

1.69 Inspection of Wildlife Shipments

AWARE that the trade in wildlife and its products is increasing throughout the world, and was estimated at US\$ 5–8 billion annually in a report issued by the US General Accounting Office in December 1994 entitled *Wildlife Protection: Fish and Wildlife Service's Inspection Program Needs Strengthening*;

NOTING that governments often lack resources or fail to place emphasis on the monitoring and control of the trade in wildlife and its products;

RECOGNIZING that the lack of inspection of wildlife shipments contributes to wildlife smuggling;

RECALLING that the inspection of wildlife shipments is part of a mechanism for effective implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

CONCERNED that smuggling of wildlife threatens the survival of many species protected by CITES;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. CALLS upon all non-governmental members of IUCN to urge their governments to strengthen their law enforcement efforts to protect their CITES-listed species;
2. CALLS upon all governmental members of IUCN to take whatever steps are necessary, including physical inspection of entering and departing wildlife shipments, to curtail the illegal trade of wildlife and its products;
3. CALLS upon all governmental members of IUCN to provide the resources needed to accomplish these goals.