum extent practicable:
 - (a) IUCN's traditional institutional support for the Ramsar Bureau is maintained during the next triennium;
 - (b) cooperation between the Ramsar Bureau, IWRB, AWB, Wetlands for the Americas and other international conservation organizations and IUCN's technical and regional programmes is promoted with vigour;
 - (c) the efforts of individual Contracting Parties to safeguard Ramsar sites and use them wisely are supported;
6. CALLS UPON all Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention to:

- (a) seek and propose the most appropriate mechanisms for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of governmental wetlands policy, in protecting existing Ramsar sites and delimiting future sites, it being understood that such participation will help to guarantee effective conservation of such sites;
- (b) ensure that the wetlands designated for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance are identified through an effective process of analysis and consultation with NGOs in the country concerned.

RECOGNIZING the importance of international cooperation to address the pressing environmental problems in Africa;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

REQUESTS the Director General to pursue close working relationships with intergovernmental organizations in Africa, such as the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other similar bodies, with the objective of developing with them programmes on conservation and sustainable development.

19.12 Cooperation with International Organizations in Africa

NOTING the conclusions of the meeting of IUCN members and partners in Western Africa, held in Bamako, Mali, 1–3 September 1993;

C. Strengthening IUCN's Regional Activities

19.13 Increased IUCN Presence and Influence in South America

RECOGNIZING that there is enormous biological and cultural diversity in South America, ranging from tropical to subantarctic ecosystems, including coastal areas and islands, forests, grasslands (pampas), deserts, steppes and wetlands;

NOTING that many ecosystems in South America are undergoing profound environmental degradation;

AWARE of the urgent need for the South American countries to introduce fundamental changes in the planning and management of their natural resources;

APPRECIATING that since the end of 1990, National Committees of IUCN members have been set up in various countries of the region, as a way to improve communication between the members in those countries, and between the members and the Union's Secretariat and Commissions;

CONVINCED that the National Committees of IUCN members, Networks and Task Forces created by the members of IUCN in South America can effectively contribute to the necessary changes towards more sustainable development processes and better harmony between humanity and nature;

CONSIDERING that the IUCN membership in the region has doubled since the creation of the IUCN Regional Office for South America;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the reports of the three meetings of South American members and of the two meetings of the Regional Committee of IUCN members, which have taken place since 1990;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:

- (a) to increase considerably the presence and influence of IUCN in South America and, to that end, endeavour to strengthen the membership, the National and Regional Committees of

South American members of IUCN and their activities;

- (b) to support the various structures which have emerged over the past few years as a consequence of better organization of the regional membership and better interaction with the Union's Secretariat, and in particular the following structures:

- ☐ National Committees and the Regional Wetlands Committee;
- ☐ Regional Network on Environmental Education;
- ☐ Latin American Network on Environmental Law;
- ☐ Task Forces on open arid and semi-arid environments;
- ☐ Task Forces on Biosphere Reserves in the Andes;
- ☐ Regional Task Force on Forest Conservation;
- ☐ South American Network for Sustainable Development (REDSUR);
- ☐ Task Force on Biodiversity, National Parks and Protected Areas;

- (c) to support and assist in organizing and raising the necessary funds for the First Latin American and Caribbean Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, to be held in Cartagena de la Indias, Colombia;

2. PROPOSES as a general criterion, that IUCN should invest, through programmes and projects in the region, an amount of funds at least equivalent to what it collects as membership dues from the members in the region.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.14 IUCN in the Caribbean

CONSIDERING that the Caribbean region consists of 25 small island states with a population of over 30 million; that the Caribbean region contains major navigational waterways and that the Caribbean Sea has been declared a specially protected sea under MARPOL IV; that there are important examples of marine ecosystems throughout, some in relatively undisturbed condition, though many are threatened by human actions; and that the islands themselves contain important tropical ecosystems;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the islands contain a high proportion of endemic species, with the Greater Antilles possessing many plants and animals in danger of extinction; that the region as a whole contains some 5932 endemic vascular plants of which over 95 per cent are restricted to single islands; that the Caribbean supports over 157 endemic bird species and is important to numerous migratory birds; that the marine environments of the Caribbean contain coral reefs with a high diversity of species and areas important for nesting marine turtles; and that the entire Caribbean is in urgent need of protection;

RECALLING that in a meeting of the IUCN members from the insular Caribbean in August 1993, it was strongly suggested that IUCN could play an important role catalyzing conservation in the Caribbean, by providing information to its members and extending the operations of the Commissions to the region, and that Caribbean specialists could also contribute to the membership of the Commissions;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the Caribbean as an area useful to the Union to test conservation methods for small islands; as an area that contains many species unique to the region; and particularly as an area where the conservation of coastal resources is critical;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to strengthen IUCN activities in the Caribbean and in particular:

- (a) to make an individual within the Secretariat responsible for liaison with Caribbean members of IUCN, to be the focal point for information to and from members and where appropriate the Commissions;
- (b) following Paragraph 2(o) of Resolution 19.1 and the Strategy of IUCN, to make a budgetary allocation to the Regional Councillor for the Caribbean to allow the Councillor to represent IUCN in the region more effectively and also to represent the region within IUCN.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.15 IUCN Sahel Programme

NOTING that the African States in general and the countries of the Sahel in particular are undergoing a social, economic and ecological crisis characterized by lethal conflicts and an impoverishment of all levels of society, linked to declining productivity, demographic pressures and the excessive exploitation of resources;

RECOGNIZING that the Sahel, although an arid zone, includes wetlands and other habitats which are important in maintaining the sustainability of ecosystems and biological diversity;

CONSIDERING the weakness of current activities, the need to consolidate them and the necessity to take action at grass roots level;

SUPPORTING the continuation and relevance of IUCN's Sahel Programme, despite problems in the field and the insufficient commitment of other partners;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to initiate an external review and to evaluate the possibility of continuing to strengthen the Sahel Programme through the implementation of thematic programmes supported by local and regional representatives and the very necessary mobilization of the specialized Commissions of the Union;
2. REQUESTS multilateral and bilateral aid agencies to strengthen their commitment to ensure a better harmonization of efforts towards sustainable development in the approach to conserving the environment;
3. URGES IUCN and the governments of the countries concerned to support the efforts of local communities through the application of decentralization policies and the creation of means for the rational management of their own environment.

19.16 IUCN's Work in Europe

RECALLING IUCN Recommendation 18.10 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly, concerning European Cooperation for Sustainable Development, and in particular the request that the Director General strengthen the Union's network for cooperation throughout Europe and carry out an effective programme of European activities;

BELIEVING that an active IUCN Programme in Europe is an essential part of the worldwide action in response to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, especially Chapter 15 of Agenda 21 (The Conservation of Biological Diversity) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and that the actions in *Caring for the Earth* need to be implemented within Europe;

WELCOMING the decisions taken at the European Environment Ministers Meeting at Dobris Castle, near Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1991, and in Luzern, Switzerland, in 1993;

AWARE of the scale of the problems requiring urgent action in the countries of central and eastern Europe in the context of their transitional economies;

NOTING that, in the framework of the economic changes taking place in these countries, it should be possible to take account of the interest in conserving biological diversity, particularly through the establishment of protected areas on land that was previously collectively-owned but that, for that purpose, urgent action should be taken before their re-privatization;

AWARE that questions concerning the safeguarding of biological diversity—although recognized as priority matters in the "Environmental Action Plan" for central and eastern European countries, adopted by the Second European Environment Ministers Meeting at Luzern—might not receive sufficient legal, financial and staff resources and might not be adequately integrated in sectoral policies;

SUPPORTING the work of the Council of Europe in the area of nature conservation, as endorsed by Environment Ministers at their Second Meeting in Luzern, and in particular its plans for a European Nature Conservation Year in 1995;

WELCOMING the initiative of the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas in preparing an IUCN Action Plan for Protected Areas in Europe as a follow-up to the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas (Caracas, 1992);

WELCOMING the outcome of the conference held at Maastricht, the Netherlands, in November 1993 on "Conserving Europe's Natural Heritage: Towards a European Ecological Network";

NOTING with appreciation the actions already taken

to develop the Programme of the Union, especially in central and eastern Europe;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

Conservation of Biological Diversity

1. INVITES national governments in western Europe and the European Union, as well as other industrialized countries, multilateral organizations and finance agencies (the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), etc.) to assist the countries of central and eastern Europe in their urgent task of protecting and ensuring environmentally-sound management of biological diversity, drawing on the principles and mechanisms established by the Second European Environment Ministers Meeting at Luzern;
2. CALLS more particularly upon the Council of Europe to continue and strengthen its activities as a body responsible for the conservation of biological diversity in the preparations for the Third European Environment Ministers Meeting, scheduled to be held in Bulgaria in 1995;

IUCN's Regional Programme for Europe

3. ENDORSES the objectives of the European Programme set out in General Assembly Paper GA/19/94/9;
4. REQUESTS in particular all members of IUCN to support IUCN activities in central and eastern Europe through additional non-project-related financial contributions so that this Programme can enhance its advisory role, particularly through an increase in the number of its regional agencies, the establishment of cooperative networks and the strengthening of lead agencies in the region;
5. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:
 - (a) to pursue further and fuller cooperation between IUCN members in eastern and central Europe and those in western Europe;
 - (b) to include within IUCN's European Programme support for existing and planned collaborative ventures by IUCN members in Europe, such as those to identify and protect important areas for birds and plants.
 - (c) to promote collaboration between IUCN and the Council of Europe with regard to nature conservation activities, particularly in the planning and implementation of the European Nature Conservation Year 1995;
 - (d) to support the preparation of a pan-European

strategy for conservation of biological and landscape diversity incorporating the development of a pan-European ecological network;

- (e) in collaboration with WWF, through the joint programme of the TRAFFIC network, to give increased consideration to wildlife trade problems in central and eastern Europe;

Action Plan for Protected Areas in Europe

6. SUPPORTS the objective of the Action Plan for Protected Areas in Europe to build on and strengthen the commitment of national, regional and local authorities to the conservation of biodiversity through their protected area systems;
7. LOOKS FORWARD TO the final version of the Action Plan after all due consultation with all interested parties:
 - (a) URGES governments and others to respond constructively to the recommendations made in the final version of the Plan;
 - (b) CALLS UPON IUCN members in Europe to help finance the completion of the Plan and implementation of agreed priority projects in the Plan, and to encourage other funding bodies operating in Europe to support these;
 - (c) REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to ensure that IUCN promotes and monitors implementation of the Action Plan in accordance with proposals in the Plan;
 - (d) INVITES IUCN members in Europe to participate in the launch of the Plan, which will take place in a number of locations around Europe later in 1994;

- (e) REQUESTS the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas to develop a similar Action Plan for protected areas as soon as possible for those eastern parts of Europe not covered by the existing Plan.

19.17 An IUCN Office for the Mediterranean

CONSIDERING the importance and specific nature of the Mediterranean area within the context of IUCN activities in Europe, as well as the need to integrate European action in the region as part of a coordinated approach to the Mediterranean Basin, an environmental and geographical unit linking three different continents;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. INVITES all European, African, and Asian IUCN members in the Mediterranean area to undertake coordinated regional and transnational activities that integrate all of the coastal countries;
2. URGES all Mediterranean governments and other organizations actively to support and participate in such coordination;
3. REQUESTS the Director General to take appropriate steps in order to establish an IUCN Regional Mediterranean Office, giving due consideration to the offers made by Spain and other countries to host such an office.

D. Sustainable Development, Social Policy and Education

19.18 IUCN Policies and Action on Sustainable Development

RECALLING that *Caring for the Earth—A Strategy for Sustainable Living*, prepared by IUCN in partnership with UNEP and WWF, defined priority actions and targets for the achievement of sustainability and stated the intention of the partner organizations to monitor response to the Strategy and publish a periodic implementation report;

RECALLING also that the UN Conference on Environment and Development identified a number of critical issues and actions related to environment and development, on which changes in policy were essential;

CONSIDERING that the expertise and experience of IUCN in conservation science and conservation programmes give the Union an important opportunity to contribute to the development of policy for sustainable development at local, national and international levels;

CONSIDERING IUCN's commitment to the conservation of biological diversity;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to pursue a programme of action aimed at following up the publication of *Caring for the Earth* and the results of the UN Conference on Environment and Development during the coming triennium, including:
 - (a) the establishment, preferably in collaboration with UNEP and WWF, of a capacity to monitor and evaluate the response to *Caring for the Earth* as set out in Action 17.10 of that document and to publish an implementation report before the 20th Session of the General Assembly;
 - (b) review of the evolution of the Union's policies and activities related to sustainable development;

- (c) the discussion of these policies with IUCN members and international organizations;

- (d) the advocacy of appropriate key international policies which are consistent with the Union's Strategy;

2. REQUESTS the Council to review the broad policies governing the direction and orientation of the IUCN Programme;
3. REQUESTS the Council and Director General to ensure that the work of the Commissions and the Regional and Country Offices of the IUCN Secretariat is consistent with and promotes such policies.

19.19 Support for the Implementation of *Caring for the Earth* in the Meso-American Region

RECALLING that the central message of *Caring for the Earth—A Strategy for Sustainable Living* is that "humanity must live within the carrying capacity of the Earth", and that it urges the adoption of a new ethic for sustainable living, respecting the limits of nature;

AWARE that IUCN, UNEP and WWF have undertaken to assist in the implementation of this Strategy, to monitor and evaluate progress and to publish progress reports;

RECOGNIZING that in some countries there are acute problems of displacement of human groups, including ethnic groups, from their original settlements and that it is necessary to plan their resettlement, in accordance with the principles of *Caring for the Earth*;

AWARE that sustainable development seeks to respect the community of living beings, improve the quality of human life, conserve the diversity and vitality of the earth, and secure the rational use of biological resources;

CONSIDERING that the struggle against poverty is a priority within the process of sustainable development

and that unless its structural causes are addressed, the conservation of natural and cultural resources will continue to be undermined by deterioration and destruction;

EMPHASIZING that this process must involve the State, private enterprises, non-governmental organizations and the population in general, through a strategy that contributes to the formulation and implementation of development projects in accordance with the principles of *Caring for the Earth*;

AWARE that, in accordance with Article XI of the IUCN Statutes, the Director General, with the agreement of the Council, can establish working relations with Governments and non-governmental organizations;

CONSIDERING that the Regional Office for Meso-America (ORMA) was created in order to coordinate field projects and solve environmental problems in the region, but has become an essential means whereby IUCN members can participate in the execution of the different programmes, plans, projects and conservation strategies;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

REQUESTS the Director General of IUCN, within available resources:

- (a) to provide IUCN members in the Meso-American region with technical and scientific tools for applying the principles of *Caring for the Earth*, in accordance with the special features of each country;
- (b) to seek the means to create a Meso-American fund to finance popularization, training and education and the participation of Latin American experts in the various activities which will contribute to the implementation of *Caring for the Earth*;
- (c) to support the development of such programmes by implementing activities of common interest directly with the NGO members of IUCN in the Meso-American region;
- (d) to contract agreements for the execution of projects directly with the members in the Meso-American region, in conformity with the thematic programmes on social aspects of conservation, biodiversity and protected areas, species conservation and sustainable use of wildlife, and the conservation of forests, wetlands and coastal marine resources.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.20 IUCN Action on Indigenous People and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

RECALLING that the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, in Chapter 26 of Agenda 21, recognized the valuable role of indigenous people in maintaining sustainable use of nature's resources, and underlined, in Principle 22 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the importance of indigenous people and local communities' active participation in environmental management;

CONSCIOUS of the conclusions of the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 on the need for empowerment of vulnerable groups to promote citizen participation in sustainable development;

NOTING the statement in *Caring for the Earth* about the special role of indigenous people and local communities in global efforts to establish a sound relationship between the Earth and humankind;

MINDFUL of Recommendation 18.16 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly, which recognized the role of indigenous people in environmental strategies and projects sponsored by IUCN and requested the establishment of an Inter-Commission Task Force on Indigenous People, and Recommendation 18.24, which urged the development of IUCN guidelines on sustainable use of wildlife;

NOTING the expressed need for recognition of the intellectual property rights of indigenous people;

AWARE that indigenous people's rights to control land use, resources and related environmental matters are currently being examined as part of the preparation of the UN Draft Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People;

RECOGNIZING that the United Nations in 1993 declared the Decade of Indigenous People;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON the Council and Director General to advance the principles of *Caring for the Earth* and Agenda 21 regarding the rights of indigenous people;
2. REQUESTS that:
 - (a) co-option of an indigenous people's representative be continued on the IUCN Council for the Triennium 1994–1996;
 - (b) the IUCN Inter-Commission Task Force on

Indigenous People be continued for the Triennium 1994-1996;

- (c) the Task Force be consulted on matters involving indigenous people and on finalizing the publication of "Indigenous People and Sustainability: A Guide for Action" as prepared by the Task Force, and to be considered in the development of IUCN policies, programmes, projects and the work carried out by the Commissions;
- (d) the resources allocated at the IUCN Council Meeting on 15 October 1993 (recorded as Decision C/36/5) continue to be applied to the proposed programme of work prepared by the Task Force.

Note. When this Resolution was adopted, the Director General emphasized that Operative Paragraph 2(d) should not be read as departing from the statutory requirement that the Programme and budget of IUCN must be rolled forward annually and approved by the Council.

19.21 Indigenous People and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

ACKNOWLEDGING the major international Covenants of 1966 on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, according to which no people may under any circumstances be deprived of its means of subsistence;

RECALLING that the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, in Chapter 26 of Agenda 21, recognized the valuable role of indigenous people and local communities in maintaining sustainable use of nature's resources and underlined, in Principle 22 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the importance of the active participation of indigenous people in environmental management;

CONSCIOUS of the conclusions in the World Commission on Environment and Development report of 1987 on the need for empowerment of vulnerable groups to promote citizen participation in sustainable development;

COGNISANT of the International Labour Organisation Convention 169 which lends support to the special relationships that exist between indigenous people and nature;

NOTING that the United Nations has begun preparation of a Draft Universal Declaration on the Rights of

Indigenous People and has declared the Decade of Indigenous People;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. DECLARES its continued commitment to advancing the principles contained in the above cited Conventions and Agreements and to further their integration in the work of IUCN;
2. CALLS on governments, and especially State members of IUCN, to recognize and give effect in their national policies and programmes for sustainable use and development to the principles relating to indigenous people contained in the Covenants and Agreements cited above.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia and New Zealand indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained, because their countries had not adopted or ratified ILO Convention 169, in the case of New Zealand because of the special position accorded to the Maori people by the Treaty of Waitangi.

19.22 Indigenous People

RECALLING Principle 22 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the special roles of indigenous people recognized in Agenda 21 (Chapter 26) and in *Caring for the Earth*;

AWARE of Recommendation 18.16 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly, and Resolution 19.20 and Recommendation 19.21 of the present Session;

CONCERNED that more extensive understanding is needed regarding the rights of indigenous people;

NOTING that indigenous people have traditional knowledge and uses of biological and other natural resources;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. RECOGNIZES Convention 169 of the International Labour Organisation, the Declaration of Karioca ("Earth Charter and Agenda 21 of Indigenous Peoples") and the Declaration of the World Alliance of Tropical Forest Indigenous-Tribal Peoples and requests the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) and the Centre for Environmental Law to promote understanding of the legal instruments concerning the rights of indigenous people through

the preparation of studies and other educational materials;

2. URGES all States and local authorities to ensure fully the public participation by local people and indigenous people in decisions concerning the planning, development and management of national parks and other protected areas, and to provide that their interests are treated equitably and are fully respected by all authorities and agencies with responsibility in or impacting on national parks and other protected areas;
3. REQUESTS the Director General to ensure that IUCN's Programme on Biological Diversity takes full account of traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous people;
4. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to provide Secretariat support at IUCN Headquarters for indigenous people, so as to ensure that issues of concern to indigenous people are fully integrated into all of IUCN's programmes and activities.

Note. The comments made by certain State members in relation to Recommendation 19.21 apply also to the present Recommendation.

19.23 The Importance of Community-based Approaches

RECOGNIZING that a central objective of IUCN is the conservation of species and habitats;

EMPHASIZING the importance of indigenous and traditional knowledge in the management of resources;

AWARE that the IUCN Secretariat works closely with member organizations and others who are closely involved in community-based development for conservation ends;

AWARE also that the Programme for the next triennium includes a Social Policy Service, including attention to community-centred approaches;

BELIEVING that the positive involvement of local communities is fundamental to securing long-term results;

RECOGNIZING that this may involve helping to realize the basic needs and secure the livelihoods of such communities;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

URGES the Director General:

- (a) to build strong partnerships with local organizations to realize community-based conservation;
- (b) to develop a service to such organizations in terms of community-based methodologies and techniques;
- (c) to maintain a library of case studies for education, advocacy and training purposes;
- (d) to implement a training agenda for staff and the Union membership in community approaches for meeting its central objective;
- (e) to integrate the approach within other Programmes such as those dealing with indigenous knowledge, law and participation by making it a cross-cutting theme of the Union.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member United States indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.24 Environmental Education

NOTING of the contents of the Belgrade Charter of 1975, which stresses the importance of environmental education in the generation of a new universal ethic which will permit the harmonious co-existence of humanity and nature;

AWARE of the resolution on environmental education adopted by the first meeting of South American members of IUCN held at Chorlavi, Ecuador, in 1990, and of the recommendations of the second meeting at Santa Marta, Colombia, in 1991 and the third at Parati, Brazil, in 1992;

CONSIDERING that environmental education is the fundamental basis guaranteeing the participation of communities in the process of conservation of natural resources and the improvement of the quality of life and of the environment;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON the Director General, within available resources, to include environmental education as a fundamental component of the projects which IUCN designs, approves and/or executes;
2. CALLS UPON the Commission Chairs also to take action to this end.

