

## **WCC-2016-Res-094-EN**

### **Support for increased conservation effort for Hawai'i's threatened birds**

RECOGNISING the mission of IUCN in promoting the conservation of biological diversity;

AWARE that island species are vulnerable to invasive predators and diseases, and that native Hawaiian birds are among the most challenging to conserve given the severity of threats they face, and the diversity of invasive species and pathogens present in Hawai'i;

ALSO AWARE of the impact of climate change on many native Hawaiian birds, including with warmer temperatures the climb of disease-carrying mosquitoes into previously disease-free elevations impacting crucial bird habitat;

CONCERNED that these drivers have contributed to placing the United States among the countries with the fastest declines in native avian species abundance and status in the Red List Index;

REMINDED that conservation technology is catching up with the challenge, and that a number of specific techniques, such as habitat restoration, fencing, translocation and predator control/eradication, are already successfully benefitting the conservation, restoration and recovery of Hawai'i's birds;

NOTING that resources available for the recovery of Hawai'i's threatened birds are currently insufficient;

ALSO RECOGNISING the critically important role played by native birds in traditional Hawaiian culture, and the importance of native birds in the ecology of Hawaiian forests, wetlands and other ecosystems as pollinators, dispersers, and members of the overall food web;

ALARMED at the continuing recent declines evident in Hawaiian birds despite current conservation efforts, especially forest birds on Kaua'i where extinctions of two species may be imminent without significantly expanded urgent action, and noting the recent publication of new alarming evidence confirming the continued rapid decline among Kaua'i's forest birds; and

WELCOMING the many existing public and non-profit initiatives aimed at stemming Hawaiian bird declines, the interest of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) in this issue, and the recent initiative by the State of Hawai'i to strengthen biosecurity;

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

1. REQUESTS the Director General to support SSC in engaging with existing initiatives to help advance Hawaiian bird conservation, and form a new working group of stakeholders to elevate the issue, support conservation implementation, and report on progress – including to the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress;
2. CALLS ON the Governments of the United States and the State of Hawai'i to urgently and fully implement the Hawaiian Bird Conservation Action Plan, Hawaiian Forest Bird Recovery Plan, and other relevant Hawaiian bird recovery plans, to seek additional resources from partners as are needed to avoid any additional bird extinctions and declines in the Hawaiian Islands, and to expedite the review, exploration and development of all appropriate techniques to control or eradicate invasive alien mosquitoes and other invasive alien species;
3. RECOMMENDS that Hawaiian birds be formally recognised as a part of the U.S. avifauna, and included in appropriate lists of birds maintained by relevant institutions, such as conservation organisations and birdwatching organisations, sufficient to increase the focus of appropriate constituencies on these birds and their conservation; and
4. RECOMMENDS full implementation of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan that was released by the state of Hawaii at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress.