

## 1.101 World Heritage in Oceania

AWARE of the rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage of the South Pacific;

AWARE that most of the 22 island States of Oceania are not yet signatories to the World Heritage Convention and that there is a need to promote awareness of this Convention and the potential benefits for the States of the region in becoming signatories;

MINDFUL that the geography, culture and ownership of the lands and seas of the region may require special consideration in applying the World Heritage concept;

NOTING that, despite the richness of the region in cultural and natural terms, there are not yet any World Heritage sites in the island nations of Oceania;

RECOGNIZING that the island nations of Oceania may lack the financial and technical resources to survey, identify, nominate and manage World Heritage sites;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. CALLS UPON IUCN members in its Oceania region to:
  - a) promote awareness of the potential benefits and relevance of World Heritage to the island nations of Oceania through culturally appropriate means;
  - b) actively encourage more island States in Oceania to become signatories to the World Heritage Convention;
  - c) initiate, with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), a collaborative survey of the islands and seas of the South Pacific to identify potential options for World Heritage nominations including possible serial sites by the relevant island nations;
2. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to:
  - a) actively seek resources to facilitate information, survey, identification, nomination and management of any World Heritage sites in Oceania;
  - b) support the above action in respect of the South Pacific by including an activity on World Heritage in Oceania in the IUCN Programme;
3. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to communicate this Recommendation to the Director General of UNESCO and the Director of the World Heritage Centre, urging that the existing UNESCO presence in Oceania be enabled to serve as an effective focal point to promote the World Heritage Convention in the region.

Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Germany indicated that it had not participated in discussion of the Recommendation nor would it have participated in any voting. The delegation of the State member Sweden indicated that had there been a vote the delegation would have abstained.