

RECOGNIZING that development assistance agencies annually disburse more than US\$25,000 million in support of development activities;

RECALLING that the World Conservation Strategy strongly recommends that development assistance agencies fund projects beneficial to conservation, assess all their projects to ensure their ecological soundness and assist governments to design ecologically appropriate policies and to establish and maintain effective conservation infrastructures;

RECOGNIZING that a number of bilateral and multilateral development assistance agencies already have taken actions of the kind recommended in the World Conservation Strategy;

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COMMENDS those development assistance agencies which have taken actions recommended in the World Conservation Strategy;

URGES those multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies which have not already done so to implement the World Conservation Strategy by:

- (a) ensuring that from the first stages of planning, environmental consequences are considered equally with economic and other aspects of every proposed development project;
- (b) ensuring that projects which they support do not cause the extinction or endangerment of species or the destruction of essential ecological processes or unique ecosystems not represented elsewhere;
- (c) supporting projects aimed at the conservation of species and ecosystems, with special emphasis on projects included in the Programme of IUCN;
- (d) assisting developing countries in training conservation administrators and relevant personnel, and in building institutions important to conservation; and
- (e) establishing internal offices with staff responsible for carrying out the above actions.

## 15/6. URBAN FRINGES

RECOGNIZING that the growth of cities poses particular problems, especially for the Third World and that within two decades, more than half of the world population of over 6 billion will be living in cities and that 12 of the 15 largest ones will be in the Third World;

CONSCIOUS that in the past, cities have been supported by the surrounding countryside in a number of ways: their hinterlands provided food, fuel and water and absorbed urban wastes;

CONCERNED that this former situation is breaking down and many cities, particularly in the Third World, have now exhausted the capacity of their fringes to support further urban growth and that these cities now rely upon food, fuel and water supplies which must be imported over long distances at great cost, particularly to the urban poor;

CONSCIOUS that the edges of many cities have become a new wasteland due to the destruction of local forests and woodland for fuel, building materials, and that the impoverishment of agricultural land is leading to a permanent loss of soil fertility;

CONSCIOUS ALSO that significant areas of prime agricultural land on the fringes of cities, including those in developed countries, are being converted to urban uses and thus permanently lost for food production purposes;

AWARE that landscapes at the edge of cities and the habitat of wildlife which they provide are now increasingly of value for recreation and environmental education and that for most urban dwellers, these areas at the edge of the city provide the only non-urban environment they are ever likely to experience;

CONVINCED FURTHER that only by careful development, combined with conservation measures, can food, fuel and water resources continue to be exploited in a profitable and ecologically acceptable way, to ensure support to a local population and make a better contribution to the welfare of a nearby city;

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rapidly expanding cities, particularly but not only in the Third World, that pose special problems for conservation and development which are often overlooked by international, national and local agencies;

CALLS UPON all nations to acknowledge that urban fringes present problems that require coordinated action to ensure that land near cities remains available for sustainable production of food and fuel wood; for the conservation of water supplies, species, and habitats; and for recreation and environmental education; and

URGES all member governments and organizations to take appropriate action to demonstrate that urban fringe management can successfully incorporate the principles of conservation for sustainable development.

## 15/7. THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL LIFE STYLES AND LOCAL PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

RECOGNIZING that human societies have survived only because they have evolved, within their traditional life styles, a viable relationship between population, land management and conservation;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that patterns of cultural behaviour with respect to nature and particularly the conservation of nature, may be unconscious, and that recognition of this element in behaviour is fundamental to strengthening conservation elements of development programmes and activities;

NOTING that human societies are rapidly losing their original spiritual dimensions, self-reliance and wisdom as they change from traditional life styles to modern ways of life;

NOTING FURTHER that conservation and development are increasingly dominated by urban society, often insensitive to the values and significance of the diverse rural traditions which have supported civilisation over long periods of time;

CONVINCED that traditional conservation systems have much to recommend them, not because of sentimental nostalgia, but because they are based on common sense, are cost-effective and fit in with the needs and wishes of many local communities;

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RECOMMENDS that heads of governments, ministers, members of legislatures, administrators, planners and conservationists:

