

17.37 STRENGTHENING MARINE ACTIVITIES

REALIZING that a major part of the world's population is living in or dependent on the coastal zone;

CONCERNED that the deterioration of the world's coastal and marine resources is continuing at a rapid pace;

CONSCIOUS that the stores of scientific knowledge and of planning methodologies for the rational management of coastal and marine resources are less developed than for terrestrial systems;

CONSCIOUS that methodologies for the integrated planning for management of coastal and marine resources, particularly those of developing countries have not been adequately developed, tested or disseminated;

FURTHER CONSCIOUS that the coastal and marine components of the World Conservation Strategy and national conservation strategies have not yet been adequately addressed;

RECALLING that Resolution 16/12 of the 16th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (1984) addressed the need for action by IUCN to respond to issues of marine resources management related to the environmental law of the sea;

FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution 16/19 of the 16th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (1984) recognized that the theme of "Promoting the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Living Resources" was one of the activities that would continue to receive a commitment of resources by IUCN, through its Secretarial and Commissions;

NOTING that the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development has recognized that "sustainable development, if not survival itself, depends on significant advances in the management of the oceans", and that "considerable changes will be required in our institutions and policies and more resources will have to be committed to oceans management";

NOTING that present and future marine protected areas can cross jurisdictional boundaries;

FURTHER NOTING that some progress has been made in the implementation of Resolutions 16/12, 16/19 and other Resolutions of the IUCN General Assembly concerned with the coastal and marine environment, through the efforts of IUCN members, the Commissions, the IUCN theme programmes and the Secretariat;

CONVINCED, nevertheless, that a more concerted effort is needed to focus attention on the coastal and marine activities of IUCN, to enable it to provide greater guidance and leadership in the management of the world's ocean resources;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General of IUCN, in consultation with Council, to determine and implement measures, including financial and administrative steps, to maximize the effectiveness of the coastal and marine components of the IUCN Programme and to ensure that all activities are formulated, planned and executed in an integrated way.
2. REQUESTS FURTHER that in the implementation of the coastal and marine elements of the IUCN Programme, the Commissions, and the Director General give the highest priority to those elements that augment the development, formulation and dissemination of methodologies and information concerned with planning and managing the use of coastal and marine resources, particularly in developing countries, including such elements as:
 - a. Establishment of a global and regional network of scientists and managers that can act as a resource for IUCN activities related to the integrated planning and management of the use of coastal and marine resources;
 - b. Assisting in the formulation and implementation of national and regional conservation strategies;

- c. Assisting countries (particularly developing countries) in formulating, and seeking funds for, projects aimed at the rational management of coastal and marine resources;
 - d. Convening of task forces and working groups for evaluating and refining ecological and other concepts needed to obtain a greater consensus on important marine environmental and marine resource indicators as well as concepts needed for coastal and ocean planning and management;
 - e. Convening workshops and training courses on the development of coastal and marine planning and management techniques, including remote sensing, marine ecology assessment and oceanographic modelling;
 - f. Workshops, training courses and public awareness activities concerning coastal planning and management;
 - g. Developing mechanisms (e.g. newsletter, annotated registry of IUCN's marine and coastal members and collaborators, distribution of draft policy/programme statements and documents for review and comment by interested governmental and nongovernmental organization members) to strengthen participation in the IUCN Coastal and Marine Programme by all components of the Union, and others.
3. RECOMMENDS that States with marine areas under their jurisdiction should take specific steps to improve the planning and management of coastal and marine resources and to encourage greater exchange of scientific information on existing management methodologies.
 4. CALLS on relevant authorities to cooperate in management of marine protected areas that come under more than one jurisdiction.
 5. RECOMMENDS FURTHER that non governmental organizations consider ways of focussing greater attention on the importance of conserving the coastal and marine environment.