



N.A.S.W.P. NEWSLETTER

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## THINK BEFORE YOU GIVE

There is hardly a day that goes by that we are not asked on the tube or through direct mailings to donate money to one or more animal welfare or conservation groups. It is often difficult to ascertain where each particular group stands on the question of captive propagation of endangered wildlife and private ownership of exotic animals.

In order to allow our members the opportunity of deciding for themselves where their contributions can best be used, the following information is reproduced:

### HISTORY:

In June of 1974 the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center hosted the Symposium on Endangered and Threatened Species in Washington, D.C.. During the symposium a group of 14 organizations formed the "Continental Coalition" and developed 26 principles that reflect the viewpoint of this group.

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### WILDLIFE AND HABITAT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 24, 1974

#### Environmental, Wildlife and Humane Groups Move Toward International Coordination

Fourteen international environmental, wildlife and humane organizations, representing over 600,000 members, met in St. Louis today to discuss formation of the Wildlife and Habitat Coordinating Committee. According to N. Bruce Pitsinger, temporary chairman, "This would be a worldwide committee of organizations to coordinate the efforts for the betterment of wildlife and habitat."

"There is a great need in the environmental movement today to create a mechanism to help bind together the multitude of organizations who care about wildlife," said Bob Hughes of the Sierra Club. Cleveland Amory, President of the Fund for Animals, stated that many smaller, wildlife-oriented groups are not represented at the international level, and expressed the hope that the committee could give assistance. Thelma Rodney of the Ontario Wolf League (Canada) called the meeting "an exciting step in international cooperation."

"The broad range of groups present dramatically represents the magnitude of immediate threats to wilderness and wildlife in the Americas and throughout the world. We must move strongly and quickly to rescue critical habitat," said Pitsinger.

Groups and individuals involved included: Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk, Defenders of Wildlife, Fund for Animals, John Harris - wildlife lecturer, Humane Society of the United States, International Fund for Animal Welfare, National Parks and Conservation Association, North American Predatory Animal Center, Ontario Wolf League, Sierra Club, Wild Horse Organized Assistance (WFOA), The Wilderness Society, and the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center.

The Wildlife and Habitat Coordinating Committee's headquarters would be in St. Louis.

In this year of 1974 we have come together here in Washington, D. C. with a deep concern for the future of our irreplaceable heritage -- the vanishing wild-life and habitats of North America. We are, therefore, united in a common concern.

In the light of national as well as world-wide destruction of natural resources, our personal differences and diverse points of view become insignificant.

In view of this and what has been disclosed at this meeting we urge support of the following:

