



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 1980

WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY

I have written to the Premiers and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory concerning the development of a National Conservation Strategy incorporating the proposals outlined in the World Conservation Strategy launched in Australia and thirty other countries on 6 March, 1980.

The World Conservation Strategy seeks to integrate conservation and development objectives with the aim of sustaining the use of living resources (ie ecosystems and species) for future generations.

The Strategy suggests this will require increased communication between conservationists, developers and users of living resources and in some situations priorities must be changed.

The Commonwealth believes that the development of National Conservation Strategy is a desirable initiative. The National Strategy would be an expression of jointly developed national objectives and priorities and would provide guidance for those responsible for the use of living resources.

The Commonwealth acknowledges the need to refer specifically, as appropriate, to areas of particular interest to Commonwealth, State and Northern Territory Governments on the basis of existing responsibilities.

The Commonwealth has, therefore, proposed that a Steering Committee be established of Commonwealth, State and Northern Territory officials, to co-ordinate the development of the National Conservation Strategy.

The Commonwealth has also suggested that the National Conservation Strategy be developed in two phases:

- . The first phase culminating in a National Seminar at the end of 1981 would result in a draft Strategy.
- . The second phase would prepare the Strategy for the approval of governments and would culminate in a National Conference at the end of 1982 for the purpose of considering the National Conservation Strategy and identifying action plans and nominating priority measures for implementing the objectives of the National Strategy.

The community has a significant contribution to make towards the development of the Strategy and non-government organisations will be fully consulted. Every opportunity will be taken to publicise the matter.

All who have read the World Conservation Strategy will agree that it is an important, timely and well-reasoned document. Although Australia's record in this field is commendable, the Strategy provides a framework for a major collaborative undertaking by all levels of government, non-government organisations and the community to further develop and implement a National Conservation Strategy which will have the support of all Australians - now and in the future.

Attachment: Prime Minister's statement of 28 September 1980.

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