

18.45 Beringia

RECALLING Recommendation 17.57 of the 17th Session of the General Assembly on the value of joint studies, and of bi-national protected sites in the area of the Bering Strait between the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America;

AWARE that the cultural heritage of Beringia, including archaeological and palaeontological sites and the living cultures of the native peoples of the region, are of shared significance to both nations;

RECOGNIZING that, for economic and social development to be sustainable in Beringia, the uses of all natural resources, including the shipping corridors, fisheries and minerals, must only proceed with sound provisions for environmental protection;

KNOWING that general principles of international law support the cooperation of neighbouring states in the wise stewardship of their shared ecosystems;

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

1. COMMENDS Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush for their decision to establish a USSR-USA International Park for lands and waters of the Beringia Region (Alaska/Siberia) by the end of 1991;
2. SUPPORTS the joint studies under the USSR-USA Agreement for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection (Moscow, 1972) for creation of an International Joint Commission to facilitate bilateral cooperation on environmental issues in Beringia;
3. RECOMMENDS that close consideration be given to the World Conservation Strategy and to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference's Conservation Strategy in the course of Soviet-American cooperation in Beringia;
4. WELCOMES the cooperation of the US National Park Service and the USSR State Committee on Environmental Protection and other Soviet Ministries and Institutes in establishing the international park;
5. ENCOURAGES the design of this park according to the principles of a biosphere reserve, taking due account of local peoples;
6. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that the USA and USSR authorities consider nominating the International Park for inclusion on the World Heritage List.