

**REC 3.093 Application of the IUCN Sustainable Use Policy to sustainable consumptive use of wildlife and recreational hunting in southern Africa**

RECALLING that the conservation of biological diversity is central to the mission of IUCN (*Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources*, Annex to Resolution 2.29 adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress, Amman, 2000);

RECOGNIZING that in southern Africa, as encompassed by the IUCN Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA), the total area of communal and privately owned land on which the sustainable consumptive use of wildlife through the trading of live animals and recreational hunting takes place, exceeds that of all state-owned protected areas;

UNDERSTANDING that in southern Africa, ecologically sustainable consumptive use of wildlife may contribute to the conservation of biodiversity by providing an economic incentive for the conservation of natural areas;

NOTING that there is a range of options for deriving economic and ecosystem/conservation benefits from the presence of wildlife, including ecotourism, and that sustainable consumptive use is simply one of these options, and should be assessed along with other options to determine which option is most ecologically appropriate;

NOTING strong opposition to all forms of ‘Canned Hunting’ (where the hunted animals have little or no chance of escape);

RECOGNIZING that policies aimed at biodiversity conservation need to be based also on the particular values, circumstances and cultures of specific regions;

RECOGNIZING that in much of southern Africa, wildlife on communal and privately-owned land is accommodated because it also provides an economically viable form of land use; and that where it is successfully implemented, well-managed consumptive utilization, including recreational hunting, enables retention of wildlife populations and ecosystem functions on large areas of land that would otherwise be used for agriculture; and

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that the management of these populations and their habitats makes a contribution to biodiversity conservation;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

1. SUPPORTS the philosophy and practice that on state, communal and privately-owned land in southern Africa the sustainable and well-managed consumptive use of wildlife makes a contribution to biodiversity conservation;
2. ACCEPTS that well-managed recreational hunting has a role in the managed sustainable consumptive use of wildlife populations;
3. CONDEMNS the killing of animals in small enclosures where they have little or no chance of escape or where they do not exist as free-ranging; and
4. RECOMMENDS those agencies in Southern Africa responsible for:
  - (a) the control of wildlife utilization and hunting should implement measures to ensure that codes of high ethical conduct and standards are achieved and maintained in accordance with the *Earth Charter* (Article 15b) and to give use of the remains to the local communities; and

(b) biodiversity conservation should take steps to increase public awareness and understanding of the role of the ecologically sustainable use of wildlife.

State member Sweden abstained from voting on this motion for reasons given in the Swedish Government's general statement on the motions process (see page x).

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

*State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.*