

19.20 IUCN Action on Indigenous People and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

RECALLING that the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, in Chapter 26 of Agenda 21, recognized the valuable role of indigenous people in maintaining sustainable use of nature's resources, and underlined, in Principle 22 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the importance of indigenous people and local communities' active participation in environmental management;

CONSCIOUS of the conclusions of the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 on the need for empowerment of vulnerable groups to promote citizen participation in sustainable development;

NOTING the statement in *Caring for the Earth* about the special role of indigenous people and local communities in global efforts to establish a sound relationship between the Earth and humankind;

MINDFUL of Recommendation 18.16 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly, which recognized the role of indigenous people in environmental strategies and projects sponsored by IUCN and requested the establishment of an Inter-Commission Task Force on Indigenous People, and Recommendation 18.24, which urged the development of IUCN guidelines on sustainable use of wildlife;

NOTING the expressed need for recognition of the intellectual property rights of indigenous people;

AWARE that indigenous people's rights to control land use, resources and related environmental matters are currently being examined as part of the preparation of the UN Draft Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People;

RECOGNIZING that the United Nations in 1993 declared the Decade of Indigenous People;

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

1. CALLS UPON the Council and Director General to advance the principles of *Caring for the Earth* and Agenda 21 regarding the rights of indigenous people;
2. REQUESTS that:
 - (a) co-option of an indigenous people's representative be continued on the IUCN Council for the Triennium 1994-1996;
 - (b) the IUCN Inter-Commission Task Force on Indigenous People be continued for the Triennium 1994-1996;
 - (c) the Task Force be consulted on matters involving indigenous people and on finalizing the publication of "Indigenous People and Sustainability: A Guide for Action" as prepared by the Task Force, and to be considered in the development of IUCN policies, programmes,

projects and the work carried out by the Commissions;

- (d) the resources allocated at the IUCN Council Meeting on 15 October 1993 (recorded as Decision C/36/5) continue to be applied to the proposed programme of work prepared by the Task Force.

Note. When this Resolution was adopted, the Director General emphasized that Operative Paragraph 2(d) should not be read as departing from the statutory requirement that the Programme and budget of IUCN must be rolled forward annually and approved by the Council.

