

2.64 The unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat

RECOGNIZING that wildlife is essential to both ecological systems and human cultures;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of wildlife to the well-being of human communities in many countries;

NOTING that despite the potential for sustainable exploitation of wildlife for commercial and subsistence purposes, there is an increasing unsustainable, and often illegal commercial trade in 'meat and other products derived from wild animals for human consumption' (in parts of Africa known as 'bushmeat', hereafter referred to as 'wild meat');

UNDERSTANDING that:

- (a) this trade is a significant immediate threat to wildlife populations particularly in forest and grassland ecosystems throughout the world;
- (b) a very wide range of species, even those not currently identified as threatened, are at risk of local extinction across wide areas;
- (c) there is a significant trade in globally threatened species for their meat and other products; and
- (d) several species are already presumed extinct as a result of this trade;

CONCERNED that an unintended consequence of some international and national development programmes and resource extraction activities has contributed to the magnitude of the problem;

AWARE that political instability and deteriorating economic conditions in many countries also contribute to the magnitude of the problem;

CONCERNED that depletion of wildlife in many areas will have a substantial negative effect on the livelihoods and nutritional status of local human communities; and

CONSIDERING the complex relationship of the economic, cultural, ecological, and nutritional importance of this resource to local, national, and international stakeholders;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. ADVOCATES an immediate, collective global response to develop a clear understanding of the causes of, and to identify the most appropriate solutions to, the unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat;
2. URGES governments of all affected nations to recognize the socio-economic value of meat and other products derived from wild animals, and the increasing impact of the unsustainable commercial trade on long-term food security and national development;

3. URGES all States to adopt or strengthen legislation, where appropriate, and to enforce legislation, to control the unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat;
4. URGES all members and States to collaborate towards establishing appropriate information exchange regarding the sustainability of harvest and trade in wild meat, and to use that information to formulate and implement action programmes where needed;
5. URGES donor and lending organizations to provide additional resources to support appropriate and necessary programmes to control the unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat and address its root causes;
6. REQUESTS the Director General, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), in collaboration with relevant State members, agencies, organizations, and local stakeholders to:
 - (a) coordinate information and resources to identify and increase awareness of the root causes of unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat and contribute to solutions;
 - (b) urge international financing and donor organizations, national agencies, and the private sector to mitigate against the unintended consequences of development programmes and resource extraction activities on the unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat;
 - (c) urge natural resource extraction and infrastructure development companies and agencies to control hunting and trade in wild meat associated with their operations;
 - (d) urge timber-certifying entities to include into their certification processes criteria requiring the control of hunting and commercial trade in wild meat associated with logging operations;
 - (e) strengthen the management of protected areas to control the impact of unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat;
 - (f) identify existing resources, develop new financing mechanisms, and build capacity to develop and implement strategies and actions to address the problems of the unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat;
 - (g) involve all relevant regional and global IUCN programmes in efforts to develop other solutions to the problem of unsustainable commercial trade in wild meat, through dialogue with affected States and communities; and
 - (h) engage in existing and possible future dialogues with interested parties at the international level, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Working Group on Bushmeat Issues established under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the United States provided a formal Statement for the Record indicating support for the Resolution and outlining a

number of relevant US initiatives. The Statement is reproduced in full in the Congress Proceedings.