

## 18.20 Trade Agreements and Sustainable Development

RECOGNIZING that international trade agreements, including the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which regulate most of the three *trillion* (million million) dollars a year in trade among nations, have a potentially significant impact on environmental protection and on the management of natural resources in developing and developed countries;

AWARE that individual nations are developing domestic policies for sustainability, and assuming that other nations are removing trade distortions and pursuing efficient pricing of natural resources;

RECOGNIZING that liberalization of international trade is an important component in achieving sustainable development;

REALIZING the urgent need for organizations such as GATT comprehensively to address environmental and natural resource concerns in the development and review of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements;

The General Assembly of IUCN—The World Conservation Union, at its 18th Session in Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990:

1. URGES all governments to ensure that trade agreements take full account of environmental consequences;
2. CALLS upon the Director General:
  - a. to write to the GATT Secretariat and to all Contracting Parties to GATT urging them to request that the GATT Working Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade, established in 1971 but never yet convened, be called into action to develop criteria with which to assess the environmental consequences of trade measures, and to move speedily thereafter to assure the use of these criteria in assessing the environmental impact of unfolding trade proposals;
  - b. subject to availability of resources, to appoint a task force to examine work already underway within OECD and the UN, and to consult with these bodies to determine whether there are aspects of environmental and national resource issues related to trade where additional efforts by IUCN could complement such work, and to issue a report of its findings for use as a background document by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in June 1992.