

## 18.25 Methods for Capturing and/or Killing of Terrestrial or Semi-aquatic Wild Animals

RECOGNIZING that the sustainable use of wild animals for human benefit is in keeping with the World Conservation Strategy;

CONSIDERING that conservation implies a sense of caring, and concern for the welfare of wild animals that are killed or captured;

AWARE that certain capture systems are non-selective and may cause injuries or suffering of target as well as non-target animals, and are therefore undesirable;

RECALLING that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has established a Technical Committee to develop international, scientifically-based trap standards that member State organizations should supplement with appropriate regulations;

NOTING that considerable research directed towards the perfection of more humane, practical trapping methods is in progress;

The General Assembly of IUCN—The World Conservation Union, at its 18th Session in Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990:

1. UPHOLDS the sustainable use of wild animals for human benefit as in keeping with the World Conservation Strategy;
2. URGES that, when a wild animal is captured and/or killed, it is done in a sustainable and humane way, based on an understanding of the ecology of the species concerned, and without adverse consequences for the conservation of other species, the integrity of ecosystems or the achievement of other conservation objectives, which may include the strict protection of national parks;
3. ASSERTS that the conservation ethic demands that methods used to capture and/or kill wild animals must be as specific, immediate and humane as practicable, and that methods should:
  - a. be developed and applied to permit release without injury of non-target animals;
  - b. require that any capture device be regularly visited in order to release any non-target animal, and should avoid any unnecessary impairment of health and well-being which might result in premature death of such an animal;
4. WELCOMES the initiative of the International Organization for Standardization in providing a forum for the development of international, scientifically-based, humane trap standards and urges the broadest practicable international association with this work, especially involving participation from the developing countries;
5. URGES IUCN members to ensure that the most

humane and selective techniques available are employed in the capture and/or killing of wild animals;

6. URGES IUCN State members to adopt regulations setting out specific humane trapping practices;
7. ADOPTS the goal of eliminating, as soon as practicable, the use of inhumane traps throughout the world;
8. PROPOSES that where a trapping method can clearly be replaced by a more humane one, assistance, including financial assistance and training, should be given in order to achieve a substitution, and that trap exchange programmes be encouraged for certain traps such as inhumane ones set on land on the basis that they are exchanged and destroyed.

*Note: All sections of this recommendation were adopted by consensus except for operative paragraph 8. A proposal by certain members to make specific mention in this paragraph of steel-jawed leghold traps set on land as inhumane and needing substitution was not carried. Operative paragraph 8 was subsequently adopted by a substantial majority.*



