

**CMS**

# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.31

Original: English

## FIGHTING WILDLIFE CRIME AND OFFENCES WITHIN AND BEYOND BORDERS

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014)

*Recognizing* that wildlife crime and offences have reached an unprecedented scale and global reach, with wildlife trafficking being highly lucrative with little risk of prosecution and thus ranks right behind arms and drug smuggling and human trafficking worldwide;

*Concerned* that wildlife crime and offences cause an immense loss of revenue for States and local communities, severely damage livelihoods and ecosystems, negatively impact on sustainable utilization and tourism, and in some cases lead to threats to human lives and fund organized criminal and other violent groups;

*Acknowledging* that “The Future We Want”, adopted at Rio+20 and endorsed by consensus of the UN General Assembly, “recognize[d] the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides”;

*Taking note* of the UNEP Governing Council Decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability;

*Recognizing* the role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as the principal international instrument for ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the species’ survival;

*Welcoming* the adoption by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of a Resolution on illegal trade in wildlife (UNEP/EA.1/3), acknowledging the role of CMS in countering such illegal activities and including the call for strengthened cross-agency cooperation;

*Further welcoming* the creation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), which includes the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the secretariat of CITES, Interpol, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Bank, as an important collaborative effort to strengthen enforcement;

*Noting* the declaration and agreed urgent measures of the African Elephant Summit (Gaborone, December 2013), the declaration of the Elysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa (Paris, December 2013), the London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade (London, February 2014), the anti-poaching declaration of African Ministers of Tourism and UN World Tourism Organization (Berlin, April 2014) and the declaration of the Conference to Combat Wildlife Trafficking and Illicit Trade (Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, May 2014) and also noting the “African Elephant Action Plan” and “African Elephant Fund”;

*Further noting* that the species listed on the CMS Appendices include many of those most affected by wildlife crime and offences, including African elephants, Argali mountain sheep, Saiga antelopes, Snow leopards, gorillas, Saker falcons, sharks, sturgeons, Manta rays and marine turtles, and that their decline has severe negative impacts, both ecological and socio-economic;

*Concerned* that the African elephant is particularly affected by wildlife crime and offences including as a result of increased demand for ivory in consuming markets, with poaching rates surpassing the species’ natural growth rate and an estimated annual loss of more than 20,000 individuals in 2013 alone, which will result in an overall population decline of 20 per cent within the next 10 years, if the situation is not altered;

*Recognizing* the specific role of CMS in the global response to wildlife crime and offences by strengthening population management *in situ*, including population monitoring, awareness raising, capacity-building, national law enforcement and creation of alternative livelihoods, both within Range States and across national borders where wildlife crime and offences is often hardest to control;

*Recalling* the value of CMS instruments, including its regional agreements and action plans, and its role in creating a platform for engaging all relevant stakeholders in addressing wildlife crime and offences in concert with all other aspects of wildlife conservation and management;

*Further recalling* that CMS Parties have adopted Resolutions on minimizing the risk of poisoning to migratory birds (Res.10.26), on the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (Res.11.16) and on the Central Asian Mammal Initiative (Res.11.24), which includes a programme of work for the conservation of large mammal migrations in Central Asia providing *inter alia* for anti-poaching and other actions to minimize wildlife crime;

*Recognizing* that wildlife crime and offences are not confined to terrestrial landscapes but also have an impact on the marine environment, where Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) constitutes a severe threat to migratory species, especially in the High Seas but also in areas within national jurisdiction;

*Further recognising* Parties efforts to develop and implement legislative provisions and programmes and to promote the sustainable utilization of wildlife as an integral part of conservation and secure livelihoods of vulnerable communities; and

*Welcoming* the close collaboration between CMS and CITES in working towards the sustainable use of transboundary wildlife including measures to eradicate wildlife crime and offences and *noting* the adoption of the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020 at

the 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee;

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Encourages* Parties and non-Parties to take measures to increase awareness of wildlife crime and offences among their enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities and the civil society;
2. *Urges* Parties to take appropriate measures to ensure that their legislative framework provides for penalties for wildlife crime that are effective, act as a deterrent and reflect the gravity of the offence and provide for the confiscation of specimens taken in violation of the Convention;
3. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Parties to strengthen national and transboundary law enforcement with emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation and intelligence sharing between relevant stakeholders, such as rangers, wildlife management, customs, police and the military;
4. *Suggests* that Parties and non-Parties establish cooperative bilateral and multilateral arrangements for the management of shared wildlife populations and habitats with common boundaries, in order to minimize illegal taking and trafficking;
5. *Encourages* Parties, where relevant and appropriate, to enhance cooperation for the repatriation of live, illegally-traded wildlife and promote the establishment of legal frameworks in recipient countries that ensure a timely and cost-efficient repatriation of live animals and eggs, ensuring that any such framework is consistent with Parties' obligations under CITES and subject to relevant biosecurity and environmental concerns and policies;
6. *Encourages* Parties and non-Parties, funding agencies and CMS Partners to support capacity-building nationally, across borders and in the High Seas for rangers, customs, police, the military and other relevant bodies;
7. *Calls upon* Parties, non-Parties and relevant development agencies to promote alternative livelihoods in local communities in order to minimize wildlife crime and offences;
8. *Suggests* the enacting of national laws that prohibit the possession and sale of illegally obtained wildlife specimens and products other than those that have been confiscated;
9. *Recommends* that Parties and non-Parties work to reduce demand for illegally obtained wildlife specimens and products within their domestic markets and utilize the CMS framework to exchange knowledge and lessons learned regarding successful demand-side reduction strategies;
10. *Proposes* that Parties and relevant funding agencies provide adequate, predictable and timely financial support for implementing the provisions of this Resolution;

11. *Calls upon* Parties and other Range States that have not already done so, to sign the CMS instruments relevant to species particularly affected by wildlife crime and offences, such as the Gorilla Agreement, AEWA, and the MOUs on Sharks, Raptors and IOSEA marine turtles, and to implement the relevant provisions;
12. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariat and the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and *encourages* the Secretariat to continue working closely with the CPW;
13. *Encourages* the many stakeholders addressing wildlife crime affecting migratory species to collaborate closely, including Parties, non-Parties, intergovernmental, international and national organizations, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and established networks, such as ICCWC and each of its partner agencies (CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the WCO), UNEP, Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), and regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs); and
14. *Instructs* the Secretariat to continue strengthening collaboration with relevant stakeholders in order to address wildlife crime and offences.