

19.83 Conservation of Endangered Species in Australia: Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) and Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*)

REAFFIRMING IUCN's commitment to both the precautionary principle and to the involvement of indigenous people in the conservation of threatened species;

NOTING Australia's international commitments to endangered species conservation;

NOTING that the ghost bat is classified as vulnerable under the Australian Endangered Species Act (1992), that the species' range has contracted from central Australia and the known population is estimated at around 7000;

RECOGNIZING that the largest known breeding colony with an estimated breeding population of 1500 occupies a disused mine shaft, Kohinoor Adit, near Pine Creek in the Northern Territory;

CONCERNED that the significance of this breeding population has not been determined;

GRAVELY CONCERNED that, while there is no immediate proposal to mine, the Kohinoor Adit could be damaged in any operation to extract the gold deposit at the site by an extension of the neighbouring mine;

NOTING that the Kohinoor Adit is currently being considered for protection under the Northern Territory Heritage Conservation Act;

NOTING that the Gouldian finch is classified as endangered (in the wild) under the Australian Endangered Species Act (1992) and that the species' range has contracted greatly in northern Australia;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in excess of Aus\$2.0 million has been spent on research on the Gouldian finch;

RECOGNIZING that the largest known breeding colony, with 42 per cent of all nests known in 1992, occupies the Yinberrie Hills, near Katherine in the Northern Territory;

CONCERNED that improved conservation management of the Yinberrie Hills is required, especially with the commencement of the Mt Todd mine in the Yinberrie Hills which may affect significant Gouldian finch habitat;

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

1. REQUESTS the Northern Territory Government to ensure the protection of the Kohinoor Adit for the conservation of the ghost bat;
2. URGES the Australian Governments to undertake additional research into the conservation significance of ghost bat populations, taking into account the 1991 recommendations of the Macroderma Expert Group, to ensure their conservation;
3. REQUESTS the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to cooperate with the Aboriginal owners of the Yinberrie Hills and other affected parties, with a view to ensuring effective management of this site;
4. URGES the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to ensure the Yinberrie Hills are managed to maintain their conservation values;
5. URGES the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to finalize and implement a Gouldian finch recovery plan as soon as possible.

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.