

#### **4. Conservation of Mangroves, Salt Marshes and Related Habitats**

Noting that scientific studies have demonstrated the importance of mangroves, salt marshes and related habitats for marine life in general and for maintaining the stability and productivity of estuaries and the ecosystems they contain;

Considering the importance of these habitats for many species of animals, especially water fowl, wading birds, and fish;

Recognizing that many human communities are dependent upon or derive substantial food, economic, recreational and other benefits from estuaries and the ecosystems they contain;

Being aware of the massive destruction of mangroves, salt marshes and related communities taking place throughout the world, and the effect of this destruction on human welfare, and on the chances of survival of various animal and plant species;

The 12th General Assembly of IUCN meeting in Kinshasa, Zaire, in September 1975:

Draws the attention of governments to the need to control these destructive practices;

Urges scientists to undertake as quickly as possible comprehensive surveys of these communities throughout their distribution in order that the remaining areas may be evaluated and the most significant areas identified;:

**Calls on** governments to provide as soon as possible information needed for IUCN to complete the Directory of Wetlands of International Importance; and

**Requests** governments to take urgent steps to protect and manage key areas, large enough to form viable ecological units, containing mangroves, salt marshes and related wetlands together with adjacent estuarine waters as reserves for the preservation of these ecosystems and the species for which they provide habitat.

