

### **RES 3.013 The uses of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species***

EMPHASIZING IUCN's important role of providing objective information on the conservation status of species worldwide;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* represents the cornerstone of IUCN's information on the status of species;

RECALLING Resolution 1.25 *Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories at the Regional, National and Sub-national Level* adopted by the 1<sup>st</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996), which endorsed the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) initiative for the application of the new *IUCN Red List Categories* in the *IUCN Red Lists* and promotion of their appropriate use in other documents and their utilization at the regional, national and sub-national levels;

APPRECIATING GREATLY the work of thousands of scientists worldwide within the SSC to provide the underlying data and assessments in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*;

ACKNOWLEDGING the work of the SSC to undertake much-needed comprehensive assessments of the status of species in selected taxonomic groups;

RECOGNIZING the work of the SSC in revising the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria* in 1994 and 2001 in order to make the listing process as objective as possible;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the work of the Red List Consortium to develop the *Red List Index* on trends in the threat status of biodiversity, based on data in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*;

NOTING Decision VI/20 of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP6, The Hague, 2002) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) welcoming the further contribution that the *IUCN Red List* assessment has made to the work of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and to the Convention, and Decision VII/30 (COP7, Kuala Lumpur, 2004) identifying the Red List indicator as a provisional indicator for the 2010 target of reducing the rate of global biodiversity loss;

AWARE of the increasing uses being made of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* by IUCN members and others around the world to guide conservation policies and practice;

NOTING in particular that IUCN members have pioneered the development of various methods for identifying priority conservation sites, including *Important Bird Areas*, *Important Plant Areas*, *Key Biodiversity Areas*, and *Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites*, and that data from the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* are essential for the implementation of these methods;

NOTING that inclusion of a species on the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* is an important tool for raising awareness of the plight of the species and indicating cases where urgent action is needed;

NEVERTHELESS CONCERNED that applications of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* to support the development of national legislation need to take into account the nature of the underlying data supporting the *IUCN Red List*; and that automatic triggering of conservation measures by inclusion of a species on the *IUCN Red List* may not necessarily advance, or may even act against, the conservation of such species;

FURTHER CONCERNED that conservation measures taken by governments on behalf of species listed as threatened on the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* should not unnecessarily limit much-needed research on such species, including scientific collecting; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for more guidance to IUCN members and others on these issues;

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

1. REGARDING the use of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* to support national legislation:

(a) CALLS UPON governments to make use of the data in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* when considering the species to be afforded special conservation measures under national legislation;

(b) EMPHASIZES that the inclusion of species in national legislative schedules requires information not only on the level of threat (as recorded in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*), but also on the types of threatening processes and on the conservation measures needed, and so the correct listing of threatened species in national legislation frequently requires additional information beyond that available in the *IUCN Red List*; and

(c) EMPHASIZES that it is important that conservation action is not automatically linked to the inclusion of a species in any particular category of the *IUCN Red List*, but must rather be applied flexibly following a careful analysis of the processes driving the threats and the measures needed to counteract these. In particular, any possible negative effect of prohibitions on harvesting or trade should be carefully assessed before their introduction;

2. REGARDING use of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* to support the implementation of international conventions:

(a) EMPHASIZES that the data in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* forms a useful basis for identifying species for consideration for listing in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as under regional agreements that list individual species;

(b) FURTHER EMPHASIZES that the appropriate listing of species under CITES, CMS and other agreements also requires information in addition to that contained in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*;

(c) AFFIRMS that the data in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* can be used to develop indices on trends in the status of biodiversity at the species level, and encourages countries and IUCN members to make use of the *Red List Index* methodology developed by the Red List Consortium, with a view to measuring progress towards achievement of the 2010 Target on Biodiversity, adopted by the CBD and other bodies;

(d) REQUESTS the SSC, as a matter of urgency, to implement the *Sampled Red List Index* based on repeated *Red List* assessments for a stratified selection of species that is representative of biomes (including marine, freshwater and arid ecosystems), regions and taxonomic groups (including invertebrates and plants); and

(e) FURTHER REQUESTS the SSC, in partnership with other organizations, to expand the taxonomic coverage of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* to enhance its representativeness, thereby enabling the *Red List Index* to be more robust, and with this in mind, to:

(i) complete comprehensive assessments for all mammals, reptiles, freshwater fish, sharks and molluscs;

(ii) regularly reassess the status of amphibians and birds; and

(iii) give greater priority to initiating rigorous comprehensive assessments for selected groups of plants, marine species and invertebrates;

3. REGARDING use of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* for conservation planning and priority setting:

(a) ENCOURAGES IUCN members and others to make use of data in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* to assist in conservation planning, especially site-based approaches implemented at the national level, combining *Red List* data with other datasets, as required; and

(b) REQUESTS the SSC, working in partnership with IUCN members, to convene a worldwide consultative process to agree a methodology to enable countries to identify *Key Biodiversity Areas*, drawing on data from the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* and other datasets, building on existing approaches and paying particular attention to the need to:

(i) enlarge the number of taxonomic groups used for site-based priority-setting approaches;

(ii) have quantitative, transparent and objective criteria to identify *Key Biodiversity Areas*; and

(iii) report on progress towards achieving this objective at the 4<sup>th</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress; and

4. REGARDING implications of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* for scientific research:

(a) EMPHASIZES the importance of governments and research institutions encouraging research on species listed as threatened by IUCN to enhance understanding of the biology and conservation needs of these species, in the spirit of the 1989 *IUCN Policy Statement on Research Involving Species at Risk of Extinction*; and

(b) REQUESTS the SSC to develop technical guidance for IUCN members and others on precautions to be taken for species listed in particular *Red List Categories*, and under particular *Red List Criteria*, in order to help ensure that scientific collecting is beneficial, and not detrimental, to globally threatened species.