

WCC-2012-Res-024-EN

Enhancing anti-poaching and wildlife resource protection efforts, using rhino and elephant as indicators

NOTING with concern the dramatic and unsustainable escalation of rhinoceros poaching in southern Africa and the continued elephant poaching in East Africa;

CONSIDERING these species as indicators of an escalation of illegal poaching of all species;

NOTING that Parties are obliged to ensure that wildlife resources are protected by sound legal and management strategies;

RECALLING Resolution 2.37 *Support for environmental defenders* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) that called upon the Director General to “speak out publicly and forcefully” when environmental advocates are threatened and “to discourage harassment or persecution of environmental advocates using all appropriate means”, and Recommendation 4.119 *Protection of rangers within and in areas adjacent to protected areas* “noting that Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity regards Protected Areas as important ‘in situ’ conservation areas that conserve biological diversity and that Contracting Parties are required to ensure that these areas are protected by sound legal and management strategies”;

ACCEPTING the value of wildlife within protected areas (including private and community areas devoted to wildlife protection under natural conditions), which are of extreme importance for biodiversity conservation, tourism and the gross domestic product of tourist destinations;

UNDERSTANDING the term anti-poaching to refer to paramilitary defence and protection by rangers of protected areas and private land where environmental conservation is practiced;

CONCERNED that all wildlife resources face an escalating threat, as illustrated by the escalation of rhino and elephant poaching;

UNDERSTANDING that the threat to rhinoceros, elephants and other wildlife resources emanates from many quarters, stemming from criminally motivated armed poaching and commercial exploitation by international organized criminal syndicates;

RECOGNIZING the essential and significant contribution of rangers to protection, maintenance and defence of the integrity of protected areas and private and community wildlife areas and the wildlife resources therein, without which protection of the integrity and survival of such protected areas may become precarious and unpredictable;

ACKNOWLEDGING the fact that without adequate protection the continued status of wildlife resources would be seriously compromised;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the support of rangers and wildlife protection agencies can be improved, and many of the threats facing wildlife resources prevented, reduced or eliminated by improved staffing and training, increased resources and support, and increased awareness; and

SERIOUSLY CONCERNED by these continuing threats, and the continued inadequate support for the function of protecting the integrity of wildlife resources, protected areas and biodiversity;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General and the IUCN Commissions to encourage Member States, governments, civil society, and local and international NGOs and foundations to provide support for the initiative of improved wildlife resource protection by:
 - a. reviewing previous commitments to this issue and ensuring that they have been met;
 - b. ensuring that protected area managers, rangers and custodians of wildlife resources are afforded adequate funding, leadership, support, training and equipment, and appropriate remuneration to enable the professional execution of their protective functions;
 - c. adopting and promoting enforcement or enactment of legislation specifically providing for protection of all wildlife resources and enabling vigorous pursuit and prosecution of those contravening such legislation; and
 - d. adopting and promoting threat assessments to enable swift development and implementation of appropriate types and levels of protection; and
2. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Commissions to:
 - a. encourage the adoption and enforcement of adequate legislation and operational capability to enable greater and more effective wildlife resource protection, and protection of rangers who are defending the integrity of the protected environments (including private and community wildlife areas) within which these resources occur;
 - b. encourage and provide support for Member States, governments and civil society, and local and international NGOs and foundations, to enhance anti-poaching and wildlife resource protection efforts;
 - c. promote adequate funding, leadership, training and equipment for custodians of wildlife resources, and appropriate remuneration to enable the professional execution of their protective functions; and
 - d. report to the IUCN Council annually and to the next World Conservation Congress on the progress made under this initiative.