

19.79 Mining in the Fly River Catchment, Papua New Guinea

WELCOMING the activities that have occurred since the passage, without dissent, of Recommendation 18.63 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly including:

- the efforts made by the Government of Papua New Guinea since the adoption of Recommendation 18.63, including the transfer of responsibility, for the Ok Tedi Mine site from the Department of Mines and Energy to the Department of Environment and Conservation;
- the sending by IUCN of a two-person team to the Fly River catchment in 1993 leading to the preparation of a preliminary environmental assessment of development in the region;
- the passage of Proposition 12/3883 by the Federal German Parliament in 1992 expressing the Chamber's grave concern, and calling for increased environmental scrutiny and shareholder help and support to find viable solutions;
- the personal delivery of a letter from Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating to the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namiliu in 1992 expressing deep concern about the environmental and social effects of the mining operation;
- a meeting between USA NGO officials and PNG's Ambassador to the United States in 1991 to discuss and express concerns about the operation;
- the public remarks and correspondence by then Senator Albert Gore, now Vice President of the USA, expressing his concerns over the environmental damage caused by unsustainable mining projects in PNG;

D countless hours of NGO volunteers' time around the world which continues to educate the world population about the severe environmental damage caused by the Ok Tedi Mine;

RECOGNIZING that the Federal German Parliament in the above cited resolution 12/3883 explicitly states "that an environmental catastrophe is likely to occur if the mine keeps the *status quo*";

CONCERNED that Ok Tedi Milling Limited has made little progress or effort in addressing the environmental catastrophe occurring in the Fly River drainage since the passage of Recommendation 18.63 in 1990;

NOTING that the commencement of the Porgera Mining Operation, also within the Fly River drainage, is widely recognised as severely exacerbating the environmental demise of the unique and large river basin; The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. FULLY REAFFIRMS Recommendation 18.63;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to increase present IUCN efforts to investigate the situation and help procure worldwide monetary support and exper-

tise in mitigating the adverse environmental effects;

3. URGES Ok Tedi Mining Limited to make public all data concerning the environmental effects of the mine;
4. REQUESTS the Australian Government to ensure that the Torres Strait Baseline study is completed rapidly, so that the effects of the mine on Torres Strait can be assessed;
5. URGES donor countries with shareholding or interest in the Ok Tedi Mine to provide assistance to the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation to further develop and implement the strategic plan for the Fly River catchment, taking into consideration the social, environmental and economic factors that are essential in achieving sustainable development in the region, ensuring that the cumulative and combined effects of mining in the region are considered.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Norway indicated that had there been a vote, the delegation would have abstained.

