

## **20. Christmas Island (Indian Ocean)**

*RECOGNIZING* the need to conserve original and representative island communities of high conservation value;

*RECOGNIZING FURTHER* the absolute necessity of conserving sufficient critical habitat to enable the continued existence of all species;

*CONSIDERING* that Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean is the only known breeding site of Abbott's booby (*Sula abbotti*), and that phosphate mining continues to destroy that breeding habitat;

**The General Assembly of IUCN**, at its 14th Session, Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September -5 October 1978:

**STRONGLY RECOMMENDS** the Government of Australia to establish a national park and nature reserves on Christmas Island sufficient to ensure adequate protection to the island's fauna, flora and the ecosystems in which they have evolved;

**URGES** the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, and the British Phosphate Commission, to take all steps necessary to ensure that the phosphate mining does not further destroy the habitat of Abbott's booby;

**URGES FURTHER** that similar control be exercised to ensure that clearing of forested areas does not jeopardize the survival of other endemic faunal and floral taxa.

