

## 19.51 Introduction, Translocation and Re-introduction of Species

ACKNOWLEDGING that the introduction of species to areas outside their current range can have important conservation impacts, either beneficial or detrimental depending on the circumstances;

RECOGNIZING that the ability of many introduced species to spread far beyond their area of release makes such introductions a matter of national, regional and global concern;

RECALLING the IUCN Position Statement of 4 September 1987 on this subject;

CONSIDERING that, even in the carefully planned introduction of particular species, there can be the inadvertent introduction of associated parasitic, pathogenic organisms (viruses, protozoal bacteria, metazoan parasites, fungi), which can have serious detrimental impacts on native fauna and flora;

AWARE of the recent work of the Re-introductions Specialist Group of IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) to develop new IUCN guidelines on the re-introduction of plant and animal species, and guidelines on the rehabilitation and release of confiscated specimens of plants and animals;

AWARE also that SSC has recently established an Invasive Species Specialist Group;

NOTING that many international bodies and Conventions have also drawn attention to the importance of the issue of the translocation of living organisms, most recently in Articles 8(h) and 9(c) of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

CONCERNED, however, that examples of ecologically harmful introductions continue to occur and, on the other hand, that full use is not being made of re-introductions and restocking as positive conservation tools;

BELIEVING that internationally recognized protocols and guidelines for introductions and re-introductions could improve practice;

The General Assembly of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, at its 19th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-26 January 1994:

1. CALLS UPON governments, government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to give high priority to the prevention, by legislative devices and other means, of the introduction of alien species which are considered likely to threaten indigenous wildlife, and to the eradication or control of such species which have already become established, in accordance with the principles of the IUCN Position Statement of 4 September 1987;
2. FURTHER CALLS UPON governments, government agencies and NGOs to recognize and take advantage of the conservation benefits to be gained from re-establishing species in parts of their former range from which they have been lost, where the best scientific evidence is that conditions are appropriate for re-establishment;
3. ENCOURAGES competent authorities to engage in regional cooperation and consultation in order to predict and monitor the threats posed by alien species, to prevent or minimize negative impacts and to maximize the conservation benefits of the planned translocation of species;
4. CALLS UPON the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and IUCN to coordinate their work

on the disposition, including repatriation, of confiscated specimens in line with the requirement of Article VIII of that Convention, and the IUCN Position Statement;

REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to strengthen IUCN's involvement in this area and in particular SSC's work on:

- (a) completing guidelines for re-introductions (re-establishments) for submission to the IUCN Council for endorsement;
  - (b) developing guidelines on the pre-introduction screening of species proposed for intentional introduction outside their natural range and on the control and eradication of introduced species that have become invasive;
  - (c) developing guidelines for the repatriation and disposition of confiscated specimens;
  - (d) ensuring that issues of risk and health associated with the re-introduction of species are fully addressed in any guidelines developed;
6. REQUESTS SSC to seek new resources to enhance the capacities of the Re-introductions and Invasive Species Specialist Group.