

REC 3.117 Conservation of the Bandula barb *Puntius bandula* in Sri Lanka

CONSCIOUS OF the fact that the freshwater streams in the southwestern region of Sri Lanka harbour several species of endemic freshwater fish, a majority of which are threatened;

NOTING that among these, the Bandula barb is a critically endangered endemic species, found in only one location in the entire world (Galapitamada, Kegalle District, Kelani River Basin of the wet zone of Sri Lanka);

FURTHER NOTING that the stream that the species currently inhabits is extremely threatened, as it is located outside a protected area;

MINDFUL OF the fact that the species inhabits a small segment of a stream (about 400m), which is surrounded by rice fields that are subjected to over-use of pesticides and fertilizers, which causes a threat to the future survival of the Bandula barb;

NOTING that the species used to be collected for the ornamental fish trade, but that this practice has now been greatly reduced due to public awareness and vigilance by the communities living in this area; and

FURTHER NOTING that recently, the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with a local fish-breeder/exporter reintroduced a small population of the species into a nearby habitat, but a monitoring programme by a local NGO has found that this attempt to boost the population of Bandula barb has not been successful;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

INVITES all IUCN members to promote the conservation of the endemic and critically endangered Bandula barb beyond park boundaries in Sri Lanka, to ensure that the species is conserved.

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page x).

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.