

18. Peatlands

RECOGNIZING that peatlands are an important dominant feature of landscape, and that peatlands, now under heavy exploitation by new technologies, are rapidly being changed irreversibly and lost as natural ecosystems—few so far having been included in conservation areas compared with the total conservation requirement;

RECALLING the attention given to peatlands in the International Biological Programme (IBP) and in Project TELMA, which resulted in a world list of peatlands of international importance;

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

URGES that governments take urgent measures to conserve an adequate and representative series of peatlands in their countries for the use of future generations in biological and water resource management, scientific research and for amenity purposes;

RECOMMENDS to governments that:

1. Peatlands of international importance as listed by TELMA be surveyed and safeguarded against damage by industrial, agricultural, forestry, recreational and social development;
2. Urgent action be taken to conserve an adequate and representative national series of peatlands as part of the international network of peatland conservation.