- (a) take into account the still existing very large reservoir of traditional knowledge and experience within local cultures which must provide a significant basis for the evolution of future management policies and planning actions;
- (b) provide the means for local people who maintain ecologically sound practices to play a primary role in all stages of development in the area they identify with, so that they can participate and benefit directly, in a manner which is consistent with their values, time frames and decision-making processes;
- (c) seek continuous support of these local people in shaping and implementing conservation strategies, programmes and plans, in order to considerably increase conventional conservation potentials for achieving the goals of the World Conservation Strategy; and
- (d) foster further research into the ecology of traditional life styles.

## 15/8. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT

OBSERVING that rapid and widespread deterioration of nature and natural resources threatens the quality of life as well as human welfare in all countries;

CONSIDERING that environmental problems may arise due to lack of awareness and understanding of the harmful effects of patterns of production and consumption;

CONVINCED that value and behaviour patterns harmful to the environment can be modified through programmes of environmental education;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in



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### RESOLUTIONS

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|---|---|
| 15/1. WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY   | 15/15. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN PESTICIDES                                      |
| 15/2. CONSERVATION AND PEACE  | 15/16. RAMSAR CONVENTION  |
| 15/3. PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT   | 15/17. LAW OF THE SEA   |
| 15/4. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING  | 15/18. DEEP SEA MINING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS OF THE DEEP OCEAN |
| 15/5. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE  | 15/19. LARGE AND SMALL CETACEANS  |
| 15/6. URBAN FRINGES   | 15/20. ANTARCTICA ENVIRONMENT AND THE SOUTHERN OCEAN                          |
| 15/7. <u>THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL LIFE STYLES AND LOCAL PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT</u> | 15/21. PRESERVATION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF                                 |
| 15/8. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT   | 15/22. SOUTH WEST TASMANIA  |
| 15/9. RENEWABLE ENERGY  | 15/23. MICRONESIAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE                             |
| 15/10. GENETIC RESOURCES  | 15/24. <u>ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC</u>                   |
| 15/11. TROPICAL MOIST FORESTS   | 15/25. THANKS TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT  |
| 15/12. PROTECTION OF MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS  | 15/26. INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF IUCN   |
| 15/13. PROTECTION OF FREE FLOWING RIVERS FROM RIVER ENGINEERING                                   | 15/27. FUND-RAISING   |
| 15/14. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF ACID RAIN AND SNOW AND OTHER ACID DEPOSITION                      | 15/28. RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURE  |
|   | 15/29. ACTION POINTS  |

### 15/1. WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY

RECOGNIZING that the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) was launched in March 1980 by IUCN, with the advice, cooperation and financial assistance of UNEP and WWF and in collaboration with FAO and Unesco, and that the theme of the 15th Session of the IUCN General Assembly is "The World Conservation Strategy in Action";

NOTING the wide range of initial actions taken by State, agency and non-governmental members of IUCN to implement the objectives of the WCS;

AWARE of the significant actions of IUCN in incorporating the principles of the WCS into its Programme, into the projects of the Commissions and the establishment of the Conservation for Development Centre;

CONCERNED nevertheless that the implementation of the World Conservation Strategy requires continued and greater effort;

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CALLS UPON all United Nations and other intergovernmental agencies to incorporate the WCS into their own programmes and to encourage and support the development of national conservation strategies, cross-sectoral policy development and similar activities to fulfil the objectives of the WCS;

URGES bilateral and multilateral aid agencies to continue to integrate ecological and other conservation values into development activities which affect renewable resources;

CALLS UPON national, provincial and local governments, governmental agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations to utilize the WCS in developing their programmes and to promote the implementation of the WCS principles by other institutions;

INSTRUCTS Council to continue with the development of the Union's Programme and projects with the help of the members, Commissions and the Conservation for Development Centre and through the Programme Planning Advisory Group, to coordinate and integrate efforts to implement the WCS; and

REQUESTS the IUCN Secretariat to monitor and evaluate actions taken to further the objectives of the WCS and report on such actions to the 16th General Assembly of IUCN.