

19. Conservation of the Himalayan region

CONCERNED at the rapid destruction of the world's greatest mountain ecosystems, leading to the loss and extinction of their biota;

AWARE that this destruction impedes economic and social development, and even endangers human life, within and beyond the region of the Himalayas;

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

CALLS UPON all Governments of the region:

- (a) to develop together integrated policies for watershed management, including forest, soil and water conservation, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the World Conservation Strategy;
- (b) to this end, to integrate national efforts, including those of the various government departments with a direct or indirect involvement in conservation issues;
- (c) to undertake and encourage the necessary monitoring, research, education, information and public awareness measures in support of ecosystem conservation and related aspects of social and economic development;

RECOMMENDS that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with the participation of other international and national organizations as appropriate, establish and operate "A Regional Centre for Integrated Mountain Development" as recommended by the regional Man and Biosphere meeting on integrated ecological research and training needs in the South-East Asian mountain systems, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 26 September to 2 October, 1975.

REQUESTS multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies to support national governments of the region in:

- (a) developing national parks and reserves in the Himalayan region;
- (b) developing integrated regional projects of conservation;
- (c) providing environmentally sound sources of energy other than firewood.