

058 Addressing wildlife trafficking and the seizure of live wild animals through care, awareness-raising, and training

CONCERNED that, despite the establishment of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973, wildlife trafficking remains one of the main causes of species extinction today;

CONCERNED ALSO that wildlife trafficking, which includes timber and fished products, is the fourth most lucrative transnational organised crime activity in the world, and that revenues from environmental crime are increasing;

NOTING that a critical component in countering wildlife trafficking is the seizure of live wild animals by government officials;

UNDERSTANDING that approaches in the care of seized animals are often dictated by: a lack of information on the site of origin; or concerns regarding the risks of genetic pollution of wild populations, the introduction of invasive species, or the release of pathogens and viruses; or because the physical and psychological state of individuals may require experienced care to achieve their rehabilitation;

NOTING the IUCN *Guidelines for the management of confiscated, live organisms* and the *CITES guidelines for the disposal of confiscated live animals* [Annex 1 of CITES Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19)], as well as the One Health approach;

UNDERSTANDING ALSO that approaches in the seizure of live wild animals, including their systematic killing, may have serious implications for species integrity, biodiversity, and human health;

EMPHASISING that the return of seized wild animals or their healthy offspring to their natural environment is the optimal solution for the conservation of species; and

FURTHER UNDERSTANDING that effectively addressing trafficking and seizure requires combining international and national competencies, as well as education and awareness-raising of stakeholders.

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General and Commissions to:

a. promote the IUCN *Guidelines on the management of confiscated, live organisms* with governments; and

b. create a network of national focal points to work with authorities on strengthening how States address wildlife trafficking and seizure, including the identification and monitoring of seized specimens and the appropriate approach for placement and care; and

2. REQUESTS States to:

a. provide information and training to relevant authorities on investigating wildlife trafficking, as well as the identification, handling and seizure of specimens;

b. work with prosecutors and judges to publish investigations and decisions regarding trafficking and seizure;

c. ensure that decisions on the management of seized animals consider their welfare and the quality of housing, care, facility expertise and the in situ or ex situ conservation of the species;

d. ensure that a sufficient number of care centres meet the requirements for animal welfare and health safety;

e. establish databases gathering data on imports, seizures or placements of specimens, as well as information on offenders, instigators and identification tools and training materials;

f. include consideration of wildlife trafficking and seizure in nature conservation strategies and educational curricula, and through appropriate media; and

g. define quantified indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented actions and produce an annual public report.