

## 1.90 National Reconciliation Forest of El Salvador

RECOGNIZING that for twelve years El Salvador was in a state of war, which degraded natural resources and in the course of which over 80,000 persons died;

CONSIDERING that four years after the signing of the peace agreements, there is still a need in El Salvador to reconcile the different social sectors with each other and with their environment;

CONSIDERING that the conclusion of the peace agreements have a profound historic significance for society in El Salvador, in Central America and in the world;

CONSIDERING that the people of El Salvador are very enterprising and are now struggling to achieve balanced viable and sustainable development;

CONCERNED that El Salvador is one of the most deforested countries in the world;

WELCOMING the fact that the Centre of Education and Rural Development (CEDRO), an IUCN member in El Salvador, is playing a leading role in promoting and implementing the National Reconciliation Forest, in consultation with various sectors of Salvadorean civil society;

WELCOMING the decision by the IUCN Meso-American Committee, meeting in Belize on 22 November 1994, to pass a resolution supporting this initiative;

AGREEING with the urgent need recognized in *Caring for the Earth* (Chapter 13) to prepare and put into practice strategies and plans for the sustainable use of agricultural lands and protected areas;

ALSO AGREEING with Agenda 21 (Chapter 10) that land-use planning can greatly facilitate the conservation and sustainable development of landscapes;

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

1. CALLS UPON IUCN members and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), in accordance with the protected area management categories:
  - a) to support the initiative of the National Reconciliation Forest in the area of the Guazapa volcano, as a contribution to improving the environment and social cohesion in El Salvador;
  - b) to follow up the experience gained in the National Reconciliation Forest as a model approach to environmental rehabilitation for the purposes of nature conservation and human development in countries which have suffered the effects of war and civil conflict;
  - c) to provide technical support to the National Reconciliation Forest and similar projects from the appropriate components of IUCN;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, the Secretariat and technical programmes, within available resources, to support the Regional Office for Meso-America (ORMA) in obtaining financial support for the project.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Norway and Sweden indicated that had there been a vote they would have abstained. The delegation of the State member Germany indicated that it had not participated in discussion of the Recommendation nor would it have participated in any voting.