

**REC 3.108 Great Barrier Reef**

NOTING the increasing threats to coral reefs and marine biodiversity in many parts of the world;

NOTING also that a lack of political leadership is often the major hurdle to addressing these threats to conservation;

RECOGNIZING that Australia's Great Barrier Reef is a World Heritage Site and of outstanding natural value at local, national and international scales;

RECOGNIZING further that the recent increases in protection for the World Heritage Site have been based on the best available science and comprehensive community involvement and consultation and that the outcome will greatly assist in the long-term conservation of the Great Barrier Reef; and

RECOGNIZING that the Representative Areas Programme has provided a valuable guide for protection of other valuable marine sites around the world;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

CONGRATULATES the Australian Government on its recent achievement of significantly increasing protection for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Site and commends it for its global leadership in the protection of this outstanding site of universal value.