

## **WCC-2016-Res-082-EN**

### **A path forward to address concerns over the use of lead ammunition in hunting**

NOTING that lead can be both an acute and chronic poison of all vertebrates resulting in both direct and indirect mortality, and morbidity;

FURTHER NOTING that lead ammunition ingestion either directly from the environment, or from prey, can cause avoidable suffering and mortality affecting some species' population status (as seen in some wildfowl, raptor and scavenger species);

RECOGNISING that wildlife management decision making should be based on ensuring self-sustaining wildlife populations;

ALSO RECALLING that evidence of lead poisoning from ammunition has been recorded in at least 20 countries, although there is some potential for lead poisoning to occur wherever lead ammunition is used for shooting;

CONCERNED that the consumption of lead shot game can present a risk to human health (especially to children, pregnant women and subsistence hunters);

NOTING that alternatives for the majority of lead ammunition, including bullets, are available in some countries and WELCOMING further research into the effectiveness and costs of alternatives to lead ammunition in relation to hunting and shooting activities; and

RECALLING previous agreements to replace lead ammunition with suitable alternatives by the parties to multiple multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including Resolution 11.15 *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds* adopted by the 11th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS COP11 – Quito, 2014) which recommended the phasing-out of the use of lead ammunition across all habitats and its replacement with suitable alternatives before 2017, agreeing that it is for each Party to determine whether or how to implement the recommended actions;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General and Commissions to:

a. promote and support the implementation of UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS) Resolution 11.15 in countries that are Party to that Convention, specifically in relation to the recommendations to prevent the risk of poisoning from lead ammunition, recognising that it is for each Party to the Convention to determine whether or how to implement the recommended actions, considering the extent and type of poisoning risk, whilst having regard to their international obligations and commitments, including those under the Convention; and

b. promote, where feasible, the phasing out of lead shot used for hunting over wetlands and lead ammunition used for hunting in areas where scavengers are at particular risk from the use of lead ammunition, and the replacement of it with suitable alternatives;

2. ENCOURAGES governments:

a. that are Party to the Convention on Migratory Species, to implement UNEP/CMS Resolution 11.15, as it relates to lead ammunition, and to engage with hunters, industry and their related associations, conservation groups and other stakeholders, recognising that it is for each Party to the Convention to determine whether or how to implement the recommended actions, considering the extent and type of poisoning risk, whilst having regard to their international obligations and commitments, including those under the Convention; and

b. that are not Party to the Convention on Migratory Species, to phase-out, where feasible, lead shot used for hunting over wetlands and lead ammunition used for hunting in areas where scavengers are at particular risk from the use of lead ammunition, based on scientific evidence, and the replacement of it with suitable alternatives; and

3. ENCOURAGES IUCN Members to:

- a. work with all relevant stakeholders to assess the feasibility of the phasing-out of lead in ammunition used for hunting, and to work together towards its replacement with suitable alternatives, recognising the present technical and commercial challenges that would need to be overcome associated with some forms of ammunition; and
- b. in particular, work with industry and their related associations, conservation groups, and other stakeholders and interested groups to develop communication plans about lead ammunition and its alternatives.