

## 1.56 Indigenous Peoples and the Andes

RECALLING that the indigenous peoples inhabiting the Andes have developed cultures adapted to their social and political structure, and to the optimal management, use and conservation of their natural living resources;

RECALLING that the wildlife of the Andes constitutes a genetic base for the development of improved varieties and races, especially those related to world food security;

RECALLING that the technologies developed by ancestral Andean cultures for the domestication, use and conservation of wildlife species were ideal;

RECALLING that many strategic living resources originate in the Andes, including water, food, soil and minerals, and in some cases energy, intimately related to the Amazon region and the coastal and marine areas;

RECALLING that the degradation of living natural resources in their places of origin has continued without interruption since the colonial occupation;

CONSIDERING the terms of the ILO Convention No 169 and those 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;

AWARE of the principles under consideration 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 referring to forest life;

RECOGNIZING that IUCN has made a considerable effort with its Sustainable Use Initiative, and that many NGOs which are members of IUCN are adopting this approach;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the constant loss of indigenous knowledge and genetic diversity of wildlife species;

CONCERNED by the lack of viable, coherent and operational national environmental policies promoting the sustainable use of living natural resources;

CONCERNED by the high degree of water pollution from excessive, irresponsible use by mining interests, industry, local authorities and others, in disregard of the availability of appropriate technologies;

CONCERNED at the accelerating growth of poverty in the Andean ecosystems, which obliges Andean populations to use living natural resources indiscriminately;

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 the sustainable use of natural resources in the Andes based on the following principles:

- a) recognition of the role and collective interest of indigenous peoples taking account of the terms of ILO Convention No 169, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and principles proposed in the draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- b) recognition of the political will of Andean nations to abide by international agreements and conventions related to indigenous peoples and the environment of the Andes;

- c) the establishment of national policies to reduce poverty in the Andes, especially for the purpose of also ensuring the survival of species and the conservation and use of living natural resources;
- d) the establishment of national policies for the promotion, recovery, systematization and improvement of indigenous knowledge on the elements of biodiversity;
- e) the establishment of frameworks and mechanisms for negotiations between indigenous peoples, other groups of people, governments and companies ensuring fair settlements of conflicts;
- f) guaranteeing the intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples with respect to living natural resources and their indigenous knowledge, as well as the protection and recognition of and equitable participation in the benefits derived from traditional knowledge.

*Note. This Resolution was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States indicated that had there been a vote they would have abstained, in the cases of New Zealand and the United States for the reasons given under Resolution 1.49.*

*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.*