

26. The American alligator

(Alligator mississippiensis)

RECOGNIZING that, as a result of the efforts of the United States Government, the American alligator has been reclassified in the IUCN Red Data Book as "recovered" over much of its range and that the US Government has reclassified it from "endangered" to "threatened" and has returned responsibility for its conservation to the individual States;

AWARE that alligators that are forced or enticed into contact with humans become "problem" animals and thus may be killed and their skins and other products entered into trade;

FURTHER AWARE that the State of Florida forbids the feeding of alligators, thereby minimizing the number that are enticed close to humans or pets and thus become dangerous, semi-tame "problem" animals;

CONSCIOUS that populations of crocodylians in other parts of the world are critically endangered and that entry of skins or other products from American alligators into international trade complicates the control of trade in products from these critically endangered forms;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 14th Session, Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September -5 October 1978:

URGES the Government of the United States and the Governments of those individual States in which alligators occur to initiate procedures to reduce the number forced or enticed into situations whereby they become a problem;

URGES FURTHER that "problem" alligators are killed only as a last resort and then only when they cannot be captured and released elsewhere; and

IMPLORES the governments of nations Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora —particularly the United States—to recognize the threat that entry of American alligator skins into international trade would pose to other crocodylians and to take any action necessary to ensure that such threat does not occur.

