19.78 Myanmar (Burma)

AWARE OF AND ENDORSING Resolution 48.10 of the General Assembly of the United Nations regarding the "Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar",

CONVINCED that the democratically-elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi offers the best option for remedying Myanmar's environmental problems; CONCERNED at the Government's blatant disregard for the environment throughout the country;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the planned Salween river hydro-electric dam proposed by the Government would result in the extensive flooding of forests and the relocation of large numbers of people, further compounding Myanmar's misery;

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

- 1. ENCOURAGES IUCN and its members to form cooperative alliances with environment and community groups representing Myanmar and within these alliances provide the means for environmental management and education to aid in the protection of sensitive areas;
- CALLS UPON the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Electric Power Company of Japan and other institutions concerned to withdraw support for the proposed hydro-electric development for the Salween river, until at least a comprehensive social and environmental impact study has been completed and the affected communities have freely signified their support;
- 3. CALLS UPON the Director General, within avail able resources:
 - (a) as a matter of urgency, to undertake a study, using available sources of information, of the state of the environment in Myanmar, and to communicate the results of that study to IUCN members and the broader world community;
 - (b) to offer support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to build environmental considerations into its planning for refugee camps along Myanmar's borders and to include environmental plans as integral parts of any repatriation programmes;
 - (c) to transmit this resolution to the Government of Myanmar.

Note. This Resolution was adopted without a vote. On behalf of the European Union and its Members States, the delegation of the State member Greece declared that the European Union Member States consider that the subject of this Resolution does not come into the remit of IUCN and therefore their delegations would not participate in either the debate or any possible voting. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Thailand and

Zimbabwe indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained, in the case of Norway for the same reason as the European Union. The delegation of the State member Malaysia indicated that it opposed the Resolution. The delegations of the State members New Zealand, Oman and United States asked that they be excluded from any voting.