

3. Conservation of Critical Coastal Marine Habitats

Recognizing that certain habitats of the coastal zone, such as sea grass beds, coral reefs and mangroves, are of great importance in the production of resources important as food to man and as links in marine food chains;

Further recognizing that such habitats are of international significance since they serve as nursery grounds for species which migrate over large areas;

Concerned that such habitats are being destroyed and over utilized at an accelerated pace, both in developed and lesser developed areas of the world;

The 12th General Assembly of IUCN meeting in Kinshasa, Zaire, in September 1975:

Recommends that governments take action to set aside areas as large as possible of sea grass beds, coral reefs and mangroves as reserves for research and the protection of life;

Urges coastal States with such habitats within their jurisdiction to evolve policies to maintain their continued health and stability; and

Urges that research and monitoring programmes in such areas be strengthened or initiated to establish guidelines for their management.

