

16/23. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND NATURAL VEGETATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

RECOGNIZING that sustainable agricultural development depends upon the avoidance of soil erosion;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that in many regions of the world the destruction of the natural vegetation cover and its integral fauna through ill-conceived agricultural development can lead to accelerated soil erosion, as has been shown in numerous cases, in particular in Spain, Italy and other Mediterranean countries;

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

1. RECOMMENDS that Governments, international agencies and other bodies responsible for formulating and implementing programmes and projects for rural development in Spain, Italy and other Mediterranean countries should give priority to the following:

(a) comprehensive programmes of soil conservation;

(b) environmentally sound rural development projects which consider the whole watershed, rather than concentrating solely on the potentially productive agricultural land;

(c) projects which seek to retain protective natural vegetation cover in vulnerable areas where its loss would lead to accelerated soil erosion;

projects which involve the re-establishment of the most appropriate vegetation as a means to combat soil erosion