

16/8. ANTARCTICA (I)

RECOGNIZING the significance of the Antarctic atmospheric, marine and terrestrial environments (defined for the purposes of this Resolution by the Antarctic convergence) for the world as a whole, particularly in maintaining the stability of the global marine environment and atmosphere, and the paramount importance to mankind of its great wilderness qualities for science, education and inspiration;

RECALLING the continued and long-established interest that IUCN has in the conservation of the ecosystems of the Antarctic environment as well as in the conservation of the species and habitats that it supports;

BEARING IN MIND that the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) places an urgent priority on international action to conserve nature and natural resources in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, that the General Principles section of the UN World Charter for Nature urges special protection for unique natural areas, and that these documents together represent a wide consensus among governments, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations;

NOTING that fifteen Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties have membership links with IUCN and that they have already espoused the aims of the WCS;

AWARE of the achievements of the Consultative Parties in their stewardship under the Antarctic Treaty in protecting the Antarctic environment from harmful interference, and the provision of measures for the conservation of flora and fauna, guidelines to minimize harmful effects of human activities, and measures specifically related to tourism activities;

FURTHER AWARE that the Thirty-Eighth Session of the United Nations, conscious of increasing international awareness of and interest in Antarctica, and convinced that Antarctica should forever be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, requested the Secretary General to prepare a comprehensive, factual and objective study of all aspects of Antarctica, taking fully into account the Antarctic Treaty System and other relevant factors;

COGNIZANT ALSO of the fact that the Consultative Parties are presently considering the establishment of a regime to govern both commercial exploration and exploitation of any mineral resources should this ever prove acceptable and that any exploitation of minerals would adversely affect the values of the Antarctic environment;

FURTHER AWARE of the additional efforts of the same nations to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of the living resources of the region, in particular by the initiative taken to negotiate and adopt the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (1972), the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora (1964) and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (1980);

TAKING NOTE of the actions taken by the International Whaling Commission with regard to whaling in the Southern Ocean;

RECALLING that the Second World Conference on National Parks in 1972 recommended that States Party to the Antarctic Treaty should establish the Antarctic continent and surrounding seas as the first World Park and that the World Congress on National Parks, Bali, Indonesia, in 1982 recommended that the Antarctic environment as a whole be given an international protected area designation which connotes worldwide its unique character;

CONCERNED further that the effective planning, management and conservation of the Antarctic environment can best be achieved by thorough consideration of feasible alternatives and if all actions are based on restraint and scientific knowledge, as well as through cooperation and coordination;

NOTING that the Antarctic Treaty Area is designated as a "Special Conservation Area" under the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 16th Session in Madrid, Spain, 5-14 November 1984:

A. THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

General

1. RECOMMENDS that the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties should foster measures which would:
 - (a) maintain for all time the intrinsic values of the Antarctic environment for mankind and the global ecosystem;
 - (b) ensure that all human activities are compatible with the maintenance of these values; and
 - (c) ascribe to the Antarctic environment as a whole a designation which connotes worldwide its unique character and values and the special measures accorded to its planning, management and conservation;
2. RECOMMENDS AS WELL that the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties subject all activities having a potentially significant impact on the environment, including research and logistics activities, to:
 - (a) environmental impact assessment procedures, based on adequate scientific knowledge and information, that include consideration of feasible alternatives and cumulative impacts;
 - (b) strict monitoring procedures;
 - (c) effective inspection and enforcement of compliance with measures under the Antarctic Treaty system;
 - (d) reporting requirements that allow public scrutiny and accountability of the operation of the Antarctic Treaty system;
3. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that no mineral activity should take place in Antarctica until such time as full consideration has been given to protecting the Antarctic environment completely and the environmental risks have been fully ascertained and safeguards developed to avoid adverse environmental effects;

Communication and Consultation

4. RECOMMENDS that the Consultative Parties recognize the increased interest in the Antarctic environment of the world community, and therefore that they:
 - (a) mobilize and draw upon the goodwill and expertise freely available to support their work by effective communication and consultation with interested parties;
 - (b) foster well-informed public interest and awareness, through educational measures based on accurate reporting and dissemination of their policies and actions in relation to the Antarctic environment; and
 - (c) invite representatives from appropriate non-governmental organizations to participate in meetings according to normal international practices;
5. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that national delegations to the Antarctic Treaty keep fully in touch and consult with NGOs in their countries concerned with the Antarctic environment and to include advisers from these bodies in their delegations;

Membership

6. RECOMMENDS that all nations concerned with the future of the Antarctic environment not yet Party to the Antarctic Treaty accede to that treaty;

Research and Conservation — General

7. CONSIDERS that the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties should ensure that research and conservation action is coordinated and that, as a priority, the research programmes needed

to protect Antarctic ecosystems and allow for informed decision-making are ascertained, together with the institutions best suited to undertake them;

