

1.63 The Promotion of Organic Agriculture

RECOGNIZING that the Green Revolution has not achieved the expectations of ensuring food security in all nations and regions of the world and has contributed to degradation of the earth's natural ecosystems;

APPRECIATING that increasingly the harmonization of human activity and its natural environment in terms of sustainable resource utilization and management is the key to the survival of many living communities, including humans;

NOTING that IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements), with 570 member organizations in over 100 countries, is committed to the integration of organic agriculture and nature conservation;

RECOGNIZING also that organic agriculture is an important way to minimize harmful environmental effects of agriculture and that organic methods can lead to ecologically sustainable agriculture by integrating nature conservation, resource management and competitive production;

RECOGNIZING further that organic agriculture can play an important part in nature conservation because it is sensitive to natural processes and ecosystems and works on the minimization of external human interference;

AWARE that humans have utilized and shaped accessible natural ecosystems for thousands of years, demonstrating the need to preserve traditional agricultural practices when ecologically sound;

AWARE that biosphere reserves and managed nature reserves show that human activities, if accompanied by environmental education, income-generating incentives and proper monitoring, may lay the foundation for preserving cultural and natural landscapes in the long term and are a decisive factor for making uses compatible with the conservation of the natural basis of life;

WELCOMING that organic agriculture eliminates chemo-synthetic inputs, minimizes pollution, reduces soil degradation and can reduce habitat destruction and take pressure from highly valued centres of biodiversity, especially those close to densely populated agricultural areas;

RECOGNIZING that for these reasons the promotion of organic agriculture is an important part of conservation;

RECOGNIZING also that organic farming already constitutes an important part of agriculture in some countries and is developing rapidly worldwide;

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

REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to convene an international workshop in cooperation with IFOAM on the linkage of organic agriculture and nature conservation which should, *inter alia*, address country-specific and problem-oriented issues and lay the foundation of and define a plan for cooperation among interested parties.

Note. The delegation of the State member Netherlands indicated that in their view the subject of this Resolution was outside the Mission of IUCN.