

### **1.34 Support for the First Latin American Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, Colombia, May 1997**

CONSIDERING Resolution 19.4 of the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly, on national parks and protected areas, and in particular the Caracas Action Plan adopted at the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas in 1992;

CONSIDERING ALSO Resolution 19.2 of the 19th Session of the IUCN General Assembly on the role of the IUCN Commissions, which calls for the strengthening of the Commissions as important agents in the pursuit of the Mission of IUCN;

CONSIDERING further the decision of the institutions and expert members of the Latin American Network for Technical Cooperation on National Parks, other Protected Areas and Wildlife, whose international secretariat is provided by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, to combine their efforts to organize a First Latin American Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas;

RECALLING that at the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, the Latin American delegates submitted a motion to the Congress expressing their concern that Latin America's problems on protected areas were not adequately addressed;

NOTING that in that motion the Latin American delegates unanimously supported Colombia's proposal to organize the First Latin American Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas;

BEARING IN MIND that the First Latin American Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas will be a vital tool in reinforcing the process of regionalization of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and consequently its presence and work in the region;

RECOGNIZING that the economic and social dynamics of the Latin American region is increasingly generating new and strong pressures on the biological wealth and peoples of the region and in particular on protected areas;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the importance of these problems and the need to promote and exchange experience, develop joint efforts and seek solutions appropriate to the realities of the region;

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

1. REAFFIRMS the need to develop the First Latin American Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas to be held in Colombia on 22–29 May 1997, as a means of articulating concerted regional efforts and experience on national parks and protected areas and the role they play in the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable development;
2. SUPPORTS the commitment of the South American members of WCPA to combine their efforts with the Government of Colombia and the Latin American Network for Technical Cooperation on National Parks, other Protected Areas and Wildlife, to organize and carry out this important activity;
3. REQUESTS the Chair of WCPA and the Director General, within available resources, to collaborate in preparing and to participate in the First Latin American Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas;
4. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:
  - a) to include support for this Congress in the IUCN Programme for 1997, especially through the Regional Offices of South and Meso-America and the Protected Areas and World Heritage Programme;
  - b) to take the necessary measures to provide the fullest possible support to the holding of the First Latin American Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas and subsequent follow-up of the resolutions and recommendations from this event, which is of great importance for the Latin American region.