E. Trade, Economic and Financial Policies

19.25 The Relationship Between Conservation and Trade

RECALLING Resolution 18.13 and Recommendation 18.20 adopted at the 18th Session of the IUCN General Assembly;

NOTING the need to address the interface between international trade and environmental protection, including through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT);

APPRECIATING that the GATT Working Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade established in 1971 met for the first time in 1992;

NOTING the calls from various quarters to begin negotiation of a so-called "Green Round" of GATT, to address this interface between international trade and environmental protection, and that efforts to reform GATT in accordance with environmental principles may begin imminently;

NOTING also concerns that GATT provisions could seriously threaten trade restrictions for the protection of endangered species and marine mammals; and could also threaten tight pesticide, residue, toxic and other pollution controls in several countries; and that many other environmental protection measures could be at risk through conflict with GATT;

ACKNOWLEDGING the work already underway to address environmental protection concerns in other international economic fora;

AFFIRMING that all international trade agreements should pay due regard to the principles of *Caring for the Earth*, by establishing clear undertakings to pursue sustainable development and international equity, and by institutionalizing the participation of governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals involved in sustainable development issues, as appropriate, in future negotiations and by exploring the use of environmental impact assessment procedures with respect to trade agreements;

NOTING in particular the widespread impact on the world's economy and the environment of subsidies for agricultural production and export;

ACUTELY CONSCIOUS that UNEP figures show that 20 per cent of the world's population receives about 80 per cent of the world's income and that distorted patterns of trade may reinforce this inequality;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES all governments, and especially State members of IUCN:
 - (a) to ensure that future multilateral trade negotiations, whether carried out within the framework of GATT or elsewhere, are fully supportive of and not at odds with the protection of the environment and the enhancement of sustainable development;
 - (b) to ensure that all "harmonisation" of environmental standards and other provisions are not used to avoid, diminish or dismantle environmental protection measures but rather to enhance such protection;
 - (c) to endorse a programme of work on the environment for GATT that results in modifications of the international trade system including, *inter alia*, environmental reform of existing GATT articles and dispute settlement procedures;
 - (d) to strongly support and encourage the creation of a permanent Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development as part of the World Trade Organization (WTO);
 - (e) to endorse the creation of a WTO Committee and an environmental reform work programme, along with provisions assuring public participation in the process and a timetable for adoption by GATT Parties of recommended reforms of the international trade system, as part of the April 1994 GATT Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round;
 - (f) to address without delay the underlying reasons for, and dynamics of, the relationship between trade and income and wealth inequalities;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, in coordination

with the Commission on Environmental Law and all other IUCN Commissions and in consultation with members, to appoint an interdisciplinary working group of economists, lawyers and specialists in trade, conservation and sustainable development;

3. REQUESTS the Working Group to analyse existing international trade agreements and initiatives, and to prepare timely recommendations for approval by Council in 1994;
4. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to allocate funding and personnel for this purpose;
5. REQUESTS the Director General and the Chairs of the Commission on Environmental Law and other interested IUCN Commissions to ensure that the recommendations of the Working Group, after their approval by Council, are presented in the appropriate fora;
6. REQUESTS the Director General to convey the present Recommendation to the GATT Parties.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Norway indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.26 Compensation for Inequities Created by Universal Application of Trade Restrictions in Some International Conservation Regimes

RECALLING Recommendation 18.24 adopted at the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

NOTING the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly Article 10 on Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity;

COMMENDING those States which observe and enforce international agreements dealing with sustainable management of natural resources;

CONCERNED that some States are not effectively controlling the taking of wild species within their territories, the export of wild species and/or their derivatives from their territories, and/or the transit of contraband wild species and/or their derivatives through their territories;

CONCERNED also that some States, which sustainably manage their wild species and/or control export from

and transit of contraband wild species and/or derivatives through their territories, are "punished", and thereby suffer losses which impair their ability to carry out national sustainable management practices, by international trade restrictions which are applied without distinguishing whether or not individual States are complying with the conservation measures related to the restrictions;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, in consultation with IUCN's other Commissions and the CITES Standing Committee, to appoint a Working Group by the end of 1994, to examine the issue of compensating a State or a duly authorized authority whose practices for management of wild species are:

- (a) recognized as sustainable under generally accepted scientific and legal criteria; and/or
- (b) who effectively control the export from and transit of contraband wild species and/or derivatives through their territory;

for losses incurred as a result of universal trade restrictions deemed necessary in the common interest to furnish for endangered species the protection that some States are unable to provide;

2. CALLS UPON donor States, both within the framework of CITES and bilaterally, to continue to consider on their merits requests for scientific, technical and financial assistance, from developing countries which are implementing sustainable management practices.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by a show of hands. The delegation of the State members India and United States indicated that they considered this matter should be handled by CITES rather than by IUCN.

19.27 Cooperation to Establish "Green Jobs"

RECOGNIZING the substantial potential of innovative technology and some traditional crafts to reduce the negative impacts which industry has on the global environment;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. ENCOURAGES State members to assist the development of industries in their countries which are beneficial to the environment, or which at least reduce negative impacts upon it;
2. ENCOURAGES bilateral and multilateral international organizations to support States to facilitate "greening" of industry and to create "green jobs", in collaboration with business, industry, trade unions and commercial sectors;
3. REQUESTS the United Nations Development Programme to cooperate with other funding agencies, with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and with bodies representative of business, industry, trade unions and commerce in the development of a coordinated strategy for the "greening" of industry and the creation of "green jobs".

19.28 Environmental Impact Assessment

NOTING that Agenda 21 states that governments should regularly assess the laws, regulations and administrative arrangements in the field of environment and sustainable development with a view to rendering them more effective in practice;

NOTING further that Agenda 21 states that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and that are subject to a decision of a competent national authority;

RECOGNIZING that Agenda 21 strongly supports access to information and involvement in planning processes by the public and NGOs and the right of the public and NGOs to protect the public interest through legal action;

ACKNOWLEDGING that improved planning and decision-making processes are essential to ensure the protection of biological diversity and ecological integrity;

RECOGNIZING that EIA provides an effective means of integrating environmental factors into planning and decision-making processes in a manner that promotes ecologically sustainable development;

ACCEPTING that EIA should be an integral part of established planning and decision-making processes;

NOTING that industry seeks certainty and efficiency in development approval processes;

ACKNOWLEDGING that development approvals

should be more transparent and participatory and that there is a need for greater accountability and independence of EIA processes;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS on all governments, especially those with no legislation yet in place, to adopt Environmental Impact Assessment legislation, which should consider, *inter alia*, the following elements:
 - (a) taking the principles of ecologically sustainable development as the basis for, and an integral part of, the EIA process;
 - (b) undertaking EIAs within a regional and resource planning framework;
 - (c) adoption of a standard minimum set of requirements for a development that would make an EIA compulsory, and not subject to political discretion;
 - (d) inclusion in law of provisions for meaningful public participation in the EIA process and full public access to relevant information;
 - (e) establishment of a statutory authority or systems for ensuring the full objectivity, neutrality, reliability and adequacy of all stages of EIA and that EIAs that are found to be inadequate are rejected;
 - (f) ensuring that, as a matter of principle, the costs of EIA are borne by the proponent;
 - (g) incorporation of health, cultural and socio-economic aspects of any proposed development into decision-making, including an economic analysis of the costs and benefits of environmental degradation and resource loss;
 - (h) a requirement that project approval be subject to strict and legally enforceable conditions including monitoring.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Australia indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.29 Dam Construction, Irrigation and Water Diversions

NOTING that there are proposals annually to build more than 100 large dams around the globe for the

purposes of energy generation, irrigation, flood control and water supply;

CONCERNED that many large dams previously constructed have had a major adverse impact on the environment, such as the destruction of riverine ecosystems, including significant areas of tropical rainforests, the eradication or imperilling of rare species of animals and plants, and a reduction in riverine and fish harvests;

RECOGNIZING that many dams and their associated projects have displaced millions of people in river-dependent communities, flooded large areas of prime agricultural land, and drowned valuable archeological and cultural artefacts;

AWARE that many such projects have failed to meet the objectives for which they were designed owing to poor catchment management, bad design or inadequate studies;

CONSCIOUS of the announcement by the Government of Pakistan of its decision to initiate work on the Ghazi Barotha Hydro Power Project and recognizing the problems associated with the earlier Tarbela Dam Project;

CONVINCED that the proliferation of large dams planned over the next decade and beyond pose a significant threat to the world's biological diversity and indigenous communities and do not meet most criteria for sustainable development;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON all governments and international multilateral and bilateral funding bodies not to fund any further large dam projects until and unless:
 - (a) all appropriate alternatives to such projects have been adequately investigated for their environmental, social, economic and cumulative impacts;
 - (b) in the case of energy projects, in addition to the above:
 - (i) the relevant government or energy authority has developed and implemented a comprehensive strategy of energy conservation, efficiency and management;
 - (ii) all appropriate options for decentralized or small-scale energy development have been investigated;
 - (iii) a comprehensive and public Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken;

(c) carefully planned mitigatory measures, in consultation with local communities, are made an integral part of such projects;

(d) trust funds administered by independent authorities, including representatives of local communities, are set up for the planning and implementation of mitigatory measures.

19.30 Environmental Damage from Inappropriate Incentives

RECALLING Recommendation 18.19 adopted by the 18th Session of the General Assembly which proposed "that the sale price of natural resources should reflect the cost of environmental damage and rehabilitation";

REAFFIRMING the World Conservation Strategy objectives of ensuring the conservation of species and ecosystems for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of humankind;

CONSCIOUS that many countries are engaging in economic reforms that have an impact on their environments;

AWARE too that distorted prices act as hidden incentives which lead to excessive demands on goods and services from nature;

CONCERNED that some government policies also encourage environmental damage, as do some incentives, but acknowledging that not all do so;

ALSO CONCERNED that such incentives have contributed to the destruction of temperate and tropical forests, the extensive loss of soil from modern agricultural practices, and to the damage of marine and freshwater ecosystems;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES all governments to avoid incentives or other policy instruments that will encourage people, companies or other organizations to act in ways that damage the environment or diminish conservation values;
2. CALLS UPON governments to make rapid progress on correcting distortions to prices, by removing those policies that create incentives to damage the environment or to diminish conservation values.

19.31 International Trade in Toxic Wastes: Banning the Export of Hazardous Wastes from OECD to Non-OECD Countries

RECALLING AND AFFIRMING Principle 14 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June 1992, which declares:

"States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health";

AWARE that 94 countries, and two regions of the world—Africa, through the Bamako Convention, and Central America, through the Agreement on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes in the Central American Region—have taken legal action to prohibit the import of hazardous wastes;

RECOGNIZING that the Lomé IV Convention, between the European Community (European Union) and the group of 69 African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP), prohibits the export from the EU of hazardous wastes, including nuclear wastes, to the ACP area and the import of such wastes into ACP States from any other country;

NOTING that the European Parliament, the President of the European Union Council of Ministers (during the Danish Presidency) and the Nordic Council of Parliamentarians have all proposed an immediate ban on exports of hazardous wastes to developing countries;

RECOGNIZING that South American, Caribbean, Mediterranean and South East Asian governments have condemned the "dumping" of foreign hazardous wastes in their territories, and are considering regional instruments to prohibit their import, and that South Pacific governments, including New Zealand and Australia, recently agreed to draft a regional agreement within two years that would prohibit imports of hazardous wastes into the South Pacific;

RECALLING that the UN General Assembly has urged all States generating toxic and dangerous wastes to treat and dispose of them in the country of origin to the maximum extent possible, consistent with environmentally sound disposal (Res. 48/212);

AWARE that the Non-Aligned Movement has called for "the adoption of effective international measures, including conventions and other relevant legal instruments, to prohibit the dumping of toxic and other hazardous wastes in the territories of other countries"; and

has proposed that OECD countries should, in the meantime, "adopt rigorous administrative measures and legislation to ban the export of toxic and other hazardous wastes to the territories of other, especially developing, countries" (September 1989);

RECOGNIZING that during the preparation for UNCED the G-77 and China formally advocated a ban on all shipments of hazardous wastes and polluting technologies from OECD to non-OECD States;

NOTING that in 1991 and 1992, the forum The Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE International) resolved to support a ban on hazardous waste exports from OECD to non-OECD countries and that, at that time, the President, and the Chair of the toxic trade group of GLOBE International were, respectively, the now Vice President of the United States, Mr Albert Gore Jr, and the now Director of Japan's Environment Agency, Mrs Wakako Hironaka;

NOTING that the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in March 1989 by 116 countries and the European Union, and has to date been ratified by over 40 countries, but not including some of the world's main producers of hazardous wastes;

RECOGNIZING that the aim of the Basel Convention is to minimize, and where possible eliminate, the generation of hazardous wastes and their transboundary movement, and that preambular paragraph seven of the Basel Convention recognizes, "the increasing desire for the prohibition of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal in other States";

WELCOMING the European Community and its Member States' announcement of their decision to ratify the Basel Convention;

RECALLING that, during the first Basel Conference of Parties in November 1992, the G-77, several OECD countries, the Basel Convention Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme under former Executive Director Dr Mostafa Tolba, proposed banning all hazardous waste shipments from OECD to non-OECD States;

DEPLORING that this proposal to ban all hazardous waste exports from OECD to non-OECD countries was blocked by just six OECD countries which include the world's largest generator of hazardous wastes—the United States—and the world's largest exporter of hazardous wastes—Germany;

AWARE that the G-77 made clear at the conclusion of the first Basel Conference of Parties that they remain committed to achieving a prohibition on hazardous waste export from OECD to non-OECD countries, and stated that they would again propose such a ban at the second Conference of Parties of the Basel Convention;

AWARE that the majority of transboundary hazardous

waste shipments take place under the name of "recycling", "recovery", or "re-use", and that such shipments frequently end up either dumped in the receiving country without protective measures, or result in pollution transfer in the form of hazardous emissions, effluents, leachate and residual hazardous waste, as well as unsafe levels of worker exposure to toxins;

NOTING that transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, whether for recycling/re-use or direct disposal result in, *inter alia*, a disincentive to the implementation of hazardous waste prevention methods by the generator of the waste, one of the main aims of the Basel Convention;

RECALLING that each of the States, fora, and agreements listed above explicitly considered the question of exports of hazardous wastes for recycling, recovery or re-use, and that the appeal from the overwhelming majority of the international community was for the prohibition of all hazardous waste exports from OECD to non-OECD countries, for whatever purpose;

DEPLORING that over 90 per cent of hazardous wastes is produced in the OECD countries, amounting to approximately 300-400 million tonnes annually, while globally, waste generation including hazardous wastes is increasing by 8 per cent per year;

CONCERNED that the natural environment and human health continue to be constantly degraded by the increasing amount of hazardous waste produced, mainly in the industrialized or OECD countries, and that small islands with limited groundwater resources and heavily dependent on coastal ecosystems are particularly at risk, including those in the South Pacific;

CONSCIOUS that an alarming increase in hazardous waste shipments from OECD to non-OECD countries is occurring, and that UNEP's statement in 1990 that: "A growing army of immoral, unscrupulous 'waste brokers' are benefiting from a global commerce in poison" still holds true, and that States and regions which have not yet prohibited imports of hazardous wastes are vulnerable, and increasingly likely to be the target of hazardous waste exporters;

RECOGNIZING that the proposal for the prohibition of hazardous waste exports from OECD to non-OECD countries, including exports destined for "recycling", "recovery" or "further use" is supported by a majority of OECD countries;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON the Parties to the Basel Convention to adopt a legally binding decision in favour of banning ALL hazardous waste shipments from OECD to non-OECD countries, including those

destined for "recycling" or "recovery", at the next Conference of Parties, in March 1994;

2. CALLS UPON the countries currently blocking a ban on hazardous waste exports from OECD to non-OECD countries immediately to support such a ban;
3. WELCOMES the call by the 1993 South Pacific Forum to prohibit the import into the region of hazardous wastes;
4. CALLS UPON all States and organizations to give their support to the proposed Pacific region ban on the import of hazardous wastes;
5. CALLS UPON all countries, but especially OECD countries, immediately to take steps to reduce to a minimum or eliminate the generation and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes to all countries, as called for under the Basel Convention;
6. CALLS UPON all States to ratify the Basel Convention, and support a ban on hazardous waste exports from OECD to non-OECD countries, as soon as possible;
7. REQUESTS the Director General:
 - (a) to forward this Recommendation to the Basel Convention Secretariat for distribution and inclusion in the Minutes at the next Basel Conference of Parties in March 1994;
 - (b) to send a letter to all the Presidents of relevant States, including those of Central American countries urging them to remain vigilant and not to waver in their refusal to accept these wastes; furthermore, that the entry of waste qualified as "sale of used items" be revised in order to avoid the clandestine entry of waste, as occurs with clothes, tyres, electrical domestic appliances, etc;
8. RECOMMENDS all member NGOs of IUCN to remain vigilant in view of the recent events related to such waste that have occurred in some countries.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by a show of hands. On behalf of the State members delegations present from the European Union, the State member delegation for Greece stated that the delegations of the European Union Member States present had abstained, since the EU would ratify the Basel Convention on 6 February 1994 and since the EU's own provisions on this matter were more rigorous than the Basel Convention. However, the delegation for the State member Denmark indicated that the delegation had voted in favour of the Recommendation. The delegations for the State members Australia, Canada, Norway and United States indicated that they had abstained.

19.32 Nuclear Weapons and Trade

RECALLING UN General Assembly Resolution 47/47 on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and welcoming the agreement by many nations to begin negotiations of such a treaty;

NOTING with alarm the continued testing of nuclear weapons and contamination of the biosphere with radioactivity from these tests;

WELCOMING the decision by the Russian Federation and the United States of America to impose a moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons;

CONGRATULATING France on the suspension of its testing of nuclear weapons;

ALARMED at the international trade in plutonium and spent nuclear fuel since this trade adds to the potential for further nuclear weapons proliferation;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES all States to adopt a moratorium on nuclear weapons testing as a matter of urgency;
2. CALLS UPON all States to complete negotiations of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;
3. INVITES States Members of the UN Conference on Disarmament to make every effort through the Conference to take all steps for completion of negotiations of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and to urge all States to refrain from the further development of any new nuclear weapons;
4. URGES all States, particularly those nuclear weapon States which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Convention on the Ban of Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, Outer Space, and Underwater (Moscow 1963);
5. ENCOURAGES State Members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to work through the IAEA to strengthen IAEA safeguards, including inspections, to ensure that nuclear facilities capable of producing weapons grade fissionable materials are not diverted from peaceful uses to weapons use, and that commercial trade in plutonium and spent nuclear fuels is not diverted to weapons use;
6. URGES States Members of the IAEA to renegotiate its treaty purposes so that the IAEA will refrain from encouraging the peaceful uses of nuclear materials for electrical energy production.
7. URGES all States to cease the trade in plutonium.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by a show of hands. The delegations of the State members Canada, France, United

Kingdom and United States stated that although this was a matter of extreme importance, it was being handled in the UN General Assembly and was not within the mandate of IUCN.

19.33 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC)

RECOGNIZING that international trade agreements have a potentially significant impact on environmental protection and the management of natural resources in developing and developed countries;

AWARE that OECD has adopted, at the Ministerial level, a series of Guidelines on Trade and the Environment which seek an assessment of the role for environmental measures in international trade agreements, establishment of consultative mechanisms with all interest groups and a reassessment of the impact of trade liberalization on the environment;

NOTING that Agenda 21 states that governments have made a commitment to open, transparent negotiations which will ensure environment and trade policies are mutually supportive with a view to achieving sustainable development;

AWARE that the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) currently comprises 15 nations involved in ongoing discussions about regional trade, and which together account for 50 per cent of world trade among nations;

ACKNOWLEDGING that existing international trading agreements did not adequately address the concerns of the environment and sustainable development when those agreements were established;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES all governments involved in APEC to take full account of the need to protect the global environment, to promote sustainable development and to continue to examine their approaches to regional economic cooperation so that environmental considerations are integrated into APEC's activities;
2. URGES the Council to consider how best to involve IUCN in the APEC programme.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Malaysia and United States indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.34 Environmental Impact of Transnational Corporations

CONSIDERING that:

- the present model of development which is being implemented in most countries promotes foreign investment in various sectors of their economies;
- to attract such investments, governments modify their national policies, granting increasing guarantees to foreign investors;
- foreign investment is mainly designed to finance activities related to the extraction of natural resources and/or large-scale industrial processes;
- these types of activities generate, in most cases, serious environmental impacts;
- governments do not lay down environmental requirements for investments by transnational corporations;
- many transnational corporations see it as an advantage which reduces their costs that they are not required to use technologies aimed at minimizing the environmental impact of their operations, which is why they transfer their most harmful processes to other countries;

AWARE that there are transnational corporations which do not implement policies which include the minimalization of their environmental impact in countries other than that of primary incorporation;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. RECOMMENDS that all States develop environmental policies which require foreign investors to apply measures aimed at minimizing negative environmental impact, as well as at restoring environments which have been altered by the effects of their operations;
2. CALLS UPON transnational corporations to implement, within their operations, measures aimed at minimizing their environmental impact, even in countries which do not have regulations governing this situation.

19.35 Global Initiative for National Environmental Funds

RECALLING that after the IVth World Congress on

National Parks and Protected Areas, the IUCN Secretariat developed a proposal for a global initiative to strengthen national funding for environmental conservation;

RECOGNIZING that the ultimate security of biological resources, and the ecosystems which contain them, rests in the hands of the human societies which live in and around those ecosystems;

RECOGNIZING that these societies, at every level from local communities to the national, cannot act as responsible stewards of those natural resources unless they possess financial resources sufficient to allow them to take a long-term view of those resources;

CONCERNED that foreign assistance for conservation and environmental projects offers only a temporary solution to financial need and hence cannot substitute in a sustained way for a society's conscious choice to commit its own resources to environmental stewardship;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the recent efforts of many donors and international environmental organizations to create a new approach to put resources and control into the hands of societies;

RECOGNIZING that from these new approaches has begun to emerge the concept of national environmental funds, which offers promise of a qualitative change in the relationship between societies and their resource bases;

RECOGNIZING that national environmental funds can offer societies a new way to balance global and local interests;

BELIEVING that national environmental funds can provide a force for building and sustaining local capacity for natural resource management and biological diversity conservation because they can:

- provide the steady funding necessary for institutional stability and continuity of environmental programmes;
- nurture democratic traditions of accountability and participation;
- provide appropriate levels of funding which do not exceed the absorptive capacities of beneficiary institutions and agencies;
- stimulate local responsibility (at the grass roots) by providing a local source of aid;
- manage funds from multiple sources, including those coming from donor agencies, multilateral agencies, creative financial mechanisms (i.e. debt-for-nature swaps) and national sources (i.e. fees, levies, fines, etc.);
- enhance the viability of national level planning frameworks;

- enhance local capacity to plan and manage;

CONVINCED that national environmental funds have the potential to make a significant contribution to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management, and to shield these activities from local political shifts and policy changes;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON all nations concerned with making economic development more sustainable to support the wider use of national environmental funds;
2. URGES:
 - (a) all States to review and amend their laws and regulations to allow for autonomous funds to operate as charitable foundations or associations which invest capital and use income to support the efforts of NGOs, private enterprise and government agencies to manage natural resources sustainably;

- (b) industrialized nations and multilateral aid agencies to consider providing increased support through Official Development Assistance to establish new national environmental funds and to increase the resources of existing funds;

- (c) all States, international organizations and NGOs to support the efforts of operators of national environmental funds and their donors to upgrade their capacity to operate cost-effectively and accountably;

3. URGES all IUCN members to consider innovative mechanisms to finance national environmental funds;
4. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to promote the establishment of such funds through the proposed Global Initiative for National Environmental Funds.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Australia indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

F. Conservation of Biological Diversity and Protected Areas

19.36 Global Biodiversity Forum

AWARE of the rapidly growing interest and commitment of States, NGOs, and communities to save, study and sustainably use their biodiversity and biological resources, as manifested most significantly by the negotiation, signature and entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

RECOGNIZING that the successful implementation of the Convention will depend upon the full involvement of those communities that farm, fish, harvest, industrialize and aesthetically enjoy and appreciate nature and the biological resources contained therein, and that protection, inventory, study, monitoring and use apply not only to protected areas but across entire landscapes and marine regions;

APPRECIATING therefore that such community sectors as science, forestry, fisheries, agriculture, indigenous groups, NGOs and citizen organizations, industry and business are necessary allies and partners for Convention implementation;

NOTING that these sectors and communities have so far had only limited opportunities to involve themselves in policy-making and planning of biodiversity-related action, and to participate in the international debate on issues and options;

RECALLING the pioneering experience led by IUCN, the World Resources Institute (WRI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and other partners, in holding regional consultations during the formulation of the Global Biodiversity Strategy (GBS); that the GBS called for establishment of an international mechanism to foster broad-based exploration and understanding of biodiversity issues; and that consultations were held by the African Centre for Technology Studies in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 1992, and the Global Biodiversity Forum at IUCN Headquarters, in October 1993 both of which involved a wide range of communities in non-consensus dialogue about selected issues and options for implementation of biodiversity action;

NOTING the ongoing efforts of IUCN to decentralize its Programme and to strengthen its regional networks of members;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to convene a continuing series of Biodiversity Forum meetings in the regions, in partnership with members and other organizations, and to establish a Secretariat focal point within the IUCN Biodiversity Programme to facilitate the organization of meetings and provide continuity while maintaining the minimum organization and administration possible;
2. ADVISES the Director General that the Forum series should:
 - (a) analyze and debate critical ecological, economic, institutional and social issues to further the development and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Biodiversity Strategy;
 - (b) promote ratification and implementation of the Convention;
 - (c) promote incorporation of the proposals of the Global Biodiversity Strategy in international, national and local plans and activities;
3. URGES those organizing Forum sessions:
 - (a) to involve individuals from those communities that live within, utilize, depend upon, or otherwise care for wild habitats and wild or domesticated plant, animal and microbial life, building upon existing networks where these exist;
 - (b) to facilitate dialogue among these communities regarding critical issues as determined by them in that particular region, and regarding options for action, cooperation and partnership;
 - (c) to foster understanding and appreciation of the distinct perspectives and experience of the various communities, in an effort to promote evolving mechanisms for collaboration and action, without pressure to negotiate a consensus of views;

4. FURTHER CALLS UPON IUCN members and supporting agencies and institutions to work with the Secretariat in the design, organization, hosting and funding of future Biodiversity Forum sessions to ensure that this mechanism will achieve the widest possible involvement of all levels of government, independent sector groups, and international organizations, around the world;
5. REQUESTS the Director General to convene Global Biodiversity Forum sessions in conjunction with future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

19.37 Identifying and Monitoring the World's Remaining Wildlands

AWARE of the increasing interest and commitment of governments to conserve and sustainably use their wild biological resources manifest in the rapid entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

RECOGNIZING the escalating impact of development that is frequently unsustainable upon the world's remaining wildlands and wild places;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that in planning such development, the intrinsic values, both material and intangible, of the genes, species and ecosystems that comprise the existing natural land cover are often underestimated or even ignored;

AWARE that the global network of national parks and protected areas covers less than 5 per cent of the world's land surface and less than 1 per cent of the marine area, and that most of the diversity of biological resources lies in the wider landscape outside protected areas;

RECALLING that the Preamble to the Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes the requirement for the *in situ* conservation of ecosystems and habitats in their natural surroundings, and that Article 8(c) calls for the management of biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity whether within or outside protected areas;

RECALLING also the Resolution agreed at the Fifth World Wilderness Congress, Tromsø, in September 1993 which called upon IUCN to work with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the Australian National Wilderness Inventory Project and others to identify, map and monitor the remaining wilderness areas of the world;

FURTHER RECALLING the emphasis placed upon the management of biological diversity in the landscape by

the Caracas Action Plan arising from the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

REQUESTS the Director General and appropriate IUCN members:

- (a) to give greater recognition and higher priority to the identification, management and monitoring of biological diversity within the wider landscape, particularly within the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors;
- (b) in collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the Australian National Wilderness Inventory Project and appropriate agencies, and subject to the availability of adequate finance, to develop the necessary methodologies and tools that can be used by national agencies and institutions so as to build their capabilities to record and monitor the status and distribution of the world's remaining wildlands, and the impact of adverse human effects upon these areas;
- (c) to identify sites of particular significance for the diversity of their biological resources that lie outside existing protected areas, and to promote their recognition in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to be prepared by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (d) to use their best endeavours to ensure that information on the status and distribution of wildlands and significant sites is recognized and accepted by national governments and international development agencies as a contribution to more enlightened and sustainable resource use.

19.38 Targets for Protected Areas Systems

ACKNOWLEDGING the long tradition of setting targets for preserving a given percentage of national territory in protected areas, as well as utilizing frameworks and strategies for the development of protected area networks;

UNDERSTANDING the importance of protecting a wide variety of marine, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and biomes and not discounting the value of any of them;

VIEWING WITH PARTICULAR ALARM the continued disappearance of mature examples of major

biotopes including forest types in both temperate and tropical regions;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON all governments, in preparing national strategies and frameworks, to set targets for protecting substantial percentages of all the major natural regions or biomes and their plant and animal communities, within their national territories, with no communities being under-valued or under-represented;
2. URGES that these targets be set to ensure the viability of these biotopes, minimize the loss of biological diversity and reflect the need for allotting an additional margin to guard against the uncertainty of future environmental change and against the inadvertent omissions in coverage of important elements of the biota;
3. FURTHER URGES all governments to have regard to Recommendation 16 of the Caracas Congress that protected areas should cover a minimum of 10 per cent of each biome by the year 2000;
4. IN PARTICULAR URGES all governments to give priority to protecting the best examples of their major ecosystem types.

19.39 Agricultural Land

AWARE that tens of thousands of hectares of agricultural land in North America, Europe and elsewhere have been (or are about to be) withdrawn from farming because they are subject to erosion, or in order to reduce productive over-capacity;

NOTING that in certain conditions such land can make a substantial contribution to the conservation of wildlife and its habitats;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994;

URGES governments which adopt measures to take land out of intensive production to do so in ways which best help wildlife, and in particular:

- (a) to target land of highest conservation value;
- (b) to focus on sites adjacent to, or in corridors between, protected areas;
- (c) to seek to maintain such areas in conservation

management for substantial periods, for example 20 years or more;

- (d) to take other complementary measures to conserve biological diversity within the farmed landscape.

19.40 Conservation of Threatened Landscapes

RECOGNIZING that landscapes, as particular configurations of geomorphology, vegetation cover, land use and settlement patterns delimiting some coherence of natural and cultural processes and activities, are an appropriate framework for the study of many ecological processes and their interaction with human activities;

AWARE of the richness in species, scenic beauty, historical interest and recreational opportunity of landscapes throughout the world and their importance for the maintenance of biodiversity and cultural values;

AWARE also that many cultural landscapes reflect long-established sustainable systems of land use;

FURTHER AWARE of the IUCN categories of protected areas, which encompass landscapes, particularly within Category V;

CONCERNED at the degradation of such landscapes through changes in the socio-economic systems which create and maintain them;

CONCURRING in the priority need recognized in *Caring for the Earth* (Chapter 13), for the preparation and implementation of strategies and plans to use farm and range lands sustainably;

CONCURRING also with Agenda 21 (Chapter 10) in believing that Land Use Planning can greatly facilitate landscape conservation and sustainable development;

WELCOMING the development of criteria for the recognition of Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value under the World Heritage Convention;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES the Director General and IUCN members, in the context of the definitions of IUCN protected area categories:
 - (a) to take action to speed up the identification, recognition and conservation of threatened landscapes;

- (b) to promote interdisciplinary approaches between the natural and social sciences in the planning and management of threatened landscapes;
- 2. URGES the Commission on Environmental Strategy and Planning (CESP) to collaborate with:
 - (a) the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and other appropriate institutions in undertaking a pilot study to identify regionally and nationally important threatened landscapes and establish means and processes to promote their conservation;
 - (b) scientific and professional institutions to bring together researchers and practitioners to prepare case studies as a vehicle for developing strategies and methodologies for holistic landscape conservation.

19.41 Armed Conflict and the Environment

RECOGNIZING the severely detrimental effects of international and non-international armed conflict on wildlife and critical habitats as witnessed in recent conflicts;

ACKNOWLEDGING the recommendations of the Workshop on Armed Conflict at the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas (Caracas, 1992);

NOTING with appreciation the work of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) and International Council on Environmental Law (ICEL) on the responsibility of all nations to protect the environment in times of armed conflict, in particular the Final Report of Legal Experts on "Law Concerning the Protection of the Environment in Times of Armed Conflict" (Munich, 1991), and the Final Report on "Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites in Times of Armed Conflict," (Amsterdam, 1992);

RECALLING the Report of the International Committee of The Red Cross on "Protection of the Environment in Times of Armed Conflict" to the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly, which recommends, in part, that "the first step in ensuring protection of natural and cultural sites might be to draw up maps identifying them; and that IUCN and UNESCO could undertake this task";

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World

Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Director General and CEL, within available resources, to:
 - (a) continue to develop and advocate statements regarding the existing obligations of all States under international law to protect the environment in times of conflict;
 - (b) include in these statements the need for measures:
 - (i) to prevent intentional attacks on the environment, or the manipulation of natural processes causing environmental damage;
 - (ii) to prevent the inevitable destruction and damage that armed conflict generates, and the potentially serious damage from dangerous forces and potentially dangerous sites (such as oil wells);
 - (iii) for emergency pollution control;
 - (iv) to avoid damage to World Heritage Sites, national parks, protected areas and other critical habitats;
 - (v) to protect or rescue wild species in zoological gardens or wildlife parks;
 - (vi) to prohibit the use of methods or means of warfare that cause long-term and severe damage to the natural environments;
2. INVITES CEL and the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas to prepare proposals for publishing maps, sufficiently detailed to specify location of cultural and natural sites, and for providing these maps to military and civilian authorities worldwide;
3. REQUESTS the Director General to bring the Final Reports of IUCN's CEL Expert Groups, and any future statements, to the attention of the Secretary General of the United Nations and all governments.

19.42 The Conversion of Military Bases into Wildlife Conservation Areas

WELCOMING the fact that within the last ten years, the world's major powers have entered into agreement to reduce the number of military bases;

NOTING that some military bases are large in size, have undergone little environmental degradation, and often contain valuable natural habitats that support healthy and abundant wildlife populations;

AWARE that military bases already under State ownership, have been given relatively strict protection and could easily be transferred into wildlife conservation areas;

RECALLING that the IV World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas (Caracas, 1992) recommended that "all efforts be made to minimize the adverse effects of military activities, both in times of peace and of armed conflicts, while at the same time recognizing that the armed forces can make a valuable contribution to the protection and regeneration of the environment";

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES all States:

- (a) to review their existing military lands, including both marine and terrestrial training areas, to determine in cooperation with government departments, NGOs, indigenous peoples, and local communities, the value of those lands for wildlife conservation;

- (b) to consider the conversion of unused military lands that prove to be valuable for wildlife conservation, into areas managed for the conservation of wildlife;

- (c) to ensure that the public, indigenous people and local communities are informed of proposed changes to military lands and that governments take measures to address related aboriginal title issues, recognizing the legitimate rights of indigenous people and local communities;

- (d) to manage such lands with the full participation of NGOs, indigenous people and local communities, whether national, provincial or local, responsible for the management of protected areas;

2. RECOMMENDS to all States that, in converting such lands into wildlife conservation areas, provision be made for appropriate access, use or occupation by indigenous people, local communities and the public, provided this is consistent with the conservation aims of the area;

3. REQUESTS the Director General to take steps, within existing resources, to promote a productive dialogue between military and conservation interests, and to this end, to advise IUCN members on possible areas of mutual interest between IUCN and the military.

G. Conservation of Particular Biotopes

19.43 Convention on Biological Diversity and Forests

NOTING that the Convention on Biological Diversity has recently come into force;

AWARE that the Convention recognizes the intrinsic value of biological diversity and the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components;

NOTING further that a UNEP Working Panel on the Convention on Biological Diversity has recommended the need to investigate the possibility of a protocol to the Convention dealing with forest matters;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS that the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, within available resources, produce a discussion paper on the possible need for, and role of, a protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which considers biological diversity aspects of forests;
2. URGES all States to consider this discussion paper once it has been produced.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by a show of hands, after various delegations had expressed differing opinions on whether a Forest Protocol should be prepared under the Convention on Biological Diversity, or whether a separate Forests Convention was needed, or whether no such agreement should be made at all.

19.44 Water Regimes of Rivers, Floodplains and Wetlands

RECOGNIZING the productivity of rivers, floodplains

and wetlands and their consequent value to both people and wildlife;

CONSIDERING the importance of water in meeting the basic biological requirements of all species living in these areas and in maintaining the productivity and biodiversity of these areas;

NOTING that the water regimes of rivers, floodplains and wetlands include seasonal patterns of through-flow or in-flow; patterns of daily, seasonal and annual variability and predictability of flow; low flows and periods of cessation of flow; flood flows of different magnitudes, durations and recurrence intervals; flushing flows; and that rivers may be perennial or have intermittent flows;

RECOGNIZING that populations of all species that have evolved or lived for many generations in rivers, floodplains or wetlands are adapted to the natural water regime of their habitat and are, therefore, dependent on some or all of the characteristic elements of that regime;

NOTING ESPECIALLY that in areas of particularly variable rainfall or river flow the life cycles and survival of many species and ecosystems depend either on floods or on drying and wetting cycles, and that regulation of river flows or water level therefore is a serious threat to such species and ecosystems, unless important elements of the natural water regime are retained in the regulated regime;

CONSIDERING that since the tolerance of most species to alteration of water regimes is unknown and costly to determine, it is essential to take advantage of local knowledge of the water regime and of the ecosystem, to protect and manage important species and the functional integrity of ecosystems;

AWARE that many human communities have developed ways of life that depend on some elements of the natural or existing water regimes for sustainable production of food, and for many other activities;

CONCERNED that, in attempting to meet demands for water, people responsible for planning or managing water resource developments have often been unaware of or paid too little attention to the dependence of people and ecosystems on the pre-existing water regime or significant elements of it, and that this has led

to unacceptable adverse impacts on people and wildlife in many countries;

CONCERNED also that gross alterations of water regimes are not limited to large new water resource developments, but are just as inevitable through the cumulative effect of smaller developments;

RECOGNIZING that human demands for fresh water in most parts of the world are growing, that many people already face water scarcity and that it is imperative to begin managing water demand in accordance with the limitations and ecological functions of the resource;

APPRECIATING that individuals, communities and governments in many countries are attempting to contain demands for water diversion by encouraging more efficient use, and to manage water resources in ways that are socially, economically and ecologically sustainable;

SUPPORTING the activities of the IUCN Wetlands Programme that are promoting "design with nature" approaches to water resource development, such as IUCN's recommendations for water management in the Okavango Delta;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES all governments and development assistance institutions:
 - (a) to promote awareness of the principle that populations of most plant and animal species living in or near rivers, floodplains and wetlands depend on characteristic elements of the natural water regime for their survival, and that sustainable development therefore requires the maintenance or restoration of these characteristic elements for the benefit of both wildlife and local people;
 - (b) to use existing hydrological and ecological data and local knowledge to identify characteristic elements of natural water regimes as a first approximation of the water requirements of valuable native ecosystems, until detailed knowledge of the tolerance to changed water regimes of all important species in the ecosystem is available;
 - (c) to use the above information in all aspects of planning, developing and managing water resources (including existing developments, the timing and volumes of water diversions), in order to avoid significant or regular alteration of the most characteristic elements of the natural flow regimes of rivers, floodplains and wetlands;
 - (d) to encourage or require continuing improve-

ments in the efficiency of urban, agricultural and industrial water uses, particularly where the existing level of use adversely affects important ecosystems, and restore elements of the water regimes needed by these ecosystems;

- (e) to provide and document action programmes that apply these principles, in order to help all countries cope with the growing scarcity of water in all its forms;

2. REQUESTS the Director General to ensure that activities of the Union with potential to influence water resource developments, including but not limited to those under the Wetlands Programme, continue to promote sustainable approaches to water resource developments that recognize the likely dependence of both people and biodiversity on near-natural water regimes in rivers, floodplains and wetlands.

19.45 Wetlands—Wildlife Research

CONSIDERING the conclusions regarding wetland environments reached at the Second Regional Wetlands Workshop, during the Third Meeting of IUCN South American Members;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON all governments concerned to propose the realization of a new, more thorough, study for the particular case of the Parana-Paraguay Waterway;
2. CALLS UPON all governments:
 - (a) to support research projects designed to obtain basic biological information on native wetland plants and animals of commercial interest as a basis for sustainable non-traditional use and for the conservation of those which are threatened;
 - (b) to promote interaction between IUCN and governmental and non-governmental institutions in the planning and management of protected areas which include wetlands;
 - (c) to contribute to the training of specialists in wetlands, wetland restoration and the management of protected areas (through grants to participate in courses, workshops, internships, and the exchange of experts);
 - (d) to promote the creation of regional networks on wetland protected areas to encourage, *inter alia*,

cooperation in research and the training of specialists, exchange of expertise and information, and strengthening of actions to protect and conserve threatened areas.

19.46 Marine and Coastal Area Conservation

APPRECIATING that the marine realm comprises approximately 70 per cent of the Earth's surface and harbours a major share of the planet's biological wealth;

AWARE that the coastal zone is the home of an increasing majority of the world's human population and that the well-being of coastal waters including the maintenance of marine biological diversity is critical to achieving globally sustainable development;

CONCERNED that the world's oceans are subject to increasing human use and misuse which is resulting in the loss of marine biological diversity, and that growing development in coastal areas is the cause of severe impacts on the marine environment;

FURTHER CONCERNED that efforts devoted to marine conservation, including the establishment and management of marine protected areas, lag far behind those for the terrestrial environment and that present levels of resources and programmes are insufficient to address the urgency and complexity of the tasks at hand;

RECOGNIZING that the need for integrated management of coastal and marine environments has been identified as a global priority in many fora and documents including:

- the World Conservation Strategy (1980);
- *Caring for the Earth* (1991);
- Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 (UNCED, 1992);
- *Parks for Life—the Proceedings of the IV World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas* (1992); and
- *Global Marine Biological Diversity: A Strategy for Building Conservation into Decision Making* (1993);

RECOGNIZING that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) will come into effect in 1994 and may provide appropriate mechanisms for the management of marine resources, including protected areas, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that to achieve these aims will require the development of considerable management capacity by nations and institutions; substantial changes in practices for management of catchments

and coastal lands; development of conservation tools for coastal areas to safeguard sensitive and fragile habitats; and that marine protected areas will need to operate within these developing management systems;

AWARE of the support of governments and the international community for programmes which promote marine conservation involving marine protected areas and other initiatives, including:

- the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- the Man and Biosphere Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
- the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO;
- the Marine Science Programme of UNESCO;
- the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
- initiatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), The World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international organizations;

ALSO AWARE that IUCN's Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA) is promoting the establishment of a global representative system of marine protected areas to implement Resolution 17.38 of the 17th Session of the General Assembly;

NOTING that, in accordance with the revised System of Classification of Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas adopted by CNPPA following the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas in 1992, all marine areas of the world are eligible for consideration for protected area status and that in a global representative system some of these areas should be established with a wilderness classification;

NOTING the support of the Vth World Wilderness Congress, meeting in Tromsø, Norway, in September 1993, for coastal nations to establish representative systems of marine protected areas, including areas with wilderness designation, and the recommendation that appropriate international agencies establish protected areas in international marine waters including areas designated as wilderness;

ACKNOWLEDGING the publication of *Global Marine Biological Diversity: A Strategy for Building Conservation into Decision Making*, as a contribution to the Global Biodiversity Strategy, by IUCN, the United Nations Environment Programme, The World Bank, the World Wildlife Fund - US and the Center for Marine Conservation;

NOTING that *Global Marine Biological Diversity* compiles recommendations for marine conservation from

Agenda 21, *Caring for the Earth*, the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas and other fora and sources;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON governments, international agencies and the non-governmental community:

- (a) to give priority to the establishment and support of conservation programmes to achieve integrated management of coastal lands and waters, shallow sea and marine environments, addressing the long-term sustainable requirements of nations, regions and the global community;
- (b) to involve all levels and relevant agencies of government, local communities, non-governmental organizations, related industries and other interested parties in the development of strategies and the implementation of programmes;
- (c) to encourage coastal nations, where indigenous and traditional use of the sea is to be affected, to include indigenous and local people as partners in the discussions and in any substantial steps involving planning, development, management and maintenance of these areas;
- (d) to provide resources to build and support in each coastal nation, and in regional communities of nations sharing common waters, the capacity to develop and implement integrated sustainable management of coastal, shallow sea and marine environments and resources;
- (e) to provide incentives and resources to develop effective global networks of peer support to enhance management capacity and training to maximize the sharing between nations and regions of the global community of experience, research and technical information on integrated management of coastal, shallow sea and marine environments and resources to achieve sustainable development;
- (f) to define and designate responsibilities and mechanisms for marine conservation and for resolving resource use conflicts;
- (g) to encourage coastal nations to establish under national legislation representative systems of marine protected areas, including areas with wilderness designation;
- (h) to encourage, under appropriate international mechanisms, the establishment of protected areas, including areas designated as wilderness, in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

2. REQUESTS the Director General as soon as practicable and within available resources:

- (a) to implement the recommendations of the review of the IUCN Marine and Coastal Areas Programme including promotion of marine protected areas beyond the scope of national jurisdictions;
- (b) to bring to the attention of all governments, the urgent need for rapid development and application of policies and tools specifically for the conservation of their marine areas;
- (c) to implement a programme of global evaluation of policies and tools specifically for the conservation of the coastal areas of the world;
- (d) to convene a high profile workshop on the theme of marine and coastal conservation, which covers all marine aspects of IUCN's programmes, at the next General Assembly of IUCN;

3. DECIDES itself to reiterate and recommends to FAO, IMO, The World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, UNEP, UNDP, UNCLOS and other concerned organizations, the primary goal of IUCN General Assembly Recommendation 17.38:

"To provide for the protection, restoration, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the marine heritage of the world in perpetuity through the creation of a global, representative system of marine protected areas and through the management in accordance with the principles of the World Conservation Strategy of human activities that use or affect the marine environment";

4. DECIDES itself and further recommends to the above organizations that the following goal be adopted in respect to integration of the management of coastal, shallow sea and marine resources:

"To contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of coastal and marine areas and resources through the establishment and operation of effective mechanisms to manage in an integrated and anticipatory way all human activities which have impacts on coastal and marine environments and associated people";

5. RECOMMENDS that IUCN join the co-sponsors of *Global Marine Biological Diversity*, in establishing and participating in the International Marine Conservation Network as a means of promoting attention and cooperation among government, non-governmental and private organizations for marine conservation.

19.47 Marine Pollution

RECOGNIZING that there is pollution of the marine environment worldwide, but especially in areas subject to heavy maritime traffic, and that pollution by oil and its products and by toxic and noxious substances arising from human activities poses particularly serious problems;

CONCERNED that such pollution presents a significant threat to marine life, fisheries, human health, indigenous harvesting activities, tourism, recreational use of beaches and other amenities, including scenic quality;

CONSCIOUS of the need to ensure that industrial development should not, in any way, cause damage to the marine environment, jeopardize its living resources, or create hazards to human health;

RECOGNIZING the need to develop an integrated management approach to the use of the marine environment and coastal areas that will allow the achievement of environmental and development goals in a harmonious manner;

CONSIDERING that States with a merchant fleet carrying oil and its products or harmful or noxious materials have an especial responsibility for the conduct of their ships and for safeguarding the marine and coastal environments adjacent to the routes they use;

RECOGNIZING that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) will come into effect in 1994 and contains important provisions for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution of the marine environment;

AWARE of the existence of international conventions to protect the marine environment from pollution, and especially to prevent the discharge of oil and other noxious substances at sea, and of calls for stronger measures to abate and combat marine pollution from ships;

ALSO AWARE of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) recommendations for the adoption of voluntary guidelines for ballast water treatment;

NOTING that the spread of toxic dinoflagellates and other organisms has been linked to the discharge of ballast water from ships, that serious damage has been caused to marine ecosystems by the introduction of foreign organisms in this way, and that further damage is likely to occur;

AWARE that the discharge of ballast water is not at present subject to any internationally binding controls, and that the adoption of such controls is called for in Agenda 21;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON all States to take positive steps to prevent marine pollution;
2. CALLS UPON all those States that have not done so to consider accession to the various international conventions, and to follow recommendations regulating the carriage of potentially harmful substances by ships and preventing the pollution of the marine environment from ships;
3. CALLS UPON all States with merchant fleets to ensure that their vessels comply with international conventions and recommendations relating to the control of oil pollution, and vessel standards, operations and training and certification of crews, all of which are needed to reduce accidental spillage at sea;
4. STRONGLY URGES all States to study and implement, within the framework of IMO, appropriate legal instruments and other means to control the discharge of ballast water and so limit the spread of organisms by this route, *inter alia*:
 - (a) requiring the certification of the point of origin of ballast waters prior to discharge;
 - (b) making the owners or charterers of a vessel legally liable for any damage caused by the introduction of foreign organisms from ballast waters;
5. CALLS UPON all States, and especially those with a merchant fleet, immediately to implement the IMO interim voluntary guidelines to control the discharge of ballast waters, and particularly to ensure that ships for which they are responsible do not wash out ballast tanks in coastal waters;
6. ENCOURAGES IMO in its efforts to develop ballast water treatment technology;
7. CALLS UPON IMO to initiate discussions to develop a system of compensation for damage to ecosystems and wildlife by oil and other discharges from vessels, so that the affected States may immediately initiate steps to redress the damage;
8. REQUESTS the Director General to bring this Recommendation to the notice of all governments, the International Maritime Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus after a series of amendments to Operative Paragraph 4 were rejected by a show of hands. The delegation of the State member Denmark indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained because of difficulties of implementing the Recommendation.

H. Conservation of Species

19.48 IUCN Red List: Categories of Threat

RECOGNIZING the wide international acceptance of IUCN's Red List categories for threatened species;

EMPHASIZING the need for IUCN to continue its role of providing, on a regular basis, an authoritative global assessment of the status of species of the very highest conservation concern through the IUCN Red List;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Red List categories currently being used by IUCN are subjective and open to differing interpretations;

RECOGNIZING that recent advances in the understanding of extinction dynamics provides some solutions to the problems of subjectivity and differing interpretations;

APPRECIATING the work carried out by the Species Survival Commission (SSC) to develop new definitions and criteria for assigning species to the Red List;

AWARE also of the extensive comments received from IUCN members and individual experts around the world on the proposed criteria and definitions;

RECOGNIZING that for many species there may be inadequate information to make a direct or indirect assessment of their risk of extinction;

ACKNOWLEDGING that development of criteria is an ongoing process, anticipating that the criteria will be subject to amendments and improvement as necessary to validate the criteria for all taxa;

STRONGLY EMPHASIZING that the fact that a particular species has not yet been designated in any threatened category does not signify or imply that protective conservation action may not be appropriate or necessary;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the SSC, within available resources, to complete the development of the new criteria for assigning species to the IUCN Red List as soon as

practicable, taking full account of the comments made at the 19th Session of the General Assembly;

2. EMPHASIZES that the criteria and definitions should:

(a) be consistent with a precautionary approach, so that in cases of uncertainty between two possible listings, no species is listed in the lower category of threat unless there is sufficient evidence that this designation is appropriate;

(b) clearly identify taxa which would be considered threatened if not for the existence of current, specific conservation measures for those taxa;

3. ENCOURAGES the Chairs of IUCN Specialist Groups and other qualified individuals to assist in validating the criteria for different taxa and, where appropriate, to offer comments for their improvement;

4. REQUESTS the Director General and the Chair of the SSC, within available resources:

(a) to ensure that the comments of IUCN members and the Chairs and concerned members of the Specialist Groups are obtained on the most recently proposed criteria, noting in particular their comments on the following:

(i) the appropriateness of applying a single set of criteria to different taxa and mechanisms for resolving problems unique to particular types of organisms, including marine taxa with planktonic larvae;

(ii) the appropriateness of the current threshold levels for different categories of threat;

(iii) practical difficulties in applying the criteria;

(b) to consider such comments and to revise the criteria, as appropriate, before submitting them to Council for formal adoption;

(c) to have new versions of the IUCN Red List for both plants and animals prepared using the new criteria as soon as possible;

- (d) to seek the necessary resources for the publication and dissemination of the new lists;
- (e) to establish a continuing process for revising the criteria periodically as may be appropriate, in response to new information obtained through the validation process or other credible sources.

19.49 International Trade in Wild Birds

RECALLING Recommendation 18.39 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly on the Taking of Wild Birds for the Pet Trade and noting the report issued by the Director General (Addendum 2 to General Assembly Paper GA/19/94/3) discussing progress made and remaining problem areas;

RECOGNIZING AND ENCOURAGED that the CITES Secretariat, the CITES Animals Committee and some countries have taken steps to improve the management of the trade;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that some countries heavily involved in international bird trade do not have functioning, independent Scientific Authorities and are not fully implementing CITES Article IV;

FURTHER CONCERNED that international trade continues in some bird species at levels which may be detrimental to the survival of those species throughout their respective ranges;

AWARE that the International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines on the shipment of live birds frequently remain unenforced and concerned that most countries have not adopted these guidelines as law;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CONGRATULATES those exporting and importing countries involved in the international trade in wild birds that have taken steps to improve the management of the trade;
2. STRONGLY URGES all countries allowing commercial exports that have not already done so to prepare and adopt clear policy frameworks on the bird trade, and to implement management programmes to ensure that all trade of wild-caught birds is conducted on a sustainable basis, for example, by establishing incentives for conservation of species and their habitats, establishing quotas, monitoring wild populations and adapting management actions as appropriate;
3. STRONGLY URGES all governments allowing commercial imports of bird species listed on CITES Appendix II to permit such imports only when they meet the following criteria:
 - (a) the country of origin of the specimen is implementing CITES, particularly with respect to the establishment of a Scientific Authority, the requirements of Article IV of the Convention, and any remedial measures recommended under the authority of the Conference of Parties with respect to that species;
 - (b) the methods of capture, transport and maintenance of the species minimize the risk of injury or damage to health;
4. FURTHER URGES that where exporting and importing countries have evidence that current levels of trade would threaten species (other than those already listed on Appendix II of CITES), they should consider appropriate controls and should submit proposals to the next Conference of the Parties to CITES for appropriate listing;
5. SUPPORTS the continuation and expansion of the CITES significant trade review process and urges all countries to implement resultant CITES recommendations promptly;
6. REQUESTS the donor community, and in particular importing countries, non-governmental organizations and entities which are deriving commercial benefit from the wild bird trade, to provide financial and technical assistance to exporting countries to assist them in developing management programmes to meet the requirements of CITES Article IV;
7. URGES all countries, with effect from 1 January 1996:
 - (a) to cease the import of CITES-listed birds from any country until that country has met the criteria in Paragraphs 2 and 3; and
 - (b) to cease the export of CITES-listed birds until the criteria in Paragraphs 2 and 3 have been met;
8. URGES all governments involved in the international trade in wild birds to review their current laws and develop new laws as required to regulate the holding and international transport of birds, using the IATA guidelines as minimum standards;
9. FURTHER URGES all governments to ensure that captive-bred CITES Appendix I birds be identified by appropriate techniques prior to permitting import or export;
10. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources and in consultation with the CITES Secretariat, to monitor compliance with the specific

recommendations of Paragraphs 2, 3 and 6 of this Recommendation and to report to the next Session of the General Assembly.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. An amendment to delete Operative Paragraph 7 was defeated by a show of hands. On behalf of the State member delegations present from the European Union, the State member delegation for Greece stated that the European Union strongly supports the Recommendation except Operative Paragraph 7, which, it feels, introduces unnecessary rigidity, especially for developing countries. Under these circumstances, it declares that its consent to the Recommendation including Paragraph 7 does not mean that the European Union will feel obliged to implement the conditions mentioned in that paragraph.

19.50 Conservation of Country-Endemic Species

RECOGNIZING that the Convention on Biological Diversity, in its Preamble, endorses the sovereignty of nation States over their biological resources;

AWARE that substantial proportions of species in most major taxonomic groups are confined in their distribution to a single country;

AWARE also that most species listed by IUCN as globally threatened with extinction are endemic to single countries;

NOTING that the survival of such species is in each case the ultimate responsibility of a single government;

NOTING also that many countries support significant numbers of species that are endemic to their sovereign territory and that further research regarding the distribution of endemic species is needed;

RECOGNIZING that Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity directs Parties to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation of their biological diversity;

RECOGNIZING also that Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires that these plans should promote the recovery of threatened species;

NOTING that endemic species are included in the indicative list of priorities contained in Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity which is referred to in Article 7 of the Convention in calling upon Parties to maintain and organize data on priority components of biological diversity;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conser-

vation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON the Director General to urge governments, especially member governments of IUCN and the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to give priority to actions for the conservation of threatened species endemic to individual countries, and particularly to ensure that adequate attention is given to these species in the national strategies and action plans to be prepared under Article 6 of the Convention;
2. REQUESTS the Director General and the Chair of the Species Survival Commission (SSC), within available resources, to work with IUCN members and others to assist national agencies to identify information sources on endemic species, to assimilate these in analyses appropriate to the conservation of endemic species and to encourage research on the distribution of endemic species;
3. URGES the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), SSC, BirdLife International and other agencies with data on endemic species to make these data fully available for further development by national agencies in their implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
4. FURTHER URGES IUCN, WCMC, BirdLife International and others to disseminate information on the distribution and conservation of endemic species to the scientific community and wider public.

19.51 Introduction, Translocation and Re-introduction of Species

ACKNOWLEDGING that the introduction of species to areas outside their current range can have important conservation impacts, either beneficial or detrimental depending on the circumstances;

RECOGNIZING that the ability of many introduced species to spread far beyond their area of release makes such introductions a matter of national, regional and global concern;

RECALLING the IUCN Position Statement of 4 September 1987 on this subject;

CONSIDERING that, even in the carefully planned introduction of particular species, there can be the inadvertent introduction of associated parasitic, pathogenic organisms (viruses, protozoal bacteria,

metazoan parasites, fungi), which can have serious detrimental impacts on native fauna and flora;

AWARE of the recent work of the Re-introductions Specialist Group of IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) to develop new IUCN guidelines on the re-introduction of plant and animal species, and guidelines on the rehabilitation and release of confiscated specimens of plants and animals;

AWARE also that SSC has recently established an Invasive Species Specialist Group;

NOTING that many international bodies and Conventions have also drawn attention to the importance of the issue of the translocation of living organisms, most recently in Articles 8(h) and 9(c) of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

CONCERNED, however, that examples of ecologically harmful introductions continue to occur and, on the other hand, that full use is not being made of re-introductions and restocking as positive conservation tools;

BELIEVING that internationally recognized protocols and guidelines for introductions and re-introductions could improve practice;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON governments, government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to give high priority to the prevention, by legislative devices and other means, of the introduction of alien species which are considered likely to threaten indigenous wildlife, and to the eradication or control of such species which have already become established, in accordance with the principles of the IUCN Position Statement of 4 September 1987;
2. FURTHER CALLS UPON governments, government agencies and NGOs to recognize and take advantage of the conservation benefits to be gained from re-establishing species in parts of their former range from which they have been lost, where the best scientific evidence is that conditions are appropriate for re-establishment;
3. ENCOURAGES competent authorities to engage in regional cooperation and consultation in order to predict and monitor the threats posed by alien species, to prevent or minimize negative impacts and to maximize the conservation benefits of the planned translocation of species;
4. CALLS UPON the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and IUCN to coordinate their work on the disposition, including repatriation, of confiscated specimens in line with the requirement of Article VIII of that Convention, and the IUCN Position Statement;

5. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to strengthen IUCN's involvement in this area and in particular SSC's work on:

- (a) completing guidelines for re-introductions (re-establishments) for submission to the IUCN Council for endorsement;
- (b) developing guidelines on the pre-introduction screening of species proposed for intentional introduction outside their natural range and on the control and eradication of introduced species that have become invasive;
- (c) developing guidelines for the repatriation and disposition of confiscated specimens;
- (d) ensuring that issues of risk and health associated with the re-introduction of species are fully addressed in any guidelines developed;

6. REQUESTS SSC to seek new resources to enhance the capacities of the Re-introductions and Invasive Species Specialist Group.

19.52 Protection of *Swietenia macrophylla* under CITES

RECALLING that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) currently lists some tree species on its Appendices;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Brazilian Botanical Society and the Brazilian Environmental Agency (IBAMA) have already listed *Swietenia macrophylla* as an endangered species;

RECOGNIZING that the draft IUCN *Red List of Threatened Plants of the World* lists *Swietenia macrophylla* as threatened over a significant portion of its range;

NOTING that international trade in this species has contributed to its present condition;

RECALLING that, at the last CITES Conference of the Parties in March 1992, the United States and Costa Rican Governments proposed that the Mahogany genus *Swietenia* be listed on Appendix II of the Convention;

REGRETTING that *Swietenia macrophylla* was withdrawn from the proposal;

RECALLING that, in a recent publication, *Mahogany Conservation: Status and Policy Initiatives*, leading experts from Brazil, the United States of America and

the United Kingdom strongly supported the listing of *Swietenia macrophylla* on Appendix II of CITES;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

STRONGLY URGES State members of IUCN to consider the possibility of listing *Swietenia macrophylla* on Appendix II of CITES.

