

19.87 Conservation of Kakadu World Heritage Site, Australia

RECOGNIZING that Kakadu National Park is one of the most important national parks in the world;

NOTING that Kakadu National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in December 1992 for both its natural and cultural values;

NOTING that, contained within the boundaries of Kakadu are two excisions from the park which contain uranium deposits and which are current or potential mining leases;

NOTING that Kakadu National Park contains some of the most significant Rock Art in the world representing a period of human occupation over 50,000 years, critically important wetland habitat for the Australo-Indonesian regions, relict stands of *Allosyncarpia* forest and a high concentration of rare and endangered flora and fauna, including mangroves;

NOTING the proximity of Jabiluka to the Magela Floodplains and the location of Koongarra in South Alligator River catchment, as well as the fact that both proposed mines would fall within the existing World Heritage Area;

AWARE that mining at either site would have the potential to do irretrievable damage to the natural and/or cultural values of Kakadu;

RECOGNIZING that there are traditional Aboriginal owners of Jabiluka who have expressed opposition to mining developments on Jabiluka;

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 Commonwealth Government of Australia:
 - (a) to encourage the Board of Management of Kakadu National Park and the traditional owners of the leases known as Koongarra and Jabiluka to discuss how these leases might be incorporated into the Kakadu National Park;
 - (b) to negotiate appropriate and equitable arrangements with Aboriginal traditional owners for such incorporation;
2. INVITES the Government of Australia to report to the World Heritage Committee on the **Long Term Plan for the lease currently occupied and worked by the Ranger Uranium Mine as a part of Standard World Heritage Site Monitoring Procedure.**

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.