

WCC-2012-RES-016-EN

Framework for setting priorities for the conservation of threatened species

ACKNOWLEDGING major recent growth in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, which currently reports on the global conservation status of ~62,000 species of animals and plants, 32% of which are considered threatened;

NOTING that more than 100 countries have developed national *Red Lists* for at least one taxonomic group, providing objective assessments of the status of species that live within their national boundaries;

RECOGNIZING the policy impact of the data summarized in the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* and national *Red Lists* in global conservation efforts, such as the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Targets, the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs), as well as in national efforts, such as the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the valuable efforts of existing grant-making mechanisms for species conservation, as well as the diversity of approaches that they have developed for setting funding priorities;

ANTICIPATING the continuing rapid rate of growth of species assessments, especially in response to the need to calculate the indicators used to assess progress towards the achievement of the commitments set forth by conservation policies such as those mentioned above, and that the growing number of documented threatened species may not be matched by an equivalent increase in financial or human resources;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the wealth of information generated by species assessments will need to be synthesized to inform decision making and provide streamlined knowledge products to conservation policy-makers, practitioners and other key stakeholders;

CONCERNED that no unified, widely accepted framework currently exists for identifying and implementing conservation priorities for species, and that the urgency of the extinction crisis may result in the adoption of *ad hoc* resource allocation procedures that are neither scientific, systematic, nor efficient;

FURTHER CONCERNED that there is limited time, as well as human and financial resources, to address the conservation needs of all threatened species, either *in situ* or *ex situ*;

EMPHASIZING that the systematic identification of conservation priorities allows for an improved allocation of financial and human resources and thus greater conservation impacts;

FURTHER EMPHASIZING that the information on extinction risk provided by *Red Lists* is one component necessary for setting species conservation priorities and by itself is insufficient; and

UNDERSCORING that such efforts do not aim to prioritize among species *per se* (implying that some species may be intrinsically more important than others), but rather prioritize among species (or groups of species) for planning efforts, and then prioritize among conservation actions to most effectively conserve these;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:

CALLS ON the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) to undertake the development of a conceptual framework for setting priorities for the conservation of threatened species, which is flexible, adaptable and useful to a broad range of stakeholders (e.g. local communities, donor agencies, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and zoos and aquaria), and yet leads to choices that are systematic, transparent and repeatable, and can be monitored and evaluated providing a defensible framework to justify resource allocation among large groups of nationally and globally threatened species.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this Motion for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process.