

## **17.6 AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES DATA**

RECOGNIZING that decisions relating to the management of natural resources must be based upon the best available information;

APPRECIATING that the wise management of natural resources, including the conservation of biological diversity and the implementation of programmes for the sustainable development of natural resources, depends particularly upon high quality information and assessment;

AWARE of the leading role that the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre has played in promoting the collection, analysis and dissemination of information relating to the conservation of plant and animal species, habitats and protected areas, and to wildlife utilization and trade;

APPRECIATING that the data base activities of the Conservation Monitoring Centre require further development to meet the full range of information requirements;

CONCERNED that such development must involve the operation of the Conservation Monitoring Centre as part of a network of national and international data-centres in order to improve the management and application of environmental information;

RECOGNIZING the proposal tabled by the World Bank and other parties to establish a forum for the coordination and collaboration of organizations involved in the management and sharing of natural resources data and information;

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:
  - a. Support the draft plan for the restructuring of the Conservation Monitoring Centre submitted by the Director of the Conservation Monitoring Centre, to Workshop 14: *Towards an Improved System of Information Management for Natural Resources Data*, held during this General Assembly, with full recognition of the comments and concerns expressed by IUCN members and other organizations;
  - b. Support, in particular, the proposals for the reorganization of the Conservation Monitoring Centre as a unit of IUCN, in full collaboration and partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and other appropriate agencies;
  - c. Support the development and growth of the Conservation Monitoring Centre, within the financial capabilities of the Union, as a global conservation data centre supplying an information service to IUCN, its Commissions and its members, its partner organizations and the world conservation movement;
  - d. Ensure that the Conservation Monitoring Centre participates fully in the activities of the forum proposed by the World Bank and other parties by contributing its expertise to addressing the issues involved in the management and sharing of natural resources data and information, from the perspective of the conservation sector;
  - e. Promote through the Conservation Monitoring Centre, in close association with other agencies active in the management and assessment of environmental information, the development of a network of national and international data-centres to enhance the exchange, dissemination and application of conservation information;
  - f. Actively seek suitable partners and sponsors to join with IUCN in supporting this new initiative in the expectation of shared benefits in the future;
  - g. Develop proposals for linking the data base held by the Environmental Law Centre to the evolving information system of the Conservation Monitoring Centre.
2. FURTHER ENDORSES, in principle, the establishment of a Management Board with full executive responsibility for the programme and budget of the Conservation Monitoring Centre, and REQUESTS the Council and the Director General to implement such an arrangement, in agreement with other partner organizations.