

16/32. BIOSPHERE RESERVES

CONSIDERING that biosphere reserves play an increasingly important role in conserving representative ecosystems and their biological diversity;

CONSIDERING that biosphere reserves, through their multiple functions, serve as practical focal points for local, regional and international cooperation to address inter-related ecological, land use and socio-economic problems;

CONSIDERING that biosphere reserves aim at developing support from local populations for long-term conservation efforts;

NOTING that the international network of biosphere reserves now contains 226 sites in 62 nations;

NOTING FURTHER that the proposals for action endorsed by the First International Congress on Biosphere Reserves, held in Minsk in the Soviet Union in 1983, provide a framework for the further development of this international network;

CONSIDERING that the concept and development of biosphere reserves is of considerable importance in the implementation of the World Conservation Strategy;

NOTING that an international Action Plan on Biosphere Reserves is now being developed for early adoption by the Co-ordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere, and that this Action Plan will be considered by the governing bodies of UNEP, FAO and Unesco;

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

1. WELCOMES the expansion, consolidation and functional development of the international network of biosphere reserves;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to ensure that scientific and technical support is given by IUCN to the finalization of the Action Plan on Biosphere Reserves, and to its implementation, as a matter of urgency;
3. INVITES all IUCN components to enhance the role of biosphere reserves in programmes for ecosystem conservation and integrated rural development, and to acknowledge the forthcoming Action Plan on Biosphere Reserves as a major contribution towards the World Conservation Plan.