

1.52 Indigenous Peoples and Marine and Coastal Areas

RECALLING that the coastal areas of Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Arctic and small island States have been the traditional home of indigenous peoples;

RECALLING that the indigenous peoples have made wise and sustainable use of natural resources in such areas;

AWARE that the industrial exploitation of natural resources is nowadays carried on indiscriminately and produces serious damage to the resources and in the lives of indigenous peoples;

CONSIDERING the terms of ILO Convention No 169 and the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, regarding the role and collective interest of indigenous peoples with respect to the management, use and conservation of biodiversity;

CONSIDERING the recommendations and guidelines established in Agenda 21;

CONSIDERING the principles established in the draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

CONSIDERING the emphasis placed in *Caring for the Earth* on the role of indigenous peoples in sustainable development and their rights in the management of natural resources;

MINDFUL of the recommendations of the 18th Session of the IUCN General Assembly, and Resolutions and Recommendations 19.20, 19.21, 19.22, 19.23 and others of the 19th Session that refer to indigenous peoples, specifically those relating to coastal and marine areas;

CONSIDERING the economic, cultural and spiritual value of coastal and marine areas for indigenous peoples;

CONCERNED that the development of industrial activities in these areas, with the well-known contamination and over-exploitation of resources, has led to displacement and loss of quality of life for many indigenous peoples;

CONCERNED that the system of quotas and closed seasons, as well as international campaigns in favour of animals, often fail to take account of the dependence of indigenous peoples on these resources;

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

REQUESTS the Director General, the Secretariat and technical programmes, Commissions, members and Councillors of IUCN, within available resources, to endorse, support, participate in and advocate the development of a clear policy in favour of conservation of marine and coastal areas in the world based on the following principles:

- a) recognition of the role and collective interest of indigenous peoples taking into account the terms of ILO Convention No 169, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the principles proposed in the draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- b) recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples to make use of natural resources on their lands or territories in marine and coastal areas in an equitable and ecologically sustainable way;
- c) the active participation of indigenous peoples in the establishment of quotas and closed seasons, as well as in international campaigns in favour of sustainable use of animals and other natural resources.

Note. This Resolution was adopted by a show of hands. The delegations of the State members Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and United States indicated that they had abstained, in the case of New Zealand and the United States for the reasons given under Resolution 1.49. The delegation of the State member India dissociated itself from this Resolution for the reasons given under Resolution 1.49. The delegation of the State member United Kingdom indicated that the delegation had voted against. The delegation of the State member Denmark stated that it was not in agreement with the amendment whereby the phrase "in an equitable and ecologically sustainable way" was added to Operative Paragraph (b), not because the Danish Government considers "indigenous" territories should not be used sustainably but because it considers the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands are no less sovereign than the rights of sovereign states.

The use of the term “indigenous peoples” in this Resolution shall not be construed as having any implications as regards the rights which may attach to that term in international law.