19.53 Management and Protection of Mountain Ungulates belonging to the Sub-Family Caprinae

NOTING the preliminary results of the long-term efforts of two expert groups to compile data on the current status of the mountain ungulates belonging to the sub-family Caprinae;

AWARE that the Caprini Working Group of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation has finished its data collection, which began in 1989, including taxonomy, distribution and abundance of Caprinae and which it will soon publish under the title *Caprinae Atlas*;

AWARE also that the IUCN/SSC Caprinae Specialist Group has finished its global survey of the distribution and status of Caprinae as part of its Action Plan, which began in 1988 and which will soon be published to present the conservation needs of Caprinae in each country;

RECOGNIZING that:

- whereas the taxonomy, status and ecology of the species living in Europe and in North America have been the object of detailed studies, there is only limited information on other species, especially for those populations in the remote mountains of Asia, although these data are vital for both biological and legal reasons;
- there remain several unresolved taxonomic questions regarding especially the subspecies of Argali

Ovis ammon, and there is limited information on the current distribution and status of most populations;

- in the former Soviet Union (FSU) several populations of Caprinae, including some taxa listed in the former USSR *Red Data Book*, are threatened in consequence of current armed conflict, regional disorder and food shortages in several States;
- within the sub-family Caprinae, the Argali are the most valuable trophy species to foreign hunters, and their economic value is now well recognized by local people;
- this general situation, combined with the fact that important international agreements for the protection of species (notably CITES) have been signed by the former USSR but not by all the successor States, has unfortunately provided the ideal conditions for the uncontrolled and rapid development of foreign hunting programmes which do not all respect the principles of sustainable use;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to support the efforts of the two Caprinae expert groups to encourage, promote, plan and finance studies on the taxonomy and biology of Caprinae from Asia;
2. URGES the CITES Secretariat:
 - (a) to contact the States of the FSU and to encourage them to adopt CITES as a legal instrument for nature conservation within their borders;
 - (b) to cooperate with and use the work and expertise of the two Caprinae expert groups for dealing with taxonomic problems and studying the situation of Caprinae in the successor States of the FSU with the particular aim of assisting the resource managers of those States in their management of the species in accordance with the concepts and practices of sustainable use.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Norway and United States indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

I. Sustainable Uses of Wildlife

19.54 Sustainability of Nonconsumptive and Consumptive Uses of Wild Species

ACKNOWLEDGING the great interest in the sustainable use of wild species as a conservation tool;

RECALLING that both the World Conservation Strategy and *Caring for the Earth* emphasize that wild species should be conserved for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of people;

NOTING that uses of wild species involve plants as well as animals, and that uses may be consumptive and nonconsumptive;

NOTING further that the development of guidelines for ecologically sustainable use does not imply, where existing range State legislation sets an effective standard of protection for a specific wild species within that State, that such protection should be removed;

AWARE that numerous cases exist where wild species are not being used sustainably and that these undermine conservation and public confidence in arguments for sustainable use;

RECOGNIZING the extensive work carried out by the IUCN/SSC Specialist Group on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species and the IUCN Sustainable Use Programme to prepare draft Guidelines for the Ecological Sustainability of Nonconsumptive and Consumptive Uses of Wild Species as called for in Recommendation 18.24 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

AWARE, however, that a meeting of the IUCN/SSC Specialist Group on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species and the Workshop on Sustainable Use of Living Natural Resources recommended that the Guidelines not be adopted by the General Assembly, but instead be tested and revised in consultation with a wide range of IUCN members;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REAFFIRMS that Recommendation 18.24 defines IUCN policy and is the basis for all relevant IUCN

decisions on the sustainable use of wild species, and that this policy is an integral part of the Mission of the Union;

2. URGES all States to ensure to the extent possible that any use of wild species is ecologically sustainable;
3. REQUESTS the Director General and the Chair of SSC, within available resources, and in cooperation with the members of the Union and interested governments:
 - (a) to test the draft Guidelines in the context of enhancing the conservation of species and habitats;
 - (b) to ensure that the revised guidelines take into account *inter alia* the different socio-economic, cultural and legal conditions that prevail in different parts of the world;
4. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:
 - (a) to provide revised draft Guidelines for consideration at the 20th Session of the General Assembly;
 - (b) in cooperation with members and Commissions, to strengthen the IUCN programmes concerned with ecologically sustainable use:
 - (i) to take a lead in communicating the role and importance that ecologically sustainable use of wild species can have in conserving biodiversity;
 - (ii) to work, as a priority, with governments to correct situations in which wild species are being used unsustainably.

19.55 Sustainable Marine Fisheries

RECALLING Recommendation 18.33 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

RECOGNIZING the call in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 for States to commit themselves to the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources on the high seas (para. 46) and marine living resources under national jurisdiction (para. 75);

NOTING the statement in Agenda 21 that many fisheries under national jurisdiction face mounting problems including local over-fishing, unauthorized incursion by foreign fleets, ecosystem degradation, over-capitalization and excessive fleet sizes, undervaluation of catch, insufficiently selective gear, unreliable databases and increasing competition between artisanal and large-scale fishing and between fishing and other types of activities;

AWARE of expressions of concern over perceived examples of fishing at unsustainable levels, such as the Chatham Rise orange roughy fishery in New Zealand;

NOTING that marine fisheries internationally have reached a plateau of a reported 90 to 100 million tonnes of fish and shellfish per year with limited possibility for increased supplies, except from aquaculture;

AWARE of the work of FAO on the precautionary principle of fisheries management and of the current negotiating text from the Chair of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

RECALLING the principles in Article II of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources;

NOTING the imminent entry into force of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and acknowledging its provisions with respect to the conservation and management of living resources;

TAKING NOTE of the Declaration of Cancún adopted at the International Conference on Responsible Fishing held from 6 to 8 May 1992;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS on all States and regional fisheries organizations to apply the precautionary principle when adopting fisheries conservation and management controls, and
 - (a) to take preventative conservation measures where there are threats of irreversible significant damage to fish stocks of associated or dependent species;
 - (b) to maintain or restore fish stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yields;
 - (c) to prevent the decrease in fish populations below levels which ensure stable recruitment;

(d) to maintain biological diversity;

(e) to manage fisheries so that populations of harvested, dependent and related marine organisms are maintained at levels consistent with their roles in the ecosystem;

2. URGES States and regional fisheries organizations to ensure fishing is carried out only on the basis of sound ecologically sustainable practices;
3. URGES States and regional fisheries organizations to ensure effective monitoring and enforcement of applicable fisheries conservation and management rules and to collaborate and cooperate to these ends;
4. URGES States and regional fisheries organizations to promote and enhance the collection of data necessary for the conservation and sustainable management of fish stocks, including dependent and associated species, and to cooperate to this end;
5. CALLS on States to adopt sufficiently stringent measures to allow the recovery of over-exploited long-lived species to a biomass that will at least sustain the maximum sustainable yield.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.56 Global Fisheries

CONSIDERING that, owing to inadequate management and over-fishing, global fish stocks have reached a dangerously low level and that, according to a report in 1990 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), virtually every commercial species has been “depleted”, “fully exploited” or “over-exploited”;

NOTING that FAO concluded in 1993 that “excessive fishing is endangering the very sustainability of high seas fisheries resources”;

NOTING also that the size of the world’s deep-sea fishing fleet has grown to more than a million medium to large boats, costing far more than the revenues generated and causing the global deep-sea fish industry to become unprofitable and dependent on government subsidies;

AWARE that in many coastal states fishing communities, traditionally dependent on fishing for food and livelihoods, are jeopardized by industrial scale, offshore fisheries, and that in various instances such interactions not only lead to over-exploitation of fish

stocks and damage to ecosystems, but also to unemployment of workers in small-scale fisheries and social disruption of artisanal fishing communities;

AWARE that, as a follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the United Nations has called for a Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which should give its final report to the UN at its 49th General Assembly in 1994;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. EMPHASIZES the importance of sustainable management of natural resources in the High Seas and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs);
2. CALLS UPON all governments:
 - (a) to base their procedures for future fisheries development and management on the precautionary principle;
 - (b) to agree that fisheries management at a minimum shall include a method for the calculation of total allowable catches, effective monitoring, control and enforcement mechanisms and that all States should submit to dispute settlement;
 - (c) to take responsibility for the conservation and protection of the habitats of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks and their associated and dependent species, on both the high seas and within EEZs, with due regard to the precautionary principle;
 - (d) to incorporate these and other reforms in legally binding measures and enforcement mechanisms;
 - (e) to ensure that decision-making processes for the management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks provide for consultation with, and broad participation by, affected parties and NGOs in conformity with the recommendations in Agenda 21;
 - (f) to resolve outstanding differences over the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and give particular focus to executing UNCLOS paragraphs relating to marine living resources and the protection of the marine environment;
3. CALLS UPON fishing nations to end subsidies to their deep-sea fishing fleet in order to reduce the overcapacity in global deep-sea (off-shore) fisheries and give priority to small, artisanal coastal fishing;
4. REQUESTS the Director General to communicate this recommendation to the UN, FAO and all relevant State members.

19.57 The Northwest Atlantic Offshore Fishery

AWARE that several fish stocks have severely declined in the northwest Atlantic Ocean from over-fishing and recent harsh climatic conditions;

RECOGNIZING that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was developed, in part, to conserve marine wildlife and to establish exclusive rights for States to manage fishery resources within 200-mile economic zones off their respective shorelines;

ALSO AWARE that UNCLOS is considered to be customary international law with respect to fishing, although it is not yet a legally binding agreement;

EMPHASIZING that conservation and management measures inside and outside 200-mile economic zones should be consistent;

CONSIDERING that offshore fishing in the northwest Atlantic Ocean should be limited to States adjacent to offshore waters and to those States who have fished traditionally in the waters, as outlined by UNCLOS;

RECOGNIZING that the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) is responsible for setting quotas, based on good conservation principles, for States fishing in the northwest Atlantic Ocean, and that NAFO member governments have all agreed to comply with the annual quotas set by that organization;

AWARE that Canadian government surveillance flights and fisheries inspection vessels have observed boats from non-NAFO member States, in particular from "flags of convenience" States such as Panama, Honduras and Belize, fishing just outside Canada's 200-mile zone;

CONCERNED that NAFO quotas should be reduced if catches are found to be adversely affecting fish stocks within the area regulated by NAFO;

RECOGNIZING that where current measures are not leading to recovery of stocks, within the NAFO regulated area, additional restrictions should be implemented, not excluding consideration of a complete moratorium;

AWARE that the United Nations is considering a legally binding draft Convention on the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks on the High Seas and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on the High Seas;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES non-NAFO member countries immediately

to halt all fishing operations in the area regulated by NAFO;

2. ENCOURAGES the United Nations quickly to adopt an appropriate legal instrument on the conservation and management of straddling and migratory fish stocks on the High Seas that would ensure effective enforcement, surveillance and dispute settlement mechanisms, to regulate fishing practices and prevent over-fishing on the High Seas;
3. RECOMMENDS that NAFO reduce fish quotas if catches are found to be adversely affecting the conservation of any fish species or adversely affecting the conservation of fish stocks within its regulatory area;
4. URGES NAFO to take additional measures to ensure a recovery of cod stocks.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by a show of hands after various amendments had been considered. The delegation of the State members Australia and Sweden indicated abstentions, as did the delegation of the State member Greece on behalf of the delegations of the Member States present of the European Union.

19.58 Competitions Promoting the Indiscriminate Taking of Species

RECALLING Recommendation 18.24 adopted at the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

NOTING the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly Article 10 on sustainable use of components of biological diversity;

CONCERNED that competitions promoting the indiscriminate taking of species usually take place in the absence of any management plan for that species or that region, and that the species are usually taken without prior verification of their legal and conservation status, substantially disturbing habitats and leading to the disruption of populations of those species;

ACKNOWLEDGING that competitions conducted according to the principles of sustainable use have the potential to contribute significantly to local economies;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. DECIDES that competitions promoting the indiscriminate taking of species on the basis of highest

overall combined weight, greatest overall number, and/or the greatest number taken per unit time, are not in conformity with IUCN policy on sustainable use of wildlife when they are carried out without regard to the conservation status of those species and promoted in the absence of any management plan for the species taken;

2. REQUESTS IUCN members to use all appropriate means, including the production and adoption of legislation, to regulate this practice in conformity with the principles of sustainable use of wild species.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Norway and Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.59 The Sustainable Use of the South-East Pacific Marine Resources

RECALLING that Recommendation 17.38, of the 17th Session of the General Assembly established a policy for the development of a global system of marine protected areas;

AWARE that in the South-East Pacific, there are very special oceanographic conditions due to the complex system of currents and the interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere;

FURTHER AWARE that these oceanographic conditions generate a productivity universally recognized as one of the most important in the world, and a large biological diversity;

RECOGNIZING that the phenomenon of El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is intermittently present in this region and causes important changes in the oceanographic and climatological parameters and, ultimately, in the ecological systems;

AWARE that the coastal zones in this region are subject to various impacts from the increases in population, industrialization and fishing activities, as well as the pollution arising from such situations;

WELCOMING the fact that the Member States of the South-East Pacific Permanent Commission (Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile) have established a South-East Pacific Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas with the purpose of preserving the biological diversity of the area;

APPRECIATING that the Government of Ecuador has taken significant steps towards preserving and

managing the Galapagos Islands, one of the marine and coastal areas of greatest natural, scientific and educational value; despite the interest shown by markets outside the region in exploiting non-traditional resources which involve fishing systems that create a permanent threat to the fragile coastal marine ecosystems; and, that the process has included the approval of a Marine Resources Reserves Management Plan that consolidates and integrates management from a coastal marine point of view;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. CONGRATULATES the Governments of Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile on their initiatives in creating the South-East Pacific Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas and recommends that they give the utmost attention to implementing action designed to consolidate that Network;
2. CALLS UPON the national governments of this region:
 - (a) to strengthen and extend the South-East Pacific Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, to preserve biological diversity and enable samples from existing ecosystems to be maintained;
 - (b) to harmonize the policies of the respective countries which facilitate sustainable fishing, especially of the common resources which migrate through the waters of this region;
 - (c) to initiate the procedures necessary to ensure that some areas which are biologically more important in terms of biodiversity and productivity can be considered for designation as Biosphere Reserves and also begin studies in areas in which they are required due to a lack of knowledge;
 - (d) to implement existing management programmes, and support preparation of such in areas where they do not exist, and by means of these planning processes seek extensive knowledge of the existing natural resources in such protected areas and structure uses in order to foster sustainable development;
 - (e) to design and develop environmental education courses for local authorities, inhabitants, artisanal fishing populations and corporations aimed at helping them to understand the importance of sustainable development and the role that protected areas can play in such cases; and encourage these groups of people to consider such areas as their own projects and worthy of protection;

- (f) to carry out thorough studies on the present state of the marine and coastal zones, and subsequently propose levels of use and their environmental management;
 - (g) to request the technical and financial cooperation of the international institutions involved in the marine environment, such as UNESCO, FAO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, the European Union and others that are aware of the need to protect marine and coastal areas, for the preparation of management plans, coastal management studies designed to promote regional and technical cooperation and the training of personnel to work in these reserves;
 - (h) to continue supporting regional studies on the phenomenon of El Niño (ENSO) to gain increasingly better knowledge of its positive and negative impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems and to obtain prior forecasts on its presence;
3. ENCOURAGES sub-regional governments to consolidate their coastal marine conservation efforts, by implementing management plans for protected coastal marine areas, and in particular for the Galapagos Marine Resources Reserve, through the use of resources generated by the protected or other areas;
 4. CALLS UPON international organizations to reinforce their technical and financial support.

19.60 Mediterranean High Seas Driftnets

RECALLING that Article 128 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) establishes the need for cooperation among the States around closed and semi-enclosed seas;

RECALLING that Article 117 of UNCLOS reads "All States have the duty to take, or to co-operate with other States in taking such measures for their respective nationals as may be necessary for the conservation of the living resources of the high-seas";

RECALLING that the UN General Assembly, in Resolution 44/225, has referred to large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing as a "highly indiscriminate and wasteful practice";

RECALLING Resolution 46/215, adopted by consensus at the 46th Session of the UN General Assembly in

December 1991, calling for a global moratorium on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the High Seas of the world's oceans and seas including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas by December 1992;

AWARE of the fact that an increasing number of fleets operate unmonitored and without control on international waters of the Mediterranean Sea;

NOTING that no effective, precautionary and legally binding multilateral conservation regime to regulate high seas fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea has yet been established;

EXPRESSING with concern that the few conservation and management recommendations proposed or adopted by the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) are for the most part ignored;

EXPRESSING concern at the growing presence of industrial fleets flying flags of convenience;

EXPRESSING grave concern over the continued use of large-scale driftnets in the Mediterranean Sea by a fleet of approximately 720 vessels deploying nets of average 10km length in violation of UN Resolution 46/215, and of EC Regulation 345/92, which prohibits the use of driftnets longer than 2.5km;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994;

1. URGES all governments bordering the Mediterranean Sea urgently to negotiate a legally binding international regime for high seas fishing in international waters that would, *inter alia*, set strict environmental standards for high seas fishing and institute regional mechanisms to ensure the enforcement of regulations;
2. CALLS for the immediate implementation of the moratorium on all large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing as called for in UN Resolution 46/215.

19.61 By-Catch of Non-Target Species

RECALLING Recommendations 18.35 and 18.36 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

ALSO RECALLING the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), including Article 119(b), relating to the obligation of States to consider the effects of fishing operations on species associated with or dependent upon harvested species with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such associated

or dependent species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

AWARE that fisheries often incur a by-catch of marine mammals, reptiles particularly turtles, seabirds and other species, which may significantly reduce the breeding populations of these species and increase the risk of irreversible damage to them;

CONCERNED in particular that for a number of marine species, including the vaquita and wandering albatross, current rates of by-catch appear to be seriously threatening the reproduction, and possibly even the survival, of the species;

NOTING that in many cases little information is available from commercial fishing operations with which to assess the magnitude of by-catch of non-target species;

RECOGNIZING the progress made by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in greatly reducing the mortality of dolphins incidental to the purse-seine fishery for yellowfin tuna in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean;

APPRECIATIVE of the withdrawal of several distant water fishing nations from large scale driftnet fishing on the high seas, in compliance with Resolutions 44/225, 45/197 and 46/215 of the UN General Assembly;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994;

1. CALLS UPON all coastal and fishing States and regional fisheries organizations to implement or enhance data collection, monitoring and reporting on by-catches of non-target species including seabirds, marine mammals, reptiles particularly turtles, and other species in their respective fishing operations, both within Exclusive Economic Zones and on the High Seas;
2. URGES scientists from coastal States, distant water fishing nations and regional fisheries and wildlife conservation organizations to share data and conduct analyses of the impact on non-target species as a component of target fisheries assessments;
3. SUPPORTS cooperation by States and regional organizations to develop or improve devices, including modifications of fishing practices, to minimize catches of non-target species, especially where non-target species are threatened;
4. URGES organizations and States to require fishing vessels to adopt all reasonable measures to minimize the by-catch of non-target species, including if necessary limiting the catch of target species, to maintain dependent species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

5. URGES the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks to develop a convention to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of fisheries including measures to minimize the by-catch of non-target species.

Note. An amendment to replace "a convention" in Operative Paragraph 5 by "an appropriate legal instrument" was rejected by a show of hands. The Recommendation was then adopted by consensus. On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, the delegation of the State member Greece indicated that had there been a vote, the delegations of those States present would have abstained; they were fully in favour of the objectives of the Recommendation but could not accept the agreed wording of Operative Paragraph 5. The delegation of the State member Denmark (a Member State of the European Union) asked that its reservation along these lines also be noted. The delegation of the State member Norway indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.62 Marine and Fresh-water Mammal By-Catch in Fisheries

RECALLING Recommendations 18.35, 18.36 and 18.38 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

RECALLING also that the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Sea calls upon the States Parties to adopt all reasonable measures to minimize by-catches of small cetaceans;

NOTING with concern that in some areas small cetaceans and pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) are caught in large numbers by fishing vessels;

CONCERNED by the continuing mortality of marine and fresh-water mammals in many fisheries globally, including Hooker's sea lion (*Phocartos hookeri*) in the New Zealand Auckland Island squid fishery, the New Zealand fur seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*) in the New Zealand hoki fishery and fresh-water dolphins in the riverine systems of China, India and South America;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES States to adopt controls, including technical management measures and codes of practice which will significantly curtail the by-catch of marine and fresh-water mammals;
2. URGES States and fishing interests to promote the development and use of selective fishing gear and practices that minimize the by-catch of non-target

species including marine and fresh-water mammals.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Norway indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.63 Commercial Whaling

RECALLING the commitment of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, as stated in Recommendation 18.34 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

RECALLING the concerns expressed by previous sessions of the General Assembly regarding the lack of respect by some governments for international regulatory measures intended to ensure the proper conservation of whale stocks, including—in the International Whaling Commission (IWC)—by the use of objections and special permits and—in CITES—by reservations to listing of whale species in Appendix I;

RECOGNIZING IUCN's long-standing support for a worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling, as expressed in the World Conservation Strategy (1980) and General Assembly Recommendations in particular 17.46 (1988) and 18.34 (1990);

EMPHASIZING that nothing in Agenda 21 restricts the right of a State, or competent international organization, to prohibit, limit or regulate the use of marine mammals more strictly than is required for sustainable use, within areas under its jurisdiction or control;

AWARE that since the 18th Session of the General Assembly the Scientific Committee of the IWC has recommended a proposed Revised Management Procedure as the main scientific element of the Revised Management Scheme, which is also to include a system of observation, inspection and other safeguards;

FURTHER AWARE that the IWC at its 45th Annual Meeting in Kyoto, Japan, in May 1993, did not adopt the Procedure or any other elements of the Revised Management Scheme, and in consequence has not yet adopted a scientifically rigorous procedure for regulating commercial whaling;

FURTHER AWARE that the elements of the Revised Management Scheme, including a fully effective inspection and observation scheme for commercial whaling, have not been agreed and that other elements, such as continued protection of depleted stocks already protected under the IWC's previous management rules, as agreed in the Resolution on the Revised

Management Procedure of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the IWC (1991), should additionally be considered;

CONSIDERING also that, until the Revised Management Procedure and the other essential elements of the Revised Management Scheme have been adopted and incorporated into the IWC Schedule, the existing moratorium on the commercial killing of whales should be maintained and observed by all States;

COMMENDING the IWC for its decision taken at its 44th Annual Meeting to renew the Indian Ocean whale sanctuary for an unlimited period;

BEING COGNIZANT that there are ethical doubts about the commercial killing of cetaceans, which are shared by many members of IUCN, and that current methods for killing cetaceans cannot be considered humane;

ALSO CONCERNED by the potential risks to cetaceans resulting from oceanic environmental degradation, for example the effects of chronic pollution, and global climate change;

OBSERVING that these risks have not yet been adequately addressed by the IWC, but that at its 45th Annual Meeting, the IWC agreed to convene a special workshop prior to its 47th Annual Meeting in 1995, regarding research on the effects of environmental changes on cetaceans, in order to provide the best scientific advice for the Commission to determine appropriate response strategies;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REAFFIRMS its view that the IWC remains the appropriate global authority for the management of whales, and notes that Agenda 21 (Paragraphs 17.61(a), 17.89(a) and 17.75) recognizes the IWC as the responsible organization for the conservation and management of whale stocks and the regulation of whaling pursuant to the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, and calls on all States, including both members and non-members of the IWC, to abide by its regulations;
2. CALLS UPON all States and the IWC to maintain the current moratorium on the commercial killing of whales at least until the Revised Management Scheme, including the Revised Management Procedure has been adopted and incorporated into the IWC Schedule;
3. URGES IUCN and all IWC member States to participate actively in the IWC's planned workshop in 1994/95 on research regarding the effects of the environmental change on cetaceans;
4. CALLS UPON the relevant IWC member governments to remove their objections to IWC decisions;

5. URGES relevant IWC member governments to refrain from any further commercial whaling activities under objections to IWC decisions;
6. FURTHER CALLS UPON the relevant IWC member governments to terminate those aspects of their present programmes of research that involve the killing of whales;
7. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the Government of Brazil for the withdrawal of its reservations to the CITES Appendix 1 listing of whale species and urges other relevant CITES member governments to withdraw their reservations to the listing of these species;
8. REQUESTS the Director General to convey this Recommendation and associated explanatory documents to the Secretary General of the United Nations, to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Secretary of the IWC and all member governments of the IWC.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus after each paragraph in the draft text was adopted by a show of hands. Proposals for three other preambular paragraphs and an alternative paragraph to Operative Paragraph 2 were rejected by shows of hands. The delegation of the State member Norway stated that though they accepted some parts of the Recommendation, they strongly opposed it as a whole. They considered that it contained incorrect information and was not scientifically based. The delegation of the State member Denmark indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained, although they could support some parts of the Recommendation. A written statement on this issue was supplied by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development. The State member United Kingdom provided a written statement on the UK's policy on commercial whaling, which is published in the Proceedings of the General Assembly.

