

17.14 GLOBAL WARMING OF THE ATMOSPHERE

NOTING wide agreement among scientists that emissions into the atmosphere of carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons, methane and oxides of nitrogen are likely, if present trends continue, to warm the earth's atmosphere by an average of $3 \pm 1.5^\circ$ Celsius, due to the "greenhouse effect";

RECOGNIZING that such a warming would have far-reaching adverse impacts on prospects for conservation and sustainable development;

NOTING that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and other international and national organizations are undertaking major programmes of study in order to determine more precisely the likely scale and regional distribution of these problems;

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

REQUESTS the Director General, as part of IUCN's Programme 1988-1990, within the resources available, to:

- a. Cooperate with UNEP, WMO and other organizations undertaking basic analysis and modelling of the "greenhouse effect" and assessments of the practicability of action to minimize the amount of warming and to mitigate its consequences;
- b. Cooperate with IUCN members and others in evaluating the likely impacts of global warming on conservation of nature and natural resources;
- c. Disseminate widely the results of that evaluation;
- d. Take steps, in cooperation with IUCN members and others, to promote the actions identified as necessary to minimize global warming of the atmosphere and its harmful effects on the environment.