

16/37. GALAPAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, ECUADOR

RECALLING the importance of oceanic islands to science and the need to conserve their species and habitats;
RECALLING FURTHER that only few islands and archipelagos remain in a pristine state, that most are radically and detrimentally changed by human activities and that many have lost unique elements of their wildlife;

RECOGNIZING the particular significance of the Galapagos Archipelago to science conservation and education and that due to its historic features of worldwide significance it has been placed on the World Heritage List under the terms of the World Heritage Convention;

BEING AWARE that the inhabitants of the Galapagos Islands depend on the appropriate development of the archipelago's natural resources;

CONVINCED that such development can be achieved only if human migration to the islands is limited and if the sensitive character of the islands' resources is taken into account;

CONGRATULATING Ecuador on its efforts to guarantee the survival of endangered species and ecosystems, initiated 25 years ago by the inclusion of most of the island area into a National Park, and to create a National Park Service which has resulted in the Galapagos becoming one of the best managed natural areas in the world;

RECALLING that action by the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Isles and IUCN has contributed substantially to the creation and management of the Galapagos National Park, and that they were amongst the organizations which first proposed controlled tourism as the most appropriate way of utilizing the islands' resources;

APPRECIATIVE of the care which Ecuador has applied to the proper management of tourism in the Galapagos, resulting in sustained income from the industry;

CONCERNED that reports in recent weeks and days in the national and international press indicate that the Government is considering permitting large-scale recreational tourism inappropriate to the special and great value of the islands' resources, which may cause their rapid or irreversible deterioration;

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

1. ASSURES the Government and people of Ecuador of its continuing interest in, and support for, their efforts to conserve the islands and their wildlife for future generations;
2. URGES the Government of Ecuador to continue to use the resources of the Galapagos as a World Heritage Site in a sustainable way and to take account of the ecological limitations which these resources impose upon undue population growth, inappropriate forms of tourism and destructive land use.