

22. Iriomote

CONSIDERING that the island of Iriomote (Yaeyama group, Ryukyu Islands, Japan) represents a unique ecosystem with many unique and endemic plants, insects, crustaceans, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, and possesses the last remaining intact mangrove belt of the whole area;

AWARE that the island is very small and vulnerable and that its geological structure succumbs rapidly to erosion when the natural vegetation is removed;

BEING FURTHER AWARE that the two outstanding mammals, the Iriomote cat (*Prionailurus iriomotensis*) and the wild pygmy pig (*Sus ryukyuensis*), are on the brink of extinction because of habitat destruction and overhunting respectively;

CONVINCED that time is quickly running out because of ongoing agricultural and other ecologically unbalanced development;

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

URGES the Government of Japan to take immediate steps to ensure the conservation of the unique Iriomote island ecosystem and its endemic taxa, through granting full protection to all areas of the island not yet developed;

RECOMMENDS that a permanent ecological research station be established on Iriomote island to monitor ecological changes and to guide further conservation measures.