

### **15/13. PROTECTION OF FREE FLOWING RIVERS FROM RIVER ENGINEERING**

NOTING that undammed wild and scenic rivers provide a broad range of fish and wildlife values as well as scenic and recreational opportunities;

NOTING ALSO that free-flowing rivers are increasingly being dammed for hydro-electric power generation and modified by other river engineering works and have all but vanished from some nations of the world;

AWARE that concern for retaining unmodified rivers is mounting in many parts of the world because of the need to retain ecological diversity as directed by the World Conservation Strategy; AWARE ALSO of the trend towards further development of hydro-electric energy;

CONCERNED for the maintenance of riverine environments and of ecological, scenic, landscape and recreational diversity offered by the natural flow of rivers through gorges, rapids, waterfalls, forests and wetlands;

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

URGES States to set aside permanently, representative examples of their free-flowing rivers, or, where this is not practicable, sections of such rivers, from hydro-damming and other river engineering works, to balance those now permanently lost by modification, and to protect the diversity of ecological, recreational, scenic and landscape values only ensured by retaining the natural flow of rivers; and

RECOMMENDS that classification and management of such designated rivers be the responsibility of an agency whose primary concern is conservation.

