

17.4 GOVERNANCE OF THE UNION

CONSIDERING the immense challenges faced by IUCN in achieving its mission and its vital need for efficient and effective governance, particularly through Council and Bureau but drawing also on the skills and energies of IUCN members, and providing for the crucial functions of management, fundraising and representation;

NOTING the emphasis on breaking down sectoral barriers in the planning and undertaking of conservation activities; and the importance accorded to socio-political and economic, as well as ecological, factors in sustainable development, in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, the UN "Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond", and in IUCN's draft report "From Strategy to Action : How to Implement the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development";

CONVINCED that the Union's members are a major resource which should be fully utilized at all levels and in all parts of the Union;

RECALLING that IUCN has been well served by its Council and Bureau;

RECALLING FURTHER the immense benefits accruing to the Union through the representational activities of the President, but;

NOTING that the President and Councillors have from time to time been constrained in the full discharge of their responsibilities by lack of funds;

NOTING AS WELL that IUCN has a unique resource in its Commissions but that there are overlaps of interest among them, and that the Commission structure may not adequately reflect the multidis-ciplinary nature of contemporary approaches to sustainable development;

NOTING ALSO that the establishment of theme programmes has led to a greater need for integration throughout the Union;

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

RECOMMENDS that to the extent that additional funds are made available for the purpose:

- a. Provision be made to meet the travel expenses of Regional and Co-opted Councillors, whenever necessary, to ensure their full participation in the work of the Council and the Union;
- b. Provision also be made to enable the President to assume an increasingly active representational role on behalf of the Union, thus relieving some of the pressure on the Director General in this respect;
- c. The Bureau be reactivated, taking responsibility particularly for review of programmes, budget operations and for the preparation of recommendations to the Council;
- d. The Director General continue and intensify efforts to involve members in the planning and execution of all aspects of the Union's Programme;
- e. The Director General, in consultation with the Council, undertake a detailed examination of all structural components of the Union, with a view to providing the most effective framework for the overall operation of the Union, reporting on the actions taken to the next General Assembly.