

17.54 MOUNT ETNA, AUSTRALIA

RECOGNIZING that Mount Etna in central Queensland, Australia, contains caves which provide breeding habitat for the Little bent-winged bat (*Miniopterus australia*) and roosting sites of the vulnerable Ghost bat (*Macroderma gigas*);

RECOGNIZING that between 1976 and 1988 the Queensland Government and the Central Queensland Cement Company have successfully negotiated to establish effective legislative protection of 80 per cent of the Mount Etna caves, including the Bat Cleft complex;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that in 1976 the Fitzroy Caves National Park was established, conserving at least 100 caves and their dependent bats in an area adjacent to Mount Etna;

COMMENDING the Queensland Government's moves towards protecting a large section of Mount Etna's environs;

CONCERNED that limestone mining could be a threat to a number of the caves including Ghost bat roosting sites;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 17th Session in San Jose, Costa Rica, 1-10 February 1988:

1. ENCOURAGES the Queensland Government in its efforts further to protect the environs of Mount Etna.
2. CALLS on the Queensland Government to extend total protection to Mount Etna, its caves and wildlife.
3. RECOMMENDS to the Queensland Government the development of a long-term state-wide management strategy for Ghost bat conservation.