

18.21 Environmental Standards of Companies Operating outside their Country of Primary Incorporation

NOTING the increasing emphasis within IUCN activities on integrating environment and development;

NOTING the priority action identified in the Draft World Conservation Strategy for the 1990s for the development of a "Foreign Policy for the Environment";

RECOGNIZING that activities such as exploitation of natural resources by companies outside their country of incorporation have had, and continue to have, major environmental and social repercussions, particularly for indigenous peoples, among notable examples being the Ok Tedi mine in Papua New Guinea and the Freeport mine in Irian Jaya;

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

1. CALLS on governments, and especially State members of IUCN, to:
 - a. enquire into the environmental standards of companies that have major interests in, or ownership of, business outside their country of primary incorporation;
 - b. develop a "code of conduct" or "best practices" to guide the activities of these companies and to ensure that environmental practices are not at a lower standard than in their country of primary incorporation;
2. REQUESTS that IUCN, through its contributory role in UNCED, investigate the environmental and social implications of resource exploitation and of differing standards of environmental protection between countries, particularly in relation to the impact on indigenous peoples, and promote the development and adoption of an international "code of conduct" to guide companies operating outside their country of primary incorporation.