

18.2 Governance of The World Conservation Union

RECALLING Resolution 17.4 of the 17th Session of the General Assembly on the Governance of the Union, and Resolution 18.1 of the present Session of the General Assembly on the Mission, Objectives and Approach of the World Conservation Union;

RECOGNIZING that the essential components of the World Conservation Union are the membership, the General Assembly, the Council, the Bureau, the Commissions, the Officers, the Director General and the Secretariat, and that the effectiveness of the Union as a whole depends on their smooth and cooperative functioning;

NOTING the paper on the Governance 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—The World Conservation Union, at its 18th Session in Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990:

DECIDES:

1. That the involvement of the *membership* in the affairs of the Union will be strengthened by:
 - a. closer links at national and regional level between Regional Councillors, members, Regional and Country Offices, and, where appropriate, with regional or national programmes;
 - b. involving the membership more closely in the formulation and execution of the Programme. The extension and strengthening of the network of IUCN Regional and Country Offices will greatly facilitate consultation when national programmes are prepared and the involvement of members in project activities;
 - c. giving more encouragement to members to propose suitable specialists for consideration as members of the Commissions;
 - d. better information flow using the *Bulletin* as an "intelligencer" (which could be the means of linking members more closely with particular parts of the Programme);
 - e. involving the membership more directly in the selection of key issues for discussion by the General Assembly;
2. That the *General Assembly* will be developed primarily as a World Conservation Congress within which priorities for world conservation and sustainable development will be discussed and agreed by the membership;
3. That the formal business of the General Assembly, as required by Statutes, shall be conducted with maximal dispatch so as to allow optimal use of time for substantive conservation issues;
4. That effort shall be made to arrange regional forums, attended by the Director General, in the years between Sessions of the General Assembly;
5. That the *Council* should operate at a strategic level, within the context of policies defined by the General Assembly, with voluntary funding secured so as to facilitate the attendance of elected Councillors;
6. That the *Bureau*, under the *ex officio* chair of the President of the Union, should continue to be the executive sub-committee of the Council, with especial responsibility for budget and programme;
7. That the *Commissions* should be strengthened as the principal vehicle by which experts from the membership and other organizations participate on an individual and voluntary basis in the work of the Union, in close association with the Secretariat and in the joint achievement of defined components of the Programme approved by the General Assembly;
8. That the *Officers* of the Union (President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer) and the Councillors and Commission Chairs have an important role in representing the Union, which needs to be developed;
9. That the *Director General* has a clear responsibility to the membership, through the Council, for the direction of the affairs of the Union and is accountable for the achievement of agreed programme objectives within budget;
10. That the *Secretariat* is responsible for directing and managing the operational programme of the Union, and has a primary role in harnessing the network of expertise represented by the Commission system and facilitating its work;
11. That the major development of the Secretariat in future is likely to come through the extension of Regional and Country Offices as a representational focus for the Union in their areas, the source of services to members and Regional Councillors, the preparers of programme proposals, the managers of programme and project activities, the development of partnerships with other organizations in their areas, and the strengthening of institutions there;
12. That the Director General, in consultation with the Council, shall adopt a policy of engaging more professional scientific staff in the Regional and Country Offices from countries covered by those offices so as to enhance the professional and institutional capacity within the regions together with the geographical distribution of the professional positions;
13. That the functional components of the World Conservation Union should be developed pragmatically to meet the needs of the future, subject to availability of resources;
14. That the paper prepared by the Director General, in consultation with the Council, is endorsed as a description of the Governance of the Union and as a basis for its future development.

