

CGR4.MOT036-Rev1

Non-lethal utilization of whales

BEARING IN MIND that, under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) all species of baleen whales and the sperm whale are included in Appendix I (threatened with extinction) (except the West Greenland population of minke whales, which is listed on Appendix II);

RECALLING that, pursuant to Article 65 of the Convention on the Law of the Sea, coastal States have the right and the duty to ensure conservation, management and study of cetacean species;

EMPHASISING that marine areas protected on the basis of population studies, habitat use and cetacean home ranges may benefit marine ecosystems;

NOTING that whale-watching tourism provides economic and social benefits to many more communities and countries than commercial whaling, and that currently more than 500 coastal communities worldwide benefit directly from this activity, which attracts 10 million visitors and generates more than US\$ 1 billion of direct income per annum;

RECALLING resolution 2007-3 (Resolution on the non-lethal use of cetaceans) adopted by the IWC at its 59th annual meeting at which the Commission inter alia recognized the valuable benefits that can be derived from the non-lethal uses of cetaceans as a resource, both in terms of socio-economic and scientific development and recognized non-lethal use as a legitimate management strategy;

FURTHER NOTING that in a number of countries where whaling is also conducted including inter alia Norway, Iceland and Japan whale watching is a multi million dollar industry; and

RECOGNIZING that the IWC allows for aboriginal subsistence whaling quotas provided that conditions set by the IWC are met;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008:

1. AFFIRMS that non-lethal utilization of cetaceans can provide valuable benefits in terms of socio-economic development
2. CALLS ON governments and IUCN Members to strengthen cetacean management and conservation strategies, and as appropriate consider inter alia extending or designating marine protected areas and sanctuaries;
3. URGES IUCN members and Commissions and other relevant organisations including UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), UNEP, UNDP to promote whale-watching tourism, which when carried out in a responsible and sustainable manner can contribute to the conservation of whales while providing economic and livelihoods benefits for coastal communities.

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