

18.52 New World Screw-Worm in Libya

DEEPLY CONCERNED at the very grave consequences for the domestic stock and wildlife of the Mediterranean Basin, and indeed for the whole of continental Africa, of the continued presence in Libya of a considerable focus of infestation by the New World Screw-Worm (Diptera: *Cochliomyia hominivorax*);

AWARE that the cost of eradicating the parasite is projected to amount to over US\$ 90 million;

GREATLY DISTURBED that the response by governments and donor agencies to the call by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for funds to eradicate this parasite in Africa amounts to only US\$ 30 million pledged, and of this, only about US\$ 5 million has so far been paid;

AWARE of the fact that it will be much more costly, if not impossible, to eradicate the parasite if it spreads more widely in the region;

ALARMED that the infested area now encompasses 20,000 sq. km, and in October 1990 alone over 1,700 cases were diagnosed, indicating a heavy infestation;

ENCOURAGED that the eradication programme, involving the use of the sterile-male technique, will be starting in December 1990;

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

1. URGES governments of developed countries and all other donors to heed seriously the call by FAO for the funding necessary to eradicate from Africa this dangerous parasite of humans and of wild and domesticated animals;
2. FURTHER URGES governments to ensure that the full US\$ 90 million is committed at the forthcoming donors' meeting on 14 December 1990.

