

Strengthening mutual benefits of mobile pastoralism and wildlife in shared landscapes

OBSERVING that many extensive landscapes throughout the world are shared by livestock and wildlife, and managed by livestock herders and wildlife managers;

FURTHER OBSERVING that the world livestock herd is continuously increasing whereas biodiversity as a whole, and wildlife in particular, are on the decrease;

NOTING the critical socio-economic and cultural importance of pastoralism for many local communities;

FURTHER NOTING the vital importance of such landscapes for the conservation of biodiversity, especially many species of large herbivores and their predators;

RECOGNISING the potential for ecological compatibility between certain livestock husbandry practices and wildlife;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that local communities, livestock and wildlife share common health risks and health status;

CONCERNED that the interface between livestock and wildlife, and between livestock herders and wildlife managers, is often a source of challenges such as competition for space, water and pasture, potentially leading to overgrazing, disease spill-over, uncontrolled fires, wildlife poaching, etc.;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the health of pastoral communities, livestock and wildlife share similar resource requirements and that livestock and wildlife share some common health risks;

FURTHER CONCERNED that extreme weather and climate events, along with changing land use and other drivers of ecosystem degradation, may worsen the common sanitary risks for domestic and wild animals and humans, thus enhancing the need for a coordinated, multisectoral One Health approach;

FURTHER CONCERNED that negative interferences between livestock and wildlife on one side, and livestock herders, agriculturists, and wildlife managers on the other side, may have direct and indirect detrimental consequences for biodiversity; and

FURTHER CONCERNED that these detrimental effects will reduce the ability of wildlife-based activities to contribute sustainably to the economy and human well-being;

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, at its session in Marseille, France:

1. INVITES governments in countries where livestock and wildlife share the same landscapes to:

a. promote cohabitation between livestock and wildlife, and collaboration between livestock herders and wildlife managers;

b. establish strategies supporting both livestock development and wildlife conservation together;

c. promote the One Health approach in landscapes shared by humans, livestock and wildlife, for more efficient and coordinated protection of a common sanitary status; and

d. consider establishing early warning and monitoring systems on sanitary consequences of extreme weather and climate events and land-use changes;

2. ENCOURAGES the livestock sector to:

a. consider the maintenance of viable wildlife populations positively in livestock development activities and plans;

b. involve wildlife managers in livestock development activities; and

c. collaborate with wildlife managers to minimise sanitary risks shared by humans, livestock and wildlife;

3. ENCOURAGES wildlife authorities and wildlife stakeholders to:

a. consider the sustained presence of livestock positively in wildlife conservation activities;

b. involve cattle herders in wildlife conservation activities; and

c. collaborate with livestock herders to minimise sanitary risks shared by humans, livestock and wildlife; and

4. INVITES international agencies involved in livestock-wildlife interactions to:

a. support projects encouraging cohabitation of wildlife in areas with livestock, and collaboration between livestock herders and wildlife managers; and

b. promote policies adopting the One Health approach.