

## 28. Oceanic Islands

*Having considered* reports of the satisfactory progress of the survey of the status of conservation on Pacific oceanic and off-shore islands by the CT Section of the IBP, following the initiative of the 11th Pacific Science Congress in 1966,

*Fully aware* of the great value of an up-to-date world-wide appraisal of conditions on all such islands which are of significance for science and conservation,

*recognizing* the need to set aside certain islands for scientific purposes and to conserve them to meet the needs of world science, the **10th General Assembly of IUCN** meeting at New Delhi in November 1969

**assures** the support of IUCN in the fulfilment of this task;

**agrees** that the acceptance of a measure of international responsibility for the future of selected uninhabited oceanic islands would reinforce the valuable precedent already established by the Antarctic Treaty;

**accepts** the mandate formulated by the Pacific Science Council at Kuala Lumpur in May 1969 which recommended "that the IUCN in cooperation with other appropriate international organisations take steps to develop an international treaty or convention" for the recognition of such islands as "Islands for Science";

**resolves** that, after appropriate preparation and publicity and the further screening of the provisional list submitted by IBP/CT, the governments of Australia, Ecuador, France, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America be invited to conclude a convention for the purpose of reserving from exploitation or disturbance and making available for longterm research by scientists of all nations, certain oceanic islands under their jurisdiction which are not inhabited or in current use for other purposes;

**authorises IUCN** to invite the above-mentioned governments to explore the possibility of adopting such a convention upon the lines of the Antarctic Treaty or of the various Pacific Fisheries Conventions or by means of parallel legislation by each contracting party to provide for fulfilment of the terms of a convention with the above objects;

**invites** the Pacific Science Council to take the initiative in creating an Advisory Board of scientists to establish a code of conduct and to promote suitable scientific use of "Islands for Science" and possibly serve as a scientific advisory body to the parties to that Convention when it comes into force;

**recommends** in addition that, if possible through the good offices of an international organisation, a far-reaching programme of research be launched to advance knowledge of the unique scientific and conservation problems and potential of oceanic islands.