

1.39 Sustainable Use Initiative

RECOGNIZING that wild fauna and flora are vital to human survival;

REAFFIRMING Recommendation 18.24 of the 18th Session of the IUCN General Assembly, on Conservation of Wildlife Through Wise Use as a Renewable Natural Resource, 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 appropriate safeguards”;

RECALLING FURTHER the request to the Director General to coordinate IUCN programme activities, in consultation with the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and in collaboration with members, to develop guidelines for the sustainable use of wildlife;

AWARE ALSO that the 19th Session of the General Assembly, following an examination and evaluation of draft guidelines by specialists, adopted Recommendation 19.54 on Sustainability of Non-consumptive and Consumptive Uses of Wild Species, which requested the Director General to test and revise the draft guidelines for sustainable use for consideration by the next Session of the General Assembly;

RECOGNIZING the increasing importance that the international community has attached to the sustainable use of natural resources under such intergovernmental instruments and agreements as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention, Agenda 21, the Global Environment Facility and other internationally endorsed policy and financial instruments;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that the Mission of IUCN clearly commits the Union to ensuring that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that where use of wild species occurs, whether consumptive or non-consumptive, sustainability is a goal of sound resource management;

AWARE that numerous social, political, economic, ecological and technical factors, both direct and indirect, influence sustainability through relationships which may be complex;

APPRECIATING the efforts of the former SSC Specialist Group on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species to derive, through a series of extensive consultations, a broad understanding of the factors affecting the sustainability of uses of natural renewable resources and acknowledging their work as recorded in *Assessing the Sustainability of Uses of Wild Species: Case Studies and Initial Assessment Procedures*;

ACKNOWLEDGING the report tabled at the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress by the Sustainable Use Specialist Group as reconstituted under the Sustainable Use Initiative in compliance with Recommendation 19.54 on Sustainability of Non-consumptive and Consumptive Uses of Wild Species;

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO that the general considerations of sustainability, identified in the present report of the reconstituted Sustainable Use Specialist Group provide a practical and realistic approach to issues in sustainable use;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that, in addition to biological factors, conservation strategies and management regimes are influenced strongly by the economic, social, political and cultural characteristics of the regions and the peoples involved in the activity, and that other programme activities of the Union are also concerned with the subject;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report to this 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress of the reconstituted Sustainable Use Specialist Group, which report is based on regional analyses and deliberations;
2. ACKNOWLEDGES that the sustainability of any particular use of wild fauna or flora or ecosystems in any particular area will be enhanced when management is approached with flexibility, consideration of historical experiences and planning that provides for risk and uncertainty;

3. ENDORSES the utility of the regionalized structure of the Sustainable Use Initiative as an effective means of harnessing and applying the collective knowledge of members, institutions and others about the sustainable management and conservation of wild fauna and flora;
4. REQUESTS the Director General and the Chair of the Species Survival Commission, within available resources, to strengthen their collaborative efforts to ensure that the Sustainable Use Initiative continues its important work, through the Sustainable Use Specialist Group, in identifying and evaluating the principles and elements of management that contribute to enhancing the sustainability of uses of wild fauna and flora, and to increasing the conservation advantages that may accrue from such uses;
5. DECIDES for the time being to set aside the requirement contained in Recommendations 18.24 and 19.54 for the preparation of draft Guidelines for the Ecological Sustainability of Non-Consumptive and Consumptive Uses of Wild Species;
6. SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS the SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group to develop urgently a short policy paper on sustainable use for written comment from IUCN members, and requests SSC to take these comments into account in preparing a final draft for presentation at the next World Conservation Congress;
7. URGES Regional Sustainable Use Specialist Groups to provide information to IUCN Regional Offices and/or National Committees, as appropriate;
8. REQUESTS the Director General, within available resources, to provide the necessary financial and administrative support necessary to sustain the continued activities of the regional specialist groups under the Sustainable Use Initiative, in close coordination with other programmes of the Union such as the Social Policy Programme, and in accordance with the Union's policy to regionalize and decentralize its programme.