

## 1.84 Superquarries in Europe

RECOGNIZING the exceptional biological, landscape and cultural assets of East and West Europe, including the mountains, coasts and seas;

AWARE of the richness in species, scenic beauty, historical interest and recreational quality of landscapes throughout this region and their importance in maintaining biodiversity and culture;

NOTING the rise in consumption of aggregates, the internationalization of trade in this resource and the trend towards the development of exporting superquarries in coastal and upland regions (superquarries are defined as producing over five million tons of aggregate per annum);

AWARE of the threat of often irretrievable damage that large-scale quarrying and the shipping of aggregates poses to natural and cultural assets, including marine environments and resources;

CONCURRING with Chapter 10 of Agenda 21 that land-use planning can greatly facilitate biodiversity and landscape conservation and sustainable development;

CONCERNED at the absence of an overall framework for managing the demand and planning the supply of aggregates;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to assist the working group on superquarries in Europe set up at the initiative of the IUCN UK Committee, and to integrate it within the IUCN European Programme, noting that the aims of the working group are:
  - a) to collate data on aggregate demand, the potential for movement of aggregates within and between States and the technical feasibility of meeting this demand from superquarries;
  - b) relating this information to the potential impact on biological, landscape and cultural assets;
  - c) formulating recommendations to minimize the impacts;
2. CALLS UPON the European Union and all IUCN members in Europe to aid and support this process, within the context of an overall improvement in European transport policy;
3. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to:
  - a) create an IUCN transport group and network of European members, coordinated by the IUCN European Programme;
  - b) prepare an IUCN Policy Paper on “wise use of free natural resource commodities and their trade with significance for the transport industry”, and present it to the Commission of the European Communities at an Intergroup Meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg;
  - c) investigate, with the Chair of the Species Survival Commission, the possible inclusion of this work in the Sustainable Use Initiative (SUI) Europe process.