

Wildlife Conservation with The Impact of Human Activities

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Dear Editor,

The continuing devastation of natural habitats is still one of the most important and acute challenges that wildlife conservation programs are presented with in the contemporary world. The insistent encroachment of agricultural lands, the irrepressible expansion of urban areas, and the widespread deforestation for various uses, including logging and mining activities, has all contributed heavily to the destruction and subdivision of critical biotas that are necessary for sustaining a rich diversity of forms of life. With the human population expanding continuously at unprecedented levels, it is almost inevitable that the rate of contacts between humans and a rich diversity of animal forms increases proportionally. This increased contact between humans and a large number of animal forms causes a substantial increase in rates of disease transmission among different animal populations that also brings with it the potential for those diseases to get transmitted to humans. Therefore, this highlights disease monitoring and management as important and priority domains of wildlife conservation programs that are necessary for containing and reducing risks posed by these diseases. Early detection of outbreaks of emergent diseases by properly organized and effective monitoring programs can be capable of having a pivotal role to play in preventing future epidemics by allowing for instantaneous and effective responses to be taken everywhere and anywhere that they are required.

The illicit trade in wildlife products is an issue that not only runs extremely deep within the fabric of society but is also having a dramatic and significant influence, posing a significant barrier to the efforts of various organizations devoted to the protection of threatened animals. The illegal and continuous trade in endangered creatures, as well as their various parts, poses a strong and frightening threat to the rich and varied biodiversity in our world and is

threatening to drive several vulnerable species to extinction with alarming quickness. It is imperative, in order to effectively and efficaciously curtail the global and illicit trade in wildlife, that we do not only further regulate but that we also better coordinate international efforts between nations with the aim of addressing this matter. The complete elimination of such illicit activities demands the enforcement of strict measures of enforcement, an increase in the sharing of information between all of the parties concerned, and an implementation of wide-scale public information campaigns, each of which performs a critical role as part of a master overall strategy to end this issue. In addition to this, disrupting the networks participating in the illicit wildlife trade, as well as safeguarding endangered species from ongoing depletion of their populations, would be greatly enhanced by measures based on increased collaboration between stakeholders. Such measures would ideally include cooperative efforts between groups of law enforcers, conservation groups, and local people, uniting them to function towards common ends that harmoniously complement one another. In addressing the conservation of animal populations that are of concern globally, the necessity of international cooperation becomes plain to see, something that cannot be avoided at all costs. Wildlife populations have no regard or recognition for national boundaries; the task of conservation, therefore, demands coordinated and collective action which crosses international and regional boundaries. By permitting themselves to participate in the sharing of ideas, best practices, and resources with each other, countries can optimize the efficiency of their conservation efforts and thus ensure continued survival of animal populations for future generations. The CITES, or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, is an international treaty specifically engineered to provide an

overall framework whereby cooperation and control can be generated in this concerted effort to overcome the illicit trade in wildlife (Young, 2003). Other international accords also exist that offer numerous benefits that complement these efforts in a variety of ways. The governments and the funding agencies should give priority to wildlife conservation medicine, providing funding to support worthwhile research, making ongoing conservation initiatives stronger, and supporting capacity-building activities to discover innovative solutions in order to resolve the ongoing problems that currently exist among animal populations.

References

Young, S., 2003. Contemporary issues of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the debate over sustainable use. *Colo J Int Environ Law Policy* 14.