

- e. strengthening of environmental law which incorporates the relevant customary laws that influence the behaviour of the indigenous peoples of the Pacific.

## **18.7 Increased IUCN Support for the Pacific Region**

RECALLING that among the statutory objectives of IUCN are "to promote in all parts of the world, national and international action in respect of the conservation of nature and natural resources" and "to encourage scientific research related to the conservation of nature and natural resources and to disseminate information about such research";

ACCEPTING that the population of the peoples of the islands of the Pacific region is small in comparison with most other regions of the world;

RECOGNIZING the uniqueness of the Pacific region in that it has a large fraction of the world's ocean area, one of the world's highest degrees of endemism, and that it has a great degree of cultural diversity, but that most of the island nations have a scarcity of trained personnel and infrastructure for the management of their environment;

NOTING that the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP Convention) entered into force in August 1990;

RECOGNIZING the mandate of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);

NOTING the conclusion of the 1990 Review of the IUCN Programme that there is an imbalance in IUCN activities in the different regions and in particular that the Pacific region has been under-represented in past IUCN activities;

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

REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to increase the role of IUCN in the Pacific region, and in particular to promote:

- a. investigation of the role of the Pacific Ocean in climatic change and the effects of possible change on small vulnerable islands;
- b. improvement in understanding and documenting both ecosystem and species diversity covering marine and terrestrial areas of the Pacific and in the distribution of relevant information to appropriate governments, communities and institutions;
- c. investigation of the relationship between the different cultural entities and their traditional practices within the environment with special emphasis on the role of women, the aim being to identify those aspects which might best serve an integral holistic approach to sustainable development;
- d. utilization and strengthening of regional skills and regional institutions for research, documentation, analysis, information dissemination and management of environmental matters at regional, national and community levels;

