

## **1.96 Protection and Restoration of Ecological Integrity in Banff National Park, Canada**

RECOGNIZING that the internationally renowned Banff National Park in Canada is the oldest National Park in the nation and the second oldest in the world;

AWARE that Banff National Park protects a critical part of the largely intact mountain ecosystem, including habitat for vulnerable wildlife species such as grizzly bears and other large carnivores;

AWARE that Banff National Park is an integral part of the Rocky Mountain World Heritage Site that also encompasses Yoho, Kootenay and Jasper National Parks, and Mt Robson, Mt Assiniboine and Humber Provincial Parks;

NOTING that public concern about escalating development in Banff National Park, particularly in the Bow Valley corridor, and the encroachment of this development on wildlife habitat and its potential impacts on the ecological integrity of the World Heritage Site, led to the establishment of the Banff Bow Valley Study and its Task Force to recommend ways to protect and restore the ecological integrity of the park;

PLEASED that the Banff Bow Valley Study recommends a comprehensive approach to protect and restore the ecological integrity of the Bow Valley in Banff National Park;

PLEASED that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Canadian Heritage have demonstrated the Government of Canada's support for the study's recommendations and have appointed a special committee to advise on the implementation of the report;

CONCERNED that the complete long-term implications of the Banff Bow Valley Study recommendations requires continued public support and endorsement from the international conservation community;

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

1. RECOGNIZES the Government of Canada's commitment to protecting the ecological integrity of Banff National Park, a World Heritage Site;
2. CALLS on the Government of Canada to continue its support for the protection and restoration of the ecological integrity of Banff National Park by swiftly implementing the recommendations set forth in the Banff Bow Valley Study.

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 and Sweden indicated that had there been a vote they would have abstained.