

## 11. Zoological and Botanical Gardens

**Recognizing** that zoological and botanical gardens can have an important role to fulfill in the conservation of wild species;

**Noting** that some zoos and botanical gardens still place great emphasis on acquiring massive synoptic collections, including many rare and endangered species, which they have little chance of propagating;

**Believing** that a continued stress on rarities could encourage illegal commercial trade in some species;

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

**Further urges** all professional zoological and botanical garden organizations to develop accreditation standards for their members that assure compliance with the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and other international, national, or local laws regulating the collection, trade, or possession of wild species of plants and animals;

**Recommends** that zoos and botanical gardens acquire, and keep, only those rare and endangered species which they have the expertise and facilities to propagate or, in the case of plants, to maintain in seed banks or similar storage, to assure the continued survival of the species in the event it becomes extinct in the wild;

**Stresses** that once the institution has accepted the responsibility for such an endangered species bank or propagation programme, it must commit its resources to its continuance until such time as the species is safe from extinction, or transferred to another similar programme;

**Encourages** these institutions to increase their chances for success by maintaining close liaison with IUCN by concentrating on indigenous species, and by participating in computerized species inventory networks and similar means of rapid data exchange; and

**Recommends** that appropriate exchange and other arrangements be made to enable zoos and botanical gardens to gain access to the propagated stocks maintained to supply their needs, including the stocks referred to above, and in this way to eliminate demands for wild specimens;

**Further recommends** that all zoological and botanical gardens revise their public education programmes so as to emphasize conservation of nature.