

## **2.62 Chinese Alligator (*Alligator sinensis*) conservation**

RECALLING that the status of the Chinese Alligator (*Alligator sinensis*) in the wild has long been of concern to the Government of the People's Republic of China;

AWARE that the Chinese Alligator was classified in 1996 as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals 1996, and has been given the highest priority for conservation action by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Crocodile Specialist Group;

ACKNOWLEDGING the success of actions initiated by the People's Republic of China nationally, and Anhui Province regionally, in:

- (a) declaring a Chinese Alligator Reserve in Anhui Province;
- (b) building a large research centre dedicated to Chinese Alligators;
- (c) carrying out extensive research on Chinese Alligators;
- (d) developing the technology for captive breeding; and
- (e) now being in a position to produce over 2000 hatchlings per year in captivity;

CONCERNED that very recent survey results now confirm the single remaining wild population of Chinese Alligators, within the Chinese Alligator Reserve, to be fragmented and continuing to decline because of a suite of socio-economic and environmental factors that are difficult to resolve; and

RECOGNIZING that, in addition to national concerns about the survival of wild Chinese Alligators, a very high level of international concern was expressed at the recent meeting of the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group about the need for urgent action to ensure this unique crocodylian does not become extinct in the wild;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. ENCOURAGES the People's Republic of China to continue its efforts to save the last wild population, and to use this year, the Chinese Year of the Dragon, as an opportunity to foster and build international cooperation in solving this challenging and critically important conservation problem;
2. URGES all IUCN members to support the Government of the People's Republic of China in their efforts to:
  - (a) maintain a strong research presence dedicated to this species;
  - (b) maintain its captive stock and breeding programme so that restocking can be accomplished in the future;
  - (c) take such actions that are necessary to ameliorate current threats to the existing wild population, with the primary aim of improving the status of the wild population;
  - (d) to set in train programmes aimed at improving the status of the remaining population; and

- (e) to investigate options for reducing the risk of extinction by re-establishing other wild populations somewhere within their former range;
3. REQUESTS the Species Survival Commission, within available resources, to offer assistance to China, through the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, in convening technical workshops to implement the foregoing actions.

*This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Resolution as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).*