

2.63 Illegal and/or unsustainable trade of wildlife species among and from the Mekong riparian countries

RECOGNIZING that the increasing unsustainable trade of wildlife species occurring among and from the Mekong riparian States is threatening the conservation of species;

NOTING the developing socio-economic context and critical environmental situation, including increasing access to forest areas of the Mekong River riparian States;

AWARE of developing legal frameworks regulating wildlife trade in the Mekong River riparian States, including the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

AWARE that wildlife species are a source of food and traditional medicine and that trade currently threatens these uses;

AWARE of increasing demands for wildlife within and beyond the region;

RECALLING the Beijing Statement adopted by the participants in the Workshop on the Control of Wildlife in the Asian Region, hosted by the Ministry of Forestry of China (23–24 October 1995) in Beijing, China (attended by representatives of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, and Hong Kong) and the subsequent work conducted by the Mekong River riparian States;

AWARE of the structure of IUCN – The World Conservation Union, including the Species Survival Commission and its Specialist Groups, which provide independent scientific expertise, and the collaborative relationship IUCN has with relevant institutions; and

RECOGNIZING that IUCN's interest in facilitating exchange of information between riparian States, establishment of a common strategy to tackle unsustainable trade, and promotion of sustainable use of wild species for the long-term benefit of the Mekong River region;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

CALLS ON the Director General, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, and other agencies where relevant, to assist the Mekong River riparian States to:

- (a) increase general awareness of the impact of trade on the conservation of species and the long-term interests of States to prevent illegal and/or unsustainable trade, with a special focus on consumers, traders, and middlemen;
- (b) disseminate information to the media that contributes to the awareness of a wide range of stakeholders;

- (c) collect and provide to decision-makers, policy advisors, and officers in charge of law enforcement, accurate, scientifically based information on wildlife trade and its impact on wild populations;
- (d) conduct case studies on the ecological, social, cultural, and economic dynamics of wildlife trade;
- (e) incorporate the information from (c) and (d) above into the management of species in trade;
- (f) revise and update legal measures to implement CITES and encourage effective wildlife management;
- (g) improve the effectiveness of law enforcement, including training and the provision of resources to officers and border officials who control wildlife trade; and
- (h) strengthen the voice of these States in regional and international wildlife trade-related fora and develop common approaches to wildlife trade issues.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Resolution as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).