

17.28 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

CONSIDERING THAT:

- a. The World Conservation Strategy provides guidelines for the development of national conservation strategies;
- b. While many countries, such as Costa Rica, have prepared or are in the process of developing their national conservation strategies, many others have not yet undertaken such a task;
- c. Indigenous peoples have a long and rich history of knowledge and experience in the sustainable use of their environment, which has often been excluded from economic development strategies as well as conservation strategies and activities;
- d. IUCN has, through its Commission on Ecology, begun work in this area by combining traditional knowledge with scientific knowledge;
- e. In response to the aspirations of the Inuit of Alaska, Canada and Greenland, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference has initiated an Inuit Regional Conservation Strategy, modelled after the World Conservation Strategy from an indigenous perspective;
- f. A section on "Recommended Action: Traditional Knowledge" is contained within the IUCN draft report "From Strategy to Action: How to Implement the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development";

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

1. URGES all national and regional governments to follow the example of Costa Rica in developing national and/or regional conservation strategies as well as to use them as a basis for their planning policies.
2. RECOMMENDS the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the preparation of national and regional conservation strategies where this is appropriate.
3. SUPPORTS the efforts of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference to develop the Inuit Regional Conservation Strategy within the framework of the World Conservation Strategy.
4. SUPPORTS the efforts of the International Indian Treaty Council to develop indigenous national and regional conservation strategies within the framework of the World Conservation Strategy.