

2.30 Impacts of military activities on the environment and indigenous peoples' communities in the Arctic

BELIEVING that the indigenous peoples issue is of growing importance in the World Conservation Union;

NOTING that IUCN has created a focal point for the specific purpose of assessing and promoting indigenous peoples' needs and wishes;

RECOGNIZING that IUCN acknowledges the legitimacy of certain kinds of subsistence use in most categories of protected areas;

AWARE that IUCN is expected to receive full accredited Observer Status to the Arctic Council in October 2000 at the Arctic Ministerial Meeting in Barrow, Alaska;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the traditional subsistence lifestyle of indigenous peoples of the Arctic makes them particularly vulnerable to the impact of contaminants in the food chain, including those originating from former military activities;

WELCOMING the work of IUCN to develop a programme in the Arctic; and

AWARE that military activities and bases in the Arctic have left an aftermath of environmental damage and disruption to the communities in the region;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to ensure that the Secretariat's programme activities in the Arctic address the issue of the impact of past military activities on the environment and indigenous peoples' communities in the region;
2. CALLS ON IUCN to urge the eight circumpolar nations to:
 - (a) undertake a region-wide survey of the problem; and
 - (b) promote ways of mitigating past damage so as to secure environmental recovery in the region.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States abstained from the adoption by consensus of this Resolution.