

Conf. 17.1

(Rev. CoP18)*

World Wildlife Day

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 16.1 adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2013) declares 3 March, the day of signing of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as World Wildlife Day;

WELCOMING resolution A/RES/68/205, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 68th session on 20 December 2013, proclaiming 3 March as the United Nations World Wildlife Day;

NOTING that the United Nations General Assembly invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other global, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe and raise awareness of World Wildlife Day in an appropriate manner, in accordance with national priorities;

NOTING also that the United Nations General Assembly requests the CITES Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate the implementation of World Wildlife Day;

RECOGNIZING that, for the purpose of World Wildlife Day, “wildlife” means wild animals and plants;

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts of the CITES Secretariat in facilitating the implementation of World Wildlife Day, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system and others, with no additional financial resources;

RECOGNIZING that World Wildlife Day provides a unique opportunity to, *inter alia*, mobilize people around the world to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora, demonstrate the multitude of benefits that wildlife provides to people, and raise awareness of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime which has wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts; and

WELCOMING the tremendous support generated by World Wildlife Day for the conservation of wildlife, and the ever growing level of participation across the world in the observance of the day;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. CALLS upon all Parties to use World Wildlife Day as an opportunity to celebrate and raise the awareness of the general public regarding the world’s wild animals and plants; to enhance efforts to enforce wildlife protection laws and to reduce demand for illegally traded wild animals and plants; and to recognize the contribution of wildlife to the livelihoods of poor rural communities in various ways;
2. INVITES all Parties and non-party States, national and international organizations with an interest in wildlife conservation, to associate celebrations of World Wildlife Day to national, regional and international conservation events, where appropriate, and to communicate the planned activities to the Secretariat in advance;
3. ENCOURAGES all Parties to follow the theme adopted for each observance of World Wildlife Day and, where appropriate, to adapt it to the focus of species or issues of national priority, and to use the World Wildlife Day logo and other promotional materials as widely as possible, including on websites and social media;

* Amended at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

4. INVITES all Parties and non-party States to designate one lead person for coordinating the celebration of World Wildlife Day in the country and as focal point of communication with the Secretariat;
5. ENCOURAGES all Parties, through their national ministries of education or other relevant authorities responsible for education, to consider making the observance of World Wildlife Day a regular event on the calendars of kindergartens, schools and universities, and to invite zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums, nature reserves, national parks, and all other wildlife-related facilities to observe the day on a regular basis;
6. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to facilitate the global celebration of World Wildlife Day, to maintain the website and social media platforms of World Wildlife Day, to produce promotional materials and to work with partner organizations on social media campaigns for World Wildlife Day each year;
7. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to work with the Secretariat to, *inter alia*, recommend the theme for each year's observance of World Wildlife Day;
8. REQUESTS the Secretariat to liaise with relevant United Nations system organizations to seek their support in the observance of World Wildlife Day and, when appropriate, invite them to act as the main partner of the global celebrations, including the organization of high-level events, the development of promotional materials, social media package so that World Wildlife Day is prepared in accordance with the selected theme;
9. APPEALS to all Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations and to the private sector interested in wildlife conservation and in promoting World Wildlife Day, to make voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to the Secretariat in order to allow it to better facilitate the global observance of the Day; and
10. REPEALS Resolution Conf. 16.1 (Bangkok, 2013) – *World Wildlife Day*.