18.51 Protection of Mount Nimba, Guinea

RECALLING that both the Reserve naturelle intégrée des Monts Nimba of Guinea and the
Reserve naturelle intégrée des Monts Nimba of Côte d'Ivoire are protected as Strict Nature
Reserves/Biosphere Reserves, and are listed as having "outstanding natural value" under
the World Heritage Convention, by virtue of containing unique, rare, or superlative natural
features and being habitats where populations of rare or endangered species of plants and
animals still survive;

CONCERNED at proposals to extend exploitation of the rich iron ore deposits of the Nimba
Massif from the existing mines in Liberia into the hitherto untouched forest areas in
Guinea;

ALARMED that mining of iron ore on the Nimba Massif within the World Heritage Site
will threaten the integrity of this site of international importance;

CONSIDERING that States Parties to the World Heritage Convention under Article 6.3
undertake "... not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly
the cultural and natural heritage ... situated in the territory of other States Parties ...", and
given the concern of the international conservation community to halt mining activities in
protected areas, and notably mining exploitation in protected areas in developing countries,
which is mainly to the profit of industrial countries;

The General Assembly of IUCN—The World Conservation Union, at its 18th Session in
Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990;

1. REQUESTS the Director General to contact the
government authorities of Guinea expressing
IUCN's concern that measures be taken to protect
the natural resources of the Nimba Massif
Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site;

2. URGES the government authorities of Guinea:
   a. to resist pressures to allow mining and all
      other activities which threaten the natural
      integrity of the area, and in particular, not to
      allow the iron ore mining project to go ahead;
   b. to set in train a plan for the development of
      the region which guarantees the protection of
      the site;

3. REQUESTS the Director General to contact the
government authorities of France, Japan and the
USA to ask them to consider, given the
exceptional character of the situation:
   a. contributing to bringing into operation the
      plan referred to above;
   b. giving support to the World Heritage Fund
      and thus ensuring the financing of a management
      regime which would
         safeguard the
         integrity of the World Heritage Site and
         Biosphere Reserve, taking account in particular
         of the needs of local peoples, and providing
         long-lasting benefits through, for example,
         protection of hydrological functions and other
         forest benefits.

Note: This recommendation was adopted by consensus. The French State Member
dlegation stated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.