

WCC-2020-Res-137-EN

Affirming the right of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to sustainably manage and utilise wild resources in the context of COVID-19

NOTING that since the publication of the *World Conservation Strategy* in 1980, IUCN has promoted understanding of sustainable use (as defined by CBD art. 2 and the IUCN policy on sustainable use of wild living resources, 2000) of wild species as a tool to benefit both conservation of nature and human development;

RECOGNISING that the COVID-19 global pandemic has wreaked enormous and unprecedented social, economic and environmental damages across the world and that the most probable scenario of its origins is a zoonotic spillover from an intermediate animal host;

UNDERLINING that in response to the pandemic any calls or decisions for the closure of markets where wildlife is sold or the halt of all consumptive use of wildlife must consider the socio-economic, food security, cultural and environmental impacts of these actions;

AWARE that it is critically important that utilisation, trade and consumption of wild species is legal and effectively managed, sustainable, and poses no significant risk of pathogen spillover, both to reduce the risk of future zoonotic disease outbreaks and to reduce biodiversity loss;

ACKNOWLEDGING that millions of people worldwide – but particularly Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC) in vulnerable conditions – depend on the harvest, hunting, trading and consumption of wild species, and any policy decisions must be in accordance with relevant international conventions and must support their food security, food sovereignty, their cultural traditions, customary use and their right to use and manage their natural resources in ways that they determine themselves; and

MINDFUL that sustainable use is one of the three key objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework includes a focus on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits through sustainable management of wild species and protecting customary sustainable use by IPLCs;

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

1. CALLS ON the Director General, Council and all constituents of IUCN to recognise the right of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC) to sustainably use and manage their natural resources, wild species of animals, plants and fungi, within the framework of wildlife and nature conservation laws of their respective countries;
2. URGES the Director General, Council and all constituents of IUCN to ensure that responses to COVID-19 (and any future pandemics) should be well-considered and socially, economically and environmentally just, so as not to disadvantage the world's most vulnerable people, particularly IPLCs who depend upon wild resources for their food security, food sovereignty, livelihoods, cultural traditions and customary use;
3. FURTHER URGES the Director General, Council and all constituents of IUCN to work to ensure that the utilisation of wild species is legal and effectively managed, sustainable, and poses no significant risk of pathogen spillover;
4. REQUESTS the IUCN Council and relevant Commissions to work on guidance as appropriate to assessments and policies designed to ensure that the use, consumption and trade of wild species is legal and effectively managed, sustainable, and poses no significant risk of pathogen spillover, with particular regard for the rights and needs of IPLCs;
5. ENCOURAGES all Members (State and non-State) to apply rights-based approaches to conservation and to advocate for conservation and public health measures and policies that consider the socio-economic, food security, cultural and ecological impacts of those actions, for

IPLCs in their own states or within other states; and

6. FURTHER URGES Members (State and non-State) to ensure that investments and implementation of post COVID-19 economic recovery initiatives are nature-positive and fully consider the rights of IPLCs to manage and benefit from natural resources.