

## 18.26 Biodiversity Strategy Programme

CONSIDERING that the loss of biodiversity has reached crisis proportions and some scientists predict that if present trends continue up to 25 per cent of the world's species will be lost in the next several decades accompanied by equally significant and alarming degradation of habitats and ecosystems;

CONVINCED that this loss of biological diversity is impoverishing the world of its most fundamental capital stocks: its genes, species, habitats and ecosystems;

AFFIRMING that all species have a right to exist as stated by the United Nations General Assembly when it adopted the World Charter for Nature in 1982;

RECOGNIZING that the loss of the living richness of the planet is dangerous, because the environmental systems of the world support all life, and we do not know which are the key components in maintaining their essential functions;

AWARE that many existing initiatives by nongovernmental, governmental, and inter-governmental institutions are critical elements in the response to the crisis but manifestly insufficient in magnitude or scope of coverage;

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

1. WARMLY WELCOMES the Biodiversity Strategy Programme organized by IUCN, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), and supports its goal of, *inter alia*, developing a Global Strategy and Decade Action Plan for Conserving Biological Diversity, and, together with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), a Status Report on the World's Biodiversity;
2. RECOGNIZES that the Biodiversity Strategy Programme is a critical initiative seeking to build upon the strength inherent in complementary goals and activities of the various biodiversity conservation programmes and initiatives being undertaken by the partner institutions in the Programme;
3. SUPPORTS the consultative process being used to develop the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, which will present the views of all groups by seeking consensus where consensus may exist but by reflecting differences where they exist;
4. ACKNOWLEDGES the multiple benefits of the Programme, which targets high-level policy makers while simultaneously disseminating its findings to NGOs and the grassroots through the same network that is being created to provide input into the Programme;
5. CALLS UPON all members of IUCN to participate in the development of the Biodiversity Strategy, Decade Action Plan and Status Report;
6. CALLS UPON all members of IUCN to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Decade Action Plan;
7. URGES all members of IUCN to contribute information to the Status Report on the World's Biodiversity;
8. CALLS UPON the Director General to ensure that, within available resources, all IUCN Commissions and Programmes can contribute to the Biodiversity Strategy Programme;

9. **DRAWS ATTENTION** to Recommendation 18.28 of the General Assembly and **CALLS UPON** all members of IUCN to contribute positively to the development of a Global Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity.