

15/3. PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

RECOGNIZING that the conservation of the environment, wise use of natural resources and the stabilization of human population are issues that are fundamentally interrelated and that acceptance of this is crucial to the achievement of these three objectives; RECALLING the discussion at the 14th General Assembly of IUCN which called for more attention to be given to population increase in relation to conservation;

REALIZING that rapidly increasing human population, wasteful consumption, misuse of technologies and over-exploitation of natural resources lead to soil erosion, desertification, deforestation, loss of cropland, degradation and destruction of species and ecosystems which prejudice the future of mankind;

NOTING that the World Conservation Strategy recognizes that the destruction of natural habitats and the over-exploitation of living resources are intensified by both over-rapid growth in population and social and economic inequities, and refers to the importance of integrating action on the issues of environment, resources and population;

NOTING ALSO that recent international declarations and reports, including the Colombo Declaration of the International Conference of Parliamentarians, the "Global 2000" Report to the President of the United States and the Brandt Commission's "Programme for Survival", have warned that, despite some decline in the global rate of population growth, existing age-structure is such that the annual addition to the world population will continue to increase for the remaining years of the century;

WELCOMING the policies of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to increase public and governmental awareness of the interrelationship between population, development and resources;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for responsible national population policies and family planning programmes which provide for individual choice;

BELIEVING that appropriate policies, including family planning, which will help to stabilize population and protect the environment and natural resources, are indispensable to combat malnutrition, destitution and ill-health;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

URGES:

- (a) governments to develop strategies which interrelate policies for population, production and consumption, sustainable utilization of natural resources, and the conservation of the environment;
- (b) all countries to develop programmes to educate people, particularly the young, about the relationship between people and their environment and about the contribution every person can make towards survival and quality of life;
- (c) international organizations, particularly the United Nations, to promote the development of the strategies outlined above; and
- (d) IUCN and other non-governmental organizations, such as national supporters of the IUCN, the World Wildlife Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, to develop together projects which demonstrate how conservation of the environment, the wise use of natural resources and family planning can be achieved.

