

WELCOMING the efforts of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife and South Africa's Youth and Conservation Programme to engage young people and serve as examples of ways to integrate youth in wildlife conservation, including CITES matters;

ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth will one day be in decision-making positions and that organizations responsible for wildlife conservation decisions must engage these people now to equip them to be stronger leaders in the future;

RECOGNIZING that by welcoming today's youth into species conservation and wildlife trade conversations, our decision makers will add a rich diversity of ideas and solutions;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth have come of age in a generation very different than those before it, including great technological advancement, and that the skills held by younger colleagues can be valuable tools to ensure that wildlife trade is legal and sustainable;

### THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ENCOURAGES Parties to explore opportunities to engage today's youth in CITES and other wildlife conservation issues, for example through internship or mentoring programs;
2. INVITES Parties and the CITES Secretariat to work with universities, youth groups, and other relevant associations and organizations, to create educated and engaged youth networks that can inform and influence conservation decisions;
3. INVITES Parties and observer organizations to include youth delegates on official delegations and provide learning opportunities at CITES meetings.