

17.13 WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENT

RECOGNIZING that women are the main, but largely neglected, natural resource managers, especially in the developing world; that their priorities in natural resource management coincide with those of IUCN; that their health and livelihood — and therefore their ability to act as effective agents for conservation — are often destroyed both by environmental degradation and by ill-conceived development and conservation projects;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that women's skills and experience in natural resource management can assist IUCN in its work, and that women's groups have shown themselves to be informed, energetic and effective agents for conservation;

ACKNOWLEDGING that women and children make up the majority of Earth's poorest inhabitants and that IUCN has expressed its concern to reach these people;

RECALLING that in many recent international fora, notably the 16th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (1984), the 40th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (1985), the Ottawa Conference on Conservation and Development (1986), and the IUCN Workshop on Women and the World Conservation Strategy (1987), recommendations and resolutions were adopted calling for the involvement of women at all levels in working for sustainable development; that many of IUCN's cooperating organizations, donors and other partners are re-organizing their structures, procedures and policies to enable the skills and experience of women at all levels to be incorporated in their work;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 17th Session in San Jose, Costa Rica, 1-10 February 1988:

1. URGES all Governments to ensure that equal rights for all women and men are recognized and that all necessary steps are taken to fully implement this basic principle.
2. CALLS up on the Director General of IUCN to pursue funding for IUCN's efforts to enhance and support women's participation in conservation and sustainable development strategies, and within the resources available, to:
 - a. Appoint a full-time Women's Adviser to provide expertise, information and training assistance;
 - b. Appoint an Advisory Council of senior people experienced at international, national and field levels in the interactions between women and environment, to provide expertise, advice and fundraising capabilities;
 - c. Introduce an in-house screening procedure for all IUCN's programmes and projects to assess:
 - how women can assist in conservation action;
 - how women's capacity to conserve can be improved and not impaired;
 - d. Appoint a special review group to ensure that the recommendations of the Workshop on Women and the World Conservation Strategy, held in November 1987, are incorporated in the drafting of the World Conservation Strategy companion volume as agreed by the WCS Steering Committee at its meeting in January 1988;
 - e. Ensure that, in its response to the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, IUCN gives full recognition to the vital contribution of women in achieving sustainable development;
 - f. Increase the number of women experts on the IUCN Council, and in the Commissions, Advisory Committees and the Secretariat;
 - g. Make efforts to extend IUCN's membership to include NGOs active in the field of women and environment;
 - h. Set up, in cooperation with other organizations, an information system that *inter alia* will enable IUCN to review its programmes and projects, identify consultants, train staff, and publish materials on women and sustainable development.

