

17.57 BERING LAND BRIDGE WORLD HERITAGE SITE, USSR AND USA

RECOGNIZING that natural and cultural resources at or adjacent to international boundaries often represent a shared heritage of significance to two or more nations;

AWARE that effective conservation of such shared heritage requires active cooperation between and among the nations concerned and the indigenous user groups of the region;

REALIZING that the designation of bi-national parks and reserves can provide international recognition and coordinated management and protection for unique resources without affecting the territorial sovereignty of the nations concerned;

AWARE that the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America are resuming scientific and technical cooperation to conserve their natural and cultural heritage;

RECOGNIZING the international significance of the Bering Strait region from the standpoint of paleoecology, anthropology, archaeology, and history, and the richness and diversity of its marine environment;

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

1. CONGRATULATES the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America for recognizing the importance of their common heritage in the Bering Strait region and agreeing to consider joint programmes for research, conservation and management of the unique resources therein.
2. ENCOURAGES both Governments, in cooperation with indigenous inhabitants, to pursue studies of potential bi-national protected sites in the Beringia region and cooperative management programmes for shared marine species and for pollution control.
3. EXPRESSES its hope that subsequent steps will be taken by both Governments to have Beringia designated as a World Heritage Site.