

19.14 IUCN in the Caribbean

CONSIDERING that the Caribbean region consists of 25 small islands states with a population of over 30 million; that the Caribbean region contains major navigational waterways and that the Caribbean Sea has been declared a specially protected sea under MARPOL IV; that there are important examples of marine ecosystems throughout, some in relatively undisturbed condition, though many are threatened by human actions; and that the islands themselves contain important tropical ecosystems;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the islands contain a high proportion of endemic species, with the Greater Antilles possessing many plants and animals in danger of extinction; that the region as a whole contains some 5932 endemic vascular plants of which over 95 per cent are restricted to single islands; that the Caribbean supports over 157 endemic bird species and is important to numerous migratory birds; that the marine environments of the Caribbean contain coral reefs with a high diversity of species and areas important for nesting marine turtles; and that the entire Caribbean is in urgent need of protection;

RECALLING that in a meeting of the IUCN members from the insular Caribbean in August 1993, it was strongly suggested that IUCN could play an important role catalyzing conservation in the Caribbean, by providing information to its members and extending the operations of the Commissions to the region, and that Caribbean specialists could also contribute to the membership of the Commissions;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the Caribbean as an area useful to the Union to test conservation methods for small islands; as an area that contains many species unique to the region; and particularly as an area where the conservation of coastal resources is critical;

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

REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to strengthen IUCN activities in the Caribbean and in particular:

- (a) to make an individual within the Secretariat responsible for liaison with Caribbean members of IUCN, to be the focal point for information to and from members and where appropriate the Commissions;
- (b) following Paragraph 2(o) of Resolution 19.1 and the Strategy of IUCN, to make a budgetary allocation to the Regional Councillor for the Caribbean to allow the Councillor to represent IUCN in the region more effectively and also to represent the region within IUCN.

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.