

13. Wadden Sea

RECOGNIZING that the Wadden Sea is northern Europe's most important wetland and has a vital role in the ecological processes of the North Sea and in the life cycles of numerous species—in particular invertebrates, fishes, birds and seals;

APPRECIATING that all governments concerned have set aside protected areas and that some have placed parts of the Wadden Sea under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, or have indicated their intention of doing so;

BEING A WARE of the cooperation, especially at the scientific level, established among the countries bordering the Wadden Sea;

A WARE, TOO, that reinforcement or reconstruction of existing dyke systems might be necessary in some areas to meet the safety requirements;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 14th Session, Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September-5 October 1978:

DRAWS the attention of the responsible authorities to the increasing threats to the Wadden Sea from land reclamations and growing industrialization of the coastline;

CALLS UPON all the nations concerned to take more effective measures to reduce pollution in the basins of the rivers Rhine, Weser and Elbe;

RECALLS the responsibility of the relevant authorities in Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands for maintaining the integrity of this ecosystem and appeals to those governments to enforce existing national legislation and international laws and agreements, with regard to the conservation of the area;

ASKS all authorities concerned to take ecological principles into account when considering any activity likely to threaten the integrity of the Wadden Sea;

URGES in particular all governments concerned to approve and support no new embankment or land reclamation project, and to accord adequate conservation status to the entire area.