

15/8. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT

OBSERVING that rapid and widespread deterioration of nature and natural resources threatens the quality of life as well as human welfare in all countries;

CONSIDERING that environmental problems may arise due to lack of awareness and understanding of the harmful effects of patterns of production and consumption;

CONVINCED that value and behaviour patterns harmful to the environment can be modified through programmes of environmental education;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:
URGES all governments to incorporate as a matter of priority environmental concerns into their national education programmes at all levels;

RECOMMENDS that IUCN and its members continue to develop and carry out in close cooperation with Unesco, an environmental education programme whose aim is to:

- promote ecological awareness in peoples of both developed and developing countries so that they will utilize their natural resources without destroying them;
 - generate ecological understanding and concern among the peoples of industrialized countries so that they develop patterns of production and consumption the consequences of which will not be harmful to the environment of developing countries; and
 - promote commitment in all countries to the achievement of sustainable development in harmony with conservation principles;
- and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that these programmes give high priority to the current decision-makers, and also to youth for it is the generation which will bear a crucial responsibility for the future care of the environment.