

REC 3.094 Management of large terrestrial herbivores 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 that was adopted at the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress in Amman, Jordan, 2000);

RECOGNIZING that, where natural dispersal of large terrestrial herbivores is constrained, and their populations pose a threat to an area's biodiversity, it may be necessary for agencies responsible for managing ecosystems to control those populations;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that control of large terrestrial herbivores is potentially an emotive issue and a source of concern for many people; and

AWARE OF the need to take precautions to minimize stress and suffering when implementing population control;

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

1. RECOMMENDS that agencies in southern Africa responsible for managing ecosystems, particularly protected areas managed for biodiversity conservation, should:

(a) consider ecological solutions, such as allowing connectivity and the natural dispersion of species across and within their ranges, and allowing ecosystems to function as a first priority; and

(b) where necessary, through research and monitoring, determine whether population control of large terrestrial herbivores may be warranted;

2. FURTHER RECOMMENDS, in recognition of the potentially emotive nature of population control, that agencies responsible for managing ecosystems:

(a) take steps to increase general public awareness of the potential adverse impacts of certain populations of large terrestrial herbivores; and

(b) consult with stakeholders and the public and conduct awareness campaigns with regard to specific cases where population control may be necessary; and

3. URGES all involved in population control, where population control is deemed necessary, to take precautions to minimize stress and suffering to animals.

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.