

19.15 IUCN Sahel Programme

NOTING that the African States in general and the countries of the Sahel in particular are undergoing a social, economic and ecological crisis characterized by lethal conflicts and an impoverishment of all levels of society, linked to declining productivity, demographic pressures and the excessive exploitation of resources;

RECOGNIZING that the Sahel, although an arid zone, includes wetlands and other habitats which are important in maintaining the sustainability of ecosystems and biological diversity;

CONSIDERING the weakness of current activities, the need to consolidate them and the necessity to take action at grass roots level;

SUPPORTING the continuation and relevance of IUCN's Sahel Programme, despite problems in the field and the insufficient commitment of other partners;

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, to initiate an external review and to evaluate the possibility of continuing to strengthen the Sahel Programme through the implementation of thematic programmes supported by local and regional representatives and the very necessary mobilization of the specialized Commissions of the Union;
2. REQUESTS multilateral and bilateral aid agencies to strengthen their commitment to ensure a better harmonization of efforts towards sustainable development in the approach to conserving the environment;
3. URGES IUCN and the governments of the countries concerned to support the efforts of local communities through the application of decentralization policies and the creation of means for the rational management of their own environment.

