

16/34. PROTECTION OF WILDERNESS RESOURCES AND VALUES

RECOGNIZING that wilderness areas are characterized by an essentially natural condition, without roads or significant developments, and which are managed to perpetuate those conditions and to afford opportunities for recreation which emphasise solitude and communion with nature;

RECOGNIZING the role that wilderness can play in protecting the diversity of both flora and fauna and thus assuring the conservation of biological diversity *in situ*, as recommended in the World Conservation Strategy;

AWARE that the growing human populations of the world increasingly will need the values of wilderness, and the opportunity to experience them;

AWARE that the passage of United States wilderness legislation in 1964 has contributed significantly to the protection of natural areas in that country;

FURTHER AWARE that the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas is actively considering the separate identification of wilderness areas in its review of Categories, Objectives and Criteria;

RECOGNIZING that different nations employ different means of protecting their wilderness areas;

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

RECOMMENDS that all nations identify, designate and protect their wilderness areas on both public and private lands.