

18.37 Sea Turtle Ranching

NOTING that no proposal for the ranching of sea turtles has yet been adopted by the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

CONSIDERING that the high capital cost of sea turtle ranching creates the need for markets to be developed in countries where a high economic return is guaranteed;

RECALLING that, hitherto, IUCN policy has been that the products of sea turtle ranches should be used to replace wild turtle products in existing local markets;

FURTHER RECALLING IUCN's stated opposition to ranching or farming of sea turtles in those cases where it would lead to the expansion of existing markets and thus could possibly result in an increased exploitation of wild turtles;

BELIEVING that even a carefully developed marking scheme is no guarantee that exploitation of wild turtles will not continue in the same region as the ranch;

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

1. URGES IUCN and its member governments and organizations not to support any attempts to ranch sea turtles in any geographical region unless this would lead to the cessation of commercial exploitation of wild sea turtles;
2. CALLS UPON the Director General to ensure that any involvement by IUCN in the management of areas containing sea turtle populations takes into account Recommendation 17.47 of the 17th Session of the IUCN General Assembly on sea turtles.