

022 - Recognising, understanding and enhancing the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in tackling the illegal wildlife trade crisis

RECALLING the resolutions of inter alia the IUCN World Conservation Congress that emphasise both the vital role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation of wildlife and biodiversity and that their needs, concerns, and priorities should be considered in conservation policies, legislation and actions;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in a wide range of taxa is of great concern, increasingly involves organised crime, and requires urgent action, including increased deterrence and enforcement efforts along the length of the value chain from poachers in the field to traders and transporters of illegal wildlife products, the reduction of consumer demand, and improved governance, particularly reduction of government corruption;

RECOGNISING the essential role of indigenous peoples and local communities as sentinels of change and illegal activity within their environment;

RECOGNISING that while some (past and current) responses to IWT contribute to improved local livelihoods and security, in other instances they may inadvertently have collateral and negative impacts on indigenous peoples and local communities living with wildlife, and thus influence their willingness to contribute tangibly to combating IWT in the long term;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that a sustainable long-term solution to IWT requires an integrated, coherent response built on the recognition that indigenous peoples and local communities that live with wildlife have a key role to play in conserving wildlife, and that these peoples and communities should be engaged (including through outreach and education) and incentivised through financial and non-financial benefits in combating IWT;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the IUCN World Parks Congress (2014) recognised the strong relationship between conservation (including reduced IWT), secure territorial rights and governance systems of indigenous peoples and local communities;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that CITES (notably, Resolution Conf. 16.6 on Livelihoods), the African Elephant Action Plan (2010), the African Elephant Summit (2013), the London Declaration (2014), the Kasane Declaration (2015), the Brazzaville Declaration (2015), United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/314 (2015) and Target 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals (2015) recognise the important role of indigenous peoples and local communities in combating IWT; and

STRESSING Strategic Goal D and Target 18 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which emphasise incorporating the knowledge, innovation, and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. URGES the Director General to work with State and Non-State Members, Commissions, Regional Offices and International Organisations to:

a. recognise the critical role of indigenous peoples and local communities that live with wildlife as full partners in planning, making and implementing decisions and interventions to address IWT, including through means of their traditional knowledge and the rules and regulations they strive to have respected in their conserved territories and areas (ICCAs);

b. ensure that this need to engage and incentivise indigenous peoples and local communities is fully respected and reflected in IUCN and other relevant interventions and decisions, through means such as education and awareness-raising; recognition and/or strengthening of collective rights and responsibilities for governance, management and stewardship (including through, as appropriate, devolution or co-management arrangements); joint enforcement by indigenous and local communities and the state; and enhancing benefits from sustainable consumptive and non-consumptive use of wildlife or alternative livelihood opportunities as relevant and effective;

c. promote the development of a conceptual and planning framework to guide decisions, interventions and investments from international institutions, related organisations and governments on combating IWT in ways that engage and benefit indigenous peoples and local communities while promoting conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity resources;

d. support the collection of evidence to strengthen the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in combating IWT in ways that adhere to previous IUCN resolutions, and to the targets, strategic goals and policy commitments listed below; and

e. promote opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities to engage as equal partners in wildlife conservation and management decisions, including through establishing mechanisms for formal and structured consultation in relation to the decisions of multilateral environmental agreements; and

2. CALLS ON all governments, intergovernmental bodies, conservation and development agencies and IUCN partners to implement their respective political commitments to multinational efforts to combat wildlife trafficking, including in particular strengthening the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to governing, managing and conserving wildlife and combating IWT, in, inter alia, the London Declaration (2014), the Kasane Declaration (2015), the Brazzaville Declaration (2015), United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/314 (2015), Target 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals (2015) and Aichi Biodiversity Targets Strategic Goal D and Target 18.