

## **15/22. SOUTH WEST TASMANIA**

CONSIDERING that South West Tasmania is one of the last great wilderness areas in the temperate parts of the world, that it is listed on the Register of the National Estate as part of the national heritage of Australia, and that it has been approved by the State Government of Tasmania for nomination for the World Heritage List;

NOTING that the wilderness valleys and gorges in the cool temperate rain forests of South West Tasmania are the home of endangered endemic species and include important archaeological sites dating back over 20,000 years with valuable evidence of the earliest aboriginal habitation in Tasmania;

RECALLING the long and active involvement of the IUCN in the protection of South West Tasmania and the approaches the Union has made to the Tasmanian Government over several years in support of the conservation of the region's wilderness against environmental damage by hydro-electric power development in the Gordon and Franklin Rivers;

AWARE ALSO that IUCN gave valuable support to the recent establishment by the Tasmanian Government of the Wild Rivers National Park conserving the valleys of the Lower Gordon and Franklin Rivers;

CONCERNED THAT the South West wilderness of Tasmania has been subject to so much development to produce hydro-electricity, minerals and forest products since 1960 that the-world significance of the remaining area will be lost if current hydro-electric power proposals for the Gordon and Franklin Rivers proceed;

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

CONGRATULATES the Tasmanian Government on the declaration of the Wild Rivers National Park;

CALLS UPON the Tasmanian Government to extend national park status and protection to all of the remaining South West wilderness and, in particular, to refrain from any proposals to dam the Gordon and Franklin Rivers; and

FURTHER CALLS UPON the Federal Australian Government to protect the South West Tasmanian wilderness from further hydroelectric, forestry, or mineral industry incursions, including the current proposals to dam the Gordon and Franklin Rivers, in order to establish in Tasmania a secure area of world significance in the preservation of wilderness reserves.