

19.86 Mining in the Conservation Estate, Australia

NOTING Recommendation 18.66 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

CONCERNED that no action has been taken by the past or current Western Australian Governments to implement this Recommendation;

CONCERNED that the current Western Australian Government has lifted the ban on mining in national parks;

ALARMED that exploration and mining may now be allowed in any of Western Australia's national parks or nature reserves;

ALARMED that the Western Australian Government is prepared to allow oil exploration and drilling in the Ningaloo Marine Park;

AWARE that many important national parks and nature reserves in Western Australia are currently being explored and/or mined, including the internationally important Karijini and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks;

AWARE that the conservation estate in Western Australia is still far from comprehensive;

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

1. CALLS UPON the Government of Western Australia:
 - (a) to change its policy on exploration and mining in national parks and nature reserves to exclude these activities;
 - (b) to protect national parks and nature reserves from exploitative industries and hence uphold the IUCN definitions of national parks and nature reserves;
 - (c) to ban oil exploration and drilling from marine parks, in particular the Ningaloo Marine Park;
2. CALLS ON the Commonwealth Government of Australia to honour its commitment to the protection of biodiversity by using all powers available to it to protect national parks and nature reserves that are under threat in Australia.

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.