

## 18.12 IUCN Sahel Programme

RECOGNIZING that the Sahel region, including the Horn of Africa, is currently undergoing a severe economic, food and ecological crisis characterized by mass poverty, low and irregular rainfall, declining land productivity, high population growth and excessive taking of fauna;

RECOGNIZING MOREOVER that the Sahel has special characteristics different from those of other arid regions, but that at the same time there are similarities between the Sahel and other arid regions in the functioning of ecosystems;

TAKING ACCOUNT of activities already in progress by various aid agencies in the Sahel region and noting with interest the creation of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory;

RECOGNIZING the progress accomplished by the IUCN Sahel Programme in the last three years;

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

1. REQUESTS that while IUCN's programme in the Sahel continues and is strengthened, within available resources, as a distinct regional programme, a thematic programme be established to provide scientific and technical support to the programme in the Sahel and to other IUCN regional programmes such as the Asia/Pacific, Southern Africa and Pakistan programmes;
2. FURTHER URGES the governments of the countries concerned to recognize the efforts being made by their people in conservation matters within the framework of sustainable development, by increasing their commitment to the protection of the Sahel fauna.

