

## **1.14 Sustainable Development of Islands and Coastal States in the Mediterranean**

AWARE that more than 60 per cent of the people on earth live within 60 km of the shoreline, and that the proportion could rise to 75 per cent by the year 2020;

NOTING the entry into force on 16 November 1994 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea;

RECALLING the activities in support of sustainable development and nature conservation of Mediterranean islands undertaken by the Mediterranean Action Plan Office in Athens, Greece;

RECOGNIZING that coastal areas are priority areas in the Mediterranean because of their great ecological, economic and social importance;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that the particular characteristics of the coastal areas in the Mediterranean derive from the interaction of people and natural ecosystems;

CONSIDERING that development of islands should promote and take into consideration local identity and social circumstances;

RECOGNIZING that islands display particular characteristics, being open economic systems, and that particular management plans are needed to support their development;

AWARE that cooperation between island communities is necessary and that therefore the creation of a Mediterranean islands network should be supported;

RECOGNIZING that some Mediterranean States require reinforcement of the institutional, economic and technical means for the proper management of coastal areas;

AFFIRMING that the management of the environmental problems of Mediterranean coastal areas should be sustainable and should combine short-term necessities with long-term aspirations;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. URGES all Mediterranean States to implement a sustainable development policy for the coastal areas in the Mediterranean that assures:
  - a) the development of appropriate legislation for the protection of coastal areas;
  - b) the valuation of coastal natural resources with a view towards their sustainable use;
  - c) establishment of links between coastal areas management on the one hand, and urban and regional development programmes on the other;
  - d) the adoption of special legislation to control development of the built environment based on the particularities of coastal areas;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to provide IUCN support for this process.

*Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Germany indicated that it had not participated in discussion of the Recommendation nor would it have participated in any voting.*