

1.9 IUCN's Work in Europe

NOTING the recent independent review of the IUCN European Programme adopted by Council at its 43rd Session;

ALSO NOTING that:

- a) the region has adopted a Pan-European approach which integrates the concerns of East and West Europe;
- b) it encompasses important sub-regions such as the Mediterranean, Russia, the Black Sea, Caucasus, Baltic and Arctic;
- c) it contains rich biodiversity covering mountain, forest, marine and many other habitats, but that this is threatened by economic activities and population pressures;
- d) IUCN members in the region are determined to advance the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and act consistently with the concept of environmentally sustainable development;

RECOGNIZING that the conclusions of the third Pan-European Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference, held in Sofia in 1995, and especially the endorsement of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, offer a great opportunity for the Union and all its members to work together to face these threats;

AWARE of the great strength of the IUCN governmental and non-governmental membership and Commission membership in the region and their active participation in regional members' meetings, National Committees, networks and strategic initiatives;

ALSO AWARE that European members have divided their proposed programme into priorities within Europe and priorities which reflect Europe's impact on other regions, so as to consider all aspects of the members' agenda in the region;

RECOGNIZING that the IUCN European members meeting in Bristol in July 1995 agreed that the IUCN should:

- a) build on unique strengths, most particularly the alliance between governmental and non-governmental members;
- b) act as facilitator, broker, catalyst and mediator in the region;
- c) be transparent and accountable in all decision-making;
- d) recognize cultural, linguistic and other diversity;
- e) operate on the principle of subsidiarity and decentralization;
- f) cooperate and engage in dialogue with the private sector in appropriate areas;

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

REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:

- a) for the IUCN European Programme to work on:
 - i) conservation of threatened European biodiversity;
 - ii) the Parks for Life agenda for protected areas developed by the World Commission on Protected Areas;
 - iii) the impact on biological and landscape diversity, in particular by agricultural, forestry and tourism development;
- b) in conformity with the Statutes of IUCN, to promote:

- i) national committees and structures;
 - ii) a Pan-European Forum in 1998;
 - iii) the establishment of an informal Regional Committee for Europe that coordinates action between the national committees, the commissions and the State members so as to result in a more active programme;
- c) in support of these objectives, to encourage:
- i) the mobilization of resources (people and money);
 - ii) regional coordination and information flow;
 - iii) collaborative projects and programmes in areas of need;
 - iv) a reduction in Europe's consumption impact on other regions;
- d) to promote the implementation of all existing international agreements and treaties on biodiversity in Europe, especially the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy