

16/33. RIVERS OF OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

AWARE that the structural alteration of rivers worldwide by dams, channelization, and diversion is continuing at an alarming rate;

CONCERNED that the outstanding natural, scientific, and aesthetic values of many rivers, including seasonal rivers, will be lost unless action is taken;

RECOGNIZING that there is a need to balance river basin development with the principles of the World Conservation Strategy and national conservation strategies;

RECOGNIZING that there is a need for protection of rivers having outstanding natural features, rare or unusual plant and animal species, and significant geological or archaeological sites;

MINDFUL of the fact many indigenous tribes live along and depend on the free-flowing condition of rivers and are jeopardized by certain types of river development projects;

CONVINCED that outstanding rivers preserved in their free-flowing condition could protect these remarkable natural, scientific, and aesthetic values as well as the indigenous cultures living along the river;

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

REQUESTS that the Director General of IUCN should arrange for the development of criteria for identifying outstanding rivers and segments of rivers, and should invite IUCN members to apply those criteria to the rivers within their own countries with a view to securing their more effective protection.

