

15/24. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

AWARE that the countries of the South Pacific region have approved the launching of a South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);

AWARE ALSO that the Second South Pacific Conference on National Parks and Reserves, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia on 27 April 1979 urged that all countries participate actively in SPREP and that conservation requirements and projects be incorporated wherever possible in national environmental programmes;

ACKNOWLEDGING with satisfaction the wide active support to date by countries of the South Pacific region for SPREP; **NOTING** that a Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific is to be held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in March 1982 as the next main step of SPREP;

BEARING IN MIND that Pacific countries are commonly recognized as having particularly attractive physical environments and that those with oceanic island ecosystems are unusually fragile and sensitive;

RECOGNIZING that the objectives of the World Conservation Strategy cannot be achieved unless environmental concern and development are partners in the promotion of human well-being and unless ecological and other conservation values become an integral part of the whole development process along with economic, technical and social consideration;

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

CONGRATULATES the countries of the South Pacific Region on their establishment of, and widespread support for, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

ENDORSES the recommendation of the Second South Pacific Conference on National Parks and Reserves to all countries of the South Pacific region that conservation requirements and projects be incorporated wherever possible in national environmental programmes;

ENCOURAGES all countries of the region to consider becoming Party to the Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific so that it may come into force;

REQUESTS that the IUCN Conservation Programme for Sustainable Development should give emphasis to conservation issues in the sensitive oceanic islands ecosystems and to conservation of the marine environment in the South Pacific; and **INVITES** the multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, the United Nations and other international organizations to give special practical attention to the conservation needs of the countries of the South Pacific region in the environmental management field.