

19.46 Marine and Coastal Area Conservation

APPRECIATING that the marine realm comprises approximately 70 per cent of the Earth's surface and harbours a major share of the planet's biological wealth;

AWARE that the coastal zone is the home of an increasing majority of the world's human population and that the well-being of coastal waters including the maintenance of marine biological diversity is critical to achieving globally sustainable development;

CONCERNED that the world's oceans are subject to increasing human use and misuse which is resulting in the loss of marine biological diversity, and that growing development in coastal areas is the cause of severe impacts on the marine environment;

FURTHER CONCERNED that efforts devoted to marine conservation, including the establishment and management of marine protected areas, lag far behind those for the terrestrial environment and that present levels of resources and programmes are insufficient to address the urgency and complexity of the tasks at hand;

RECOGNIZING that the need for integrated management of coastal and marine environments has been identified as a global priority in many fora and documents including:

- the World Conservation Strategy (1980);
- *Caring for the Earth* (1991);
- Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 (UNCED, 1992);
- *Parks for Life—the Proceedings of the IV World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas* (1992); and
- *Global Marine Biological Diversity: A Strategy for Building Conservation into Decision Making* (1993);

RECOGNIZING that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) will come into effect in 1994 and may provide appropriate mechanisms for the management of marine resources, including protected areas, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that to achieve these aims will require the development of considerable management capacity by nations and institutions; substantial changes in practices for management of catchments and coastal lands; development of conservation tools for coastal areas to safeguard sensitive and fragile habitats; and that marine protected areas will need to operate within these developing management systems;

AWARE of the support of governments and the international community for programmes which promote marine conservation involving marine protected areas and other initiatives, including:

- the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- the Man and Biosphere Programme of the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

- the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO;
- the Marine Science Programme of UNESCO;
- the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
- initiatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), The World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international organizations;

ALSO AWARE that IUCN's Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA) is promoting the establishment of a global representative system of marine protected areas to implement Resolution 17.38 of the 17th Session of the General Assembly;

NOTING that, in accordance with the revised System of Classification of Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas adopted by CNPPA following the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas in 1992, all marine areas of the world are eligible for consideration for protected area status and that in a global representative system some of these areas should be established with a wilderness classification;

NOTING the support of the Vth World Wilderness Congress, meeting in Tromsø, Norway, in September 1993, for coastal nations to establish representative systems of marine protected areas, including areas with wilderness designation, and the recommendation that appropriate international agencies establish protected areas in international marine waters including areas designated as wilderness;

ACKNOWLEDGING the publication of *Global Marine Biological Diversity: A Strategy for Building Conservation into Decision Making*, as a contribution to the Global Biodiversity Strategy, by IUCN, the United Nations Environment Programme, The World Bank, the World Wildlife Fund - US and the Center for Marine Conservation;

NOTING that *Global Marine Biological Diversity* compiles recommendations for marine conservation from Agenda 21, *Caring for the Earth*, the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas and other fora and sources;

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

1. CALLS UPON governments, international agencies and the non-governmental community:
 - (a) to give priority to the establishment and support of conservation programmes to achieve integrated management of coastal lands and waters, shallow sea and marine environments, addressing the long-term sustainable requirements of nations, regions and the global community;
 - (b) to involve all levels and relevant agencies of government, local communities, non-governmental organizations, related industries and

other interested parties in the development of strategies and the implementation of programmes;

- (c) to encourage coastal nations, where indigenous and traditional use of the sea is to *be* affected, to include indigenous and local people as partners in the discussions and in any substantial steps involving planning, development, management and maintenance of these areas;
 - (d) to provide resources to build and support in each coastal nation, and in regional communities of nations sharing common waters, the capacity to develop and implement integrated sustainable management of coastal, shallow sea and marine environments and resources;
 - (e) to provide incentives and resources to develop effective global networks of peer support to enhance management capacity and training to maximize the sharing between nations and regions of the global community of experience, research and technical information on integrated management of coastal, shallow sea and marine environments and resources to achieve sustainable development;
 - (f) to define and designate responsibilities and mechanisms for marine conservation and for resolving resource use conflicts;
 - (g) to encourage coastal nations to establish under national legislation representative systems of marine protected areas, including areas with wilderness designation;
 - (h) to encourage, under appropriate international mechanisms, the establishment of protected areas, including areas designated as wilderness, in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
2. REQUESTS the Director General as soon as practicable and within available resources:
- (a) to implement the recommendations of the review of the IUCN Marine and Coastal Areas Programme including promotion of marine protected areas beyond the scope of national jurisdictions;
 - (b) to bring to the attention of all governments, the urgent need for rapid development and application of policies and tools specifically for the conservation of their marine areas;
 - (c) to implement a programme of global evaluation of policies and tools specifically for the conservation of the coastal areas of the world;
 - (d) to convene a high profile workshop on the theme of marine and coastal conservation, which covers all marine aspects of IUCN's programmes, at the next General Assembly of IUCN;
3. DECIDES itself to reiterate and recommends to FAO, IMO, The World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, UNEP, UNDP, UNCLOS and other concerned organizations, the primary goal of IUCN General Assembly Recommendation 17.38:

use, understanding and enjoyment of the marine heritage of the world in perpetuity through the creation of a global, representative system of marine protected areas and through the management in accordance with the principles of the World Conservation Strategy of human activities that use or affect the marine environment";

4. DECIDES itself and further recommends to the above organizations that the following goal be adopted in respect to integration of the management of coastal, shallow sea and marine resources:

"To contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of coastal and marine areas and resources through the establishment and operation of effective mechanisms to manage in an integrated and anticipatory way all human activities which have impacts on coastal and marine environments and associated people";
5. RECOMMENDS that IUCN join the co-sponsors of *Global Marine Biological Diversity*, in establishing and participating in the International Marine Conservation Network as a means of promoting attention and cooperation among government, non-governmental and private organizations for marine conservation.

"To provide for the protection, restoration, wise

