

## 18.1 Mission, Objectives and Approach of The World Conservation Union

RECOGNIZING that IUCN is unique in linking in membership a substantial number of States, government agencies and non-governmental organizations;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the strength of the Union depends on its effectiveness in harnessing this membership as a global network through which to advance understanding of the environment, develop new approaches to conservation and sustainable development, and lay the foundations for practical action;

EMPHASIZING the continuing importance of the World Conservation Strategy, the World Charter for Nature and the Declaration of Fontainebleau as statements of guiding principle;

ACCEPTING the need to define the mission, objectives and approach of the Union in a world where environmental concerns are steadily gaining importance;

NOTING the paper on the Mission, Objectives and Approach of the Union, prepared for the 18th Session of the General Assembly by the Director General in consultation with the Council;

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

DECIDES

1. That the *mission* of the Union shall be stated as:

"to provide leadership and promote a common approach for the world conservation movement in order to safeguard the integrity and diversity of the natural world, and to ensure that human use of natural resources is appropriate, sustainable and equitable";

2. That where a *slogan* is appropriate, IUCN will use:

"living in harmony within Nature";

3. That, recognizing the worldwide nature of its membership and activities, and the unwieldy nature of its full legal title, the Union will use "The World Conservation Union" as a *short descriptive title*. On documents the title will be:  
"IUCN—The World Conservation Union"

and on legal instruments "The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), commonly styled The World Conservation Union";

4. That the World Conservation Union will pursue three basic *conservation objectives*:

a. to secure the conservation of nature, and especially of biological diversity, as an essential foundation for the future;

b. to ensure that where the earth's natural resources are used this is done in a wise, equitable and sustainable way;

c. to guide the development of human communities towards ways of life that are both of good quality and in enduring harmony with other components of the biosphere;

5. That the Union will pursue these objectives through the use of the voluntary networks provided by the Commission system and through the activities of the Union's own staff, to:

a. *monitor* and *evaluate* the status of nature and natural resources, trends in their use, and policies and practices concerning their management;

b. *analyse* the obstacles to more effective protection of nature and management of natural resources;

- c. *harness* intellectual resources in order to solve the problems revealed by the above analysis;
  - d. *catalyse* action by the Union's Secretariat and members in order to achieve more effective conservation of nature and natural resources;
  - e. *generate* an increased global awareness of the interrelationships between conservation, long-term survival, and human well-being;
  - f. *link* the conservation constituency (IUCN members and the various networks) together as an effective entity for achieving conservation;
  - g. *provide leadership* and to *promote* a common approach among different institutions and interests affecting the environment;
  - h. *cooperate* with all agencies advocating a reduction of the global human population and a reduction in the aggregate consumption of world resources;
6. That the *Programme* of the World Conservation Union will be developed and implemented so as to:
- a. serve the perceived and stated needs of the collective membership as these evolve;
  - b. involve the membership in the intellectual and operational activities of the Union, thereby increasing their commitment;
  - c. provide products that strengthen the membership and can be applied by them in their own development of objectives and programmes, problem-solving, and evolution as effective institutions;
7. That the *approach* of the Union, as an effective agent of world conservation, will be to:
- a. develop and promote the adoption of conservation ethics based on respect and care for nature;
  - b. develop scientific knowledge and its sound application, as the essential prerequisite for achieving the three conservation objectives;
  - c. provide leadership in the formulation of global conservation priorities;
  - d. promote and carry out effective conservation on the ground, especially in areas of high conservation priority;
  - e. maintain the highest professional standards in its work;
  - f. focus this work and output in an appropriate and coherent programme relevant to its mission, necessary to its members and supportive of its partners;
  - g. have a strong and committed membership in all parts of the world;
  - h. ensure that any member organization gains in effectiveness by belonging to IUCN;
  - i. link with and support the membership through regional contacts and networks on the global, regional and national scale;
  - j. coordinate projects in the territories of member States with its governmental and non-governmental members thereby avoiding any possible competition between IUCN and

its members;

- k. communicate the work of the Union throughout the world, so that world policies on conservation and sustainable development are advanced;
  - l. provide regular information and reports on its activities in a given country to its members in that country;
  - m. recognize the role of women in the conservation of nature and the wise use of natural resources and the importance of young people as the future caretakers of the planet, and to establish appropriate procedures for consulting them and encouraging them to take part in the activities of the Union;
  - n. recognize and make use of the extensive traditional knowledge of the indigenous peoples of the world, and, where appropriate, ensure that they are consulted concerning the conservation and wise use of nature and natural resources and are not marginalized;
8. That the Director General's paper, prepared in consultation with the Council and amended in the light of discussion at the 18th Session of the General Assembly, is endorsed for use as a general statement of the Union's Mission, Objectives and Approach.