

## **WCC-2016-Res-055-EN**

### **Concerns about whaling under special permits**

RECALLING IUCN's support for the decision by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to establish a worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling, including Recommendations 17.46 *Whaling* (San José, 1988), 18.34 *Cetacean Conservation and the International Whaling Commission Moratorium* (Perth, 1990), and 19.63 *Commercial Whaling* (Buenos Aires, 1994);

RECOGNISING that Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) allows contracting governments to issue special permits to take whales for purposes of scientific research;

CONCERNED that Japanese whaling vessels have taken over 15,000 whales under special permits issued since the moratorium, including over 10,000 whales in what is now the Southern Ocean Sanctuary;

NOTING that products from these hunts are sold;

NOTING that the IWC has adopted 22 resolutions calling on Japan to halt or restrict its whaling under special permits;

NOTING the 2014 Judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that Japan's JARPA II programme of whaling in the Antarctic was not in conformity with Article VIII of the ICRW;

FURTHER NOTING that IWC Resolution 2014-5 *Resolution on Whaling under Special Permit, section 3*, requested parties not to issue any further special permits for takes of whales until the IWC has considered the report of the Scientific Committee and made such recommendations on the merits or otherwise of the special permit programme as it sees fit, which has not yet happened;

AWARE that Japan accepted the ICJ judgment and conducted only non-lethal whale research in the Antarctic in the 2014/15 season, but in October 2015 withdrew its recognition of ICJ compulsory jurisdiction over disputes involving living marine resources;

FURTHER AWARE that Japan's current research programmes, NEWREP-A and JARPN II, of which lethal sampling is an integral component, are ongoing and that the implementation of the programmes as they currently stand will require the issuance of further special permits;

CONCERNED that Japan in December 2015 issued a special permit allowing the take of 333 minke whales in the Southern Ocean in the 2015/16 season under a new research plan that was reviewed by an expert panel appointed by the IWC Scientific Committee (SC), which concluded that the proposal did not demonstrate the need for lethal sampling; and

CONSIDERING the January 2016 letter published in *Nature* from 32 members of the SC finding that the science underlying Japan's research plan did not pass a reasonable standard of peer review;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to convey this Recommendation to the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary of the IWC, and to help ensure that the IUCN Secretariat and Commissions assist in its implementation;
2. REAFFIRMS its view that the IWC remains the appropriate global authority for the management of whaling, and calls on all IUCN Members, including both members and non-members of the IWC, to abide by IWC resolutions, regulations, and procedures;
3. CALLS UPON Japan to revoke any existing special permit under Article VIII of the ICRW for whale research in the Southern Ocean and in the western North Pacific and to remove lethal sampling components from its whale research programmes;

4. CALLS UPON all States to refrain from issuing any further special permits under Article VIII of the ICRW; and
5. EMPHASISES the need for the continuation and expansion of non-lethal research on whales and for international collaboration.