

16/28. EXPLOITATION OF CHIMPANZEES IN SPAIN

RECOGNIZING that both species of chimpanzees are rapidly declining in the wild, and are therefore listed in the IUCN Red Data Book and Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

GIVEN the continuing use in Spain of young chimpanzees by up to 200 itinerant photographers who charge tourists to have their photographs taken with a chimpanzee;

RECOGNIZING that the usual method of capturing chimpanzees is to kill the mother and protective adults to obtain infants;

APPALLED at the high losses of adult and infant chimpanzees in the course of capture and of infants in subsequent holding and transport, and concerned at the resulting drain on wild populations of chimpanzees;

ALARMED by the deaths of the young chimpanzees who are often killed at the end of their short and stressful working lives;

AWARE that the situation is deteriorating because some confiscated chimpanzees have recently been returned to the photographers under existing laws;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 16th Session in Madrid, Spain, 5-14 November 1984:

1. CALLS upon Spain to stop the importation of chimpanzees for commercial use;
2. RECOMMENDS strongly that Spain adopts legislation requiring the confiscation of all chimpanzees now being commercially exploited; and
3. FURTHER RECOMMENDS Spain to ratify and implement CITES as soon as possible.