

18.15 Ecologically Sustainable Development

CONSIDERING that IUCN promotes an integrated approach to the use of living resources and the maintenance of natural ecosystems;

AWARE that the World Conservation Strategy has provided guidelines for sustainable development and that this has led to the formulation of many National Conservation Strategies incorporating the concept of sustainable development;

NOTING that Australia has started a process of defining an Australian strategy for ecologically sustainable development by encouraging wide discussion and setting up working groups to address sectoral and cross-sectoral issues;

NOTING FURTHER the following goals that are fundamental to achieving ecologically sustainable development:

- the improvement of individual and community well-being and welfare by following a path of economic progress that does not impair the welfare of future generations;
- the provision of equity within and between generations;
- recognition of the global dimension;
- the protection of biological diversity and the maintenance of ecological processes and systems;

NOTING FURTHER that the means of achieving ecologically sustainable development will include:

- increased efficiency of resource use and reduced waste production;
- management and utilization practices that improve the resilience of natural resource systems;
- dealing cautiously with risk and irreversibility;
- integration of environmental and social goals into economic decision-making, including ensuring that environmental assets are appropriately valued;

RECOGNIZING the importance of:

- stabilizing global human population in the long term;
- greater public involvement in decision-making;
- establishment of adaptive and effective institutional arrangements and policy measures;

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

1. URGES all national and regional governments to develop national strategies for ecologically sustainable development, and to cooperate internationally to achieve ecologically sustainable

development globally;

2. RECOMMENDS that the goals fundamental to the achievement of ecologically sustainable development as outlined above be adopted by countries and implemented by the means indicated above or by other means that may be appropriate to particular national circumstances.

