

23. Use of Immobilization Techniques

Noting the widespread interest in immobilization techniques based on drugs for the capture and translocation of wild animals, and the fact that these are being increasingly employed in attempts to capture animals throughout the world

recognizing that when properly used such techniques can be successful, but that there is under the best of conditions a considerable risk attached to their use, and, if employed by inexperienced persons especially on species not previously immobilized or under different conditions from those in which trials have taken place, they may have little chance of leading to successful capture and every chance of resulting in death or injury to the animals and

further noting that the use of these techniques was considered to be of sufficiently grave importance that the IUCN Conference on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in Tropical South East Asia, held in Bangkok in 1965, passed a similar resolution warning against their use on rare species

the 9th General Assembly of IUCN meeting in Lucerne in June 1966

recommends that these techniques should not be used, except by qualified and experienced personnel who have carried out all the necessary experimental work on methods, drugs and dosages, so that these can be applied with confidence to the species and environmental conditions involved ; and then only when equal or better results cannot be obtained by conventional techniques and

further recommends that when the capture particularly of rare or threatened species is planned, the authorities of countries in which the species are found and the authorities or institutions responsible for the expedition do all possible to assure that those engaged in the capture effort observe this recommendation, and invites them always to make use of technical advice or services offered by IUCN.