

1.60 Environmental Trust Funds

NOTING WITH CONCERN that national efforts to implement Agenda 21 and regional commitments to environmentally sustainable development such as Chapter IV of the Summit of the Americas Plan of Action have been inadequate or unsuccessful;

DECLARING that innovative mechanisms for financing sustainable development should be supported by national governments, international financing institutions and the global business and philanthropic communities;

RECOGNIZING that environmental trust funds that include representatives of civil society on their governing boards are excellent examples of this type of innovative financing mechanism;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that public-private environmental trust funds provide a unique forum for the participation of civil society in national environmental decision-making and priority-setting;

EMPHASIZING the vital role public-private environmental trust funds could play in realizing the concept of environmentally sustainable development;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. URGES all States:
 - a) to support non-profit, public-private environmental trust funds in any appropriate manner, including but not limited to providing technical assistance, and reviewing legal barriers to their establishment and operation;
 - b) to encourage the international financial institutions to strengthen the existing mechanisms to support environmental trust funds and invites them to examine ways to make such funds more flexible and responsive to national objectives;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, within appropriate resources, to support the establishment and operation of public-private environmental trust funds as part of its efforts to implement the IUCN Programme;
3. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director General to support the establishment and operation of regional and sub-regional networks of environmental funds to improve communication and promote cooperative activities, particularly with respect to the challenges associated with environmental management along shared borders.