8. RECOMMENDS full support to on-going scientific efforts and the undertaking of long-term, large-scale cooperative research programmes focused on the ecological structure and processes of the Antarctic environment and on their role with regard to globally relevant phenomena, such as weather and climate;
9. STRESSES the need to obtain, through rigorous programmes of research and controlled experiment, such data as are necessary for prudent management decisions before such decisions are taken in respect of living and non-living resources, and to review continually the after-effects of such decisions by the same means, so as to take account of newly-evolving factors;
10. CALLS UPON the Consultative Parties to take the lead in such research and conservation programmes;
11. RECOMMENDS that all organizations whose activities and expertise are of relevance to these research and conservation tasks contribute as appropriate;
12. PLEDGES the support and expertise of IUCN in the establishment and carrying out of such programmes; and
13. PARTICULARLY RECOMMENDS that:
 - (a) the Consultative Parties continue their efforts to identify sites meriting special protection within the overall framework of measures for the Antarctic environment, and then accord these sites appropriate protection;
 - (b) continued attention be given to coordination of research and other activities now being carried out in Antarctica for the purpose of preventing or minimizing harmful environmental consequences such as air pollution and wastes;
 - (c) vigilance be exercised in the implementation of the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora and the various recommendations concerning Man's impact on the Antarctic environment, notably those regarding waste disposal and tourism and the introduction of alien species, and that necessary monitoring and control be carried out;

B. THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES 1980

14. EXPRESSES its satisfaction that the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources provides an effective ecosystem approach to the conservation and management of the natural resources of the Southern Ocean;
15. PLEDGES to make IUCN expertise available to the Commission and the Scientific Committee created under the Convention and urges the strengthening of cooperative relationships with the Commission and Scientific Committee;
16. RECALLS that the population dynamics of the living resources of the Southern Ocean are still poorly known;
17. RECOMMENDS that Parties to the Convention formulate and implement suitably cautious policies for managing Antarctic living resources in the context of the total ecosystem, having regard to the best available scientific evidence and with prompt dissemination of statistics of catch and effort, by:
 - (a) developing all fisheries only in conjunction with scientific advice designed to provide the best understanding of the functioning of the ecosystem; and
 - (b) establishing, as a consequence, all such fisheries on an experimental basis for an adequate length of time, with an initial conservative quota by area and appropriate enforcement of such quotas;
18. RECOMMENDS FURTHER that:
 - (a) as a high priority, feeding habits of species dependent upon krill be studied and critical areas be closed to krill fishing;
 - (b) some areas be closed to fishing *ab initio*, and at least one large sanctuary be established where krill harvesting would be prohibited or permitted only for scientific purposes, in order to provide for adequate baseline areas;
 - (c) an evaluation be made of the role of squid in the ecosystem and the possible effects of harvest on species dependent upon it before substantial exploitation takes place;
 - (d) there should be a pause in exploitation of depleted finfish stocks;
 - (e) all data be provided, on an agreed standardized scientific basis, including that from fishing operations carried out over a reasonable past period of time, to facilitate the establishment of a central data bank which can utilize data from all relevant sources;
 - (f) appropriate coordination of objectives and activities with the International Whaling Commission be established, in particular regarding the implementation of measures aiming at the recovery of those whales whose populations have been depleted;
 - (g) the development of dynamic models of the Southern Ocean ecosystem be initiated, bearing in mind the depletion of many whale species; and
 - (h) in the process of developing the fishery on a scientific basis, the development of cooperative relationships with appropriate organizations be effectively carried out;
19. RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the Parties to the Convention take all necessary steps to inform the scientific and conservation communities of the action they take to protect the Southern Ocean, including reporting on discussions and actions pertaining to environmental conservation issues, and inviting representatives from appropriate NGOs to participate in appropriate meetings;
20. FURTHER RECOMMENDS all nations concerned with the future of the Antarctic environment and the Southern Ocean to support the operation of the Convention and to accede to it as soon as possible;
21. RECOMMENDS that, notwithstanding current worldwide economic difficulties, the significance of the Southern Ocean demands that it be accorded high priority in the allocation of resources adequate to ensure the effective operation of the

Commission and its Scientific Committee;

C. THE MINERALS OF ANTARCTICA

22. COMMENDS the Consultative Parties for their decision to refrain from exploration of Antarctic mineral resources for the time being;
23. RECOMMENDS that the Treaty Parties keep IUCN and the scientific and conservation communities well informed of any proposed mineral activities in the Antarctic and recommends further that they seek the views and understanding of IUCN on any which would affect the conservation of the Antarctic environment;
24. PLEDGES to make IUCN expertise available to the Treaty Parties and other bodies and organizations as appropriate to conduct or cooperate in conducting studies necessary to ensure that mineral activities carried on in the Antarctic have minimum environmentally adverse effects;

D. REVIEW OF CONSERVATION MEASURES

25. COGNIZANT of the fact that in debate at the Twelfth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting it was urged that there was a need to consider whether further coordination is necessary between the various elements of environmental protection and conservation contained in the Antarctic Treaty system;
26. RECOMMENDS that a comprehensive review be carried out under the Antarctic Treaty system of the existing environmental and conservation Conventions and measures, with a view to determining whether any appropriate new Conventions or measures are needed for the environmental protection of the Antarctica environment and the Southern Ocean.
27. RECOMMENDS FURTHER that in relation to the consideration of the "Question of Antarctica" at the United Nations, all States and interested non-governmental organizations communicate information and views concerning the Antarctic environment to the United Nations in the appropriate manner;
and
28. PLEDGES IUCN's continuing assistance in providing to the Secretary General its expertise concerning Antarctica.

