

7. Conservation and Development of Tropical Rain Forests

Recognizing that present and planned agricultural, grazing and forest exploitation activities, sometimes involving agrarian reform schemes, are resulting in major impacts on tropical rain forests and often lead to their complete disappearance and replacement by secondary communities, thus depriving the countries concerned of a valuable potential resource;

The 11th General Assembly of IUCN meeting in Banff, Canada, in September 1972:

Urges all governments to recognize:

- (1) that all development programmes which involve the manipulation of tropical rain forests should be based upon ecological analysis and principles and the application of appropriate technologies that can result in a sustained yield from the resource with minimum adverse effects upon the environment;
- (2) that the governments of those countries in which companies extracting timber from tropical forest lands are based, should exercise increased controls over the operations of such companies undertaken abroad to oblige them to take all the precautions that would avoid the degradation of tropical forest ecosystems;*
- (3) that important and unique areas within tropical rain forests should be set aside for management as national parks, sanctuaries and reserves to insure the conservation of representative natural formations and species, as well as genetic resources;
- (4) that critical areas within tropical rain forests such as upper watersheds, riverine and estuarine zones, slopes and areas subject to accelerated erosion be given special treatment including the restriction of harmful land-use practices, and the use of reforestation or other protective measures; and
- (5) that countries with large tropical timber resources be given financial assistance by appropriate national and international agencies to help maintain their forest resources.