

2.92 Indigenous peoples, sustainable use of natural resources, and international trade

REAFFIRMING that the fourth principle of *Caring for the Earth: A Strategy for Sustainable Living* is:

“For the Earth to continue to sustain billions of people it is essential to minimize the depletion of non-renewable resources and to switch to renewable substitutes where possible”;

RECOGNIZING that the eighth principle directs nations to consider people as the central element of the system and that economic policy should be related to environmental carrying capacity so as to increase the benefits obtained from each stock of resources;

NOTING that Article 10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) calls upon Parties to integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making;

ACKNOWLEDGING that most, if not all, indigenous peoples define themselves as inseparable from the land and see the land’s resources as gifts provided by the Creator for their use;

RECALLING that Article 8(j) of the CBD commits each Party to respect, preserve, and maintain the traditional practices of indigenous and local communities that are relevant for the sustainable use of biological diversity and to encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge and practices;

CONSIDERING that in many indigenous and local communities, traditional knowledge about the wise use of renewable resources will not continue to be meaningful and passed on to subsequent generations unless sufficient economic incentives exist to encourage their continued practice;

NOTING that many indigenous and local communities are located in remote areas with few economic opportunities other than those presented by the local natural resources; and

MINDFUL of the existence of barriers to the trade in products derived from non-endangered wild species which may discourage the sustainable use of these renewable resources;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. URGES all national governments, without prejudice to their obligations under international law, to put their sustainable use principles into action in order to improve the viability of indigenous and local communities, which depend on the harvesting of renewable resources, by eliminating tariff, and non-tariff barriers, which discourage the sustainable use of natural products derived from non-endangered species;
2. REQUESTS IUCN to:

- (a) assess through its Sustainable Use Initiative, and with the participation of other components of IUCN, the degree to which trade barriers without basis in international law are a hindrance to the rights of indigenous and local communities and to the sustainable development of their culture and economy;
- (b) make known the results of this assessment; and
- (c) recommend actions if and as appropriate.

This Recommendation was adopted by a show of hands. The delegations of the State members Australia, Germany, New Zealand and Russian Federation indicated that they had abstained. State and Agency members United States abstained from adoption of this Recommendation.