

*Resolution 23: Nature Protection Through Land Treatment.*

All factors of the environment — soil, water, and the dependent living things, including man — are intimately related in nature and compose an intricate ecological complex in which the action of a single factor intimately affects the action of others. Immutable natural laws impose interactions in an environment changed by man as surely as they do in undisturbed areas, however much such action may seem to be masked by the works of man. If the activities of man, ever more forceful and widespread, are to harmonize with the laws of nature, we must recognize that all phases of nature protection and conservation, like environmental factors themselves, must be integrated and coordinated on a natural basis.

Recognizing that man and nature are inseparable, experience indicates that the most reasonable unit for accomplishing conservation is a natural area such as a small watershed or other ecological unit where the people living within its limits can feel a relationship to it. Thus natural areas and related human groups combine to form units for conservation and treatment of the land by the people themselves, as in soil conservation districts of the United States. Land treatment to protect the land while using it for productive purposes includes soil conservation, water control and manipulation, forest, range, and wildlife management, and provision for recreation, wilderness and park areas. These and other desirable elements of a complete conservation program can be effectively undertaken by and for the people who live in a natural area. The people may need technical and other guidance and assistance from both public and private sources; and they may wish to relate their activities with those of other groups in comprehensive resource management of large basins or regions, but the basis for combining the works of man with the laws of nature seems reasonable to rest with ecological units where there is a community of human needs.

Therefore the I.U.P.N. wishes to encourage attention to natural areas as the basic unit for conservation, improvement, and utilization of our natural resources, with the conviction that such an approach is ecologically sound; and that it offers a democratic means of accomplishing practical programs of nature protection and conservation.