

17.5 USE OF THE FRENCH AND SPANISH LANGUAGES

CONSIDERING that there is a certain imbalance in the use of the two official languages of IUCN;

BEARING IN MIND that, in order to be effective, conservation messages must be conveyed in the language of the country to which they are addressed;

AWARE of the increasing participation of Spanish-speakers in the activities of IUCN;

NOTING that as a result of the above, the 16th and 17th Sessions of the IUCN General Assembly were held in Spanish-speaking countries with Spanish interpretation and translation;

CONVINCED of the importance of IUCN's work in Spanish-speaking countries and RECOGNIZING that the effectiveness of this work would be greater if it were carried out in Spanish;

APPRECIATING the increasing use of Spanish by the Director General and the IUCN Secretariat in their work since the 16th Session of the General Assembly (Madrid, Spain, 1984), in compliance with Resolution 16/17 which was approved at that Session;

AWARE of the effort made by some States, particularly Spain and Costa Rica, to encourage the use of Spanish during the 16th and 17th Session of the General Assembly;

FURTHER CONVINCED that the best way of ensuring the regular use of Spanish in IUCN's work is to make it an official language of the Union;

BEARING IN MIND that an increase in the official languages of IUCN requires amendments to the Statutes;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General of IUCN to take all necessary steps, including financial measures, to ensure that each of the official languages is adequately used.
2. RECOMMENDS that the Director General encourage the continued use of Spanish in the work of IUCN until the 18th Session of the General Assembly.
3. CALLS UPON the Director General to lay before the 18th Session of the General Assembly, proposals, including financial provisions, as required for the incorporation of Spanish as an official language of IUCN.
4. REQUESTS the Director General to make every effort to secure resources so that the incorporation of Spanish as an official language of IUCN is not hindered by any financial constraints.

