

17.22 DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

TAKING NOTE of the conclusions of the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED);

RECALLING in particular that the WCED Report refers to a draft convention on the conservation of wild genetic resources arising from Resolution 16/24 of the 16th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (1984) and prepared under the auspices of IUCN's Commission on Environmental Policy, Law and Administration (CEPLA);

NOTING Resolution 14/26 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) calling upon the UNEP Executive Director to establish an *ad hoc* working group of experts to investigate, in close cooperation with the Ecosystem Conservation Group and other international organizations, the desirability and possible form of an umbrella convention to rationalize current activities under existing conservation conventions; but AWARE of the numerous practical, political and legal obstacles which the drafting of such a convention would entail;

CONSIDERING nevertheless that the effectiveness of existing nature conservation conventions might be enhanced through increased coordination of the individual convention secretariats;

RECALLING the adoption and solemn proclamation by the UN General Assembly of the World Charter for Nature (1982) and the adoption of the United Nations Environment Programme's "Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond";

RECALLING FURTHER the efforts of IUCN to develop appropriate environmental law infrastructures, especially in developing countries, and to maintain an information centre on environmental law;

AWARE of the efforts which have been made in Central America in the field of environmental law;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 17th Session in San Jose, Costa Rica, 1-10 February 1988:

1. WELCOMES the recognition in the WCED Report and in the UN "Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond" of the importance of environmental law, both national and international, and EXPRESSES its satisfaction that IUCN has largely contributed to the improvement and development of this sector of the law for the past decade.
2. STRESSES the importance of the legal and policy element of the IUCN Programme.
3. RECOMMENDS that this Programme includes work towards the convention on environmental protection and sustainable development called for by the WCED Report and considered a possibility by the UN "Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond".
4. SUGGESTS that such a treaty embody the principles of the World Charter for Nature and that the views of all IUCN members be taken into consideration.
5. RECOMMENDS that the draft convention on the conservation of wild genetic resources (as improved to reflect the views expressed at this General Assembly and including a funding mechanism) be widely circulated for comment by governments and NGOs.
6. RECOMMENDS further that efforts of the *ad hoc* Working Group to be established by UNEP and those of the Ecosystem Conservation Group be directed at achieving such increased cooperation through, *inter alia*, the provision of joint services; and REQUESTS the Director General of IUCN actively to

cooperate in these efforts, so that IUCN may contribute to the maximum extent practicable to the activities carried out under the conventions in question.

7. CALLS UPON CEPLA and the Environmental Law Centre to support the preparation of environmental laws in Latin America and the inclusion of environmental factors in national constitutions, and to promote the development of conventions relating to sustainable use of natural resources in Latin America.
8. URGES the countries of Latin America that have not yet done so to adopt or ratify appropriate international conventions relating to conservation.

