

1.94 Conservation of Clayoquot Sound Temperate Rainforest

RECOGNIZING the natural beauty, biological diversity and ecological significance of the ancient temperate rainforest which has never covered more than 0.2 per cent of the world's land surface;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that the world has lost over half its original extent of temperate rainforests;

NOTING that a Scientific Panel of Experts established by the Government of British Columbia, Canada, has stated that Earth's ancient temperate rainforest finds its greatest expression in Clayoquot Sound;

FURTHER NOTING that Clayoquot Sound, one of the world's largest remaining tracts of primary low-elevation coastal temperate rainforest, supports wild salmon, vulnerable species such as marbled murrelets and giant cedar trees over 1,000 years old;

RECALLING that the Government of British Columbia has promised to pursue vigorously an International Biosphere Reserve designation for Clayoquot Sound;

ALSO RECALLING that the Central Region Tribes of the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council (the First Nations living in Clayoquot Sound), in a pre-treaty agreement with the Government of British Columbia, have expressed an interest in preserving and protecting their traditional territories and waters for generations which will follow, including applying the concept of Tribal Parks to certain selected areas in Clayoquot Sound;

RECOGNIZING that the people living in Clayoquot Sound, through their local Central Region Board, have expressed interest in pursuing Biosphere Reserve designation for Clayoquot Sound;

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

1. CALLS ON all IUCN members to support designation of Clayoquot Sound as an international Biosphere Reserve;
2. AGREES that the process for planning this reserve should involve the cooperative efforts of the Governments of Canada, British Columbia, and the Central Region Tribes of the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council, and other stakeholders including Central Regional Board, labour, communities and non-governmental environmental organizations;
3. URGES that the planning process consider the importance of increased protection of pristine areas as core areas for protecting biodiversity and create new opportunities for sustainable community development.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. 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. The delegations of the State members Norway, Sweden and United States indicated that had there been a vote they would have abstained.