

19.50 Conservation of Country-Endemic Species

RECOGNIZING that the Convention on Biological Diversity, in its Preamble, endorses the sovereignty of nation States over their biological resources;

AWARE that substantial proportions of species in most major taxonomic groups are confined in their distribution to a single country;

AWARE also that most species listed by IUCN as globally threatened with extinction are endemic to single countries;

NOTING that the survival of such species is in each case the ultimate responsibility of a single government;

NOTING also that many countries support significant numbers of species that are endemic to their sovereign territory and that further research regarding the distribution of endemic species is needed;

RECOGNIZING that Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity directs Parties to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation of their biological diversity;

RECOGNIZING also that Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires that these plans should promote the recovery of threatened species;

NOTING that endemic species are included in the indicative list of priorities contained in Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity which is referred to in Article 7 of the Convention in calling upon Parties to maintain and organize data on priority components of biological diversity;

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 Director General to urge governments, especially member governments of IUCN and the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to give priority to actions for the conservation of threatened species endemic to individual countries, and particularly to ensure that adequate attention is given to these species in the national strategies and action plans to be prepared under Article 6 of the Convention;
2. REQUESTS the Director General and the Chair of the Species Survival Commission (SSC), within available resources, to work with IUCN members and others to assist national agencies to identify information sources on endemic species, to assimilate these in analyses appropriate to the conservation of endemic species and to encourage research on the distribution of endemic species;
3. URGES the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), SSC, BirdLife International and other agencies with data on endemic species to make these data fully available for further development by national agencies in their implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
4. FURTHER URGES IUCN, WCMC, BirdLife International and others to disseminate information on the distribution and conservation of endemic

species to the scientific community and wider public.