

WCC-2016-Res-009-EN

Conservation of the Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*)

NOTING that the Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) is found in Southeast Asia and listed on Appendix I of CITES;

ACKNOWLEDGING that there has been a recent sharp escalation in the killing of this species, driven by demand and perpetrated by criminal networks, which presents a clear and present threat to its survival in range states;

RECOGNISING that the killing of the species is driven by demand for its solid casque ('hornbill ivory') used in the manufacture of ornaments ('derivative items') that are available in parts of Asia through conventional retailers and online market places;

NOTING that urgently needed conservation action is being undertaken under the auspices of the IUCN Species Survival Commission through the Asia Species Action Partnership (ASAP) and that, in line with best-available scientific knowledge, BirdLife International, the Global Red List Authority on Birds, raised the species' threat status on the IUCN Red List from Near Threatened to Critically Endangered in November 2015;

RECALLING IUCN Resolution 5.027 *Conservation of tropical Asia's threatened species* (Jeju, 2012) and the concern expressed therein with regard to populations of large birds including hornbills;

NOTING that the species is further threatened by habitat loss;

RECOGNISING that the species is of cultural significance to local communities, provides key ecological functions, is a galvanising symbol in the conservation of Southeast Asia's tropical forests and that the trade represents a loss of national patrimony and resources;

RECOGNISING, in light of Aichi Target 12, that range states require urgent international action and support to supplement domestic efforts to prevent the extinction of the species and to ensure that its conservation status is improved and sustained;

ACKNOWLEDGING the current enforcement efforts of relevant states; and

RECOGNISING that support for such efforts should be premised on collaborative engagement and mutual respect;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. REQUESTS the Director General, Commissions and Members, where possible, through ASAP, its partners or other stakeholders/avenues, to participate in and/or support efforts to:
 - a. monitor threat levels; identify *inter-alia* trade routes, networks, methodologies and participants; aid investigations, gather evidence and evaluate emerging trends;
 - b. support and expand *in-situ* conservation;
 - c. strengthen the role of and engage with local communities, conservationists and agencies and support enforcement action;
 - d. raise awareness through increased communications, publicity, education, public engagement, and demand-reduction campaigns within remaining parts of the native range and end users;
 - e. provide technical advice, build capacity and facilitate knowledge sharing and cooperation amongst stakeholders; and
 - f. engage shops and online market places in containing, curtailing and/or seeking to eliminate the sale of derivative items;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to write to the Secretary General and Chair of the

Standing Committee of CITES to request urgent steps to address the increased international trade in hornbill ivory;

3. ENCOURAGES relevant governments to:

a. further enforcement to prevent illegal harvesting;

b. further enforcement to prevent the import, export, transit, carriage, display, sale and/or acquisition of hornbill ivory and derivative items;

c. address legislative, policy or enforcement gaps, prosecute participants at all levels of the trade network and enhance awareness of applicable laws; and

d. engage and cooperate with other relevant States in bringing enforcement action, evidence gathering and knowledge sharing; and

4. URGES donor organisations to support conservation actions.

State and agency Members of the United States voted against the motion with Amendment 1, which was adopted by the World Conservation Congress.