

WCC-2016-Rec-100-EN

Management and regulation of selective intensive breeding of large wild mammals¹ for commercial purposes

RECOGNISING that responsible wildlife use is a component of sustainable socio-economic development, especially in dryland ecosystems in developing countries, and that responsible wildlife use and conservation are interdependent;

OBSERVING that current uses of indigenous wildlife include intensive selective breeding, associated with deliberate manipulation of the breeding process to produce animals with specific traits, and that this may involve hybridisation across species, subspecies or other recognised evolutionary boundaries;

FURTHER OBSERVING that selective breeding is taking place on a large scale in some areas and that some animals may escape or be released into the wild;

FURTHER OBSERVING that this selective breeding and intensification of management may ultimately increase domestication of wildlife;

CONCERNED that large-scale intensive and selective breeding may have direct and indirect detrimental consequences for biodiversity;

FURTHER CONCERNED that these detrimental effects will reduce the ability of eco-tourism and hunting to contribute sustainably to the economy and human well-being; and

RECALLING the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Antelope Specialist Group *Position Statement on the Intentional Genetic Manipulation of Antelopes*;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. INVITES governments where intensive and selective breeding of wildlife is, or may be, practiced to:
 - a. adopt a risk-averse strategy in permitting establishment or expansion of this practice;
 - b. prohibit intentional hybridisation of large wild mammals across species, subspecies or other recognised evolutionary boundaries;
 - c. prohibit release of selectively bred animals into the wild until the risks are understood and can be managed;
 - d. evaluate the need to develop domestic legal frameworks to regulate, monitor and mitigate impacts associated with these practices;
 - e. require assessments of project-specific and cumulative impacts prior to considering the permitting of such activities;
 - f. develop and implement norms and standards for husbandry practices of intensively bred species;
 - g. strengthen capacity building for monitoring, educating and enforcing;
 - h. establish monitoring systems to document the extent and impact of these activities, and support research to provide more information to anticipate and manage risks; and
 - i. develop and implement certification systems for wildlife operations to ensure transparency so that end users know the origin of the animals they are using and/or buying; and

¹ For the purposes of this motion "large wild mammals" refers to individuals of wildlife species regardless of the number of generations that they have been in captivity. This excludes individuals that have been bred in captivity for the main purposes of domestication. Animals bred for domestication are not considered 'wild animals' and should not be used for re-stocking, reintroduction or introduction of wild populations.

2. ENCOURAGES the wildlife ranching industry to:
 - a. acknowledge the potential risks associated with these practices; and
 - b. work with government and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to manage and minimise the risks associated with these activities.