

4.110 Controlling trade in wild-caught African cranes

RECALLING Recommendation 18.39 *Taking of Wild Birds for the Pet Trade* adopted by the 18th IUCN General Assembly (Perth, 1990), Recommendation 19.49 *International Trade in Wild Birds* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994); and Recommendation 1.69 *Inspection of Wildlife Shipments* adopted by the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);

ALARMED that all four of Africa's resident crane species (Wattled Crane *Bugeranus carunculatus*, Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina*, Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum* and Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradisea*) are being removed from the wild for food, traditional use, domestication and the legal and illegal trade markets;

CONCERNED that according to CITES trade statistics derived from the CITES trade database (maintained by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC), Cambridge, UK), the primary countries importing wild-caught African cranes since 2001 are China, France, Netherlands, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates;

NOTING that according to CITES trade statistics derived from the CITES trade database, the countries primarily exporting wild-caught cranes from Africa since 2001 are Sudan and Tanzania;

MINDFUL of the discrepancies in the reporting information submitted by importing and exporting countries to the CITES trade database;

AWARE that the Black Crowned Crane has declined by between 22% and 33% and the Grey Crowned Crane between 41% and 53% over a twenty-year period;

ACKNOWLEDGING that while the decline can be attributed to many factors - including habitat loss, persecution and collision with overhead power lines - illegal removal from the wild is putting greater pressure on already declining wild populations; and

CONCERNED that trade in wild-caught cranes is reaching unsustainable proportions;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008:

1. RECOMMENDS that all States:
 - (a) refuse the import of wild-caught African cranes unless absolutely necessary to fulfil the requirements of a genetically viable, legally held captive population; and
 - (b) take every measure possible to verify the legal status of imported cranes and if in doubt, refuse entry for illegally captured birds;
2. URGES all IUCN members to encourage facilities where cranes are kept in captivity to combine their efforts in developing and maintaining viable captive populations of cranes regionally and internationally;
3. CALLS ON importing and exporting Parties to CITES to improve the accuracy of their reporting of trade data so that the UNEP WCMC can improve the accuracy of the CITES trade database to enable better analyses of the trade in cranes;
4. RECOMMENDS that Parties to CITES adopt more stringent controls over countries that do not comply with its regulations, policies and procedures; and
5. ALSO RECOMMENDS that the CITES Secretariat undertake a Significant Trade Review for all African crane species.