

19.59 The Sustainable Use of the South-East Pacific Marine Resources

RECALLING that Recommendation 17.38, of the 17th Session of the General Assembly established a policy for the development of a global system of marine protected areas;

AWARE that in the South-East Pacific, there are very special oceanographic conditions due to the complex system of currents and the interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere;

FURTHER AWARE that these oceanographic conditions generate a productivity universally recognized as one of the most important in the world, and a large biological diversity;

RECOGNIZING that the phenomenon of El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is intermittently present in this region and causes important changes in the oceanographic and climatological parameters and, ultimately, in the ecological systems;

AWARE that the coastal zones in this region are subject to various impacts from the increases in population, industrialization and fishing activities, as well as the pollution arising from such situations;

WELCOMING the fact that the Member States of the South-East Pacific Permanent Commission (Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile) have established a South-East Pacific Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas with the purpose of preserving the biological diversity of the area;

APPRECIATING that the Government of Ecuador has taken significant steps towards preserving and managing the Galapagos Islands, one of the marine and coastal areas of greatest natural, scientific and educational value; despite the interest shown by markets outside the region in exploiting non-traditional resources which involve fishing systems that create a permanent threat to the fragile coastal marine ecosystems; and, that the process has included the approval of a Marine Resources Reserves Management Plan that consolidates and integrates management from a coastal marine point of view;

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

1. CONGRATULATES the Governments of Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile on their initiatives in creating the South-East Pacific Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas and recommends that they give the utmost attention to implementing action designed to consolidate that Network;

2. CALLS UPON the national governments of this region:

(a) to strengthen and extend the South-East Pacific

Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, to preserve biological diversity and enable samples from existing ecosystems to be maintained;

(b) to harmonize the policies of the respective countries which facilitate sustainable fishing, especially of the common resources which migrate through the waters of this region;

(c) to initiate the procedures necessary to ensure that some areas which are biologically more important in terms of biodiversity and productivity can be considered for designation as Biosphere Reserves and also begin studies in areas in which they are required due to a lack of knowledge;

(d) to implement existing management programmes, and support preparation of such in areas where they do not exist, and by means of these planning processes seek extensive knowledge of the existing natural resources in such protected areas and structure uses in order to foster sustainable development;

(e) to design and develop environmental education courses for local authorities, inhabitants, artisanal fishing populations and corporations aimed at helping them to understand the importance of sustainable development and the role that protected areas can play in such cases; and encourage these groups of people to consider such areas as their own projects and worthy of protection;

(f) to carry out thorough studies on the present state of the marine and coastal zones, and subsequently propose levels of use and their environmental management;

(g) to request the technical and financial cooperation of the international institutions involved in the marine environment, such as UNESCO, FAO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, the European Union and others that are aware of the need to protect marine and coastal areas, for the preparation of management plans, coastal management studies designed to promote regional and technical cooperation and the training of personnel to work in these reserves;

(h) to continue supporting regional studies on the phenomenon of El Niño (ENSO) to gain increasingly better knowledge of its positive and negative impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems and to obtain prior forecasts on its presence;

3. ENCOURAGES sub-regional governments to consolidate their coastal marine conservation efforts, by implementing management plans for protected coastal marine areas, and in particular for the Galapagos Marine Resources Reserve, through the use of resources generated by the protected or other areas;

4. CALLS UPON international organizations to reinforce their technical and financial support.

