

8.139 Upholding science-based wildlife conservation in Switzerland

RECALLING coexistence, respect for nature's intrinsic value and lethal control as last resort are core to IUCN's mission, consistent with Resolutions 5.100 *Incorporation of the Rights of Nature as the organizational focal point in IUCN's decision making* (Jeju, 2012) and 7.101 *Addressing human-wildlife conflict: fostering a safe and beneficial coexistence of people and wildlife* (Marseille, 2020);

AFFIRMING wildlife management must uphold ecological integrity, ethical responsibility and science-based decision-making;

ALARMED that Switzerland's 2025 hunting regulations permit large-scale wolf (*Canis lupus*) culling, including killing up to two-thirds of cubs regardless of demonstrated harm and the removal of entire packs, threatening Swiss and Alpine populations and genetic viability;

RECOGNISING Switzerland's role as a key Alpine migration corridor and that such culling may reduce regional connectivity which ensures population levels correspond in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements;

NOTING wolves remain Vulnerable on Switzerland's Red List; and under the Bern Convention, Switzerland must achieve and maintain favourable conservation status and may authorise culling following the provisions outlined in the Bern Convention, ensuring that effective population status is taken into account and that population survival is not jeopardised;

CONCERNED that Swiss authorities apply permissive livestock-protection criteria enabling culling over non-lethal measures; genetic analyses show up to 40% of wolves killed were not targeted;

NOTING evidence that destabilising stable packs increases livestock predation, undermining stated aims;

CONCERNED that Swiss cantons authorise night-time wolf shooting with thermal/night-vision devices prohibited under the Bern Convention Art. 8, raising legality and welfare issues;

RECALLING IUCN's commitment to science-based, ethical conservation in Resolutions 5.100 *Incorporation of the Rights of Nature as the organizational focal point in IUCN's decision making* (Jeju, 2012), 7.093 *A call for increased consideration of genetic diversity in IUCN planning and actions* (Marseille, 2020), 7.101 *Addressing human-wildlife conflict: fostering a safe and beneficial coexistence of people and wildlife* (Marseille, 2020) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF); and

ACKNOWLEDGING wolves' ecological role and obligations under the Bern Convention (Art. 2), the Convention on Biological Diversity (Art. 8(f)), and the KMGBF (Target 2) to restore and sustain healthy ecosystems.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Members to:

- a. urge Switzerland to amend hunting regulations ensuring wolf and wildlife management respects best available science, international obligations, and maintains viable populations of wolves, ibex, beavers and protected species; apply the *in dubio pro natura* precautionary principle consistently;
- b. call on Switzerland to ensure derogations are in line with Art. 9 of the Bern Convention; and where relevant use lethal control only as last resort, when no alternatives exist, and population survival is not compromised; prohibit killing methods banned under Art. 8;
- c. support Switzerland in prioritising non-lethal measures for preventing livestock harm, including herd protection, guardian animals, electric fencing and farmer support schemes proven to reduce depredation;

d. request the IUCN Secretariat and Commissions to provide technical assistance for science-based monitoring, herd protection standards, conflict-prevention programmes and review criteria for "non-protectable" herds to achieve favourable conservation status;

e. encourage IUCN State Members and Bern Convention Parties to resist politically motivated weakening of species protections and interpret treaty obligations consistent with conservation purpose; and

f. request the Director General to report to Council on progress engaging Switzerland, reaffirming that conservation decisions must be guided by science and international commitments rather than political expediency.