

18.74 The Antarctic Conservation Strategy

RECALLING Recommendations 17.52 and 17.53 and Resolutions 15.20, 16.8 and 16.9 of the 15th, 16th and 17th Sessions of the General Assembly;

REAFFIRMING that the conservation of Antarctica and its surrounding oceanic waters is of outstanding importance, both because of the inherent value of Antarctica as the world's only remaining large pristine wilderness and because of the influence Antarctica exerts on the ecological systems of a wider area of the world;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the unique ecological systems, flora and fauna of Antarctica and the imperative for their conservation as a part of global biological diversity;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat, assisted by expert advisers, in compiling the draft Antarctic Conservation Strategy now transmitted to the General Assembly with the approval of the Council;

DESIRING to advance international efforts for the conservation of the Antarctic region;

NOTING the timeliness of an initiative by IUCN, in view of the current inter-governmental effort to reach agreement on Antarctic conservation;

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

1. WELCOMES the Antarctic Conservation Strategy text submitted to the General Assembly (General Assembly Paper GA/18/90/19), while noting that amendments to it will be necessary following the workshop on Antarctica held during the 18th Session of the General Assembly;
2. DECIDES:
 - a. to request the Director General, in consultation with appropriate IUCN members, to revise urgently the draft Antarctic Conservation Strategy in the light of discussions in the workshop and General Assembly Plenary Session, taking account of conclusions of the XIth Special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, and to authorize the Director General to publish the final document in all official languages of the Union as a statement which, while not necessarily endorsed in all particulars by all IUCN members, is regarded as a constructive basis for further discussion and action;
 - b. to request all IUCN members to advance the proposals in the Antarctic Conservation Strategy within their individual programmes and activities;
 - c. to endorse the Director General's proposals for a continuing initiative by IUCN to promote Antarctic conservation in general and the conclusions of the Conservation Strategy in particular.