

## 16. Tropical forests

*RECALLING* resolution no. 6 adopted by the 12th Session of the General Assembly of IUCN at Kinshasa, Zaire, in September 1975;

*RECOGNIZING* the importance to conservation of the tropical rain forests of the world, of their unique flora and fauna, and of the genetic resources they contain, many of which are as yet little studied;

*RECOGNIZING ALSO* the adverse consequences of the continued destruction of these ecosystems and the resources they contain;

*RECOGNIZING ALSO* that some utilization of these forests is inevitable to meet the needs of the tropical countries;

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

**CALLS UPON** all governments and government agencies, international and national aid agencies, intergovernmental organizations including the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system, and consultants, companies and corporations engaged in the exploitation of the tropical forests:

- (a) to take all necessary steps to preserve adequate representative undisturbed areas of these forests;
- (b) to develop selective utilization procedures based on conservation principles for other areas which would ensure the continuation of a tropical forest cover of indigenous species;

**SPECIFICALLY URGES** the Governments of

- (a) India to conserve more effectively the forest areas of the Western Ghats, including the undisturbed forests of the Silent Valley of the State of Kerala and the Kalakkad Hill forests in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) Thailand and other nations of South East Asia to develop a regional programme to conserve the dipterocarp forests of the region;

**REQUESTS** that financial and technical assistance be given to the regional documentation centre for tropical ecology presently being established in Yaoundé by the Government of Cameroon;

**CONGRATULATES** the eight nations of the Amazon Basin for concluding the Amazonian Pact, which, by providing for the rational use of the natural resources of the region, including the protection of its flora and fauna, forms a basis for action in accordance with the objectives of the World Conservation Strategy.

