

tainable development;

- b. Implement the "Recommended Action: Population, Resources and Human Ecology" as given on page 22 of the IUCN draft report, "From Strategy to Action: How to Implement the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development".

## 17.17 POPULATION

REAFFIRMING Resolution 16/3, Population and the World Conservation Strategy, passed at the 16th Session of the General Assembly of IUCN, which acknowledged IUCN's responsibility to incorporate population policy issues into its Programme, particularly in its work on national conservation strategies;

RECOGNIZING that the challenge and opportunity created by the international consensus on the interdependence of population, resources, environment and development are even more obvious and urgent than at that time;

WELCOMING the establishment of a Population and Sustainable Development Programme within the IUCN Secretariat and the appointment of technical leadership;

RECOGNIZING the work of the IUCN Task Force on Population and Conservation for Sustainable Development through their report of June 1986;

APPRECIATING IUCN's action — taken in consultation with its collaborators on the World Conservation Strategy, UNEP, WWF, Unesco and FAO — to incorporate the population factor into the World Conservation Strategy companion volume;

RECALLING the consensus of the international community on population, environment and development as expressed in the World Population Plan of Action (1974), the Recommendations of the International Conference on Population (1984), and the World Conference to Review and Appraise the United Nations Decade for Women (1985);

WELCOMING the commitment of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to action regarding the interrelationship among population, resources, the environment and development;

NOTING that world population passed five billion in 1987 ; that the United Nations estimates that it will be over eight billion by the year 2025, even though this projection assumes an overall decline in fertility; that the projected increases are not inevitable, but that a significant impact on the growth of human numbers will require early and sustained action;

FURTHER NOTING that some communities have high levels of resource consumption; and that, at the other extreme, some poor communities can meet their basic needs only by over-exploiting their resource base, sometimes with irreversible consequences and that this combination may exceed the safe limits of resource extraction ;

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

1. RENEWS its concern over rapid growth of the world's population.
2. ENCOURAGES Governments to take effective action to secure the basic right of all couples, individuals, and in particular women, to decide the number and spacing of their children, and to have access to information and means to do so — a right accepted by the international community as essential for humanitarian and health reasons.
3. ENCOURAGES Governments and development agencies to take into account that population planning is an integral part of all conservation and development programmes, and that full participation of local communities in the planning and implementation of these programmes is essential.
4. CALLS ON the Director General of IUCN, within the resources available, to:
  - a. Cooperate with national and international agencies concerned with population, especially UNFPA and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), towards achieving the goals of balanced population growth and sus-

