

## 1.95 Temagami Forests of Northeastern Ontario

CONSIDERING that the protection of the pristine forest watersheds and the old-growth pine forests of the Temagami region of northeastern Ontario has been a persistent national and international concern for more than a decade;

NOTING that in 1988 IUCN listed the core protected area of the Temagami region, Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park, as a Threatened Protected Area because road-building and logging put the long-term protection of the park at risk; and that the IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA) recommended in 1988 that a Temagami area council be established to develop a consensus on management of the region;

AWARE that in 1991 the Province of Ontario invited the major stakeholders in the region to form the Temagami Comprehensive Planning Council to develop a consensus on the long term sustainable use of resources in the region; that the Council submitted its recommendations to the Province in April 1996; and that key recommendations were not accepted by the Province, but that it adopted a strategy that protects less of the forest area adjacent to Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Park;

NOTING that the recommendations of the Council to protect half of the old-growth pine forests in the Temagami region were accepted by the Province; but that the recommendations to protect the pristine headwater forests of key rivers and lakes north and east of Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Park were not accepted;

RECALLING that Canada is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which *in situ* conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats is a basic obligation; and that Ontario was a signatory to the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy in 1996, and has committed itself to ecological land-use planning which incorporates protected areas, roadless wilderness and old-growth forests as key values;

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

1. REITERATES IUCN CNPPA's 1988 conclusion that it does not appear to be in the long-term public interest to extend the life of a local forest industry through the elimination of biologically valuable old-growth forests; and that the consensus recommendations of local residents and stakeholders should form the basis of sustainable use of the region's resources;
2. CALLS ON the Province of Ontario to adopt the recommendations of the local Planning Council to protect the headwater forests of key rivers and lakes north and east of Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Park;
3. CALLS ON IUCN members and the Director General to urge the Province of Ontario to adopt a provincial protected areas strategy that protects its best remaining natural areas and the roadless wilderness and old-growth ecosystems that they contain.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Canada, Norway, Sweden and United States 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.