15/14. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF ACID RAIN AND SNOW AND OTHER ACID DEPOSITION

RECALLING the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Human Environment, 1972, and Resolution No. 4 of the 14th Session of the IUCN General Assembly, Ashkhabad, USSR, 1978 on environmental effects of sulphur dioxide pollution; RECOGNIZING that the Convention on Long Range Transbound-ary Air Pollution, Geneva, 1979 (ECE Convention) was signed by 35 nations in November 1979;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that since 1978 additional scientific documentation has shown that emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxides in one region have devastating effects on many ecosystems and species in other regions;

OBSERVING that the acid deposition problem has been severe in North America and in Europe, where, many aquatic ecosystems have been stripped of life and damage has occurred to forest areas, agricultural crops, and man-made structures of historical value, as well as causing possible hazards to human health;

NOTING that:

— long range tra nsboundary air pollution is an increasingly urgent problem demanding active preventive measures both nationally and internationally;

— significant advances have been made in technologies to combat air pollution at the source; and

— problems of long range transboundary emitted pollutants and the generation of secondary products are aggravated by the use of high stacks;

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

URGES that:

(a) all nations concerned ratify the ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution as soon as possible and no later than the 1982 meeting of the Interim Executive Body of this Convention;

(b) nations outside the ECE region join in other international agreements to control air pollution as rapidly as possible through vigorous efforts to curtail sulphur and nitrogen oxide emissions;

(c) governments implement actively the obligations of the ECE Convention and other agreements to reduce the total industrial and domestic emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxides using the best available technology for such pollution reduction; and

(d) governments use their best endeavours to ensure that no further increases of sulphur and nitrous oxides emission levels are allowed.