

15/10. GENETIC RESOURCES

RECOGNIZING that genetic material forms part of the natural heritage of mankind and should therefore remain available to all nations;

AWARE that the conservation of genetic material is essential for the maintenance and development of animal and plant resources for a large number of present and future beneficial uses; CONSIDERING that States have a duty of stewardship towards the conservation of genetic resources;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that States using these resources should contribute to their conservation;

RECALLING Recommendation No. 39 of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the work of FAO, UNEP and Unesco/MAB for the conservation and utilization of genetic resources;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th session in Christchurch, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

RECOMMENDS that all countries maintain maximum genetic diversity by means of both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation measures;

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that national inventories be made of genetic resources whether under public or private control, in gene banks, in protected areas and in traditional cultivation, and that all such resources should in principle be available to potential users, provided that such usage does not permanently impair or destroy genetic resources;

CALLS UPON States using the genetic resources of another country to contribute to their inventory and conservation; and INSTRUCTS the IUCN Secretariat to undertake an analysis of the technical, legal, and economic and financial matters relating to the conservation, accessibility and use of these resources with a view to providing the basis for an international arrangement and for rules to implement it.