

## 19.80 Protection of Australian Native Forests

WELCOMING the fact that the Australian Government has abandoned Resource Security for the logging industry as called for by Recommendation 18.65 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

AWARE that the Australian Government and most State and Territory Governments within Australia have signed a National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) that commits them to ensuring that use of Australia's native forests is ecologically sustainable;

AWARE that the NFPS states on page 11, element 3, "Until assessments are completed, forest management agencies will avoid activities that may significantly affect those areas of old-growth forest or wilderness that are likely to have high conservation value";

CONCERNED that many areas of native forest of high conservation value are still being logged and that a fully comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system of high conservation areas has not yet been implemented;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. CALLS ON the Australian Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments:
  - (a) to move quickly to implement a moratorium on logging of wilderness and old-growth forest as set out in element 3 on page 11 of the NFPS;
  - (b) to move quickly to protect native forests of high conservation value in secure reserves;
2. CALLS ON the Australian Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments and all forestry interests to make a rapid transition from logging of native forest to a sustainable timber industry drawing its material from plantations, ensuring that any new plantations are not on land already in old-growth forest or regenerating natural forest.

*Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegations of the State members Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire and Zimbabwe, and the delegation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea (a Government Agency member), indicated that had there been a vote, they would have abstained.*

