

18.76 The Sub-Antarctic Islands of Australia

RECOGNIZING that Australia's sub-Antarctic island groups of Heard and McDonald, and Macquarie, represent unique reserves of global significance for sub-Antarctic flora, fauna, geology and landforms;

RECOGNIZING that these island groups are some of the world's most remote wilderness areas, and that the Heard and McDonald Island group are in a pristine state;

AWARE THAT

- a. Macquarie Island is a Tasmanian State Nature Reserve and Restricted Area, which requires visitors to hold a permit to visit;
- b. Macquarie Island was accepted by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve in 1977;
- c. Australia nominated the Heard and McDonald Islands with adjacent marine waters out to 12 nautical miles distance in October 1990, for listing under the World Heritage Convention;

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

1. ENCOURAGES the Tasmania State Government in its efforts to control introduced species on Macquarie Island;
2. URGES the Government of Australia and the Tasmania State Government rapidly to consider nominating Macquarie Island for World Heritage listing;
3. CALLS UPON the Tasmania State Government to adopt a conservative approach to tourism and, should Macquarie Island be nominated, to cooperate with the Government of Australia in conducting a thorough review of the impact of visits over the coming summer, before considering further visits;
4. CALLS UPON the Tasmania State Government to undertake studies on the impact of visitation on the flora, fauna and wilderness qualities of the Macquarie Island group;
5. URGES the Government of Australia to ensure that no activities in the adjacent marine areas out to 200 nautical miles threaten the World Heritage values of Australia's sub-Antarctic islands.

