

## **075 Urgent scaling up of investment in amphibian conservation needed to prevent further extinctions**

RECALLING the results of the first Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA1) in 2004, which demonstrated the full extent of the amphibian extinction crisis;

FURTHER RECALLING IUCN Resolution 4.017 *Stopping the amphibian crisis* (Barcelona, 2008) and Resolution 5.020 *Further steps to combat the amphibian crisis* (Jeju, 2012);

AWARE that the overall response from the conservation community has been grossly inadequate, with recent research showing that funding for amphibian conservation is much lower than for other vertebrate species, despite amphibians being more threatened;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that the report *State of the World's Amphibians: the Second Global Amphibian Assessment* (GAA2), published in 2023, showed that 41% of amphibians are threatened, with most continuing to decline and up to 222 species possibly already extinct;

NOTING that amphibians are still severely impacted by disease, habitat loss and degradation, over-exploitation, fire and invasive species, with climate change being a rapidly growing threat;

AWARE that recent work suggests that around 25% of threatened amphibians require *ex situ* conservation;

ENCOURAGED that concerted efforts by the amphibian conservation community have seen a decrease in the extinction risk of 63 amphibians since 1980, as well as nearly 100 threatened species now being maintained *ex situ*;

WELCOMING the publication of the *Amphibian conservation action plan* by IUCN in 2024;

EMPHASISING that, unless a major focus on combating amphibian extinctions is implemented rapidly, it will be impossible to achieve Target 4 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF);

NOTING that because threatened amphibians typically have restricted geographic ranges, many species can be saved through the creation of modest-sized reserves or microreserves (defined as smaller than 10km<sup>2</sup>), especially in the 1,200 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for amphibians globally and the 50 Threatened Amphibian Landscapes; and

GRATEFUL that leaders of the amphibian conservation community met in London in January 2025 to redouble efforts to address the amphibian crisis;

### **The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:**

1. REQUESTS the Species Survival Commission (SSC), in collaboration with others:

a. to develop IUCN guidelines on key topics of relevance to amphibian conservation to reflect the emerging science, including guidance on:

i. conservation measures for amphibians impacted by climate change;

ii. management of disease in the wild;

iii. appropriately sized reserves; and

iv. other thematic issues as required; and

b. to review the existing IUCN Guidelines for amphibian reintroductions and other conservation translocations and update these if necessary;

2. CALLS ON governments to:

- a. prevent amphibian extinctions and support their recovery through long-term country-level investment in the assess-plan-act framework;
- b. prioritise the protection of KBAs for amphibians when planning and implementing Targets 1 and 3 of the KMGBF;
- c. develop and maintain adequate, biosecure captive-breeding programmes and biobanking for amphibians at risk from threats that cannot easily be addressed in the wild (especially disease and climate change);
- d. where necessary, implement head-starting programmes to ensure greater survival rates of eggs and larvae, especially in areas where important amphibian habitats are prone to drought;
- e. ensure the protection and restoration of both the terrestrial and freshwater habitats on which amphibians depend;
- f. continue to promote the regulation and monitoring of species involved in trade in live and dead amphibians, including their parts and derivatives, including through established mechanisms such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as appropriate;
- g. establish biosecurity protocols to control the spread of disease and enable clean trade in amphibians; and
- h. adopt measures including trade restrictions to reduce and mitigate the impacts of invasive species on amphibians;

3. CALLS UPON the Director General, the Species Survival Commission, non-governmental organisations, donors and the scientific community to support governments in exercising their full responsibilities as outlined above;

4. CALLS ON donors to provide sustainable support and funding to the operations of SSC and its amphibian conservation partners to enable them to:

- a. develop strong mechanisms for collaboration to support country-led programmes and thematic projects;
- b. assess the conservation status of species (completing GAA3 by 2028), including identifying KBAs for all amphibians, and completing Green Status assessments for priority species;
- c. develop conservation plans and needs assessments; and
- d. support amphibian conservation efforts worldwide; and

5 URGES the scientific community to develop practical and realistic measures to combat amphibian disease in the wild, and to mitigate the impacts of climate change on amphibians.

6. DECLARES Resolution 5.020 *Further steps to combat the amphibian crisis* (Jeju, 2012) to be superseded.