

## **WCC-2020-Res-131-EN**

### **Ensuring adequate funding for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**

RECALLING that the importance of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Red List) has been emphasised by Members several times (e.g. Resolutions 3.013 *The uses of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (Bangkok, 2004), 4.018 *Increased participation of scientists from relevant countries in the preparation of the IUCN Red List* (Barcelona, 2008), 5.017 *Enhancing the usefulness of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (Jeju, 2012) and 6.016 *The IUCN Red List Index for monitoring extinction risk* (Hawai'i, 2016));

NOTING that Red List data are of critical importance in monitoring the achievement of biodiversity outcomes, including those set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

ANTICIPATING that the Red List will play a critical role in monitoring and guiding the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

FURTHER NOTING the wide use and application of the Red List for conservation planning and management, including by donors to help guide resource allocation and financial institutions to ensure investments do not jeopardise the survival of threatened species;

THANKFUL to the members of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) who give their time voluntarily by contributing to the Red List;

GRATEFUL to the 13 Red List Partner organisations for their extensive contributions to the Red List both in cash and in kind;

ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL to the staff of the IUCN Red List Unit (RLU) for their meticulous work in processing Red List assessments, maintaining the database and website, and in quality assurance;

AWARE that annual submissions of assessments to the RLU are increasing;

WELCOMING the new Red List Strategic Plan (RLSP) which aims to add 129,000 assessments and 137,000 reassessments by 2030;

CONCERNED that staffing reductions in the RLU in 2021 by one-third due to funding shortfalls are causing a backlog of assessments in the submission queue;

EMPHASISING that delays in the publication of assessments mean that relevant authorities may be unaware that particular places and species need urgent conservation attention, thus delaying conservation actions and the prevention of damaging developments; and

STRESSING, moreover, that backlogs could undermine donor confidence in the Red List and hinder other initiatives, such as identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs);

#### **The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, at its session in Marseille, France:**

1. REQUESTS the IUCN Patrons of Nature and the Chair of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) to collaborate closely with the Director General on fundraising for the Red List;
2. CALLS ON donors, especially those that are IUCN Members, including State Members, to respond generously to the Director General's fundraising initiative for the Red List;
3. ENCOURAGES donors, in addition to ensuring the stability and viability of the RLU, to help ensure that funding is available to support the work of the Species Survival Commission and Red List Partners in delivering the RLSP, noting that funding has hitherto proven hard to raise for the reassessment of species, and yet reassessments are essential to track changes in status over time through the IUCN Red List Index; and

4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director General to ensure, within available resources, that the RLU has the capacity to process species assessments in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.