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Vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) conservation and the illegal trade in its fibre

RECALLING that IUCN warned countries attending the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) about the danger of the uncontrolled international trade in numerous species of wild fauna and flora, and this gave rise to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which now has 182 Parties;

AWARE of the importance of the vicuña as a successful example of the recovery of a species that was on the brink of extinction, as a result of the efforts made by the States within its range, CITES and other international organisations;

RECOGNISING the importance of the sustainable use of the vicuña based on the live shearing of animals for the benefit of and use by High Andean communities and given the cultural and economic value of this species for these people;

RECALLING that the vicuña populations in Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador, the First Region of Chile and in Argentina, the wild populations in the provinces of Jujuy and Catamarca, and the captive populations in the provinces of Jujuy, Salta, Catamarca, La Rioja and San Juan, are currently listed in Appendix II of CITES;

CONCERNED by the alarming increase in vicuña poaching, reflected in the report drawn up by the South American Camelid Specialist Group (GECS SSC/IUCN) and in the resolutions adopted at the last meeting of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of the Vicuña (Chile 2015);

RECOGNISING the steps taken and efforts made by the States within the species' range to control and reduce poaching and illegal trade in the fibre;

AWARE that the traceability of vicuña fibre is a practice that is almost non-existent in primary and successive exports/imports given that it is turned into fabrics and manufactured products; and

RECOGNISING the urgent need for international support in order to help States within the species' range in the protection of the vicuña, its habitat and to guarantee the benefit derived from the sustainable use of the species for the High Andean communities;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General, the Commissions and Members to do their utmost to support efforts to:
 - a. ensure that the Parties to CITES that have vicuña fibre and products derived from the fibre identify, mark and register them appropriately for the purpose of traceability, adopting and applying the relevant legislation with extensive controls, in order to prevent the illegal trade in these items; and
 - b. ensure that States within the range, importing countries, as well as consumers, increase their collaboration seeking information exchange mechanisms for the effective application of the regulations currently in force, which include international, regional and national mechanisms;
2. RECOMMENDS the CITES Secretariat:
 - a. based on observations received from the States within the range, to draw up recommendations and draft decisions in this regard, submitting them for the consideration of the Animals Committee, the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate; and
 - b. to facilitate access to financial assistance to the States within the vicuña's range and to GECS SSC/IUCN in order to develop and implement national and regional management and

conservation plans and measures to eliminate illegal trade and promote the sustainable use of the species;

3. URGES countries within the species' range and countries that import clothes made of vicuña fibre to organise communication, awareness-raising and capacity-building activities etc. with all sectors in order to stop the illegal trade in the fibre; and

4. CALLS ON the signatories to the Convention for the Conservation and Management of the Vicuña, the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime as well as GECS SSC/IUCN to establish the synergies necessary in order to guarantee the sustainable use and conservation of the species and the monitoring of this motion.