19.64 Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary

NOTING that a majority (13) of the Member States voting at the International Whaling Commission (IWC)'s 45th Annual Meeting in Kyoto, Japan, in May 1993, supported the proposal by the Government of France that the Southern Ocean south of 40 degrees South latitude be designated as a sanctuary, in which commercial whaling would not be permitted for an initial period of 50 years, under a specific provision of the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling;

AWARE that the 5th World Wilderness Congress in

Tromsø, Norway, in October 1993, adopted a resolution urging all Member States of the IWC to support the concept of a circumpolar whale sanctuary in the Southern Ocean and also urging IUCN to reaffirm its support for the whale sanctuary;

AWARE also that the General Assembly of the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE International), meeting in Tokyo, 30 August – 1 September 1993, adopted an Action Agenda on Whaling which "... supports the proposal by the Government of France to establish a circumpolar whale sanctuary in the Southern Ocean in order to guarantee the protection of at least one biological population of each of the great whale species which are globally distributed ...";

TAKING NOTE that in a letter to the United States Congress dated 4 October 1993, President Clinton stated unconditionally that, "The United States ... firmly supports the proposed sanctuary in the Antarctic";

CONSIDERING that the concept of a Southern Ocean whale sanctuary is fully consistent with other internationally agreed actions directed to the conservation of the Antarctic continent and the surrounding ocean, including:

- the adoption in 1991 by the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty of the Protocol on Environmental Protection, which commits them "to the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems", designates "Antarctica as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science", and, *inter alia*, prohibits all activities relating to mineral resources other than scientific research for at least 50 years;
- the designation by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of most of the Southern Ocean as a Special Area with respect to marine pollution by and from ships;
- the establishment by the Commission of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) of a precautionary quota for krill fishing in accordance with that Commission's responsibility to maintain "... the ecological relationships between harvested, dependent and related populations of Antarctic marine living resources and the restoration of depleted populations ..." to high stable levels (CCAMLR, Article II);
- the consensus by the UN Conference on Environment and Development, June 1992, in AGENDA 21, Chapter 17, affirming the competence of the IWC, as the "... appropriate international organization for the conservation, management and study ..." of whales, "... to prohibit, limit or regulate the exploitation of whales more strictly than ..." is provided for in the case of non-mammalian resources both in the High Seas and, as appropriate, in water under the jurisdiction of States;

CONCERNED that any legitimization by the IWC of resumed commercial whaling for minke whales in any part of the Southern Ocean, even if the catches taken were in strict accordance with the relatively cautious Revised Management Procedure (RMP) which has been recommended by the IWC's Scientific Committee, would, by re-invigorating a virtually unlimited world market for products, especially meat from baleen whales, encourage resumption of "outlaw" whaling under flags of convenience and whaling by non-Members of the IWC which are not bound by the IWC's decisions, rules or resolutions;

FURTHER CONCERNED that, on the basis of past experience, any such outlaw whaling would lead to the killing of whale species other than minke whales, which are now all protected under IWC rules, thus reducing their capacity to recover to productive levels;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON all Member States of the IWC to support the proposal for a circumpolar whale sanctuary in the Southern Ocean;
2. URGES the governments of all States active in the Antarctic region that are not Members of the IWC to express their support to the IWC in its moves towards better long-term conservation of whales in the Southern Hemisphere;
3. REQUESTS the Director General:
 - (a) to work with other organizations represented at the Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) for the UNEP Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals in the formulation of an appropriate long-term programme for non-lethal scientific research within the sanctuary and of guidelines for non-lethal uses of whales such as ecotourism and whale-watching within the sanctuary.
 - (b) to convey this Recommendation and associated explanatory documents to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and to the Secretaries of IWC and CCAMLR.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. A proposal to delete the preambular paragraph beginning "Concerned that any legitimization" was rejected by a show of hands. A proposal to delete an additional operative paragraph was approved by a show of hands. The delegation of the State member Norway indicated that they opposed the Recommendation. The delegation of the State member Denmark indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would not have been able to support the Recommendation.

J. Conservation in Particular Regions

19.65 Conservation of South American Native Forests

RECOGNIZING that in South America there is a great diversity of forest ecosystems, ranging from the tropical to the subantarctic, which makes that continent the most diverse in this type of natural formations in the world;

CONSIDERING that the native forests of the region have a most important ecological, economic, social and cultural role;

NOTING the serious conservation situation affecting all types of forest present in the South American region due to the extension of the agricultural frontier as a result of poverty and the processes of colonization, the irrational extraction activities of national and transnational forest companies and the development, in forest areas, of other economic activities such as mining, tourism and oil extraction, without taking the necessary environmental precautions;

BEARING IN MIND that the conservation of native forests in the South American region has been the object of thorough analysis and the subject of recommendations and conclusions at the South American Members meetings of Santa Marta, Colombia, in 1991 and Paratí, Brazil, in 1992, and at the South American Regional Committee meetings in Quito, Ecuador, and La Paz, Bolivia, in 1993;

RECALLING that at the international level there is an interest in addressing the issue from a global perspective through the establishment of a Convention on Forests towards which the first step was taken with the definition of the "Forest Principles" agreed by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio, 1992);

STRESSING that an active process of replacement of native forests by forest plantations is taking place and that many plantations are established with the justification of increasing the capacity of storing atmospheric carbon dioxide, which does not conform with *Caring for the Earth*, Chapter 14, point 4, where it is stated that plantations "should be in addition to natural and modified forests and not replace them";

NOTING that the native forests of the region are mainly being used today as a source of timber only, and in most cases without any higher value-added process, which implies poor assessment of the potential value of their biodiversity and a loss of employment opportunities for the local population;

CONSIDERING that the present management of natural forests is taking place at the regional level, basically with practices that do not take into account such aspects as the protection of soil and hydrological cycles, maintenance of wildlife habitat and genetic reserves;

EMPHASIZING that in most countries of the region major processes of legislation regarding forestry activities in progress and that these are being developed under the active influence of those involved in the issue, mainly the business sector;

RECOGNIZING that the establishment of protected areas is one of the essential instruments for the successful conservation of the region's native forests but that there is inadequate representation of the forest ecosystems of South America in these protected area systems;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. RECOMMENDS that Governments establish basic principles which ensure the sustainability in ecological, economic and social terms of forest plantations so that those plantations do not affect the natural forest ecosystems and local communities;
2. URGES the Governments concerned not to replace natural forests by forest plantations but, on the contrary, to develop the natural forest resources as a predominant factor in national development;
3. RECOMMENDS the Governments of the South American region to protect actively the forest remnants of the High Andes and the Andes' western slopes, the cloud forests, the dry tropical forest of the Pacific, the subtropical moist forest, the temperate forest, the subantarctic forest and those forests that include threatened species and ecosystems;
4. RECOMMENDS the Governments of South America to implement the necessary measures so that the

management of natural forests is aimed at a multiple sustainable use of resources (commodities and services), taking into consideration the functions of the forest such as the protection of catchment areas, the regulation of fresh-water cycles, the provision of habitat for wild fauna, the maintenance of biological diversity and gene banks, and the rights of indigenous people to the restitution of their ancestral lands and the sustainable management of their forests;

5. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:
 - (a) to incorporate as a predominant subject of IUCN's work in the region, the types of native forests with the above-mentioned conservation problems and their economic development, as well as that of the forest products so that the implicit external factors in this type of evaluation be included in the analysis;
 - (b) to support through the Forest Conservation Programme the promotion, formulation and implementation by States of international legal instruments aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of the world's forests;
 - (c) to support IUCN members in the region in their task to promote the development of policies and legislation favourable to the sustainable management of forest resources;
 - (d) to recommend all IUCN members and partners to further the development of actions necessary to increase the political support to tasks aimed at bringing the Governments of the region to consider as a national priority the consolidation of the protected areas at the regional level;
 - (e) to inform the General Assembly of the actions carried out and the results obtained.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member United States indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have voted against, because of Operative Paragraph 4.

19.66 Opening of the Tapón del Darién

CONSIDERING that no current, adequate environmental impact studies have yet been undertaken for the opening of the Tapón del Darién;

AWARE that the invaluable biological, ecological, cultural, economic, medicinal and other resources of

the forest area known as Darién have been recognized in a World Heritage Site, a biosphere reserve and a national park;

CONCERNED that the management and protection of natural resources in the Darién have not yet provided adequately for the management of biological diversity and maintenance of the ecological integrity of the area;

CONSIDERING that the unique indigenous people of Darién and Chocó would suffer an immediate and severe impact from the opening of the Tapón del Darién;

RECOGNIZING that the proposed opening of the Darién-Chocó road with inadequate planning and preparation to counter its negative effects will affect not only Panama and Colombia, but also the other Latin-American countries and the world;

CONCERNED that the processes of colonization and environmental destruction caused by the construction of roads in nearby areas of Panama and Colombia have already been demonstrated to be of such magnitude that they invariably aggravate local marginalization and poverty in the short term;

CONSIDERING that it is a priority for humankind to guarantee the conservation of the Darién natural areas, given their unique biodiversity and the vital processes that take place in them, as well as their role in ultimately maintaining life on earth;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. ENDORSES fully the position of those organizations that are opposed to the opening of the Tapón del Darién;
2. REQUESTS all IUCN members to adopt this call and to act in solidarity against the construction of the proposed road;
3. FURTHER REQUESTS them to support the appeal to those governments and financial agencies involved, to carry out a detailed public study on environmental impact with the cooperation of national and international non-governmental organizations and other governmental and academic bodies. Such a study should objectively evaluate the feasibility (from various perspectives—cultural, social, technical, ecological, economic, etc.) of implementing such a road-building project. It should consider alternatives to the construction of the road, and in the event of opting for it, should specify all the required prevention and mitigation standards and measures so as to reduce the negative impact of this project in all its phases of development (planning, marking out, building, operation, maintenance, *inter alia*). The study should present a thorough account of the

commitments that governments, financial agencies, building and licensing companies, where applicable, and other organizations involved, have to make in order to enforce all suggested standards of prevention and mitigation. It should also propose the follow-up mechanisms and procedures of these commitments in full so as to guarantee that all sectors of society participate in them;

4. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:

- (a) to request the Governments and financial agencies concerned to reconsider the construction of a road through the Tapón del Darién;
- (b) to work with IUCN National Committees in Panama and Colombia to organize a public forum in which the controversial road-building project through the Tapón de Darién would be discussed and analyzed, thereby allowing both the participation of the international community and supporting the transparency of the consultation on the project;
- (c) to work with IUCN National Committees in Panama and Colombia to study alternatives to the proposed road, including an open-skies policy and ferry service between Caribbean and Pacific ports of both Panama and Colombia.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Norway and Oman indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.67 Prevention of Impact on Indian Peoples and Biodiversity as a Consequence of the Transamazonian Road between Brazil and Peru through Madre de Dios

CONSIDERING that Resolution 18.26 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly established the Biodiversity Strategy Programme in which it is stated that the many initiatives adopted by non-governmental, governmental and inter-governmental institutions are critical elements in the response to the biodiversity crisis, but manifestly insufficient in magnitude and coverage;

CONSIDERING also that Recommendation 18.49 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly recommended the conservation and sustainable use of the Amazonian forests;

RECOGNIZING that the Amazon region contains 70 per cent of the world's tropical moist forests and that these forests have immense value for all humankind in contributing to global climatic stability and as a rich heritage of biological diversity;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the sovereignty of the Amazonian countries over their natural resources, but also their global responsibility to use these resources rationally, as well as the corresponding responsibility of other nations, principally developed ones, in helping them achieve this;

NOTING WITH ALARM the recent increase in the rate of clearance of Amazonian forests and particularly the extensive fires that have occurred in forests disturbed by road-building, logging, colonization and clearance for agriculture; and that the expansion of these activities is creating fire risks in areas not normally exposed to this threat;

CONCERNED that fires in the Amazon are contributing to the present increase in levels of carbon dioxide, thereby exacerbating the greenhouse effect and accelerating global warming, with potential local, regional and global impacts;

FURTHER AWARE that forest destruction may result in a reduction in rainfall within the Amazon and that this may have repercussions on global air circulation systems, and thus on the climate of other parts of the world;

CONCERNED by the building of an inter-oceanic road between Brazil and Peru through a region inhabited by native populations with a valuable culture, including 18 ethnic groups in the Peruvian sector, and with a most important heritage of biological diversity which Peru has offered to preserve by ratifying the recent Convention on Biological Diversity;

CONSIDERING that this road could provide a demonstration of how important public works can be undertaken in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, thus avoiding the negative experiences of road-building which in the Amazon have brought more social and environmental damage than tangible benefits;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES the authorities concerned to take ecological factors fully into account, recognizing that the Department of Madre de Dios in Peru possesses one of the most splendid examples of wildlife, acknowledged by international treaties such as the World Heritage Convention (National Park of Manú), and by the United Nations through UNESCO (Manú Biosphere Reserve), as well as other important protected natural areas such as the Pampas de

Heath National Sanctuary and the Tambopata-Candamo Reserve Zone;

2. FURTHER RECOMMENDS, and considers it essential, that social and environmental impact studies be carried out with all necessary guarantees;
3. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to place at the disposal of the Governments of Brazil and Peru the expertise of IUCN in these studies and that of other institutions involved in this effort.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Norway and Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.68 The Andes

CONSIDERING:

- the great importance of the Andes and of its area of influence as a centre of outstanding biological diversity which is today greatly threatened by human action;
- the fragility of its geological composition and its soils, intensified by its mountainous relief;
- the presence of traditional cultures of great social and scientific value;
- the need for an ethical and dignified treatment of the representatives of these cultures;
- the need for an integrated approach that promotes the protection and recovery of the natural systems of the Andes and their regions of influence, combined with respect for their inhabitants who should necessarily participate actively in this effort;
- the proposal of the South American Members of IUCN regarding the development of an integrated programme for environmental conservation and sustainable development of the Andes;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

REQUESTS the Director General to support in all possible ways, within available resources, an integrated programme of environmental conservation and sustainable development of the Andes, as proposed by IUCN members in South America, and based upon planning and zoning with instruments such as sustainable development buffer zones and biological corridors between protected areas.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Norway indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.69 The Biosphere Reserve of the Alto Orinoco-Casiquiare, Venezuela

RECALLING Resolution 18.9, adopted at the 18th Session of the General Assembly, on the conservation of priority ecosystems in South America;

GIVEN that the Alto Orinoco area represents approximately 20 per cent of the Venezuelan Amazonian Region and constitutes one of the areas of greatest wealth in terms of biodiversity;

CONSIDERING the ethnocultural importance of the indigenous communities who have lived there since ancestral times, in particular the Yanomani and Yekwana ethnic groups;

NOTING the good level of current conservation of the Alto Orinoco area, which maintains one of the largest continuous expanses of tropical moist forests in the world in pristine condition;

AWARE of the ecological fragility of the area due to its edaphic, climatic, geomorphological and ethnobiological characteristics;

NOTING the interest of Venezuela in conserving and promoting a sustainable development policy in the region through the creation of the Alto Orinoco-Casiquiare Biosphere Reserve, the largest protected area in the tropics, as well as the promulgation of decrees freezing mining and forest exploitation and controlling tourism;

ALARMED by the increasing pressure to exploit the natural resources of the Alto Orinoco area in an unsustainable way, which is currently manifest in the illegal activities of the *garimpeiros* and in the attempt to implement old development plans which have already failed;

BEARING IN MIND the recommendation adopted at the third Meeting of IUCN South American Members of IUCN in Paratí, Brazil, in 1992 and confirmed by the meetings of the IUCN South American Committee in Quito, Ecuador, and La Paz, Bolivia, on the importance of this Biosphere Reserve and the need to support it;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. EXPRESSES its gratitude to Venezuela for the creation of the Alto Orinoco-Casiquiare Biosphere Reserve and for its environmental policy in the Amazon;
2. ENCOURAGES the Government of Venezuela to continue this policy in order to counter the development of actions aimed at exploiting the area's natural resources in an unsustainable way;
3. CONGRATULATES the Government of Venezuela for enforcing the provisions and actions listed in the Decree creating the Alto Orinoco-Casiquiare Biosphere Reserve and those considered in the above-mentioned environmental decrees, and ENCOURAGES the Government to involve the indigenous communities and organized civil society in the management of this protected area;
4. REQUESTS UNESCO, UNEP, IUCN and other international institutions and organizations interested in conservation to give priority to making the importance of the Alto Orinoco-Casiquiare Biosphere Reserve widely known;
5. RECOMMENDS international institutions to support technically and financially the conservation, planning and sustainable development activities which are being promoted and implemented in this Biosphere Reserve;
6. RECOMMENDS international cooperation on the creation of protected areas with the aim of reducing current pressures and improving the state of conservation of this important area in the Amazonian Orinoco.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Norway and Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.70 Biosphere Reserves in South America

CONSIDERING the importance of the UNESCO-MAB system of Biosphere Reserves for the conservation of biodiversity and for the implementation of sustainable development in South America;

NOTING that a significant system of Biosphere Reserves already exists in most countries of the region;

CONSIDERING in particular the importance of and threats to the semi-arid environments in South America and, in particular, in Brazil;

RECALLING that the Brazilian Protected Areas System

has neither sufficient nor strong enough conservation units to preserve the biodiversity of these semi-arid environments;

CONVINCED that Biosphere Reserves are the appropriate conservation instruments for environmental, cultural and socio-economic requirements;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the proposal by the South American members of IUCN, meeting in Paratí, Brazil, in 1992;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON IUCN members to promote the creation of a permanent working committee of South American members of IUCN, which, in cooperation with the Governments of the region and using established IUCN networks such as those of the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA), will sponsor the exchange of expertise between groups working in Biosphere Reserves, and will undertake to press for the ecological zoning of the South American continent and the subsequent creation of new and large reserves, in addition to being responsible for providing effective support and cooperation in the consolidation of these Biosphere Reserves;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to cooperate in the establishment of directives aimed at the implementation of a Biosphere Reserve within the UNESCO-MAB system in the semi-arid environment in Brazil's Nordeste region.

19.71 Possible World Heritage Site at Paratí, Brazil

CONSIDERING the universal importance of the historic architectonic natural setting of the Municipality of Paratí, located in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

CONSIDERING that the Brazilian official cultural system has already designated that setting as National Heritage;

CONSIDERING the wish of the inhabitants of this municipality, who are ultimately the guardians of this valuable heritage, to see Paratí recognized as a World Heritage Site;

RECALLING that the Brazilian Government and UNESCO have already recognized the region as a Biosphere Reserve;

RECOGNIZING that the meeting of IUCN South American members in Paratí, Brazil, in 1992, supported these claims;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

URGES the Brazilian authorities to assess the historic city of Paratí against the operational guidelines developed by the World Heritage Committee with a view to proposing it as a World Heritage site for its natural and cultural values.

19.72 Prohibition of Flights Over Certain World Heritage Sites in South America

AWARE that the Iguazu National Park and the Los Glaciares National Park in Argentina are World Natural Heritage Sites, and that together with the adjacent protected areas of the neighbouring countries, Brazil and Chile, form ecological entities of exceptional natural value, and should therefore have standards of management that guarantee their integrity and the conservation of their natural resources;

CONSCIOUS of the harmful effects of noise and environmental pollution generated by aircraft (helicopters, aerostats, gliders, small planes and others) in both protected areas which has caused the emigration of avifauna, altering and damaging the reproduction and evolution cycles at the expense of environmental dynamics;

CONSIDERING that the legal standards of minor importance currently in force are not implemented nor enforced by the agencies involved, which indicates the need to establish other standards of a higher level;

AWARE of the draft Resolution and Bill proposed by Argentine Senators Antonio Cafiero and Felipe Ludueña, which aim at avoiding disturbances in the World Natural Heritage Sites produced by aircraft, by extending protection to the other protected natural areas with regard to the minimum altitude of flight over such areas;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES the Argentine parliamentarians to support these projects;
2. CALLS UPON the governments of the neighbouring countries to adopt similar standards with the aim of coordinating the protection of the adjacent protected areas.

