

## 16/4. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

INFORMED for many years of the linkage between acid precipitation and the degradation of aquatic ecosystems;

INFORMED FURTHERMORE of the reported direct impacts of atmospheric pollutants and their derivatives on certain crops, on leaching of nutrients and heavy metals from the soils, on materials and public health;

AWARE of the indirect costs of such impacts, such as loss of genetic diversity of soil organisms and pollution of underground aquifers;

NOTING that socio-economic benefits accruing from pollution abatement may far outweigh long-term costs of such measures, the costs of which should be borne by the polluters;

RECALLING that "acid rain" was one of the most widely discussed of the important ecological problems dealt with in the 1983 State of the Environment Report of UNEP;

ALARMED by the accelerating damage to forests appearing in many parts of the Northern Hemisphere, linked to atmospheric pollution;

NOTING with satisfaction the expansion of the GEMS monitoring network in this field to the U.S., the Far East and South America; The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 16th Session in Madrid, Spain 5-14 November 1984:

1. URGES all IUCN Members to take an active role in promoting the adoption of national measures in all industrialized countries, designed to reduce dramatically the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere;
2. URGES SPECIFICALLY Member Governments to act strongly and immediately to abate such emissions, whether from power plants, industry, agriculture, automotive engines, domestic heaters, or other sources;
3. STRESSES that environmental pollution need not be a necessary and inescapable consequence of industrial development;
4. STRESSES ALSO the need to follow the decision taken by many Governments to reduce unilaterally their total sulphur dioxide emissions by at least 30 to 50 per cent by the end of the decade as compared to 1980 levels, and to continue towards further reductions as quickly as possible and according to environmental requirements;
5. URGES all Contracting Parties to the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution to adopt these same emission reduction objectives, thus demonstrating their common sense of responsibility towards a shared resource, the earth's atmosphere;
6. SUGGESTS that similar emission reduction objectives be adopted by all non-party nations in the Northern Hemisphere and that a similar agreement be brought into force in the Southern Hemisphere;
7. REQUESTS the Director General to encourage and follow-up on the cost/benefit studies being carried out notably by ECE and OECD, making sure that all costs of the impacts of atmospheric pollution, including those ecological, social, and aesthetic direct and indirect costs which may seem difficult to quantify, are fully taken into account;
8. FURTHER REQUESTS the IUCN Secretariat to report on progress in this field to the full IUCN membership within twelve months.

