

17.55 WESTERN TASMANIA WORLD HERITAGE STAGE II, AUSTRALIA

RECOGNIZING that Western Tasmania is one of the world's great temperate wildernesses and Stage II contains giant eucalypt forests including the world's tallest flowering plants, the only ice-free sheet plateau in the Southern Hemisphere, and substantial tracts of fire sensitive alpine and rainforest communities;

AWARE that:

- a. These forests are threatened principally by logging and fires lit by people;
- b. IUCN has urged inclusion of the Walls of Jerusalem and Denison-Spires regions within the Western Tasmanian World Heritage area;

- c. The Australian Government has instituted an inquiry into the Southern Forest and Lemnathyme sections of Stage II; and
- d. In January 1988, the Australian Heritage Commission reported that the natural and cultural values of Stage II are of world significance.

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 17th Session in San Jose, Costa Rica, 1-10 February 1988:

1. CALLS ON the Tasmanian Government to cease all logging operations in the Western Tasmania Stage II area.
2. URGES the Australian Government, while consulting with the Tasmanian Government, to move rapidly towards nominating Western Tasmania Stage II for World Heritage listing.

