

15/26. INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF IUCN

ACKNOWLEDGING with gratitude the hospitality of the Swiss Confederation and the Canton de Vaud for the IUCN Secretariat at Gland, the efforts of the Swiss federal, cantonal and municipal authorities to support the work of IUCN, and the desirability of maintaining the IUCN headquarters in Switzerland;

CONSCIOUS of the lack of a headquarters agreement conferring international status on the IUCN Secretariat, and of the ensuing disadvantages for the work of the organization;

RECALLING that IUCN has an international membership including 56 sovereign States and 116 government agencies, derives a large proportion of its funding from public sources, and according to its objectives exclusively undertakes activities in the public interest;

NOTING with appreciation also that the Government of Kenya by Legal Notice No. 49/1980 has conferred on IUCN the privileges and immunities of an international organization;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christ-church, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

INSTRUCTS the Director General to enter into negotiations with the competent Swiss authorities for the early conclusion of an international headquarters agreement;

URGES the Government of Switzerland to use its best endeavours to confer such legal status on the IUCN Secretariat as will facilitate the international functions and activities of IUCN; and

CALLS on all States in which IUCN undertakes activities likewise to use their best endeavours to confer such legal status as may be necessary to carry out those activities.