

18.43 Giant Panda

RECALLING Recommendation 17.50 of the 17th Session of the General Assembly concerning conservation of the giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*);

RECALLING that Recommendation 17.50 specifically recommended adoption of a long-term strategic and tactical conservation plan for the giant panda and further recommended that the People's Republic of China consider that any exhibition of giant panda should only be adjunct to and completely compatible with an international captive breeding programme for the species;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that a continuing fragmentation and diminution of giant panda natural habitat is reported and that the captive population has not been shown to be self-sustaining;

CONCERNED that exhibit loans, or even loans of single pairs of giant panda for breeding purposes, may diminish the reproductive potential of the captive population in the absence of a global breeding strategy;

RECOGNIZING that China's Ministry of Forestry and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) are near agreement on a programme for the conservation of the giant panda and its habitat;

NOTING that an international conference on a global strategy for giant pandas will be held at the National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA in June 1991;

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

1. STRONGLY REAFFIRMS Recommendation 17.50;
2. URGES all holders of giant pandas to participate in an animal-by-animal assessment of the captive population to determine their genetic background and physical and behavioural competence in order to identify the best potential breeders for more successful management of the giant panda in captivity;
3. FURTHER URGES full participation in the Washington conference in June 1991 to develop a global breeding strategy, population viability assessment, and action plan for the species, including all giant pandas in captivity;
4. URGES all involved agencies and individuals in the People's Republic of China to strengthen cooperative research and propagation programmes for captive giant pandas;
RECOMMENDS a moratorium on the acquisition of giant pandas from China by parties outside the People's Republic of China until July 1991, at which time the conclusions reached at the Washington conference should guide placement of captive giant pandas.

