

## 17.38 PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

AWARE that the area of sea and seabed is more than two-and-a-half times as great as the total area of land masses of the world, that less than one per cent of that marine area is currently within established protected areas and that protection of the marine environment lags far behind that of the terrestrial environment;

RECOGNIZING that the immense diversity of marine and estuarine animals, plants, and communities is a vital component of self-sustaining systems of local, regional, national and international significance and is an integral part of the natural and cultural heritage of the world;

CONCERNED that there are already areas which have become seriously degraded by the direct or indirect effects of human activities and that the rate of degradation is increasing rapidly;

RECOGNIZING that consideration must be given for the continued welfare of people who have customarily used marine areas;

BELIEVING that there are national and international responsibilities for the proper stewardship of the living and non-living resources of coastal and deeper ocean seas and the seabed, to ensure their maintenance and appropriate use for the direct benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations;

BELIEVING that the development of such stewardship will require coordination and integrated management of a number of potentially competing uses at international, regional, national and local levels;

RECOGNIZING that a number of initiatives have been taken at international, regional and national levels for the establishment of marine protected areas and for managing the use of marine areas on a sustainable basis, including:

- the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- the Man and the Biosphere Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco);
- the Marine Science Programme of Unesco;
- the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
- initiatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and other international organizations;
- the proclamation of marine protected areas by 69 nations;

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

1. CALLS upon national governments, international agencies and the nongovernmental community to:
  - a. Implement integrated management strategies to achieve the objectives of the World Conservation Strategy in the coastal and marine environment and, in so doing, to consider local resource needs as well as national and international conservation and development responsibilities in the protection of the marine environment;
  - b. Involve local people, nongovernmental organizations, related industries and other interested parties in the development of these strategies and in the implementation of various marine conservation programmes.
2. DECIDES ITSELF, and FURTHER RECOMMENDS to FAO, IMO, IWC, the legal instrument bodies of the North Sea, UNEP, Unesco, other international organizations, and all nations, that:
  - a. The following primary goal be adopted: "To provide for the protection, restoration, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the marine heritage of the world in perpetuity through the creation of a global, representative system of marine protected areas and through the management in accordance with the principles of the World Conservation Strategy

- of human activities that use or affect the marine environment";
- b. As an integral component of marine conservation and management, each national government should seek cooperative action between the public and all levels of government for development of a national system of marine protected areas. The term "marine protected areas" is defined as: "Any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying waters and associated flora, fauna, historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by legislation to protect part or all of the enclosed environment" ;
- c. Such a system should have the following objectives:
- to protect and manage substantial examples of marine and estuarine systems to ensure their long-term viability and to maintain genetic diversity;
  - to protect depleted, threatened, rare or endangered species and populations and, in particular, to preserve habitats considered critical for the survival of such species;
  - to protect and manage areas of significance to the life-cycles of economically important species;
  - to prevent outside activities from detrimentally affecting the marine protected areas;
  - to provide for the continued welfare of people affected by the creation of marine protected areas; to preserve, protect, and manage historical and cultural sites and natural aesthetic values of marine and estuarine areas, for present and future generations;
  - to facilitate the interpretation of marine and estuarine systems for the purposes of conservation, education, and tourism;
  - to accommodate within appropriate management regimes a broad spectrum of human activities compatible with the primary goal in marine and estuarine settings;
  - to provide for research and training, and for monitoring the environmental effects of human activities, including the direct and indirect effects of development and adjacent land-use practices;
- d. The development by a nation of such a system will be aided by agreement on a marine and estuarine classification system, including identified biogeographic areas; and by review of existing protected areas, to establish the level of representation of classification categories within those areas, which may require:
- determination of existing and planned levels of use of the marine and estuarine environment and the likely effects of those uses;
  - delineation of potential areas consistent with the objectives listed above, and determination of priorities for their establishment and management;
  - development and implementation of extensive community education programmes aimed at specific groups, to stimulate the necessary community support and awareness and to achieve substantial self-regulation ;
  - allocation of sufficient resources for the development and implementation of management plans, for regulatory statutory review processes, interpretation, education, training, volunteer programmes, research, monitoring, surveillance and enforcement programmes.