

## 18.71 Fraser Island, Australia

APPRECIATING that Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, has a wide diversity of vegetation

including unique tall rainforests and *Syncarpia* forests growing on sand, and contains nine episodes of dune-building and more than half the perched dune lakes in the world;

RECOGNIZING that Fraser Island is an outstanding example of a major stage of earth's evolutionary history which represents significant ongoing geological processes, and contains superlative natural phenomena and important and significant natural habitats for threatened plants and animals;

NOTING that there have been several evaluations since its World Heritage values were first identified in 1974, that the Australian Environment Minister in 1976 promised to nominate it for World Heritage listing, that there have been several assessments of its outstanding values and that the IUCN listed it on its list of indicative World Heritage Sites published in 1982;

ALARMED that, on data provided by the Queensland Forest Service, approximately only 9,000 commercial trees above 1.2 metres diameter remained on Fraser Island in June 1990, and that about 6,000 commercial trees of all species including 110 greater than 1.2 metres diameter are proposed to be logged during the next year;

CONCERNED that approximately 2,000 trees of *Syncarpia hillii*, an endangered species, were logged from their 12,000 hectare habitat during the past year;

AWARE that when the Queensland State Government instituted the Commission of Inquiry into the Conservation, Use and Management of Fraser Island, which is not scheduled to report before late April 1991, it failed to institute a logging moratorium;

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

CALLS UPON the Queensland State Government and the Government of Australia to do all in their respective powers to protect the unique and outstanding natural values of Fraser Island by immediately halting logging operations and other threats to the island's integrity, and to accelerate the processes to proceed with nomination under the World Heritage Convention.

*Note: The non-operative part and first section of the operative paragraph of this recommendation were agreed by consensus. The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service (Government Agency member) sought the omission of the text of the operative paragraph after "Fraser Island". The recommendation was passed unanimously, but with numerous abstentions in Category A (including the Australian State member delegation) and a small number of abstentions in Category B members.*