

RES 3.076 Illegal and unsustainable international trade in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Mekong river riparian states

RECALLING IUCN's commitment to the goal of controlling the unsustainable trade in wildlife species occurring among and from the Mekong riparian states (Resolution 2.63 *Illegal and/or unsustainable trade of wildlife species among and from the Mekong riparian countries*) and managing the unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat (Resolution 2.64 *The unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat*), both adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

COGNISANT of IUCN's Mission which includes the statement that any use of natural resources should be equitable and ecologically sustainable;

NOTING ASEAN's commitment through the *Yangon Resolution on Sustainable Development* to "sustainably manage the rich biodiversity resources of ASEAN";

HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE of ASEAN's efforts in addressing regional wildlife trade problems at the 13th Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) in Bangkok, October 2004;

CONCERNED that there is a rapidly increasing unsustainable and illegal international commercial trade in wildlife and products derived from wild animals throughout ASEAN (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) and the Mekong River riparian states (China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam);

UNDERSTANDING that:

- (a) this trade is a significant immediate threat to wildlife populations across ASEAN and the Mekong River riparian states;
- (b) a very wide range of species are at risk of local extinction across wide areas; and
- (c) several species are already presumed extinct in some countries across the region as a result of this trade; and

ALSO UNDERSTANDING that the depletion of wildlife resources across ASEAN and the Mekong River riparian states is negatively affecting human livelihoods in many rural areas;

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

1. ADVOCATES an immediate, collective international effort to identify and implement the most appropriate solutions to control the illegal international trade in wildlife and wildlife products throughout ASEAN and the Mekong River riparian states;
2. URGES governments of all affected nations to recognize the increasing and devastating impact of the illegal international trade on the conservation of critical biodiversity, the loss of natural patrimony, and the depletion of natural resources;
3. URGES all states to enforce legislation to control the illegal international trade in wildlife and wildlife products throughout ASEAN, the Mekong River riparian states, and other regions, focusing especially on strict enforcement of CITES regulations through establishing appropriate national legislation and its implementation by the relevant Management Authorities;
4. URGES all members and states to collaborate towards establishing appropriate information exchange regarding the illegal trade in wildlife by establishing a regional working group comprising

representatives of the governments of ASEAN and the Mekong River riparian states, and to use that information to formulate and implement action programmes where needed;

5. URGES donor and lending organizations to provide additional resources to support appropriate and necessary programmes to control the illegal international trade in wildlife and address its root causes, especially actions taken in relation to paragraphs 3 and 4 above; and

6. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General and the IUCN Species Survival Commission, in collaboration with relevant IUCN State members, agencies, organizations, and local stakeholders to:

(a) request that the International Air Transport Association (IATA) implements its own regulations concerning the transport of illegal wildlife cargoes; and

(b) urge all member states of ASEAN, and Mekong River riparian states, to improve the effectiveness of wildlife law-enforcement through ensuring that CITES and its essential domestic implementation legislation is strictly respected and enforced, including through customs and other controls on land borders, especially where roads and railways cross international borders, and at airport export and import facilities, including through training and the provision of resources to officers and border officials who control wildlife trade.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China, provided the following statement for the record:

1. The Chinese Government supports controlling illegal international trade of wildlife and international cooperation in this regard.

2. China strictly controls commercial use and illegal trade of wildlife species.

3. To effectively combat wildlife-related crimes, China set up a forest police force in the 1980s and a special police unit to crack down on smuggling of wildlife species. Perpetuators are robustly prosecuted and sentenced to maximum terms of punishment according to Chinese Criminal Law.

4. China is also a strong supporter and active player in international cooperation. China hosted a series of international meetings and workshops, the recent example being the workshop on CITES Implementation in the Mekong River Riparian States co-sponsored by China and the CITES Secretariat.

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).