

19.67 Prevention of Impact on Indian Peoples and Biodiversity as a Consequence of the Trans-Amazonian Road between Brazil and Peru through Madre de Dios

CONSIDERING that Resolution 18.26 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly established the Biodiversity Strategy Programme in which it is stated that the many initiatives adopted by non-governmental, governmental and inter-governmental institutions are critical elements in the response to the biodiversity crisis, but manifestly insufficient in magnitude and coverage;

CONSIDERING also that Recommendation 18.49 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly recommended the conservation and sustainable use of the Amazonian forests;

RECOGNIZING that the Amazon region contains 70 per cent of the world's tropical moist forests and that these forests have immense value for all humankind in contributing to global climatic stability and as a rich heritage of biological diversity;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the sovereignty of the Amazonian countries over their natural resources, but also their global responsibility to use these resources rationally, as well as the corresponding responsibility of other nations, principally developed ones, in helping them achieve this;

NOTING WITH ALARM the recent increase in the rate of clearance of Amazonian forests and particularly the extensive fires that have occurred in forests disturbed by road-building, logging, colonization and clearance for agriculture; and that the expansion of these activities is creating fire risks in areas not normally exposed to this threat;

CONCERNED that fires in the Amazon are contributing to the present increase in levels of carbon dioxide, thereby exacerbating the greenhouse effect and accelerating global warming, with potential local, regional and global impacts;

FURTHER AWARE that forest destruction may result in a reduction in rainfall within the Amazon and that this may have repercussions on global air circulation systems, and thus on the climate of other parts of the world;

CONCERNED by the building of an inter-oceanic road between Brazil and Peru through a region inhabited by native populations with a valuable culture, including 18 ethnic groups in the Peruvian sector, and with a most important heritage of biological diversity which Peru has offered to preserve by ratifying the recent Convention on Biological Diversity;

CONSIDERING that this road could provide a demonstration of how important public works can be undertaken in accordance with the principles of sustainable

development, thus avoiding the negative experiences of road-building which in the Amazon have brought more social and environmental damage than tangible benefits;

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

1. URGES the authorities concerned to take ecological factors fully into account, recognizing that the Department of Madre de Dios in Peru possesses one of the most splendid examples of wildlife, acknowledged by international treaties such as the World Heritage Convention (National Park of Manu), and by the United Nations through UNESCO (Manu Biosphere Reserve), as well as other important protected natural areas such as the Pampas de

Heath National Sanctuary and the Tambopata-Candamo Reserve Zone;

2. FURTHER RECOMMENDS, and considers it essential, that social and environmental impact studies be carried out with all necessary guarantees;
3. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to place at the disposal of the Governments of Brazil and Peru the expertise of IUCN in these studies and that of other institutions involved in this effort.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Norway and Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.