

19.54 Sustainability of Nonconsumptive and Consumptive Uses of Wild Species

ACKNOWLEDGING the great interest in the sustainable use of wild species as a conservation tool;

RECALLING that both the World Conservation Strategy and *Caring for the Earth* emphasize that wild species should be conserved for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of people;

NOTING that uses of wild species involve plants as well as animals, and that uses may be consumptive and nonconsumptive;

NOTING further that the development of guidelines for ecologically sustainable use does not imply, where existing range State legislation sets an effective standard of protection for a specific wild species within that State, that such protection should be removed;

AWARE that numerous cases exist where wild species are not being used sustainably and that these undermine conservation and public confidence in arguments for sustainable use;

RECOGNIZING the extensive work carried out by the IUCN/SSC Specialist Group on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species and the IUCN Sustainable Use Programme to prepare draft Guidelines for the Ecological Sustainability of Nonconsumptive and Consumptive Uses of Wild Species as called for in Recommendation 18.24 of the 18th Session of the General Assembly;

AWARE, however, that a meeting of the IUCN/SSC Specialist Group on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species and the Workshop on Sustainable Use of Living Natural Resources recommended that the Guidelines not be adopted by the General Assembly, but instead be tested and revised in consultation with a wide range of IUCN members;

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

1. REAFFIRMS that Recommendation 18.24 defines IUCN policy and is the basis for all relevant IUCN decisions on the sustainable use of wild species, and that this policy is an integral part of the Mission of the Union;
2. URGES all States to ensure to the extent possible that any use of wild species is ecologically sustainable;
3. REQUESTS the Director General and the Chair of SSC, within available resources, and in cooperation with the members of the Union and interested governments:
 - (a) to test the draft Guidelines in the context of enhancing the conservation of species and habitats;
 - (b) to ensure that the revised guidelines take into account *inter alia* the different socio-economic, cultural and legal conditions that prevail in different parts of the world;
4. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources:
 - (a) to provide revised draft Guidelines for consideration at the 20th Session of the General Assembly;
 - (b) in cooperation with members and Commissions, to strengthen the IUCN programmes concerned with ecologically sustainable use:
 - (i) to take a lead in communicating the role and importance that ecologically

sustainable use of wild species can have in conserving biodiversity;

- (ii) to work, as a priority, with governments to correct situations in which wild species are being used unsustainably.