

18.11 Assistance for Environmental Restoration and Protection to Eastern and Central European Countries

RECOGNIZING the serious environmental degradation in parts of eastern and central Europe and the European USSR;

AWARE of short-term economic difficulties which not only prevent countries in the region making the required investment in environmental clean-up and protection, but also make them vulnerable to unsustainable exploitation of their natural resources;

BELIEVING that greatly enhanced opportunities for cooperation have followed from recent political changes, and that those changes were partly propelled by public concern for the environment and have resulted in a political will to integrate environmental measures in economic development;

RECALLING the existence of areas of wilderness or near-wilderness in the region and the presence of species that have disappeared from the wild in the rest of Europe;

The General Assembly of IUCN—The World Conservation Union, at its 18th Session in Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990:

1. CALLS upon national governments in western Europe and North America, multilateral agencies and the non-governmental community, to assist the eastern and central European countries and the European USSR in tackling the serious environmental degradation in the region and to provide expertise in environmental administration, management and monitoring;
2. URGES IUCN, through its East European Programme, to:
 - a. strengthen its role as facilitator between East and West; and
 - b. promote the implementation of sustainable development policies and actions in the region.