19.73 Paraguay-Paraná Waterway Project

RECOGNIZING that major hydraulic projects have caused serious and irreversible ecological and socio-environmental damage in many parts of the world;

CONSIDERING that, unless the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway Project is well-structured and planned, it may cause permanent changes in the ecosystems involved;

RECOGNIZING that the Governments members of the Waterway Committee have taken due account of the possible environmental impacts of this Project and that they have arranged for an assessment to be made so as to adopt the decisions which are shown to be advisable;

AWARE of the study made by "Wetlands for the Americas" and other documents already submitted containing valuable data and information, which draw attention, *inter alia*, to the following possible risks posed by the Waterway: modification of the hydrological regime of the basin, with a dangerous acceleration in water discharge, especially from the Pantanal in Brazil; deterioration of water quality as a result of a one thousand per cent increase in powered shipping on the water courses; reduction and modification of the wetlands affecting more than 200,000 square kilometres of the Pantanal; and loss or modification of the "sponge" effect which the wetlands exert over the entire basin;

CONCERNED by the economic as well as the environmental costs, which could greatly increase the indebtedness of the countries involved;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. APPEALS to the Government of Argentina and the Governments of Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay, to the Interamerican Development Bank and to all bodies providing partial financing or technical support for the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway Project:
 - (a) in the event that the environmental impact assessment is negative, to require the project to be modified on the basis of the results obtained in the corresponding studies and to support efforts to protect natural resources and the communities involved, including the indigenous peoples;
 - (b) to make a thorough analysis of the short-, medium- and long-term effects of the Project on ecosystems and their natural resources and on the socio-environmental conditions of the inhabitants of the zone involved;
 - (c) to issue, for public distribution and consultation of those concerned, the plans and outlines

of the Project so that errors and omissions may be noted and detected;

2. URGES the Director General and the members of IUCN to familiarize themselves with the Project, cooperating with the relevant authorities and intervening to defend the area's environment.

19.74 Conservation of the South Atlantic Coastal Ecosystems of South America

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Recommendation 18.50 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly which endorses the creation of the Inter-American Nature Conservation System for the American continents within the institutional framework of the Organization of American States;

CONSIDERING that beaches are not only the strip of land at the mercy of tides, but also include the adjacent lands that compose the landscape and include perforce the first lines of sand/dunes close to the sea;

AWARE that beaches are not stable entities, but rather dynamic soil formations, constantly subject to the forces that promote erosion and/or siltation; that changes in them are responses to processes that take place far outside the limits of the beaches themselves; and that the banks and shoals in the open sea and the currents are of special importance, as are systems on land, which govern the cycles of erosion and siltation of the beaches;

FURTHER AWARE of the presence of an unusually large number of plant and animal species whose existence depends on beaches and their dynamic processes;

GIVEN the growing deterioration of the coastal ecosystems mainly due to their mismanagement or to the lack of integrated and long-term management;

CONCERNED by the development of tourist and port infrastructures (buildings, breakwaters, piers and others) that close in the beaches destroying the sandbanks and dunes without respecting the maximum high-tide levels, reducing to the minimum and even eliminating the available space for the realization of the natural cyclical maintenance processes of the ecosystem and its resources;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the increase in number and magnitude of incidents and accidents of hydrocarbon discharges in and over the coastal areas;

ALERTED by the indiscriminate exploitation of bivalve

molluscs, which has alarmingly diminished their natural quantity and production;

AFFIRMING that the most important issue for the future of America's coastal marine ecosystems is that urgent measures of restoration and recovery of the deteriorated beaches and the maintenance of those which are not yet degraded, be taken by the local communities and the relevant authorities, modifying current behaviour at the individual, community and governmental levels;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. URGES the authorities of the Republics of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay to coordinate as of now, even before the creation of the Inter-American Nature Conservation System, joint actions aimed at avoiding the deterioration of coastal ecosystems and the reduction in diversity and quantity of their natural resources;
2. CALLS UPON these Governments to control and reduce their quotas for extraction of bivalve molluscs;
3. STRESSES the need for these Governments to implement and enforce strictly the international agreements on prevention of pollution by hydrocarbons;
4. URGES the legislative authorities to set up legal standards for public use of the coastal area from the beach to the limit of the high-tide line (300-400 metres wide), leaving the dunes and sandbanks intact and free from permanent building;
5. URGES IUCN-South America and, in particular, IUCN members in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, to promote awareness of the problem of the conservation and sustainable management of marine coastal ecosystems, creating and carrying out projects to this end, and further undertaking a strict supervision of the extractions and quotas granted by the government authorities responsible for molluscs and fish;
6. REQUESTS these Governments and urban authorities to halt the development of activities and infrastructures that affect the natural development of coastal marine ecosystems;
7. RECOMMENDS that an environmental impact study be requested for activities related to:
 - (a) the extraction of sand from beaches in general;
 - (b) electro-energetic power plants in general;
 - (c) massive use of water for industrial cooling or heating;

- (d) tourist and recreational urbanization, human settlements;
- (e) establishment of permanent human settlements;
- (f) final disposal of solid and liquid domestic waste;
- (g) building of ports and loading and unloading areas, berths;
- (h) dredging operations;
- (i) the extraction of molluscs, fish and other organisms for industrial and commercial purposes on a large scale;
- (j) installation of oil and gas pipelines and their equivalent;
- (k) establishment of fish-processing plants;
- (l) establishment and operation of petrochemical plants.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia and United States indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained, in the case of Australia because the Recommendation put obligations upon States.

19.75 Tatshenshini-Alsek River System, Canada and USA

RECALLING the Recommendation 18.46 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly, drawing international attention to the magnificence and the unique wilderness character of the Tatshenshini-Alsek watershed;

RECALLING that this Recommendation also noted the great danger of degradation and destruction to the pristine wilderness and wildlife values of this outstanding portion of the earth from a huge open-pit mine with accompanying corridors for transmitting the mineral ore;

RECOGNIZING that the Premier of British Columbia has just established a Class I Wilderness Park for the entire one million hectares of the Tatshenshini-Alsek watershed in British Columbia;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the Government of Canada, with the agreement of the Province of British Columbia, has nominated the Tatshenshini and Alsek rivers as a World Heritage Site;

AWARE that, together with the existing wilderness of the St Elias-Wrangell National Park and Preserve and Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska, and the Kluane National Park in Canada, this will be the largest international wilderness area in the world;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the Government of British Columbia and the Champagne-Aishek First Nations have indicated their intention to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding regarding their cooperation in the future management of this area;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

CONGRATULATES the Government of British Columbia, and particularly Premier Michael Harcourt, on his vision in establishing this extraordinary Class I Wilderness Park and looks forward with pleasure to the consideration by the World Heritage Committee of the Tatshenshini-Alsek as a possible World Heritage Site.

19.76 Protection of the North Pacific Marine Ecosystem

RECALLING that a significant portion of the ecologically critical North Pacific marine ecosystem along 2500km of coastline was seriously damaged by the massive Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska, in 1989;

AWARE that restoration of the damaged habitat requires protection of the adjacent northernmost North American coastal temperate rainforest bordering Prince William Sound and the rest of the oil-affected area;

RECOGNIZING that approximately US\$1.025 billion has been made available through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for the restoration of the affected habitat, and that much of this sum has yet to be allocated;

AWARE that it is essential that restoration of the coastal habitat and protection of the regional marine ecosystem be achieved as soon as possible, and before the forests are destroyed by logging;

AWARE also that the Governments of the United States and the State of Alaska have expressed commitment to restoring the environmental damage caused by the oil spill, but that negotiations with the Alaska Native landowners have become stalled;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

URGES the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council aggressively to pursue negotiations with willing land-owners in Prince William Sound and the general oil spill area to purchase land or interests in lands with the purpose of restoring and protecting the Prince William Sound coastal area and the north Pacific marine ecosystem.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Sweden and United States indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.77 North American Coastal Temperate Forests

RECOGNIZING that temperate coniferous coastal forests, and especially rainforests, constitute a very rare type of ecosystem in the world, originally covering less than one-fifth of one per cent of the earth's land surface, and that one half of the earth's original forest of this type occurs along the Pacific Coast of North America from northwestern California to southeastern Alaska;

UNDERSTANDING that many endemic and unusual plants and animals occur only in these forests and that in biomass productivity the old growth forests (ancient forests) of this biome are unequalled anywhere;

AWARE that more than one half of the Earth's original coastal coniferous forests (ancient forests) have been logged, including more than 40 per cent of the ancient forests of this type in North America, and that few large unfragmented examples of this type of forest, other than in protected areas, exist outside British Columbia and Alaska;

MINDFUL of the fact that such ancient forests on Vancouver Island and on the mid-coast of British Columbia are disappearing at a rapid rate as a result of practices that have, to date, not been ecologically sustainable;

ALSO MINDFUL that past management practices in southeast Alaska have been controversial, and that while the United States Government has enacted legislation to ensure sustainable management of all forest resources, questions continue to arise concerning the sustainability of forest management in the area;

UNDERSTANDING that the Rainforest Coalition, the Sierra Club of Western Canada and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee have proposed a large network of protected areas, including conservation corridors, in areas of such ancient forests on Vancouver Island and the mid-coast of British Columbia;

AWARE of the fact that none of the protected areas that

Canada maintains in forest areas along the Pacific Coast have been designated as World Heritage Sites under the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and that these ancient forests may be of outstanding universal value;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES the Governments of Canada, British Columbia and the United States to manage the temperate coastal coniferous forests of the Pacific Coast of North America by establishing appropriate protected areas and by adopting ecologically oriented systems of forest management which can be permanently sustained and which protect biodiversity;
2. CALLS UPON the Governments of Canada, British Columbia and the United States to expand substantially the amount of land in networks of protected areas, with connecting corridors, on Vancouver Island, the mid-coast of British Columbia and, where appropriate, in southeastern Alaska, taking into consideration the recommendations of environmental groups active in the regions such as the Rainforest Coalition, the Sierra Club and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee;
3. URGES the Government of Canada to consider nominating sites, or combinations of sites (such as networks), in these forests as World Heritage Sites under the World Heritage Convention;
4. RECOMMENDS that special efforts be made by these parties and their citizens to restore degraded parts of these forests and to secure the overall integrity of the biome by linking now separated forest stands.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member of Canada indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained, because Canada intends to take into consideration not only the recommendations of environmental groups active in the region but also the needs of indigenous people in the region (Operative Paragraph 2).

19.78 Myanmar (Burma)

AWARE OF AND ENDORSING Resolution 48.10 of the General Assembly of the United Nations regarding the "Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar",

CONVINCED that the democratically-elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi offers the best option for remedying Myanmar's environmental problems;

CONCERNED at the Government's blatant disregard for the environment throughout the country;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the planned Salween river hydro-electric dam proposed by the Government would result in the extensive flooding of forests and the relocation of large numbers of people, further compounding Myanmar's misery;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina 17-26 January 1994:

1. ENCOURAGES IUCN and its members to form cooperative alliances with environment and community groups representing Myanmar and within these alliances provide the means for environmental management and education to aid in the protection of sensitive areas;
2. CALLS UPON the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Electric Power Company of Japan and other institutions concerned to withdraw support for the proposed hydro-electric development for the Salween river, until at least a comprehensive social and environmental impact study has been completed and the affected communities have freely signified their support;
3. CALLS UPON the Director General, within available resources:
 - (a) as a matter of urgency, to undertake a study, using available sources of information, of the state of the environment in Myanmar, and to communicate the results of that study to IUCN members and the broader world community;
 - (b) to offer support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to build environmental considerations into its planning for refugee camps along Myanmar's borders and to include environmental plans as integral parts of any repatriation programmes;
 - (c) to transmit this resolution to the Government of Myanmar.

Note. This Resolution was adopted without a vote. On behalf of the European Union and its Members States, the delegation of the State member Greece declared that the European Union Member States consider that the subject of this Resolution does not come into the remit of IUCN and therefore their delegations would not participate in either the debate or any possible voting. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Thailand and Zimbabwe indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained, in the case of Norway for the same reason as the European Union. The delegation of the State member Malaysia indicated that it opposed the Resolution. The delegations of the State members New Zealand, Oman and United States asked that they be excluded from any voting.

19.79 Mining in the Fly River Catchment, Papua New Guinea

WELCOMING the activities that have occurred since the passage, without dissent, of Recommendation 18.63 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly including:

- the efforts made by the Government of Papua New Guinea since the adoption of Recommendation 18.63, including the transfer of responsibility, for the Ok Tedi Mine site from the Department of Mines and Energy to the Department of Environment and Conservation;
- the sending by IUCN of a two-person team to the Fly River catchment in 1993 leading to the preparation of a preliminary environmental assessment of development in the region;
- the passage of Proposition 12/3883 by the Federal German Parliament in 1992 expressing the Chamber's grave concern, and calling for increased environmental scrutiny and shareholder help and support to find viable solutions;
- the personal delivery of a letter from Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating to the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namiliu in 1992 expressing deep concern about the environmental and social effects of the mining operation;
- a meeting between USA NGO officials and PNG's Ambassador to the United States in 1991 to discuss and express concerns about the operation;
- the public remarks and correspondence by then Senator Albert Gore, now Vice President of the USA, expressing his concerns over the environmental damage caused by unsustainable mining projects in PNG;
- countless hours of NGO volunteers' time around the world which continues to educate the world population about the severe environmental damage caused by the Ok Tedi Mine;

RECOGNIZING that the Federal German Parliament in the above cited resolution 12/3883 explicitly states "that an environmental catastrophe is likely to occur if the mine keeps the *status quo*";

CONCERNED that Ok Tedi Mining Limited has made little progress or effort in addressing the environmental catastrophe occurring in the Fly River drainage since the passage of Recommendation 18.63 in 1990;

NOTING that the commencement of the Porgera Mining Operation, also within the Fly River drainage, is widely recognised as severely exacerbating the environmental demise of the unique and large river basin;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. FULLY REAFFIRMS Recommendation 18.63;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to increase present IUCN efforts to investigate the situation and help procure worldwide monetary support and expertise in mitigating the adverse environmental effects;
3. URGES Ok Tedi Mining Limited to make public all data concerning the environmental effects of the mine;
4. REQUESTS the Australian Government to ensure that the Torres Strait Baseline study is completed rapidly, so that the effects of the mine on Torres Strait can be assessed;
5. URGES donor countries with shareholding or interest in the Ok Tedi Mine to provide assistance to the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation to further develop and implement the strategic plan for the Fly River catchment, taking into consideration the social, environmental and economic factors that are essential in achieving sustainable development in the region, ensuring that the cumulative and combined effects of mining in the region are considered.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Norway indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.80 Protection of Australian Native Forests

WELCOMING the fact that the Australian Government has abandoned Resource Security for the logging industry as called for by Recommendation 18.65 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

AWARE that the Australian Government and most State and Territory Governments within Australia have signed a National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) that commits them to ensuring that use of Australia's native forests is ecologically sustainable;

AWARE that the NFPS states on page 11, element 3, "Until assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value";

CONCERNED that many areas of native forest of high conservation value are still being logged and that a fully

comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system of high conservation areas has not yet been implemented;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS ON the Australian Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments:
 - (a) to move quickly to implement a moratorium on logging of wilderness and old-growth forest as set out in element 3 on page 11 of the NFPS;
 - (b) to move quickly to protect native forests of high conservation value in secure reserves;
2. CALLS ON the Australian Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments and all forestry interests to make a rapid transition from logging of native forest to a sustainable timber industry drawing its material from plantations, ensuring that any new plantations are not on land already in old-growth forest or regenerating natural forest.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.81 Conservation of the Gulf Region, Northern Territory, Australia

RECOGNIZING the geological, botanical and zoological significance of the Gulf Region, comprising the coast and land areas in the Gulf of Carpentaria area of the Northern Territory, Australia, including sites of national and international significance for dugong, turtle species, marsupials, lizards, sea grass beds, mangroves, rainforest and vine thickets;

NOTING that the region does not currently include a comprehensive system of reserves that adequately captures ecological variation;

NOTING that a large proportion of the region is rangeland used by the pastoral industry, an industry that occurs on some lands incapable of sustaining pastoral activity;

RECOGNIZING that the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government are currently involved in negotiating access to land that will create a large national park in the area;

CONCERNED at the potential environmental impact from new mining and port developments in the region;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Australian, Queensland and Northern Territory Governments to investigate the establishment of a comprehensive reserve system in the region and to accelerate and conclude as soon as possible the current negotiations for the national park and ensure that it is ecologically representative;
2. CALLS UPON the Governments to negotiate a socially appropriate means to establish the reserve system, including ownership and management by Aboriginal traditional owners;
3. RECOMMENDS that the Governments investigate sustainable alternative uses for pastoral leases in the Gulf Region that are not viable;
4. RECOMMENDS the Governments act to ensure the minimization of environmental impacts of major developments such as mining and associated transport routes;
5. URGES the Ramsar Secretariat to consult with the Governments regarding the listing of the region's seagrass communities and other wetlands under the Ramsar Convention.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.82 Conservation of Mangrove Communities in Australia

NOTING that in 1980 Australia's coast contained the third most extensive area of mangroves on the globe, 1.156 million ha, and that mangrove ecosystems are being rapidly lost to agriculture, dams and forestry in many other countries;

BELIEVING that conservation of Australia's mangroves is of international importance because of the area of mangroves concerned and Australia's ability to undertake such a conservation programme;

RECOGNIZING the conservation significance of this extensive area of mangroves in the international context, illustrated by the 48 vascular plant species that regularly inhabit this ecosystem in the Northern Territory;

SUPPORTING the sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems and the role of indigenous people in their ownership and management;

CONCERNED that many areas of mangroves are being lost to urban, industrial and tourism developments;

CONCERNED that there are currently plans under consideration in several States and Territories that may adversely impact on a percentage of the mangroves, for example the proposed development of Darwin Harbour;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES the Australian Governments, in consultation with the Aboriginal traditional owners, to protect Australian mangroves in secure conservation reserves;
2. URGES the Ramsar Secretariat to consult with the Australian Governments regarding the systematic listing of mangrove sites under the Ramsar Convention;
3. URGES the Australian Governments to find alternative sites for urban, industrial and tourism developments;
4. REQUESTS the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to investigate alternative options for urban development in order to maximize the area of mangroves conserved.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.83 Conservation of Endangered Species in Australia: Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) and Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*)

REAFFIRMING IUCN's commitment to both the precautionary principle and to the involvement of indigenous people in the conservation of threatened species;

NOTING Australia's international commitments to endangered species conservation;

NOTING that the ghost bat is classified as vulnerable under the Australian Endangered Species Act (1992), that the species' range has contracted from central Australia and the known population is estimated at around 7000;

RECOGNIZING that the largest known breeding colony with an estimated breeding population of 1500 occupies a disused mine shaft, Kohinoor Adit, near Pine Creek in the Northern Territory;

CONCERNED that the significance of this breeding population has not been determined;

GRAVELY CONCERNED that, while there is no immediate proposal to mine, the Kohinoor Adit could be damaged in any operation to extract the gold deposit at the site by an extension of the neighbouring mine;

NOTING that the Kohinoor Adit is currently being considered for protection under the Northern Territory Heritage Conservation Act;

NOTING that the Gouldian finch is classified as endangered (in the wild) under the Australian Endangered Species Act (1992) and that the species' range has contracted greatly in northern Australia;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in excess of Aus\$2.0 million has been spent on research on the Gouldian finch;

RECOGNIZING that the largest known breeding colony, with 42 per cent of all nests known in 1992, occupies the Yinberrie Hills, near Katherine in the Northern Territory;

CONCERNED that improved conservation management of the Yinberrie Hills is required, especially with the commencement of the Mt Todd mine in the Yinberrie Hills which may affect significant Gouldian finch habitat;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Northern Territory Government to

ensure the protection of the Kohinoor Adit for the conservation of the ghost bat;

2. URGES the Australian Governments to undertake additional research into the conservation significance of ghost bat populations, taking into account the 1991 recommendations of the *Macroderma* Expert Group, to ensure their conservation;
3. REQUESTS the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to cooperate with the Aboriginal owners of the Yinberrie Hills and other affected parties, with a view to ensuring effective management of this site;
4. URGES the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to ensure the Yinberrie Hills are managed to maintain their conservation values;
5. URGES the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to finalize and implement a Gouldian finch recovery plan as soon as possible.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.84 Clearing Native Vegetation in Australia

AWARE that the clearance of the world's native vegetation cover has contributed and will continue to contribute to the loss of biological diversity through the loss of ecosystems and of habitats for native flora and fauna, resulting in the loss of species and of genetic diversity;

AWARE that land clearance has also contributed to the degradation of land, especially in the form of dryland salinity, soil erosion and the eutrophication of water resources;

CONCERNED that clearance is continuing in many parts of the world in many cases without knowledge of, the environmental significance of what is being cleared;

NOTING that knowledge of the structure, function and environmental values of areas of native vegetation is still valuable even if clearance cannot be prevented;

NOTING that in some regions only a small amount of

native vegetation remains at all and that only a small percentage of land is included within a formal national parks and reserves system and therefore protection of biological diversity is dependent on the conservation of native vegetation and land-use practice on other lands;

NOTING particularly that the brigalow areas of the State of Queensland and the wheatbelt areas of the State of Western Australia are not adequately represented in the formal parks and reserves system;

