

16/20. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS AND CONSERVATION

RECOGNIZING that conservation concerns as articulated in the World Conservation Strategy are at the heart of the development process itself, since poverty and environmental deterioration in large parts of the developing world are inextricably intertwined;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that international development assistance institutions such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the European Investment Bank (known as multi-lateral development banks [MDBs]) and other agencies play a crucial role in the planning and implementation of economic development projects and policies in Third World countries;

CONCERNED that the policies and lending activities of the international development assistance agencies will continue to have major impacts on genetic and other natural resources of the planet for many years to come, and that these impacts can be beneficial or adverse depending on how well conservation and development are integrated;

UNDERSTANDING that the efforts of MDBs and other international development assistance agencies can provide developing nations with a sound economic base for investment and resource conservation in order to sustain and improve the quality of life in Third World countries;

NOTING that improvement in the living standards of many developing countries has implications for world security and that achieving sound economic development is not possible without taking positive measures to ensure proper management of natural resources and biological systems;

RECALLING that in the Declaration of Environmental Policies and Procedures Relating to Economic Development, signed in 1980, the signatories agreed that "in the long run environmental protection and economic and social development are not only compatible but interdependent and mutually reinforcing" and that "international development assistance institutions have ... a responsibility to ensure the sustainability of the economic development activities financed by them";

RECALLING FURTHER that, in the 1980 Declaration, each of the international development assistance institutions pledged to "ensure integration of appropriate environmental measures in the design and implementation of economic development activities";

NOTING with satisfaction the resolution of the Council of the European Communities of 3 October 1984 by which it pledges its adherence to the principles of the 1980 Declaration;

RECOGNIZING that several of these institutions have taken steps to implement the 1980 Declaration;

CONVINCED, nevertheless, that specific support from senior officials of these institutions is necessary to ensure that concrete measures are taken and sufficient resources devoted to fulfill the obligations of the 1980 Declaration;

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

1. REQUESTS the international development assistance institutions to support the goals of the World Conservation Strategy, and to initiate or continue work towards fulfilling the pledge they made in their 1980 Declaration of Environmental Policies and Procedures;
2. RECOMMENDS that the international development assistance institutions initiate, or continue to implement the following steps to realize the goals of the World Conservation Strategy:
 - (a) take the necessary practical steps, including the commitment of resources, to assure the integration of conservation and economic development in all stages of the project cycle, from policy and sector work and project identification, through post-project evaluation;
 - (b) devote a significant part of research activities and programmes to environmental and natural resource issues;
 - (c) to assure implementation of (a) and (b), increase the staff professionally trained in environmental and natural resources disciplines, as well as provide environmental training for all staff, including those working in other operations and policy areas;
 - (d) give greater priority to funding natural resources and environment related projects, including projects to conserve biological diversity;
 - (e) ensure that a broader based range of experts are included in the policy dialogue between these institutions and developing countries, including representatives from environmental ministries, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), with special concern for consultation with representatives

of populations and local groups affected by proposed projects;

(f) give a firm, public commitment of senior management to ensure that speedy implementation of all the above measures be made a high priority of their institutions;

3. FURTHER REQUESTS Governments to exercise their leadership within the international development assistance institutions to achieve the objectives outlined in this Resolution;
4. CALLS UPON the Members of IUCN to use their influence with their Governments to promote the objectives outlined in this Resolution.