

Conf. 18.8

Conservation of vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) and trade in its fibre and products

AWARE of the importance of the vicuña as a successful example of recovering a species on the brink of extinction through the coordinated efforts and commitment of its range States, the high Andean communities and international cooperation;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of sustainable use of vicuña, based on the shearing of live animals, for high Andean communities in the range States, and the economic and cultural value of the species for those communities;

RECOGNIZING the legal framework provided by and the important role of the *Convention for the conservation and management of the vicuña* as the regional mechanism for regulating the sustainable use of the species;

WELCOMING in this regard the relevant decisions adopted regarding common policies among range States to manage the vicuña populations, including the use of marks and traceability systems, as well as the prevention and combatting of poaching and the related illegal trade in vicuña fibre;

RECALLING that vicuña populations have been gradually transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II since 1987;

EXPRESSING SERIOUS CONCERN over the levels of vicuña poaching as a potential threat to populations of the species in several signatory countries;

RECOGNIZING that illegal trade in vicuña fibre is an obstacle to the conservation and sustainable use of vicuñas on a global scale, and reaches beyond range States and traditional consumer countries;

COMMENDING, at the same time, the measures adopted, and the efforts deployed by range States and by non-range States to control and reduce vicuña poaching and the illegal trade of vicuña fibre obtained from dead animals;

ALSO RECALLING Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods* concerning the need to effectively empower and engage rural communities managing vicuña populations, maximizing the livelihoods of such communities;

RECOGNIZING the alarming surge in vicuña poaching throughout its range in each of the countries, including geographically isolated populations in Chile, which is affecting relict populations with a marginal distribution and making them more vulnerable;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the need to discuss a number of issues related to the implementation of annotation 1, including marketing processes, added value, traceability, difficulties faced in negotiation processes relating to vicuña fibre, and the use of the marks *Vicuña [Country of origin]* and *Vicuña [Country of origin] – Artesanía*, together with CITES Authorities from the five signatory countries and some of the major importing countries;

AWARE that the traceability of vicuña fibre is not occurring throughout the entire value chain because of the successive re-exports that turn fibre into fabric and manufactured products, with varying percentages of vicuña fibre content and different forms of identification – in some cases, even losing the identification of its country of origin;

RECOGNIZING the need to rely on the support of the Parties and international cooperation to provide assistance to the five range States and protect vicuña populations, their habitat, and the high Andean communities that benefit from the sustainable use of this important, emblematic species;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. URGES:

Range States

- a) to update their legislation and administrative procedures with regard to the implementation of annotation 1 to ensure that effective trade and management measures are in place;
- b) to be vigilant in their controls, including the prevention of poaching and illegal offtake, early detection of potential offenders, and the application of appropriate penalties as effective deterrents;
- c) to strengthen and foster research, capacity-building, and data recording and analysis in order to improve trade control and management of the species;
- d) to guarantee the sustainable management of populations listed in Appendix II, and to ensure that trade in vicuña fibre and manufactured products benefits the high Andean communities;

Re-exporting/importing States and other Parties

- e) re-exporting/importing States, as a matter of priority, to implement strategies aimed at eliminating the use of illegal vicuña fibre by promoting incentives that encourage the collaboration amongst all groups of users and industries;
 - f) all Parties trading in vicuña fibre to identify and record existing volumes of vicuña fibre in order to ensure appropriate traceability and control of the fibre, and prevent illegal specimens to enter legal markets;
 - g) all Parties to enforce the use of mandatory labelling required by annotation 1 for trade in products derived from vicuña fibre sheared from live animals;
 - h) all Parties to take measures as appropriate to help range States reduce poaching and their illegal trade in vicuña fibre, and to cooperate, where appropriate, with relevant enforcement authorities; and
 - i) vicuña range States and importing countries to increase cooperation on enforcement matters through existing mechanisms for the enforcement of international, regional, and national laws;
2. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat, subject to the availability of external funding, to:
- a) provide assistance to range States in developing national and regional conservation plans that include measures intended to promote sustainable management of the species and eradicate illegal trade; and
 - b) assist range States of *Vicugna vicugna* in the application of the provisions of this Resolution;
3. URGES vicuña range States, re-exporting/importing States, other Parties and stakeholders to cooperate in compiling data on illegal trade in vicuña to submit under the annual illegal trade report to the Secretariat;
4. CALLS UPON all governments, intergovernmental organizations, relevant international agencies, and non-governmental organizations to provide funding for the implementation of conservation activities for this species, particularly activities aimed at conserving the vicuña populations, engaging high Andean communities, strengthening marking and traceability systems, preventing vicuña poaching and eradicating the illegal trade of vicuña fibre;
5. URGES all vicuña range States and main importing countries of vicuña fibre and garments to organize effective and compelling training and awareness-raising campaigns and seminars to put an end to the illegal trade in the species; and

6. URGES the constructive engagement of all Parties to the Convention, and synergies with the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Vicuña in order to achieve the objectives of this Resolution.