

## **15/21. PRESERVATION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF**

APPRECIATING that the Commonwealth of Australia has legislated to protect the Great Barrier Reef by the enactment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, 1975;

AWARE that, on the recommendation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia has declared the Capricornia Section of the Great Barrier Reef, a Marine Park;

NOTING that the Australian Government has retained the option to allow oil exploration and exploitation in proximity to the Great Barrier Reef;

RECALLING that oil slicks from the 1979 IXTOC II oil well blowout in the Gulf of Mexico travelled a distance of over 1000 km; NOTING FURTHER that development for tourism, of islands and the coastline within the Great Barrier Reef Region, might prejudice plans to be developed for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;

EXPRESSING CONCERN that only 2.4% of the Reef Region has so far been declared as marine park territory in the 6 years of operation of the Great Barrier Marine Park Act;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christ-church, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

CONGRATULATES the Australian Government for passing excellent legislation establishing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;

STRONGLY URGES the Australian Government to declare without further delay the whole of the Great Barrier Reef as a marine park and to prohibit oil exploration and exploitation in the Region; and

RECOMMENDS that adequate funds should be made available to provide for the effective management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.