

17.43 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR PROMOTING THE CONCEPT OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES

NOTING that the majority of governments now recognize the necessity to link the conservation of natural resources with economic development, following the basic principles of the World Conservation Strategy and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development;

RECOGNIZING that while Strict Nature Reserves and National Parks (IUCN Categories I and II) contribute to conservation and economic development through non-consumptive uses of natural resources, and conserve areas of natural habitat with minimum human influence, no single approach to conservation is sufficient;

REALIZING, in this connection, that areas where people are a permanent part of the landscape can demonstrate durable systems of use that provide economic livelihoods, are socially and spiritually-satisfying, are in harmony with nature, and preserve the cultural identity of communities;

REALIZING FURTHER that:

- a. Landscapes that have been materially altered by human activities often include species and ecosystems that are dependent on such activities;
- b. Such landscapes can serve as buffer zones of more strictly protected areas;
- c. They can provide for recreation and tourism, which can make an important contribution to the physical and mental health of visitors as well as help develop public support for environmental protection;
- d. Such areas can form the basis for sustainable development over relatively large regions and thereby be of particular importance in many developing countries;

ACKNOWLEDGING

- a. The great value of the management category of Protected Landscape (IUCN Category V) for controlling inappropriate land uses and development pressures in outstanding human modified landscapes;
- b. The value of the Biosphere Reserve concept in linking human concerns with those of protected areas;
- c. The specific mention in the World Heritage Convention's Operational Guidelines of the value of areas with significant combinations of cultural and natural features;
- d. The points made in the Lake District Declaration, which was unanimously adopted by the Symposium on Protected Landscapes held in the United Kingdom in October 1987;

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

1. RECOMMENDS that, within the resources available, the Director General of IUCN should:
 - a. Encourage IUCN members having experience and expertise in the establishment and management of protected landscapes and seascapes to make such expertise widely available to other IUCN members, (perhaps by using IUCN's Commissions on National Parks and Protected Areas and on Sustainable Development as conduits);
 - b. Assign the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas to:
 - critically evaluate, develop and promote further the criteria for Category V: Protected Landscapes and Seascapes;
 - develop management regimes for such areas;
 - work with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) to develop criteria for the consideration of sites with mixed cultural and natural values for the World Heritage List;
 - c. Request IUCN's Commission on Environmental Policy, Law and Administration, within the resources available, to conduct a survey of legal regimes applicable to the establishment, management, and administration of protected landscapes and seascapes, and publish guidelines for establishing and implementing legal, administrative, and fiscal measures appropriate to the circumstances in different countries;

- d. Actively promote the work of IUCN's Conservation Monitoring Centre to maintain data files on all categories of protected areas, with a particular effort directed to improving data bases of those categories neglected to date, and to developing simple software which will enable governments and local management authorities to maintain their own compatible data bases on personal computers;
- e. Encourage IUCN's Conservation for Development Centre to work with governments and development assistance agencies to find ways and means to provide effective support to all categories of protected areas in developing countries as a concrete measure to harmonize conservation and development, and to ensure that the concept of different categories of protected areas is fully incorporated in any national conservation strategy that IUCN may be supporting;
- f. Explore, via IUCN's programme in the regions, the application of ecodevelopment techniques in the sustainable use of protected landscapes.

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that governments and their agencies should:

- a. Examine their systems of protected areas and other conservation measures, and develop, where necessary, designations and legal regimes for categories of protected areas that include people living permanently within the boundaries of the area;
- b. Encourage the World Heritage Committee to adopt the principle that selected protected landscapes possessing significant harmonious associations of cultural and natural features can be considered as being of outstanding universal value and worthy of inscription on the World Heritage List;
- c. Support other international efforts— such as the Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) — which promote effective management of protected landscapes in ways which respond also to the needs and aspirations of resident populations;
- d. Promote, in particular through the Council of Europe and the European Federation of Nature and National Parks, the establishment of an International Seminar on Protected Areas in Europe, as an effective means of two-way transfer of knowledge about how to manage areas of outstanding conservation value that contain resident human populations;
- e. Develop further ways and means for ensuring that people who live in and around protected landscapes are encouraged, with incentives where appropriate, to maintain a harmonious balance with the environment.