

18.24 Conservation of Wildlife through Wise Use as a Renewable Natural Resource

RECOGNIZING that use of wildlife may be consumptive or non-consumptive;

NOTING that some countries successfully conserve many species of their wildlife without using them consumptively, and that in many other countries the use of wildlife is necessary for the well-being of their people;

RECALLING that two fundamental aims of the World Conservation Strategy are to ensure the conservation of species and ecosystems for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of humankind;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the mission of IUCN is to provide leadership and promote a common approach for the world conservation movement in order to safeguard the integrity and diversity of the natural world, and to ensure that human use of natural resources is appropriate, sustainable and equitable;

RECOGNIZING that some wildlife conservation programmes provide for sustainable use;

CONSCIOUS of the complementary role provided by protected area management for wildlife conservation and the importance of such protected areas in maintaining biological diversity;

UNDERSTANDING that a country's lands (including its rivers, wetlands and territorial seas) are fundamental assets due to their potential for producing food and other natural products and that there are economic and humanitarian constraints on the extent to which they can be maintained as natural habitats;

RECOGNIZING that more effective mechanisms must be found that contribute towards the future economies of countries through wise use and conservation of their renewable natural resources;

CONCERNED that the decline of species and the loss of genetic diversity are often due to loss of suitable habitat and exploitation at levels that cannot be sustained;

BELIEVING that properly managed projects for the sustainable use of wildlife can enhance the conservation of wildlife populations and their ecosystems because of the economic and other benefits that such use provides;

NOTING that governments, IUCN members, development assistance agencies, and others are seeking guidance and assistance in the formulation of policies and the practical design and implementation of field projects on sustainable use of wildlife;

RECOGNIZING that the process of developing IUCN guidelines (including safeguards) for sustainable use of wildlife was initiated by a Workshop on Sustainable Utilization of Wildlife, held at this session of the General Assembly;

The General Assembly of IUCN—The World

Conservation Union, at its 18th Session in Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990:

1. AFFIRMS that ethical, wise and sustainable use of some wildlife can provide an alternative or supplementary means of productive land-use, and can be consistent with and encourage conservation, where such use is in accordance with adequate safeguards, namely:
 - a. sound, scientifically-based monitoring mechanisms to ensure that such use is maintained at levels which can be sustained by the wild populations without adversely affecting the species' role in the ecosystem or the ecosystem itself;
 - b. compliance with national and international legal obligations and policies;
 - c. provision for the protection of wild animals from avoidable cruelty and suffering;
 - d. conformity with the IUCN guidelines to be developed in accordance with sub-paragraph 5(a) below;
2. URGES all countries to:
 - a. establish an adequate system of protected areas as an adjunct to the development of sustainable wildlife use programmes to further ensure the conservation of the species involved in such programmes;
 - b. consider whether such sustainable use programmes based on IUCN guidelines, to be developed in accordance with sub-paragraph 5(a) below, would create economic and other incentives for the retention, rehabilitation and management of natural habitats and their biological assemblages outside such protected areas;
 - c. urgently review, where necessary and desirable, current programmes and practices involving the use of wildlife and modify them to ensure their sustainability and conformity with the IUCN guidelines to be developed in accordance with sub-paragraph 5(a) below;
3. RECOGNIZES that, consistent with national and international legal obligations and policies, trade in clearly identified products derived from properly managed sustainable use of wildlife carried out in accordance with agreed guidelines and safeguards (as developed in accordance with sub-paragraph 5(a) below) can confer incentives that enhance the conservation of the species or population involved;
4. ENCOURAGES range states of shared populations of wildlife to cooperate in the conservation of such populations through international agreements;
5. REQUESTS the Director General to coordinate IUCN programme activities, in consultation with the Species Survival Commission and in collaboration with IUCN members, to:
 - a. develop guidelines based on scientific, socio-economic, and traditional knowledge, the principle of equitable allocation of resources and distribution of benefits, and on other criteria recommended by the Workshop on Sustainable Utilization of Wildlife, for

consideration by the Council;

- b. work to achieve the agreement of IUCN members to endorse and implement those guidelines;
 - c. undertake or sponsor field projects to research and test factors needed to ensure successful sustainable use of wildlife;
 - d. review as appropriate existing programmes and practices involving the use of wildlife and recommend modifications necessary in order to conform with the IUCN guidelines;
6. REQUESTS the Director General to investigate mechanisms to ensure, in so far as practicable, the equitable distribution of income and other benefits derived from the use of wildlife as set forth in this recommendation.

