

5. Protection of Traditional Ways of Life

Recognizing the value and importance of traditional ways of life and the skills of the people which enable them to live in harmony with their environment;

Recognizing also the vulnerability of indigenous people and the great significance they attach to land ownership;

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

Recommends

- (1) That governments maintain and encourage traditional methods of living and customs which enable communities, both rural and urban, to live in harmony with their environment;
- (2) That educational systems be oriented to emphasize environmental and ecological principles and conservation objectives derived from local cultures and traditions, and that these principles and objectives be given wide publicity;
- (3) That governments devise means by which indigenous people may bring their lands into conservation areas without relinquishing their ownership, use, or tenure rights;
- (4) That the governments of countries still inhabited by people belonging to separate indigenous cultures recognize the rights of these people to live on the lands they have traditionally occupied, and take account of their view points;
- (5) That in the creation of national parks or reserves indigenous peoples should not normally be displaced from their traditional lands, nor should such reserves anywhere be proclaimed without adequate consultation with the indigenous peoples most likely to be directly affected by such proclamation; and
- (6) That existing natural values be respected and integrated in the early planning stage of every urban or industrial development scheme, this requiring that ecological principles be taken as the basis for all planning.