

17.51 INTRODUCTIONS OF CARNIVOROUS SNAILS FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PURPOSES

AWARE that high diversity and endemism of terrestrial mollusc species is a significant characteristic of many islands in the Caribbean Sea, and the Indian and Pacific Oceans;

CONCERNED that many of these unique molluscan faunas are now seriously threatened;

RECOGNIZING that, in addition to habitat destruction, the presence of exotic carnivorous snails, in particular *Euglandina rosea*, introduced as biological control agents for the introduced crop pest *Achatina fulica* (Giant African Snail), has caused dramatic population declines in many endemic native land snails on many islands;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that *Euglandina rosea* is known to have caused the extinction of native snail species in French Polynesia and Hawaii, and may have caused extinctions elsewhere;

NOTING that carnivorous snails are not effective control agents for the giant African snail, and that insufficient trials were carried out before their recommendation as control agents;

AWARE that national and regional organizations concerned with agriculture are still recommending the use of such agents for biological control;

NOTING that there is no currently effective method for eradicating *Euglandina rosea* once it has been introduced to an island ;

FURTHER NOTING that the IUCN Species Survival Commission, in its Position Statement on "Translocation of Living Organisms", states that no alien species should be deliberately introduced into any natural habitat;

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

1. **STRONGLY RECOMMENDS** that introductions of carnivorous snails in habitats with endemic land snail species be prohibited.
2. **REQUESTS** that appropriate government agencies, agricultural and other relevant institutions be circulated with information stressing the danger of such untested biological control efforts.
3. **SUGGESTS** that regional organizations concerned with agriculture and the environment should be charged with circulating the necessary information.
4. **URGES** further research into other methods of controlling the giant African snail, such as collection by hand, and into methods of eradicating *Euglandina rosea*.