

## 19.23 The Importance of Community-based Approaches

RECOGNIZING that a central objective of IUCN is the conservation of species and habitats;

EMPHASIZING the importance of indigenous and traditional knowledge in the management of resources;

AWARE that the IUCN Secretariat works closely with member organizations and others who are closely involved in community-based development for conservation ends;

AWARE also that the Programme for the next triennium includes a Social Policy Service, including attention to community-centred approaches;

BELIEVING that the positive involvement of local communities is fundamental to securing long-term results;

RECOGNIZING that this may involve helping to realize the basic needs and secure the livelihoods of such communities;

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

URGES the Director General:

- (a) to build strong partnerships with local organizations to realize community-based conservation;
- (b) to develop a service to such organizations in terms of community-based methodologies and techniques;
- (c) to maintain a library of case studies for education, advocacy and training purposes;
- (d) to implement a training agenda for staff and the Union membership in community approaches for meeting its central objective;
- (e) to integrate the approach within other Programmes such as those dealing with indigenous knowledge, law and participation by making it a cross-cutting theme of the Union.

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