

WCC-2012-RES-025-EN
Conservation of African Elephants

ACKNOWLEDGING that the African Elephant is a keystone species, providing a charismatic focal point for conservation action in Africa;

APPRECIATING that conservation efforts have resulted in population increases in some range States over the last two decades, while populations have decreased in other range States;

RECOGNIZING that African Elephants can provide significant benefits to national economies, as well as to local communities;

NOTING that the measures taken by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to bring the illegal trade in elephant products under control still require significant commitments from elephant range States, transit countries, and from all ivory-consuming States;

ALSO NOTING that a high-level meeting convened by the IUCN Secretariat and the African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) working with the Secretariats of CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Interpol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will take place before the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the African Elephant range States adopted the *African Elephant Action Plan* that addresses actions to be taken to effectively conserve and manage elephants across their range in Africa;

APPRECIATING the establishment of the African Elephant Fund to support the implementation of the *African Elephant Action Plan*, and the contributions made by donors;

RECOGNIZING the serious and increasing levels of threat currently facing elephants, including illegal international and domestic trade in ivory, human elephant conflict, habitat loss and fragmentation, illegal killing for ivory and meat, lack of institutional and enforcement capacity and local overabundance;

CONCERNED that poaching pressure is now increasing across all sub-regions in Africa, as shown by the 2011 analysis of data from the MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) programme and that large-scale poaching by organized criminals transnationally is rising steadily and is having serious impacts on elephant populations;

CONCERNED that illegal ivory trade is increasing, in particular, large-scale shipments of illegal ivory, as shown by the 2011 analysis of data from the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS);

APPRECIATING the awareness-raising activities undertaken by range States, consumer States, international organizations, partnerships and non-governmental organizations concerning the illegal ivory trade;

CONCERNED that current levels of poaching may not be sustainable and could result in unacceptable losses of biodiversity, leading to elephant population declines and

corresponding declines in economic opportunities for range States to benefit from their heritage;

CONCERNED that the loss of elephants from ecosystems has a negative impact on many other species; and

RECOGNIZING IUCN's role over many years in providing sound technical and scientific analyses as well as convening and supporting policy processes to facilitate dialogue on African Elephant conservation;

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

1. CALLS ON all African Elephant range States to prioritize the protection and conservation of elephant populations and to ensure that appropriate incentives for conservation, adequate legislation and deterrent penalties are in place and implemented to achieve this goal; and calls on African Elephant range States to ensure that local communities reap benefits as well as bearing the costs of living with elephants;
2. CALLS ON all ivory-consuming States to ensure that adequate policy, legislation, law-enforcement and deterrent penalties are in place and implemented to control domestic ivory markets;
3. REQUESTS the Director General and the AfESG to work with the Secretariats of CITES and CMS, Interpol, UNODC, the World Bank, LATF, ASEAN-WEN, ICCWC, FAO, UNDP and UNEP to convene a high-level meeting as soon as possible, and in advance of the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES if possible, but in any case no later than June 2013, with the aim of recommending urgent measures needed by African Elephant range States and consumer States to address the concerns relating to the conservation of the African Elephant, and to carry these recommendations forward to range States and consumer States, and to the Chair of the Standing Committee of CITES;
4. FURTHER REQUESTS TRAFFIC and the AfESG to work with the CITES Secretariat and the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee to present to the high-level meeting the latest results of research on the status of the African elephant and the ivory trade, in particular from the African and Asian Elephant Database, the two CITES elephant monitoring systems, MIKE and ETIS, and the status of implementation of the *African Elephant Action Plan*;
5. CALLS ON African Elephant range States, especially those with declining populations of elephants to prioritize the allocation of funds to address elephant conservation and management, with a specific focus on increasing levels of law enforcement;
6. FURTHER CALLS on the global community to contribute to the African Elephant Fund to support the implementation of the *African Elephant Action Plan*; and
7. REQUESTS the Director General to report back on progress to the next IUCN World Conservation Congress.