

## **18.9 Conservation of Priority Ecosystems in South America**

CONSIDERING the need to set out the criteria the World Conservation Union will use in establishing its conservation priorities and guiding future action regarding the various ecosystems of South America;

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

RECOMMENDS that:

- a. IUCN adopt as criteria for establishing its conservation priorities on the ecosystems of South America, the extent of their biological diversity, the presence of endemism, their significance in maintaining ecological cycles, the scarceness of their biological constituents, the degree to which these are threatened and the risks that species may disappear;
- b. in accordance with these criteria, the following ecosystems or regional complexes in South America (apart from those already considered for the Amazon region) should be established as priorities whose conservation should be promoted: the Orinoco region, the Andean forests, the Atlantic tropical forests, temperate wet forests, cold steppes, the Paramo, the Puna, deserts, temperate grasslands (pampas), coastlines and, in particular, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and the Chocó biogeographic region;
- c. IUCN urgently request the governments of the region not to replace native forests with plantations of exotic species, in order to guarantee the conservation of the priority ecosystems referred to above.