

## 17.49 CITES IVORY QUOTA SYSTEM

RECOGNIZING that the Contracting Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) have recently adopted special procedures for the control of trade in ivory from African elephants, which are generally referred to as the "Quota System", and have directed the CITES Secretariat to assist in the implementation of the Quota System with financing from voluntary contributions;

AWARE that there has been a sharp decline in elephant populations in many parts of Africa in recent years, that illegal trade in ivory has been the major cause of the decline, and that effective coordination of the Quota System by the CITES Secretariat is essential if the illegal trade in ivory is to be reduced;

AWARE of the special problems of illegal trade in ivory involving Burundi and the United Arab Emirates noted in Resolution Conf.6.11 at the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, and further noting the requirements of Resolution Conf.6.12 with respect to the registration of stocks of raw ivory;

RECOGNIZING that continued large scale illegal trade in ivory will imperil a resource of great socio-economic value to African states with elephant populations;

CONSCIOUS that the CITES Secretariat has not raised sufficient voluntary contributions to ensure the effective functioning of the Quota System until the next Conference of the Parties;

RECOGNIZING that this shortage of funds could jeopardise the long-term conservation of African elephant populations;

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

1. URGES governments, nongovernmental organizations, trade groups and other appropriate agencies to provide financial assistance to the CITES Secretariat for the operation of the Quota System.
2. URGES the Contracting Parties to CITES to include, at the next Conference of the Parties, the financing of the Quota System within the ordinary CITES budget funded by the Contracting Parties.
3. URGES the CITES Secretariat not to approve international trade in any unregistered raw ivory held within a State not Party to CITES without the consent of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

