

4.122 World Heritage nomination for Ningaloo Reef

RECOGNIZING the outstanding natural and ecological values of Ningaloo Reef and North West Cape, found on the most north-western part of the Australian continent, including its internationally significant reef ecosystems, unique marine and land-based fossil deposits and karst system and highly distinctive flora and fauna;

NOTING the commitment of the Commonwealth Government of Australia and the State Government of Western Australia to propose nomination of Ningaloo Marine Park and North West Cape for World Heritage Listing;

FURTHER NOTING that a Western Australia Government Community Consultative Committee reviewed the scientific and technical information about the area in relation to World Heritage criteria, undertook an extensive consultation with the major stakeholders and recommended to the Government a suitable boundary for the proposed World Heritage property;

RECALLING IUCN's strong commitment to the conservation of marine species and habitat, as reflected in Resolution 2.20 *Conservation of marine biodiversity* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

FURTHER RECALLING the outcome of the Vth IUCN World Park Congress (Durban, 2003) concerning the importance of a global system of protected areas linked to the surrounding landscapes and seascapes and Resolution 3.065 *A landscape/seascape approach to conservation* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004) which identified the need to develop approaches to maximize a landscape/seascape approach to conservation;

NOTING that, in addition to the fundamental criterion for World Heritage Listing that a place should be "... of outstanding universal value", a nomination under any natural heritage criterion must meet conditions of integrity, and to do so a nominated area should be an adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance, and be free from adverse effects of development and/or neglect; and

FURTHER NOTING that the adoption of this decision by IUCN's members will not compromise the IUCN Secretariat's advisory role to provide independent technical evaluation of nominated sites for World Heritage Listing;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008:

URGES the Commonwealth Government of Australia in consultation with the State Government of Western Australia to:

- (a) nominate the North West Cape and Ningaloo Reef Region for World Heritage Listing and ensure the integrity and protection required for the coastal and marine ecosystems and ecological processes in the long term; and
- (b) develop and implement a management plan for this outstanding coastal and marine region, aimed at ensuring the long-term protection and conservation of its outstanding environmental features, with the active participation of local communities.

State and agency members of the United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.