

040 Reducing the impact of natural disasters on wildlife by implementing specific measures (prevention, rescue, restoration)

CONSIDERING the definitions of natural disasters by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), European Environment Agency (EEA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);

CONSIDERING Resolution 5.113 *Management of secondary environmental damage from natural disasters* (Jeju, 2012) and the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 recognising “the environment” as one of the assets to be protected in the event of a disaster;

RECALLING that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) adopted at COP15 recognises the need to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030;

RECALLING the values of existence, memory and the future of life as set out in the World Charter for Nature, the Earth Charter and the Biosphere Ethics Initiative;

RECALLING the essential role played by non-captive wildlife in the balance and resilience of ecosystems and human communities;

NOTING that healthy ecosystems contribute to reducing the risk of disaster and to mitigating their impact;

AWARE that the risk of natural disasters is increasing as a result of climate change and that, although we cannot stop them, we can anticipate them to reduce the damage to wildlife;

AWARE of the scientific work carried out on nature restoration issues through rewilding and conservation translocations;

WELCOMING the guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction for animal health and welfare and for veterinary public health developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH);

CONCERNED about the lack of integration of wildlife into most disaster management and climate change adaptation plans; and

CONCERNED about the side effects of natural disasters on wildlife, such as increased mortality due to wildlife displacement to urban areas, epizootics and the introduction of invasive alien species;

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

1. ASKS the Director General to create a working group tasked with:

- a. examining examples of existing disaster management legislation and plans;
- b. listing best practices for incorporating wildlife into these plans;
- c. developing guidelines for reducing the impacts of disasters on wildlife;
- d. proposing communication and awareness-raising plans on wildlife in the event of natural disasters; and
- e. implementing monitoring of the progress made by its members for the integration of wildlife into their disaster management plans;

2. ENCOURAGES IUCN Members to:

- a. implement the measures described in the WOAH guidelines;

- b. include wildlife in the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
- c. contribute to the work carried out by the created working group; and
- d. support scientific research on post-natural disaster monitoring and the restoration of animal populations; and

3. CALLS on IUCN State Members to:

- a. strengthen legislation to include wildlife in disaster management plans;
- b. support the coordination of interventions in the event of cross-border disasters;
- c. facilitate rescue interventions of competent non-governmental organisations in compliance with safety standards; and
- d. raise public awareness about regulations regarding wildlife species and the requirements of disaster management plans.