

WCC-2012-RES-027-EN

Conservation of tropical Asia's threatened species

NOTING that tropical South and Southeast Asia covers less than 13% of the earth's land mass, yet contains a disproportionately high number of species at high risk of extinction; for some taxa, half or more of all globally threatened species fall within this region;

ALARMED that especially the largest species of many faunal taxa are experiencing dramatic population declines and losses; that all large deer and wild cattle, rhinoceroses, and tapir and Asian Elephants in Southeast Asia are globally threatened; that a high proportion of large birds such as cranes, bustards, eagles and hornbills in South and Southeast Asia are globally threatened; that 82% of the world's Critically Endangered tortoise and freshwater turtle species occur in South and Southeast Asia; and that wild populations of some such species total less than one hundred individuals;

CONCERNED that, in spite of notable conservation efforts by many governments and other agencies in the region leading to some local conservation success stories, the overall situation for species across the region continues to deteriorate rapidly;

NOTING that many of the threatened species, notably the large-bodied mammals, birds, reptiles and fish, are of great cultural and economic importance, and vital for their roles in maintaining ecosystem functions and services;

RECALLING that all of the countries in this region (with the exception of Timor-Leste) are Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and have adopted the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Targets, including Target 12: "The extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained";

AWARE that key drivers of the observed declines are the combination of loss of habitat, especially for large-scale industrial agriculture, and hunting for commercial trade as pets, for meat, and for traditional medicines; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED that unless actions are taken quickly to address these threats as they pertain to threatened species, many such species from many taxonomic groups across the region face further dramatic declines, ranges losses and extinctions;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General and IUCN Commissions, especially the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), to provide technical and scientific support to governments and other agencies working in the region to address the threats to many species in South and Southeast Asia that are increasing the probability of their imminent extinction;
2. ENCOURAGES the governments of South and Southeast Asian countries to take all steps possible to prevent the extinctions in the wild of any threatened species within their jurisdictions;
3. URGES all governments to take all necessary measures to ensure that import of endangered species originating from South and Southeast Asia is legal and sustainable in accordance with CITES;

4. URGES multilateral, bilateral and private donors to expand their efforts to conserve in the wild the species in South and Southeast Asia at imminent risk of extinction, and thus necessarily the habitats critical to their survival; and
5. FURTHER requests the Director General and IUCN Commissions to report to the next IUCN World Conservation Congress on progress achieved.