

18.18 Women and Natural Resource Management

REAFFIRMING Recommendation 17.13 on Women and Environment adopted by the General Assembly at its 17th Session;

WELCOMING the action of IUCN in introducing a programme on Women and Natural Resource Management;

CONSIDERING that women's lives, especially in developing countries, are closely linked with the state of natural resources and that women are a powerful force for ensuring natural resource conservation and sustainable development;

CONCERNED that no adequate analysis has yet been made of the division of labour between men and women and that the need to involve women and their skills and knowledge fully in decisions about managing the environment for sustainable development is still not widely recognized;

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

1. ENDORSES the principles of the programme set out in Annex I of the draft IUCN Programme for 1991-1993;
2. CALLS UPON the Director General, within available resources, to:
 - a. continue to develop the Women and Natural Resource Management Programme, building upon a continuously expanding and improving knowledge base, seeking a broader funding base, and pursuing new initiatives, especially at regional and local levels;
 - b. strengthen the global network of advisers who can support and help expand the programme;
 - c. ensure that IUCN Regional and Country Offices are full partners in this programme and have the capacity to make appropriate contributions;
 - d. increase IUCN's knowledge of the roles, experience and action of women and men, in various categories (young/old, urban/rural, etc.), in natural resource management in different environments;
 - e. encourage and take advantage of research among relevant institutions to increase the understanding of women's roles in natural resource management and communicate the results through all available channels, particularly IUCN publications;
 - f. collaborate with other international agencies, including non-governmental organizations, which already give high priority to women in development;
3. URGES all governments and development agencies, and IUCN and its members, to act as catalytic agents in empowering women to play an effective role in natural resource conservation and sustainable development at all levels, by policies and programmes that provide them with the necessary information for understanding

development options, by enabling them to have the necessary control over natural resources, and by assisting them to strengthen their institutions and to acquire the appropriate technologies;

4. URGES the Director General, in the immediate future, to ensure that IUCN's objectives in developing its Women and Natural Resource Management Programme are reflected in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and that the Conference gives due consideration to ways in which women can participate in deliberations about and be enabled to play an effective part in natural resource management.