

## 7. Restoration of Semi-arid Environments and Wildlife

**Being aware** that the conscience of the whole world has been aroused—albeit at the eleventh hour—to the need for assistance in the Sahel region, which has been suffering acutely from a catastrophic drought;

**Recognizing** that similar tragedies may take place in other areas of semi-arid or otherwise marginal environments throughout the developing world;

**Concerned** that long-term help to such regions is often planned and initiated without consideration of ecological realities;

**Concerned also** that the destruction of wild species of potentially great importance to the continuing economic well-being of the people and the ecological stability of these regions is accelerating;

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

**Urges** governments and international organizations to carry out the investigations needed to guarantee that development programmes will be planned and carried out with full consideration of those ecological factors which will determine their long-term success and with attention to the traditional knowledge of those people who have long inhabited these regions; and

**Particularly recommends** that research and demonstration projects be initiated by governments and international organizations to determine how best the wild fauna, especially those large species adapted to semi-arid habitats, can be protected and managed to help in restoring the productivity of these environments and utilized to yield food and other products of economic value to the people of these marginal lands.