

WCC-2012-Res-020-EN

Further steps to combat the amphibian crisis

RECALLING Resolution 4.017 *Stopping the amphibian crisis* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

AWARE that the concerns that gave rise to Resolution 4.017, and which are explained in its preamble, remain just as valid, if not more valid, today, and that the global status of amphibians is continuing to deteriorate rapidly;

APPRECIATING the steps taken by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and key IUCN Members and partners to address the amphibian crisis, most notably through the formation of the inter-institutional Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA) in 2011, which is providing strategic direction and coordination to the amphibian conservation work being carried out by the SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG), by Amphibian Ark (an *ex situ* programme under the umbrella of SSC and the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria), and by a number of other institutions;

CONCERNED that despite this progress, the funding for amphibian conservation in general, and the ASA in particular, remains woefully inadequate and outside the priorities of many donors and institutions that otherwise support biodiversity conservation;

CONVINCED that unless greater priority is given to amphibian conservation, many species will become extinct in the coming decades;

ENCOURAGED, nevertheless, that despite the meagre resources available, concerted efforts by the amphibian conservation community over the last five years have resulted in over 22,000 hectares of vital habitat being secured to provide for the survival of 55 Threatened amphibian species, as well as nearly 100 globally Threatened species now being maintained in captive breeding programmes;

AWARE that despite these welcome gains, progress is very small in relation to the huge dimensions of the crisis;

ALSO AWARE that the ASA has recently identified the sites which, if securely protected, would safeguard the largest number of Threatened amphibian species, noting that conserving the top 25 sites, all of which have also been identified by the *Alliance for Zero Extinction*, would benefit over 500 globally threatened species, 150 of which are listed as Critically Endangered on the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*; and

CONCERNED that the majority of amphibian species on the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* were last assessed in 2004, making their reassessment a matter of urgency in order to understand the change in status of amphibians, and the success of conservation efforts;

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

1. CALLS ON governments, non-governmental conservation organizations, and donors to:
 - a. increase the priority given to preventing amphibian extinctions and bringing about their recovery, in particular through the conservation of the top priority sites that are being identified by the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA);
 - b. develop, support and maintain adequate captive breeding programmes in biosecure facilities for those species that are declining rapidly and which may go extinct before

the threats in the wild (in particular imminent habitat loss and the fungal pandemic chytridiomycosis and its associated synergies) can be combated successfully;

- c. promote the regulation and monitoring of trade in live and dead amphibians and their parts and derivatives, including efforts to enable and facilitate monitoring of international commercial transactions through established mechanisms like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the World Customs Organization; and
 - d. provide sustainable support to the operations of the ASA to enable it to provide its essential role of coordination and leadership to amphibian conservation efforts worldwide;
2. URGES the scientific community, as a matter of urgency, to carry out the research necessary in order to make it possible to develop practical and realistic measures to combat the deadly effects of the chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* in the wild; and
 3. REQUESTS the Director General and SSC to take the necessary steps to ensure that all amphibians last assessed for the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2004 during the Global Amphibian Assessment be updated by 2014, and calls on donors to provide the necessary funding to make this possible.