17.51 INTRODUCTION OF CARNIVOROUS SNAILS FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PURPOSES

AWARE that high diversity and endemism of terrestrial mollusc species is a significant characteristic of many islands in the Caribbean Sea, and the Indian and Pacific Oceans;

CONCERNED that many of these unique molluscan faunas are now seriously threatened;

RECOGNIZING that, in addition to habitat destruction, the presence of exotic carnivorous snails, in particular *Euglandina rosea*, introduced as biological control agents for the introduced crop pest *Achatina fulica* (Giant African Snail), has caused dramatic population declines in many endemic native land snails on many islands;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that *Euglandina rosea* is known to have caused the extinction of native snail species in French Polynesia and Hawaii, and may have caused extinctions elsewhere;

NOTING that carnivorous snails are not effective control agents for the giant African snail, and that insufficient trials were carried out before their recommendation as control agents;

AWARE that national and regional organizations concerned with agriculture are still recommending the use of such agents for biological control;

NOTING that there is no currently effective method for eradicating *Euglandina rosea* once it has been introduced to an island;

FURTHER NOTING that the IUCN Species Survival Commission, in its Position Statement on “Translocation of Living Organisms”, states that no alien species should be deliberately introduced into any natural habitat;

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

1. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that introductions of carnivorous snails in habitats with endemic land snail species be prohibited.

2. REQUESTS that appropriate government agencies, agricultural and other relevant institutions be circulated with information stressing the danger of such untested biological control efforts.

3. SUGGESTS that regional organizations concerned with agriculture and the environment should be charged with circulating the necessary information.

4. URGES further research into other methods of controlling the giant African snail, such as collection by hand, and into methods of eradicating *Euglandina rosea*. 