

19.70 Biosphere Reserves in South America

CONSIDERING the importance of the UNESCO-MAB system of Biosphere Reserves for the conservation of biodiversity and for the implementation of sustainable development in South America;

NOTING that a significant system of Biosphere Reserves already exists in most countries of the region;

CONSIDERING in particular the importance of and threats to the semi-arid environments in South America and, in particular, in Brazil;

RECALLING that the Brazilian Protected Areas System has neither sufficient nor strong enough conservation units to preserve the biodiversity of these semi-arid environments;

CONVINCED that Biosphere Reserves are the appropriate conservation instruments for environmental, cultural and socio-economic requirements;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the proposal by the South American members of IUCN, meeting in Parati, Brazil, in 1992;

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

1. CALLS UPON IUCN members to promote the creation of a permanent working committee of South American members of IUCN, which, in cooperation with the Governments of the region and using established IUCN networks such as those of the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA), will sponsor the exchange of expertise between groups working in Biosphere Reserves, and will undertake to press for the ecological zoning of the South American continent and the subsequent creation of new and large reserves, in addition to being responsible for providing effective support and cooperation in the consolidation of these Biosphere Reserves;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to cooperate in the establishment of directives aimed at the implementation of a Biosphere Reserve within the UNESCO-MAB system in the semi-arid environment in Brazil's Nordeste region.

