

## **15/5. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**

AWARE of the enormous damage to ecological processes, species diversity, and sustainable utilization of biological resources which often is caused unnecessarily by development activities, and the very high economic costs which can result from that damage;

RECOGNIZING that development assistance agencies annually disburse more than US\$25,000 million in support of development activities;

RECALLING that the World Conservation Strategy strongly recommends that development assistance agencies fund projects beneficial to conservation, assess all their projects to ensure their ecological soundness and assist governments to design ecologically appropriate policies and to establish and maintain effective conservation infrastructures;

RECOGNIZING that a number of bilateral and multilateral development assistance agencies already have taken actions of the kind recommended in the World Conservation Strategy;

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

COMMENDS those development assistance agencies which have taken actions recommended in the World Conservation Strategy;

URGES those multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies which have not already done so to implement the World Conservation Strategy by:

- (a) ensuring that from the first stages of planning, environmental consequences are considered equally with economic and other aspects of every proposed development project;
- (b) ensuring that projects which they support do not cause the extinction or endangerment of species or the destruction of essential ecological processes or unique ecosystems not represented elsewhere;
- (c) supporting projects aimed at the conservation of species and ecosystems, with special emphasis on projects included in the Programme of IUCN;
- (d) assisting developing countries in training conservation administrators and relevant personnel, and in building institutions important to conservation; and
- (e) establishing internal offices with staff responsible for carrying out the above actions.