RECOGNIZING that vegetation is being cleared or poisoned in Queensland at a rate probably exceeding 500,000 ha a year;

CONCERNED that 202,000 ha of land was cleared in Western Australia between 1986 and 1991 and that less than 7 per cent of native vegetation is left in some shires, and that in the State's wheatbelt less than 10 per cent of the original native vegetation currently remains on private land and in the conservation estate;

AWARE that the South West Land Division of Western Australia is one of the major regions of biodiversity in the world, where three quarters of Western Australia's flora is found, and that 74 per cent of the State's extinct species and 71 per cent of the State's threatened species were or are found there;

CONCERNED that clearance rates in other parts of the world are also very high, resulting in global loss of biological diversity and localized land degradation;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON Australian Governments to ensure that:
 - (a) assessment mechanisms are in place which take account of the full range of environmental values of sites proposed to be cleared;
 - (b) areas assessed as being environmentally and ecologically significant are not cleared;
 - (c) remnant vegetation is managed on a sustainable basis, maintaining ecological and environmental values, and that regeneration in extensively cleared areas is promoted;
 - (d) degraded lands are rehabilitated;
2. CALLS UPON Australian Governments to develop and foster a community appreciation of the value of areas of native vegetation.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of

Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.85 Creery Wetlands, Western Australia

NOTING that the Peel Harvey Inlet in Western Australia is listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention;

AWARE that the area known as the Creery Wetlands is an ecological sub-unit of the Peel Harvey system and that the Creery Wetlands support thousands of migratory wading birds in spring;

RECOGNIZING that the Creery Wetlands are essential to the maintenance of the conservation value of the Ramsar area and that samphire is an important and scarce resource in Western Australia;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. CALLS ON the Government of Western Australia:
 - (a) to protect the Creery Wetlands and not to allow canals and other development of the area to proceed;
 - (b) to purchase the area known as Creery Wetlands for addition to the Peel Harvey Regional Park;
2. CALLS ON the Commonwealth Government of Australia to use all the powers available to it to protect wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention and their environs and in particular the area known as the Creery Wetlands;
3. URGES the Commonwealth and State Governments to negotiate to ensure that international obligations to protect wetlands are honoured.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.86 Mining in the Conservation Estate, Australia

NOTING Recommendation 18.66 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

CONCERNED that no action has been taken by the past or current Western Australian Governments to implement this Recommendation;

CONCERNED that the current Western Australian Government has lifted the ban on mining in national parks;

ALARMED that exploration and mining may now be allowed in any of Western Australia's national parks or nature reserves;

ALARMED that the Western Australian Government is prepared to allow oil exploration and drilling in the Ningaloo Marine Park;

AWARE that many important national parks and nature reserves in Western Australia are currently being explored and/or mined, including the internationally important Karijini and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks;

AWARE that the conservation estate in Western Australia is still far from comprehensive;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994 :

1. CALLS UPON the Government of Western Australia:
 - (a) to change its policy on exploration and mining in national parks and nature reserves to exclude these activities;
 - (b) to protect national parks and nature reserves from exploitative industries and hence uphold the IUCN definitions of national parks and nature reserves;
 - (c) to ban oil exploration and drilling from marine parks, in particular the Ningaloo Marine Park;
2. CALLS ON the Commonwealth Government of Australia to honour its commitment to the protection of biodiversity by using all powers available to it to protect national parks and nature reserves that are under threat in Australia.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment

and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.87 Conservation of Kakadu World Heritage Site, Australia

RECOGNIZING that Kakadu National Park is one of the most important national parks in the world;

NOTING that Kakadu National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in December 1992 for both its natural and cultural values;

NOTING that, contained within the boundaries of Kakadu are two excisions from the park which contain uranium deposits and which are current or potential mining leases;

NOTING that Kakadu National Park contains some of the most significant Rock Art in the world representing a period of human occupation over 50,000 years, critically important wetland habitat for the Australo-Indonesian regions, relict stands of *Allosyncarpia* forest and a high concentration of rare and endangered flora and fauna, including mangroves;

NOTING the proximity of Jabiluka to the Magela Floodplains and the location of Koongarra in South Alligator River catchment, as well as the fact that both proposed mines would fall within the existing World Heritage Area;

AWARE that mining at either site would have the potential to do irretrievable damage to the natural and/or cultural values of Kakadu;

RECOGNIZING that there are traditional Aboriginal owners of Jabiluka who have expressed opposition to mining developments on Jabiluka;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994 :

1. CALLS UPON the Commonwealth Government of Australia:
 - (a) to encourage the Board of Management of Kakadu National Park and the traditional owners of the leases known as Koongarra and Jabiluka to discuss how these leases might be incorporated into the Kakadu National Park;
 - (b) to negotiate appropriate and equitable arrangements with Aboriginal traditional owners for such incorporation;

2. INVITES the Government of Australia to report to the World Heritage Committee on the Long Term Plan for the lease currently occupied and worked by the Ranger Uranium Mine as a part of Standard World Heritage Site Monitoring Procedure.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.88 Proposed Tasmanian Kent (Island) Group Marine Reserve, Australia

AWARE that the Kent (Island) Group in the Bass Strait represents the Maugean, Peronian and Flindersian Marine Biogeographic Provinces;

FURTHER AWARE that the Flindersian marine province of Bass Strait has one of the highest diversities of marine plant species in the world, owing to the influence of the Leeuwin Current;

RECOGNIZING that this area is important for conservation, scientific research and historic shipwrecks;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994;

CALLS UPON the State Government of Tasmania and the Commonwealth Government of Australia to assess and where merited by conservation values to provide these areas with secure protection status.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.89 Forest Conservation in Tasmania, Australia

NOTING that the General Assembly, at its 18th Session adopted Recommendation 18.70 "Forest Conservation in Tasmania" by consensus;

ALARMED that many areas covered by that Recommendation are being destroyed by logging operations;

CONCERNED that a new woodchip mill is due to be constructed at Hampshire in Tasmania and that many of the temperate rainforest areas covered by Recommendation 18.70 will fall within the wood supply zone for this woodchip mill;

ALARMED that the Commonwealth Government of Australia has actively approved clearfelling logging operations within forest areas covered by Recommendation 18.70 contrary to the letter and spirit of that Recommendation;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

REAFFIRMS its commitment to Recommendation 18.70 and CALLS ON the Tasmanian State Government and the Commonwealth Government of Australia:

- (a) not to allow the construction of a fourth woodchip mill in Tasmania;
- (b) not to allow an increase in the export woodchip quota above 2889 million tonnes per annum;
- (c) immediately to assess and nominate wilderness and forest areas covered by Recommendation 18.70 for inclusion on the World Heritage List where they meet the prevailing criteria;
- (d) immediately to protect the forest and wilderness areas covered by Recommendation 18.70 by their inclusion in National Parks where they meet the prevailing criteria.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Australia indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have voted against. The delegations of the State members Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.90 Restoration of Lake Pedder, Tasmania, Australia

RECOGNIZING that the flooding of Lake Pedder to produce hydro-electric power was an environmental disaster which severely affected the integrity of the Tasmanian World Heritage Site;

AWARE that some endemic species which were lost at the time of inundation will never be recovered;

RECOGNIZING that the restoration of Lake Pedder would be a significant step towards improving both the integrity and ease of management of the Tasmanian World Heritage Site;

RECOGNIZING the need to restore degraded wilderness areas where feasible;

AWARE that the restoration of Lake Pedder would be a symbol to the world of a determination to redress some of the environmental mistakes of the past;

AWARE that the predicted power demand from the Tasmanian grid has not eventuated;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON the Tasmanian State Government and the Commonwealth Government of Australia to investigate the feasibility of:
 - (a) the restoration of the original Lake Pedder, including the most appropriate method of restoring the vegetation around the lake;
 - (b) undertaking a detailed analysis including the environmental, social and economic benefits to flow from a rehabilitation programme;
 - (c) the potential for Australia to capitalize on such benefits and to use the expertise gained from this experience to assist in similar projects elsewhere in the world in future;
 - (d) instigating a comprehensive energy efficiency and power conservation programme to diminish electricity demand and generation in Tasmania;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to make available to the Tasmanian State Government and the Commonwealth Government of Australia relevant technical expertise and advice to achieve the restoration of this magnificent natural wonder.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa,

Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.91 Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic

AWARE that the diversity and productivity of the marine and coastal environment of the North East Atlantic is a vital component of self-sustaining systems of local, regional and international significance and is an integral part of the natural and cultural heritage of the world;

CONCERNED at the continuing direct and indirect impact of human activities resulting in pollution, degradation and loss of coastal and marine habitats and wildlife of the North East Atlantic;

CONCERNED that protection of the marine environment still lags far behind that of the terrestrial environment;

RECALLING the commitments within Agenda 21 (paragraph 17.7) for coastal States to maintain the biological diversity and productivity of marine species and habitats under national jurisdiction, including through the establishment and management of protected areas;

RECOGNIZING the importance attached to marine protected areas by the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas (Caracas, 1992) and in the development of the IUCN Action Plan for Protected Areas in Europe;

RECALLING Resolution 17.38 of the 17th Session of the General Assembly on the protection of the coastal and marine environment worldwide, which recommended the establishment and operation of effective mechanisms to manage in an integrated way all human activities which have impacts on coastal and marine environments;

RECOGNIZING the initiatives taken in other marine regions to establish marine protected areas, in particular:

- ☐ the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, 1976;
- ☐ the 1992 revision of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, obliging Contracting Parties to conserve

natural habitats and biological diversity and to protect natural processes;

- the Protocol concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora to the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, 1985;

RECALLING that the Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Oslo and Paris Commissions invites Contracting Parties to consider, either individually or jointly, the establishment of specially protected areas;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. URGES Contracting Parties and observer bodies to the Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic:
 - (a) to take all appropriate measures to conserve natural habitats and biological diversity and to protect ecological processes in the North East Atlantic;
 - (b) to ensure that any use of natural resources within the North East Atlantic area is ecologically sustainable;
 - (c) to consider an instrument containing appropriate guidelines, criteria and a comprehensive work programme to establish a system of specially protected areas within the North East Atlantic areas, including the North Sea;
2. CALLS UPON the Paris Commission, the Oslo Commission, the European Commission and Parliament, the North Sea Ministers Conference, and IUCN members in the region to aid and support this process;
3. REQUESTS the Director General of IUCN, within available resources, to provide support from IUCN for this process.

19.92 Establishment of a Marine Sanctuary for Large and Small Cetaceans in the Ligurian Sea, Western Mediterranean

NOTING the importance of the marine environment of the Ligurian Sea for ensuring the protection of large and small cetaceans;

NOTING also the desire expressed by the French,

Italian and Monagasque Governments to create a marine sanctuary for small and large cetaceans (the Pelagos Reserve), as expressed in the declaration for the establishment of the sanctuary which they signed at Brussels on 22 March 1993;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

RECOMMENDS that the Governments concerned, and the entire international community, should give effect to the intention thus expressed with a view to the protection of this area and these species by officially declaring the creation of this sanctuary and instituting the necessary procedures for turning it into a marine reserve for the western Mediterranean.

Note. The Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Norway and Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.

19.93 Conservation in the Mont Blanc Region, France, Italy and Switzerland

RECOGNIZING the exceptional biological, landscape and cultural assets of the Mont Blanc region and the symbolic value of the highest summit in Western Europe;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the joint initiative taken at the request of nature protection associations by the Swiss Confederation, the French Republic and the Italian Republic to conduct an experimental joint regional conservation strategy for the Mont Blanc region, the lessons from which could serve for other European massifs;

RECALLING the importance of securing the active involvement of the populations concerned and all relevant expertise;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to make the network of IUCN experts available to the French, Italian and Swiss Governments;
2. URGES the Governments and authorities concerned to defer any local development project capable of affecting the natural wealth of the Mont Blanc region until such time as it can form part of an overall conservation programme.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member United States indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

19.94 Management of Freshwater Supply in Spain

RECALLING IUCN recommendations on the management, use and protection of ecosystems, including the human environment and specifically relating to the construction of dams and canals;

CONCERNED by the substantial number of large dams and thousands of kilometres of canals and pipelines included in documents that the Spanish Government is currently discussing, that are to govern the management of freshwater supply over the next twenty years (National Hydrological Project and hydrological basin projects);

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

URGES the Spanish Government to reject construction of hydraulic infrastructure that generates serious environmental impact, such being the case of the dams foreseen at Itoiz (Navarra), Genal (Málaga), Fuentegigundo (Salamanca), Matallana (Guadalajara) and Pozo de los Ramos (Guadalajara).

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by a show of hands after a number of delegations expressed concern about the lack of accompanying information. The delegation of the State members Canada and South Africa asked that it be recorded that they had voted against.

19.95 Improved Protection for Wildlife in Subantarctic Island Ecosystems

AWARE of the inadequate knowledge of subantarctic island ecosystems and the need to improve protection of their biodiversity and ensure their full conservation;

AWARE also of the ongoing review by IUCN of the status of the Subantarctic Islands in relation to their possible World Heritage status;

NOTING that the conduct of activities such as tourism constitutes a danger to the maintenance of the equi-

librium of such ecosystems, which are among the world's most fragile;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that the international specialized agencies, as well as all States and Governments exercising responsibilities and supervision over these areas, should fully protect the priceless environmental asset constituted by the species these islands contain, many of which are threatened with extinction;
2. CALLS UPON the governments concerned to adopt, as rapidly as possible, all necessary measures to ensure the conservation of these ecosystems;
3. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources and in consultation with IUCN members, Commissions, relevant governments and NGOs, to produce an integrated strategy for conservation in the Subantarctic Islands and to offer assistance with management plans for individual islands or groups.

19.96 Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

RECALLING Recommendations 18.75, 17.52 and 17.53 and Resolutions 15.20, 16.8, 18.9 and 18.74 of the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th Sessions of the General Assembly;

RECOGNIZING the critical role played by Antarctica in global climate and oceanic circulation, the importance of the Antarctic environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems, its vital role in the world's biophysical and biochemical systems, its great value as the world's largest remaining wilderness area, its intrinsic and inspirational values, and its importance for monitoring and other research directed to understanding the natural environment and global processes, including those modified by human activity;

NOTING that world opinion has now turned firmly against the exploitation of minerals in Antarctica and expects impeccable standards of environmental performance by all who operate there;

WELCOMING the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Parties in Madrid, Spain, in October 1991, which commits the Parties to the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems, designates Antarctica as a nature

reserve devoted to peace and science and, *inter alia*, prohibits any activity relating to mineral resources other than scientific research;

APPRECIATING that the Governments of Argentina, Spain, France, Peru, Ecuador and Norway have now ratified the Protocol on Environmental Protection;

AWARE that the Subantarctic Islands support distinctive ecosystems and many endemic species, that knowledge of these islands and their ecosystems remains inadequate and that it is important that conservation measures in these island groups are strengthened;

EMPHASIZING the importance of the conservation of the ecosystems of the circum-Antarctic seas, and the need to ensure that any use of their living resources is sustainable;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON all Parties to the Antarctic Treaty who have not already done so to ratify the Protocol on Environmental Protection as a matter of urgency, so ensuring its early entry into force;
2. URGES Parties to the Protocol:
 - (a) to revise their domestic legislation and procedures promptly to comply with the Protocol;
 - (b) to negotiate the Annex on liability for damage mandated by the Protocol as soon as practicable to ensure that clear, legally binding obligations are imposed on Parties who administer or conduct activities in the Antarctic;
3. CALLS UPON all Parties to the Antarctic Treaty and all organizations active in Antarctica to pay particular attention to:
 - (a) minimizing environmental impact;
 - (b) establishing and safeguarding a comprehensive network of protected areas, including adequate representation of the principal habitats and the biological diversity of the Antarctic region;
 - (c) preventing the deposition of wastes and facilitating the removal of wastes which have already been deposited;
 - (d) establishing and enforcing stringent regulations governing the conduct of all persons visiting Antarctica, whether scientists, logistic and other support personnel or tourists;
 - (e) otherwise according priority to conservation in Antarctica as a whole;
4. ENCOURAGES Treaty Parties to establish the Committee for Environmental Protection on an

interim basis promptly so that it may function prior to the entry into force of the Protocol;

5. CALLS for a permanent ban on all minerals activity in Antarctica throughout the area south of 60 degrees South latitude;
6. ENCOURAGES Treaty Parties to establish a Secretariat to ensure *inter alia* an effective implementation of the Antarctic Treaty including the Protocol;
7. CALLS ON Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources to take all steps necessary to conserve the marine ecosystems of the Southern Ocean;
8. ENCOURAGES Parties to the Protocol to build upon the inspection provisions in the Antarctic Treaty and Protocol and to develop and implement an environmental inspection system to assist in the effective protection of the Antarctic environment;
9. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:
 - (a) in consultation with Antarctic Treaty Parties and IUCN members, Commissions and Council, to work for:
 - (i) the establishment and management of Antarctic specially protected or managed areas;
 - (ii) the development of an Annex to the Antarctic Protocol on liability for environmental damage;
 - (iii) an IUCN workshop on the impact and management of human presence in Antarctica;
 - (iv) the elaboration of detailed proposals for the implementation of the Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty;
 - (b) in association with relevant Antarctic Treaty Parties and IUCN members, Commissions and Council to produce an integrated strategy for conservation in the Subantarctic Islands;
 - (c) in consultation with IUCN members, Council and Commissions and the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), to collaborate on the ecosystem management of the Antarctic marine ecosystems;
 - (d) to participate in Antarctic Treaty System meetings where such participation contributes to achieving the above objectives;
 - (e) to establish an *ad hoc* committee to advise the IUCN Council and Director General on Antarctic issues in consultation with the IUCN Commissions and members.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus after a proposal to delete Operative Paragraph 5 was rejected by a show of hands. The delegations of the State members Germany, Norway and United Kingdom indicated that had there been a vote, they would have voted against.

19.97 Strategy to Protect the Arctic Environment

RECOGNIZING the grave threats posed to the Arctic by the transport by rivers, air and ocean currents of heavy metals, organochlorines (including PCBs) and radionuclides into and through the Arctic environment from industrialized areas;

UNDERSTANDING that these contaminants are being taken up into the food chain by Arctic biota and may be leading to declines in reproductive success and populations;

RECOGNIZING the possible health threat and loss of use of wildlife resources to the indigenous peoples of the Arctic;

AWARE of the potential for greatly increased and inadequately controlled industrialization (including marine transport) in the Arctic;

MINDFUL that the Arctic is the homeland of indigenous peoples whose culture and quality of life depends on a healthy environment and sustainable use of wild resources;

WELCOMING the ongoing work by Arctic nations to implement the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, but foreseeing the need for stronger cooperative measures to protect the Arctic environment and ensure that future development is environmentally sound;

The General Assembly of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17–26 January 1994:

1. ENCOURAGES the Arctic governments to develop new national and international instruments to address the full range of environmental problems facing the Arctic, while respecting the particular social, cultural, economic and political circumstances of the Arctic's indigenous peoples; such instruments could be used:

- to establish a "regional seas" type of agreement in the Arctic Ocean to control land-based sources of pollution;
- to provide for prior environmental analysis of proposed industrial development;
- to adopt strict guidelines to manage and control offshore development and other activities which could harm the Arctic environment;
- to encourage Arctic nations to establish protected areas for marine and terrestrial habitats that are representative, unique or especially vulnerable;
- to establish international reserves in transboundary areas, such as the Bering Sea and the northern Yukon- Alaska border;
- to provide co-management and, when needed conservation plans, of shared wildlife populations;
- to establish an Arctic Council to promote cooperation in the Arctic, coordinate implementation of existing Conventions and new legal instruments, and guide sustainable developments that could have environmentally adverse transboundary effects;

2. URGES the Arctic nations to implement within the Arctic region the Geneva Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals and other applicable legal instruments as they enter into force.

Note. The phrase "the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals" was added to the last paragraph of this Recommendation at the request of the delegation of the State member Germany. This change was opposed by some delegations, including that of the State member United States and the NGO member Center for Marine Conservation (USA), but was subsequently adopted by a show of hands. The Recommendation was then adopted by consensus. The delegation for the State member Denmark indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would not have voted for the Recommendation, since the Bonn Convention cannot be implemented as far as Greenland is concerned due to the territorial exclusion of Greenland in the instrument of ratification by Denmark; nor could the delegation have voted against, because Denmark is a Party to the Bonn Convention.

K. Vote of Thanks

19.98 Vote of Thanks to the Host Country

AWARE that the demanding objectives of a General Assembly of IUCN can only be met when the Session takes place in a well-equipped and efficiently managed setting;

EMPHASIZING that a congenial and friendly atmosphere contributes immensely to success;

NOTING with appreciation that these conditions were met in full measure at the 19th Session of the General Assembly held in the Sheraton Conference Centre in Buenos Aires;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. WARMLY thanks the Government of the Republic of Argentina for so generously hosting the 19th Session;
2. EXPRESSES particular thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic Don Carlos Saúl Menem for honouring the Assembly with his presence and welcome at the Opening Ceremony, and to the Secretary of State for Natural Resources and the Human Environment, Doña Ing. Maria Julia Alsogaray for her support and that of her Secretariat throughout the period of organization of the Assembly as well as during the Session itself;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES with gratitude the dedicated support provided by the local conference organizers, the personnel of the Sheraton Towers Hotel, the many local volunteer helpers, and all those others who gave generously of their time and knowledge.

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