

17.31 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS AND CONSERVATION

RECOGNIZING the critical role that multilateral and bilateral development assistance institutions play in the choice and planning of economic development projects and policies in developing countries;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that economic development projects, and overall economic policies in developing countries, have a significant effect on the sustainable use of natural resources and the rights and welfare of local inhabitants including the poor, the landless and indigenous people;

RECALLING the concern expressed elsewhere by this General Assembly with regard to the impacts of development assistance on biological and other natural resources, and that these impacts can be beneficial or adverse depending on how well conservation and development are integrated;

NOTING the initiatives that some of these development institutions have recently undertaken to integrate development and environmental aspects in their projects;

CONVINCED that better understanding of the relationship between conservation and development and more rapid progress toward the achievement of sustainable development would result from pooling of intellectual and financial resources by development assistance institutions;

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

1. **COMMENDS** those development assistance institutions that are incorporating environmental conservation measures into their projects and programmes.
2. **URGES** those institutions to demonstrate and strengthen their commitment to promoting the wise use of natural resources and the protection of the rights and welfare of local inhabitants as well as to enhancing the welfare of people affected by their projects and programmes.
3. **STRONGLY URGES** those institutions that are not incorporating environmental protection measures in their projects and programmes to do so as soon as possible.
4. **RECOMMENDS** that the multilateral development institutions pay special attention to the importance of, and benefits that can be provided by, encouraging the active participation of local conservation and indigenous peoples' organizations in all stages of planning and implementation of their activities in borrowing countries.
5. **RECOMMENDS** that development assistance institutions — through the medium of the Committee of the International Development Institutions on the Environment (CIDIE), the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), or other appropriate institutions — promote and facilitate research, appropriate pilot projects and the exchange of information on sustainable development, and train people from developing countries in environmental topics.
6. **REQUESTS** governments to exercise leadership within the multilateral development assistance institutions to achieve the objectives outlined in this Resolution.
7. **CALLS UPON** the nongovernmental organization (NGO) members of IUCN to use their influence with their governments to promote the objectives outlined in this Resolution.
8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Director General, as part of IUCN's Programme 1988-1990, to assist and promote the efforts of NGO members called for above.

