

19.13 Increased IUCN Presence and Influence in South America

RECOGNIZING that there is enormous biological and cultural diversity in South America, ranging from tropical to subantarctic ecosystems, including coastal areas and islands, forests, grasslands (pampas), deserts, steppes and wetlands;

NOTING that many ecosystems in South America are undergoing profound environmental degradation;

AWARE of the urgent need for the South American countries to introduce fundamental changes in the planning and management of their natural resources;

APPRECIATING that since the end of 1990, National Committees of IUCN members have been set up in various countries of the region, as a way to improve communication between the members in those countries, and between the members and the Union's Secretariat and Commissions;

CONVINCED that the National Committees of IUCN members, Networks and Task Forces created by the members of IUCN in South America can effectively contribute to the necessary changes towards more sustainable development processes and better harmony between humanity and nature;

CONSIDERING that the IUCN membership in the region has doubled since the creation of the IUCN Regional Office for South America;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the reports of the three meetings of South American members and of the two meetings of the Regional Committee of IUCN members, which have taken place since 1990;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:

(a) to increase considerably the presence and influence of IUCN in South America and, to that end, endeavour to strengthen the membership, the National and Regional Committees of

South American members of IUCN and their activities;

(b) to support the various structures which have emerged over the past few years as a consequence of better organization of the regional membership and better interaction with the Union's Secretariat, and in particular the following structures:

- National Committees and the Regional Wetlands Committee;
- Regional Network on Environmental Education;
- Latin American Network on Environmental Law;
- Task Forces on open arid and semi-arid environments;
- Task Forces on Biosphere Reserves in the Andes;
- Regional Task Force on Forest Conservation;
- South American Network for Sustainable Development (REDSUR);
- Task Force on Biodiversity, National Parks and Protected Areas;

(c) to support and assist in organizing and raising the necessary funds for the First Latin American and Caribbean Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, to be held in Cartagena de la Indias, Colombia;

2. PROPOSES as a general criterion, that IUCN should invest, through programmes and projects in the region, an amount of funds at least equivalent to what it collects as membership dues from the members in the region.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Sweden indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

