

Milan Declaration: Hunters United against Wildlife Crime

CICGA61.APRIL14

RECALLING the *Global Summit – Hunters United against Wildlife Crime* on 24th April, 2014 within the framework of the *61st CIC General Assembly*

RECOGNISING the devastating impact of unprecedented levels of wildlife crime, including illegal take and trafficking, on wildlife populations, precious ecosystems and our natural heritage.

WELCOMING the global attention and commitment to fight wildlife crime demonstrated by the recent high-level national, bi-lateral and multi-lateral initiatives, conferences and summits.

CONCERNED that these good-intentioned efforts to fight wildlife crime often fail to distinguish between legal and illegal wildlife use and trade.

APPREHENSIVE that devaluing and weakening the historically tested and proven tools of wildlife conservation based on regulated extractive and non-extractive sustainable use of wildlife resources will have long term detrimental impacts on wildlife and wildlife-dependent communities.

The 61st CIC General Assembly in Milan, Italy

REAFFIRMS the central duty of the global hunting community to abide by all wildlife laws and to sanction any misconduct in our own rank and file, to create and maintain transparent processes in the management of hunting, to show zero-tolerance for wildlife crime and to vigorously oppose all unsustainable and/or illegal wildlife use and trade.

HIGHLIGHTS the significant and vital role hunters have played in the history of the conservation of wildlife and wild places and their ongoing on-the-ground actions against wildlife crime and poaching in individual countries.

REITERATES that well-regulated and sustainable wildlife use based on science and good governance has proven to be most effective, when the economic and cultural interests of local communities and indigenous peoples are met and their cooperation in wildlife conservation systems is ensured.

CALLS on the global hunting community at every level local, national and international to join forces with public, community and private partners as well as wildlife conservation organizations to arrest and reverse wildlife crime through evidence-based, pragmatic, timely and coordinated actions.

ANNOUNCES that fighting wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trade is a strategic priority for the CIC and that the CIC will build on the outcomes of the *Global Summit – Hunters United against Wildlife Crime* in coordination with our partners in order to fulfil the hunters' historical role as the foremost guardians and stewards of wildlife and habitats. Progress on the *Fight Against Wildlife Crime* will be addressed at each subsequent CIC General Assembly.