1. Viable wilderness areas be protected and given adequate buffer zones. All existing and future habitats be under constant surveillance (maintenance/management) including parks, wilderness, estuaries, etc.
2. Buffer zones or "green belts" be established in more urban areas to give refuge for indigenous species, and every community develop a "green-zone" for the bicentennial year.
3. The state bounty system, remnant anachronism of past values and ignorance, be abolished
4. Predator control in any form can be sanctioned only after emergency status has been approved and it be conducted by a responsible state or federal agent and for a designated time period only, and more humane methods of control be investigated.
5. Hunting from any form of vehicle be banned.
6. SALE OF NON-DOMESTIC ANIMALS AS PETS, BE THEY INDIGENOUS TO THE U.S. OR IMPORTED, BE RESTRICTED AT STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL TO POSSESSION FOR EDUCATIONAL, RESEARCH AND/OR CONSERVATION PURPOSES ONLY, WITH SPECIFIED EXCEPTIONS (EG. GERBIL, GUINEA PIG, PARAKEET). (\*)
7. Pet control - more responsible ownership of cats and dogs be encouraged thru educational programs and more stringent ownership/licensing regulations and leash laws be enforced at the local level.
8. State and federal agencies provide support for educational programs to generate an active ecological awareness and conscience in the general public.
9. ALL COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION (AS DISTINCT FROM NON-COMMERCIAL NATIVE SUBSISTENCE HUNTING) OF WILD ANIMAL PRODUCTS (FUR, SKINS, WHALE OIL, ETC.) BE BANNED. (\*1)
10. Embargos on all imported products be supported against those countries violating international conservation agreements (see Bill H.R. 15039 and S. 3575). Stopping exportation of vital raw materials to such countries may also be considered. Encourage other countries to support treaty on importation of rare, threatened or endangered species.
11. All commercial industries involved in collecting wild (non-domestic) foods (fish, etc.) be strictly regulated. Development of alternative food sources should be sought, (soy bean fields, oyster and fish farms, etc.).
12. Ship pollution must be controlled by mandatory installation of bilge-pump settling tanks.
13. U.S. Government must establish the following types of National prairie preserves: tall grass prairie in Flint Hills of Kansas; shortgrass prairie in South Dakota; sandhills of Nebraska.
14. COLLECTING OF WILD FLORA AND FAUNA FOR ANY COMMERCIAL USE, OTHER THAN FOR SANCTIONED MEDICAL OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE BE BANNED.
15. COMMERCIAL USE OF WILD ANIMALS IN ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONAL WORK BE RESTRICTED TO EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY, GERMANE TO THE INTERESTS OF CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY.
16. Control of grazing practices, specifically over-grazing of cattle and sheep on public lands be instigated and alternative grazing animals be studied (eland, buffalo and antelope) and revocation of grazing rights to violators. (\*2)
17. Support of state and federal land use legislation and habitat acquisition.
18. Forest management: adequate burning to create browse for herbivores is imperative to restore habitat in areas of clear cutting.

19. Major corporate land owners be encouraged to designate some of their forests as wilderness areas and whole ecosystems for research and reintroduction of depleted animal species.
  20. Protection of estuarine areas, most productive of ecosystems, be instigated immediately, and other ecosystems, eg S. American jungle, vital to global eco-integrity.
  21. Enforcement of clean water act and condemnation of destructive water development such as power plants which, in the absence of controls such as closed cooling towers, destroy estuarine areas.
  22. Immediate instigation of moratoria on hunting (of grizzly bears or other species) when there is any element of doubt as to their population in a given area, pending further study.
  23. International monitoring and regulation of any human interventions of ecosystems which may have regional, international or globally deleterious consequences.
  24. Experiments to 'reclaim' land wherever possible should be encouraged to restore natural ecosystems, eg. land fills.
  25. Marine wilderness areas and costal sanctuaries should be designated and protected eg. San Nicholas Island for relocation of sea otters.
  26. Immediate intervention to prevent any disruption to an ecosystem by a corporation or development when there is no evidence to prove that human interference will have no deleterious consequences, i.e. GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT.
- (\*) The reader should note that at the symposium an announcement was made that the group was for opposition to "private ownership and private propagation of endangered species". This announcement was met with cheers and applause from the members present. In addition to this fact the reader should be aware of the fact that this group classes animals held by all private breeders and individuals as pets regardless of the work that is being done with the animals.
- (\*1) Can we assume that the use of and manufacture of antivenin would be banned? It would seem that principle 9 and principle 14 are in direct opposition.
- (\*2) The Eland is still classed as an exotic non-domestic species throughout most of the world. Principles 6,9 and 14 conflict.
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## IVORY

According to Kenya-based elephant authority, Iain Douglas-Hamilton, hunters killed between 100,000 and 400,000 elephants on the African continent in 1976.

Mr. Douglas-Hamilton was addressing the World Wilderness Congress in Johannesburg, South Africa where it is stated that about 710 tons of ivory representing a kill of 71,000 elephants was shipped from Africa to Hong Kong alone during 1976.

The importation of ivory into the United States is now forbidden. It would seem that this restriction has done little to curtail sale of ivory throughout the rest of the world.

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