

## **6. Conservation of Tropical Rain Forests**

**Recalling** Conservation Resolution No. 7 on the Conservation and Development of Tropical Rain Forests passed by the 11th General Assembly of IUCN held at Banff, Canada, in September 1972;

**Being aware** that there is great concern about the local, regional and worldwide consequences of the immense damage now being done to remaining tropical rain forest areas;

**Recognizing** that the tropical rain forests are of great importance both for nature conservation and the conservation of valuable genetic resources as well as for economic development; and that the maintenance of the resource potential of these regions and a proper ecological balance in them is fundamental to global dynamics and the future welfare of those who live in them as well as being an important part of their heritage and that of all mankind;

**Recognizing also** that the rate of this deforestation is steadily increasing; that often no proper consideration is given to the final, proper use of the land; that the methods used are frequently very damaging, and that the whole process is seldom under proper control or supervision;

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

**Appeals urgently** to the governments of the tropical countries concerned to give full consideration to ecological guidelines in the development of tropical forest areas; and not to permit deforestation without taking into account the intrinsic values of the forests themselves, the capacity of any site to maintain its potential under other proposed uses, and the effects on human societies, soil, climate, water and plant and animal resources of its modification or removal;

**Requests** international and national aid organizations to furnish specialists and funds, in the context of "ecology and development", to aid such countries in the wise development and conservation of these forest areas; and

**Recommends strongly** that there should be an obligation on all governments and governmental agencies, international and national aid organizations, consultants, and companies or corporations engaged in the development or exploitation of tropical rain forest areas to prepare and publish a statement assessing the environmental consequences of their action and demonstrating that they conform to a national development plan that is ecologically sound.

