

1.33 Conservation on Community and Privately Owned Lands and Waters

AWARE that the 17th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (San José, Costa Rica, 1988) noted the value of Protected Landscapes/Seascapes (Category V in the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories) and urged greater application of the concept;

ALSO AWARE that the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1994) called on all governments to protect substantial percentages of all plant and animal communities (Recommendation 19.38) and called on Australian governments to implement off-park conservation measures (Recommendation 19.84);

AWARE that protected areas in most categories, except IUCN Categories V and VI, are generally owned and managed by the State;

RECOGNIZING that many States, despite investing every effort to achieve a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of protected areas, fail to achieve this because of practical difficulties and high purchase, management and social costs;

RECOGNIZING that few reserves, regardless of size, are capable of meeting the year-round needs of migratory and other highly mobile fauna;

RECOGNIZING that many examples of habitats which are poorly represented or unrepresented in protected area systems occur within natural habitat remnants or modified habitats on community and private lands and waters, and that these areas make an important local contribution to conserving biodiversity and may, among other things, also provide refuges for wildlife including rare and endangered species, act as wildlife corridors and help maintain species diversity in largely modified landscapes;

RECOGNIZING that many habitat remnants are under threat of destruction from clearing or degradation from, among other things, population pressure, grazing, soil erosion, and/or salinization, and that the pressure on such remnants is often the result of competition from people striving to survive at a subsistence level;

RECOGNIZING that many landowners, with ongoing support from the community and governments, would be willing and able to retain and manage important areas;

RECOGNIZING that economic returns can be obtained from ecologically sustainable use of plants and animals and that this will enable wide community benefits;

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

1. REQUESTS the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), working regionally and in partnership with IUCN members such as the International Centre for Protected Landscapes and the Atlantic Centre for the Environment, to identify and promote best practice approaches to biodiversity conservation on community and privately-owned lands and waters, including a range of incentives and other mechanisms such as management agreements with land-owners and NGO-government partnerships;
2. CALLS ON all governments to give high priority to complementing the State-owned and -managed protected area system by developing and implementing programmes which support conservation on community and privately-owned lands and waters, including measures which facilitate contributions by NGOs, encourage the greater use of protected areas in Categories V and VI, and Biosphere Reserves, and incorporate the best practice initiatives identified above.