

17.15 THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

CONSIDERING that natural events such as Hoods, landslides, drought, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, wildfires and windstorms are an integral part of the natural processes of the planet;

RECALLING that the hazards posed by these events have taken more than three million lives worldwide and 23 billion dollars in economic losses in the last two decades, including destruction of infrastructure, production activities and human settlements and damage to flora, fauna, soil and water resources;

NOTING that the severity of natural disasters falls disproportionately on the poor, on lesser developed countries, and on the food production and shelter sectors;

RECOGNIZING the role that natural resource development activities has in influencing the nature and severity of these events;

CONVINCED that future strategies of natural resource management in a development planning context must necessarily include provision for natural hazards;

RECOGNIZING that the United Nations General Assembly at its 42nd Session has designated the 1990s as a decade in which the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, will pay special attention to fostering international cooperation in the field of natural disaster reduction;

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

WELCOMES the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction

