

19.38 Targets for Protected Areas Systems

ACKNOWLEDGING the long tradition of setting targets for preserving a given percentage of national territory in protected areas, as well as utilizing frameworks and strategies for the development of protected area networks;

UNDERSTANDING the importance of protecting a wide variety of marine, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and biomes and not discounting the value of any of them;

VIEWING WITH PARTICULAR ALARM the continued disappearance of mature examples of major biotopes including forest types in both temperate and tropical regions;

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

1. CALLS UPON all governments, in preparing national strategies and frameworks, to set targets for protecting substantial percentages of all the major natural regions or biomes and their plant and animal communities, within their national territories, with no communities being under-valued or under-represented;
2. URGES that these targets be set to ensure the viability of these biotopes, minimize the loss of biological diversity and reflect the need for allotting an additional margin to guard against the uncertainty of future environmental change and against the inadvertent omissions in coverage of important elements of the biota;
3. FURTHER URGES all governments to have regard to Recommendation 16 of the Caracas Congress that protected areas should cover a minimum of 10 per cent of each biome by the year 2000;
4. IN PARTICULAR URGES all governments to give priority to protecting the best examples of their major ecosystem types.

