

18.17 Human Population Dynamics and Resource Demand

REAFFIRMING Resolution 16.3 on Population and the World Conservation Strategy, and Resolution 17.17 on Population, adopted at the 16th and 17th Sessions of the General Assembly;

WELCOMING the actions taken by IUCN with the support of aid agencies and private foundations, and in partnership with competent organizations in the population field, including the United Nations Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, to develop a better understanding of the complex interrelationships between population and the sustainable use and management of natural resources;

CONSIDERING that the crucial interdependence between human populations and natural resources should receive sufficient emphasis in the preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

ALSO CONSIDERING that progress towards stabilizing world population has been slower than expected and that in many countries population pressures, acute poverty and environmental degradation are impeding the way towards sustainable development, while in more developed countries over-consumption of resources, and in some instances population pressures, have led to local and national environmental deterioration and contributed to a rapidly deteriorating global environment;

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

1. URGES State members, other members of IUCN, and the Director General to use their best efforts to ensure that population issues are given high priority at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; and that environmental issues, including human life support systems, are given equivalent prominence at the 1994 United Nations International Population Conference;
2. URGES IUCN members to take active steps towards integrating population and environmental issues by creating partnerships with competent organizations, particularly local organizations, in order to raise awareness, engage in demonstration projects and report on the experiences gained in these projects;
3. ENCOURAGES IUCN members and the IUCN Secretariat to continue to take the lead in exploring and initiating actions on the relations between:
 - a. population growth and distribution, finite natural resources and attainable quality of life;
 - b. human population trends and the survival of other species;
 - c. family size, changes in social and cultural behaviour and technologies, and patterns of resource use;
 - d. natural resources management and human health, particularly the morbidity and mortality of infants and young children;
 - e. over-consumption, urbanization, rural impoverishment and options for sustainable

resource use and management;

- f. women in development and their role in the process of achieving environmental sustainability;
4. REQUESTS the Director General and Secretariat, in advising governments on the formulation and implementation of National Conservation Strategies, to take all appropriate steps to ensure that the population characteristics of a country, including growth, distribution, urbanization, age-sex structure, family size, morbidity, mortality, migration and labour force structure are integrated in the planning process, and that population-related resource stress is analysed not only from the point of view of sustainable use and management but also the quality of human life as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the World Health Organization's definition of health;
5. ENDORSES the proposals for the Population and Natural Resources Programme set out in paragraph A7 and Annex 2 of the draft IUCN Programme 1991-1993;
6. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to expand the Population and Natural Resources Programme, particularly to enable:
 - a. more effective actions, including case studies, at the local level; experimentation with, and reporting on, integrated population and environmental projects at the local level; and systematic inclusion of a population dimension in all National Conservation Strategies;
 - b. enlargement of the network of partners and resource persons;
 - c. enhanced understanding of the relationships between the world's population and the global natural resource base, with particular attention to the size and growth of human numbers and the unequal access to and use of natural resources in different regions of the world;
 - d. the encouragement of academic programmes, in collaboration with appropriate institutions all over the world, to further the theoretical understanding of these issues;
 - e. the development of local human resources in different countries and regions of the world through organized training programmes and workshops, as well as informal training and exchanges of experience between policy makers and project leaders;
 - f. the provision of advice and guidance to all other programmes of IUCN which need to take into account the population dimensions of their work.