

19.37 Identifying and Monitoring the World's Remaining Wildlands

AWARE of the increasing interest and commitment of governments to conserve and sustainably use their wild biological resources manifest in the rapid entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

RECOGNIZING the escalating impact of development that is frequently unsustainable upon the world's remaining wildlands and wild places;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that in planning such development, the intrinsic values, both material and intangible, of the genes, species and ecosystems that comprise the existing natural land cover are often underestimated or even ignored;

AWARE that the global network of national parks and protected areas covers less than 5 per cent of the world's land surface and less than 1 per cent of the marine area, and that most of the diversity of biological resources lies in the wider landscape outside protected areas;

RECALLING that the Preamble to the Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes the requirement for the *in situ* conservation of ecosystems and habitats in their natural surroundings, and that Article 8(c) calls for the management of biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity whether within or outside protected areas;

RECALLING also the Resolution agreed at the Fifth World Wilderness Congress, Tromsø, in September 1993 which called upon IUCN to work with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the Australian National Wilderness Inventory Project and others to identify, map and monitor the remaining wilderness areas of the world;

FURTHER RECALLING the emphasis placed upon the management of biological diversity in the landscape by the Caracas Action Plan arising from the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas;

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 and appropriate IUCN members:

- (a) to give greater recognition and higher priority to the identification, management and monitoring of biological diversity within the wider landscape, particularly within the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors;
- (b) in collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the Australian National Wilderness Inventory Project and appropriate agencies, and subject to the availability of adequate finance, to develop the necessary methodologies and tools that can be used by national agencies and institutions so as to build their capabilities to record and monitor the status and distribution of the world's remaining wildlands, and the impact of adverse human effects upon these areas;
- (c) to identify sites of particular significance for the diversity of their biological resources that lie outside existing protected areas, and to promote their recognition in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to be prepared by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

- (d) to use their best endeavours to ensure that information on the status and distribution of wildlands and significant sites is recognized and accepted by national governments and international development agencies as a contribution to more enlightened and sustainable resource use.