

## **16/35. WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION**

RECALLING the recommendations of the second and third World Conferences on National Parks regarding the conservation of the World Heritage;

CONSIDERING the increasingly important role of the World Heritage Convention in the conservation of natural resources and in the full and enduring protection of the world's natural and cultural heritage;

NOTING with appreciation that 83 States have now become Party to the Convention and that 52 natural sites have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, while also recognizing that the Convention has not yet achieved universal coverage and that the World Heritage List is not yet fully comprehensive;

CALLING ATTENTION to the inclusion of three natural sites on the list of World Heritage in Danger at the Eighth Session World Heritage Committee meeting in Buenos Aires earlier this month;

RECOGNIZING that a number of State Parties are in arrears with their financial contributions and that funds for technical assistance have, as a result, been drastically reduced;

FURTHER NOTING, with particular interest, the judicial verification of the application of the World Heritage Convention in Australia, resulting in the continued integrity of a threatened natural area on the World Heritage List;

COMMENDING the strong commitment to, and energetic participation in, Convention activities by colleagues interested primarily in cultural heritage, while regretting the continuing imbalance between natural and cultural nominations received for the World Heritage List and between natural and cultural experts on delegations to the World Heritage Committee;

FURTHER COMMENDING the World Heritage Committee and Unesco for the significant successes of the first seven years of full operation of the Convention, and recognizing the important roles played by IUCN in these successes;

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

1. EXPRESSES its strong commitment to the principle of the World Heritage Convention;
2. REQUESTS all States which have not yet done so seriously to consider becoming Party to the Convention and to nominate the natural areas within their sovereign territories which are of universal value to mankind;
3. REQUESTS States which have ratified the Convention to meet their financial obligations, and also to be responsive to requests for training, technical assistance and cooperation from other State Parties;
4. REQUESTS States to include technically proficient natural area specialists in their delegations to the World Heritage Committee meetings;
5. FURTHER REQUESTS States with protected areas bordering on, or related to, protected areas of other States to work with their neighbouring States jointly to submit nominations in order to provide ecosystem protection;
6. ASKS Unesco to consider launching an international campaign, in cooperation with the World Heritage Committee, UNEP and IUCN, to provide the substantial support needed to ensure that corrective action can be taken with respect to areas on the World Heritage in Danger List;
7. STRESSES the importance of maintaining the integrity of World Heritage properties and urges States to ensure the fullest application of the Convention.