

## 19.30 Environmental Damage from Inappropriate Incentives

RECALLING Recommendation 18.19 adopted by the 18th Session of the General Assembly which proposed "that the sale price of natural resources should reflect the cost of environmental damage and rehabilitation";

REAFFIRMING the World Conservation Strategy objectives of ensuring the conservation of species and ecosystems for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of humankind;

CONSCIOUS that many countries are engaging in economic reforms that have an impact on their environments;

AWARE too that distorted prices act as hidden incentives which lead to excessive demands on goods and services from nature;

CONCERNED that some government policies also encourage environmental damage, as do some incentives, but acknowledging that not all do so;

ALSO CONCERNED that such incentives have contributed to the destruction of temperate and tropical forests, the extensive loss of soil from modern agricultural practices, and to the damage of marine and freshwater ecosystems;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. URGES all governments to avoid incentives or other policy instruments that will encourage people, companies or other organizations to act in ways that damage the environment or diminish conservation values;
2. CALLS UPON governments to make rapid progress on correcting distortions to prices, by removing those policies that create incentives to damage the environment or to diminish conservation values.

