

## 18.28 Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity

RECOGNIZING the valuable work carried out for over 40 years by IUCN in promoting the conservation of the world's biological diversity;

RECOGNIZING the substantial progress that has been made by the IUCN Law Programme in promoting the conclusion of a Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity and in drafting Articles towards this end in pursuance of Resolution 16.24 adopted by the 16th Session of the IUCN General Assembly;

COMMENDING the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for formally recognizing and re-emphasizing in its decisions 14/26 and 15/34 the need for concerted international action to protect biological diversity on earth by, *inter alia*, the implementation of existing legal instruments and agreements in a coordinated and effective way and the adoption of a further appropriate international legal instrument;

NOTING the progress made by UNEP through the sessions of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity in September 1989, February 1990, July 1990 and November 1990;

CONSIDERING ALSO the close contacts between IUCN and UNEP, particularly within the framework of the Ecosystem Conservation Group (UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, IUCN, World Bank and WWF);

CONVINCED of the urgency of successful international action to conserve the world's diminishing biological resources at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held in Brazil in June 1992, and in achieving results in the field;

CONCERNED to ensure that a fully effective and comprehensive legal instrument is developed and can be implemented immediately upon conclusion;

CONCERNED ALSO that the process of negotiating a practical and effective legal instrument should not be compromised by the imposition of unrealistic timetables for conclusion, while recognizing the urgent need for a convention on biological diversity;

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

1. CALLS UPON all present and future negotiating parties, international agencies and other bodies responsible for and involved in the negotiating process to ensure that every effort is made to devise an effective and comprehensive international legal instrument for the conservation of the world's biological diversity, which will be capable of effective implementation at the time of its entry into force;
2. FURTHER CALLS UPON the above parties to schedule a realistic negotiating process that both takes into account the likely quality and effective

ness of the final legal product, and the abilities, in terms of resources, of less developed countries to attend such negotiating sessions;

3. URGES negotiating parties to ensure that primary efforts in developing the Convention are directed towards fully comprehensive conservation of biological diversity and that the primary focus is on wild genetic resources and the conservation of biological diversity *in situ*;
4. RECOMMENDS that particular attention be given to the clause that will take fully into account the need to conserve marine biological diversity and ecosystems, including coastal zone diversity, and to ensure that provisions integrate fully with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
5. FURTHER URGES the negotiating parties to direct particularly strong and urgent efforts towards developing sound and adequate funding mechanisms needed to permit the successful global implementation of the Convention, especially to favour less developed nations where the bulk of the world's biological diversity exists, and to whom resources must be primarily and equitably directed;

6. REQUESTS UNEP, the other members of the Ecosystem Conservation Group, and the negotiating parties to utilize IUCN expertise fully during the negotiation process and to use the draft Articles prepared by IUCN to the maximum extent possible;
7. REQUESTS the Director General to ensure that IUCN continues the work it has already begun for the conservation of biological diversity, in contact with UNEP and the other international organizations concerned;
8. ALSO REQUESTS the Director General to continue to monitor and to contribute to the negotiation of the proposed Convention, and liaise on this subject with the Secretariats of UNEP and UNCED with a view to promoting vigorous action;
9. RECOMMENDS that the Director General consider the possibility of providing the Secretariat for the future Convention, especially as regards its scientific aspects and those related to the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable development.