

3. Environmental effects of modern agriculture

ACKNOWLEDGING that, as modern agriculture develops, it increasingly relies upon a very small set of crop species and technologies and replaces diverse traditional agricultural systems, which use a wider range of species better adapted to a variety of local environments;

RECOGNIZING that modern agriculture is a major cause of the extinction of germ plasm resources;

CONCERNED at the drastic reduction in wildlife habitat and scenic quality in many intensively farmed areas of developed countries, brought about by modern agricultural technology;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 14th Session, Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September -5 October 1978:

RECOMMENDS that national and international organizations concerned with agricultural development and food production should take additional measures to protect wild crop resources, traditional crops and appropriate technologies, as well as to develop new crops and technologies, that will increase the diversity of agro-ecosystems to fit the variety of ecological conditions found in local environments;

URGES that governments and others involved take steps to retain and establish areas, in the landscapes created by new forms of agriculture, as reservoirs for wildlife and for their scenic value.