

## **17.45 CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PLANT GERMPLASM BANKS**

CONSIDERING that plant germplasm banks are an efficient tool for the *ex situ* conservation of the genetic diversity of the world's plant heritage;

BEARING IN MIND that by *in vitro* propagation of endangered or locally extinct plant species it is possible to obtain plants for reintroduction into their natural habitats;

RECALLING that IUCN operates an international Botanical Gardens Conservation Secretariat;

RECALLING the recommendations of the international conference in Cordoba, Spain, May 1987, on conservation techniques for endangered plant species in botanical gardens of the Mediterranean area;

CONSIDERING the international coordination and cooperation necessary for the conservation of the world's plant heritage;

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

1. URGES that every effort be made to secure resources that will permit the creation of an international network of plant germ-plasm banks coordinated by the IUCN Botanical Gardens Conservation Secretariat.
2. RECOMMENDS that such plant germplasm banks be sited in countries in the region of origin and that the country of origin be involved in the distribution of reproductive and clonal material.

