

## **17.20 TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY RELATING TO CONTAMINATING PRODUCTS INCLUDING PESTICIDES**

RECALLING that one of the main objectives of the World Conservation Strategy is the protection of vital ecosystems for the maintenance of the quality of life on our planet;

AWARE that the legal and administrative systems of many developing countries are ill-equipped to assess the risks to their environment and public health posed by technology and products which may be exported to those countries;

RECOGNIZING in particular that natural resources, fauna and flora are constantly exposed to chemical residues resulting from the use of pesticides in food production, vector control, horticulture and forestry, and from domestic and urban use, with serious consequences for human health;

CONCERNED that the impact of pesticides in developing countries is exacerbated by abuse or improper or irrational use;

NOTING that in November 1985, the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) adopted, by consensus of all Member Countries, the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, and that nongovernmental conservation organizations world-wide played an important role in promoting the development and adoption of the Code;

FURTHER NOTING that the FAO Conference in November 1987 decided that the principle of prior informed consent should be included in the Code within two years;

WELCOMING the decision of the 14th Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop proposals for the inclusion of the principle of prior informed consent into the "London Guidelines for the Environmentally Safe Management of Banned or Severely Restricted Chemicals in International Trade" at its next regular session in 1989;

WELCOMING ALSO Resolution A/RES/42/183 of the United Nations General Assembly on Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products and Wastes;

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

1. CALLS ON Governments of all countries to enact legislation to control the import of known contaminating products, processes, or associated technology.
2. ENCOURAGES Governments to enact legislation to prevent the export of contaminating products, processes, or associated technology.
3. ENCOURAGES Governments to prohibit the import of agrochemicals, Pharmaceuticals, other chemical substances, technology or processes that, due to their high toxicity, or their effect on the environment or on human health, are liable to have a damaging impact.
4. URGES State members of IUCN to strive for the implementation of the UNEP Governing Council decision on further development of the London guidelines towards the inclusion, in the legislation of member countries, of the "prior informed consent" principle and the recommendations of the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.
5. URGES State members of IUCN to persuade all States to consider and adopt restriction of pesticide exports to States that do not enforce laws governing their purchase, use and distribution; considerations such as inappropriateness of certain chemicals that require the use of heavy protective garments in tropical and desert climates, should be examined.

6. URGES that further research be conducted on alternative, non-chemical and integrated pest control methods.
7. CALLS FOR a commitment to training and deploying extension personnel to educate farmers about the ecological and economic advantages of well-researched biological pest control and integrated pest management technologies.
8. REQUESTS IUCN members to monitor the rigorous enforcement of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in all countries and their impact upon wild flora and fauna and upon human populations; and to press for the development, at national and international levels, of strict regulations on use, control, marketing, export and production of pesticides.
9. FURTHER CALLS ON the Director General of IUCN to give priority, within the resources available, to the organization of education campaigns that warn about the dangers of pesticides, encourage their safer and more rational use, and promote alternative pest control methods that are not chemical or involve only minimal quantities of toxic chemicals.