

16/2. CONSERVATION AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the grave consequences which armed conflicts have on nature and natural resources, jeopardizing the essential conditions of life for present and future generations;

RECALLING Resolution 15/2 on conservation and peace adopted at the 15th Session of the General Assembly of IUCN in October 1981;

BEARING in mind Resolution 35/8 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, adopted October 30 1980, on the historic responsibility of States for the preservation of nature for present and future generations, as well as Resolution 4 of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, adopted September 9 1977, concerning the effects of weapons of mass destruction on ecosystems;

STRONGLY ENDORSING the provisions of the World Charter for Nature, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on October 28 1982, concerning conservation and peace and proscribing the degradation of nature caused by warfare or other hostile activities;

WISHING to contribute to the International Year of Peace, 1986, declared by the United Nations;

RECOGNIZING that UNEP activities related to the environmental implications of the arms race signify the growing global concern for this matter;

WELCOMING the adoption of international treaties designed to restrain degradation of nature caused by warfare or other hostile activities, in particular the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, together with the provisions on the protection of the civilian population and the environment contained in the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 16th Session in Madrid, Spain, 5-14 November 1984:

1. REQUESTS the Director General to ensure IUCN's contribution to the International Year of Peace by all appropriate means, particularly promotion of the recognition of the positive relationship between peace and conservation of nature and natural resources;
2. REQUESTS AS WELL all States, which have not already done so, to consider adhering to the above treaties as a matter of urgency;
3. URGES the State Members of the Conference on Disarmament to arrive at an early agreement on the prohibition of the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons;
4. FURTHER REQUESTS, pending the conclusion of an agreement on the prohibition and stockpiling of chemical weapons, that all States which possess such weapons take all possible precautions to ensure that the dangers to human health and the environment caused by the production, stockpiling, handling and transportation of such chemical substances for military purposes be reduced, in particular by subjecting such activities to appropriate safeguards which should not be less severe than those applicable to similar civilian activities;
5. DECLARES that the natural heritage of the world, including ecosystems beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, should be treated in the same way as the cultural heritage and that this should be made the object of an international treaty, by way of an amendment of the Hague Convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict of 14 May 1954, or otherwise;
6. CALLS UPON States to ensure that all military activities undertaken in times of peace, in particular the testing of weapons and techniques to be used for hostile purposes, be conducted so as to avoid undue damage to the environment.

