

## **18.70 Wilderness and Forest Conservation in Tasmania**

WELCOMING recent additions to the Western Tasmania Wilderness World Heritage Site; NOTING that IUCN has stated that nine areas— specifically, Beech Creek/Counsel River, Wyld's Craig, Gordon and Tiger Range, Upper Florentine, Upper Styx, Middle Weld, Middle Huon, Picton Valley and Southeast Cape—suggested for adjustment of the eastern boundary of the World Heritage Site, would, if included, add further old-growth forest, contribute to integrity, and simplify management;

RECOGNIZING the global significance of the temperate rainforests of north-west Tasmania for their wilderness, biological, cultural and aesthetic qualities;

NOTING that these rainforests are one of the largest contiguous tracts of temperate rainforests in the Southern Hemisphere but that at this time there is no coherent preservation strategy for them;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that many of the National Estate forests adjacent to the current World Heritage Site and the National Estate rainforests of north west Tasmania are immediately threatened by mining, forestry and hydro-electric schemes;

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

1. CALLS UPON the Tasmanian State Government and the Government of Australia to move immediately to protect:
  - a. all National Estate areas contiguous with the current Western Tasmanian Heritage Site;
  - b. the temperate rainforests of north-west Tasmania which are already listed on the Register of the National Estateby their inclusion in national parks and World Heritage Sites where they meet the prevailing criteria;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to make available to the Tasmanian State Government and the Government of Australia relevant technical expertise and advice to achieve the preservation of these National Estate properties.

*Note: This recommendation was adopted by consensus. The Australian State member delegation and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales, Government Agency member (speaking on behalf of Australian Government Agency members) stated that had there been a vote they would have abstained.*

