

18.68 Kimberley Region, Western Australia

RECOGNIZING that the Kimberley region of Western Australia is the traditional land of an ancient, living Aboriginal culture, and that the Kimberley landscape is an Aboriginal landscape;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that the Kimberley region contains within it large wilderness areas that rank amongst the most beautiful and biologically significant left in the world, including a unique wilderness coastline;

NOTING that conservation strategies, environment protection controls and the system of nature conservation reserves are far from adequate in the Kimberley region, meaning that historical processes of environmental degradation and loss of species diversity continue;

FURTHER NOTING that although 3.6 per cent of the Kimberley region is protected as National Park or Nature Reserve, as much as 30 per cent of the region may be of high wilderness quality, and that the existing reserves also fail to conserve adequately the biodiversity of this unique region and substantial measures are still required to reverse serious environmental degradation;

NOTING that, notwithstanding the announcement at this General Assembly by the Premier of Western Australia that an agreement has been reached between the traditional owners of Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park and the Government of Western Australia over Aboriginal participation in the management of that area, no satisfactory means have yet been found for protecting and promoting the interests and aspirations of the Aboriginal peoples of the Kimberley region, particularly with regard to their land aspirations;

RECALLING past recognition by numerous international and national bodies of the potential World Heritage qualities of the Kimberley region, because of its immense cultural and environmental value;

The General Assembly of IUCN—The World Conservation Union, at its 18th Session in Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990:

1. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that the Governments of Western Australia and of the Commonwealth of Australia give priority to the development of strategies, including nature conservation reserves owned by the traditional Aboriginal owners as with Kakadu National Park, that will ensure the long-term maintenance of the wilderness qualities and biological diversity of the Kimberley region;
2. IN PARTICULAR CALLS UPON those Governments to act to protect those wilderness areas identified in the Kimberley region as a result of the Federally-sponsored *National Wilderness Inventory*,
3. REQUESTS the Director General to make available on request to the Governments concerned advice and expertise on strategies for the involvement of indigenous peoples in nature conservation reserves and nature conservation strategies.