

WCC-2016-Res-015-EN

Greater protection needed for all pangolin species

RECOGNISING pangolins as evolutionarily distinct and ecologically important species;

CONCERNED that all eight species of pangolins, family Manidae, have been assessed and categorised on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable, due to the combined effects of overexploitation, illegal trade and habitat degradation;

CONCERNED that global and domestic protection measures and conservation attention have to date been inadequate and not prevented declines of pangolin populations;

ALSO RECOGNISING that pangolin populations are vulnerable to over-exploitation due to their low reproductive rates and ease of capture;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that in recent years the illegal trade in pangolin specimens, parts and derivatives has increased significantly to meet international demand including the emergence of intercontinental trade all around the world;

RECOGNISING the efforts of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Pangolin Specialist Group on behalf of all eight species of pangolins;

RECALLING that the Ninth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP9), held in Fort Lauderdale, USA in 1994, decided to include all species of pangolins in CITES Appendix II, and that CITES COP11, held in Gigiri, Kenya in 2000 decided to amend this listing with a zero annual export quota for wild specimens traded for primarily commercial purposes for the four Asian pangolin species; and

CONCERNED that despite the Appendix II listing and zero annual export quota for Asian pangolin species, there is evidence that all eight pangolin species are declining due to international trade, most of which is illegal;

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

1. URGES all IUCN Members to support transferring all eight pangolin species from Appendix II to Appendix I of CITES at the 17th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP17) to CITES, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2016, in order to contribute to the conservation and sustainability of wild populations through control of the international trade in pangolins and their parts and products¹;
2. URGES Governments to prevent the usage of pangolin products from illegal source through education and strict monitoring; and
3. URGES all IUCN Members, pangolin range states and other stakeholders to support efforts to tackle all threats to pangolins through increased protection and law enforcement, conservation research, awareness raising, education, and other actions commensurate to mitigating the threats and successfully delivering pangolin conservation, including through the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group Conservation Action Plan.

¹ It is hereby affirmed that the support of the Congress for the inclusion of these species in CITES Appendix I does not in any way prejudice the independence, or determine the findings, of the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices.