

16/27. CHRISTMAS ISLAND (INDIAN OCEAN)

RECOGNIZING the importance of the conservation of island habitats and species and the high degree of endemism that occurs on islands;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the special need for research and management to conserve endemic animal and plant communities of islands;

AWARE particularly of the unique fauna and flora to be found on Christmas Island, in the Indian Ocean;

FURTHER AWARE of the precarious status of the endangered Abbott's Booby (*Sula abbotti*) and of the Christmas Island Frigate Bird (*Fregata andrewsi*) on Christmas Island, due to continuing phosphate mining activities;

BEARING in mind that the phosphate mining industry will soon exhaust its economic resource;

CONSIDERING FURTHER that since the 15th Session of the IUCN General Assembly, when debate on this species occurred, its conservation status has not improved and the threats of mining have not lessened;

RECALLING action point D.2 of the 15th Session of the IUCN General Assembly in relation to Abbott's Booby and the inclusion of the species on the Official List of Australian Endangered Vertebrate Fauna (1981);

Referring to previous resolutions on the protection of Christmas Island and the Abbott's Booby adopted by the ICBP World Conference in Cambridge, U.K., 1982 and Canberra, Australia, 1974, as well as by the ICBP Asian Continental Section Conference in Chang Mai, Thailand, 1980;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 16th Session in Madrid, Spain, 5-14 November 1984:

STRONGLY URGES the Government of Australia to take immediate steps to end mining activities on Christmas Island in order to protect Abbott's Booby and other endemic species and to expand, for the benefit of Abbot's Booby, the National Park to include adjacent areas of high occurrence of Booby nest sites and to conserve the unique rainforest habitat.

