

## **17. World Heritage Natural Sites**

*RECALLING* that the World Heritage Trust was originally a concept for encouraging protection of outstanding natural areas of worldwide significance, and was proposed at the 9th Session of the General Assembly of IUCN at Lucerne, Switzerland, in 1966;

*RECOGNIZING* that the protection of outstanding natural areas is essential to meeting basic human needs;

*RECOGNIZING, TOO*, that the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted in 1972, provides for the establishment of national, public and private foundations or associations whose purpose is to invite donations for the protection of the natural and cultural heritage;

*RECOGNIZING FURTHER* that IUCN has a significant role to play in the implementation of the 1972 Convention; and

*NOTING* that the natural areas have become secondary to historic and cultural areas in implementation of the Convention at variance with the original concept;

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

URGES that all States that have not done so become parties to the 1972 Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage;

URGES all States to nominate natural areas of outstanding universal value with full world-wide representation;

URGES continuous monitoring of World Heritage Natural Sites, to identify areas in danger and work toward their inclusion in the World Heritage In Danger List; and

CALLS ON all parties to take any necessary measures to make the Convention fully effective with regard to recognition and protection of outstanding natural areas that qualify as World Heritage Sites including increased voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund.