



**RESOLUTION # 28**

**TITLE: Proposed Establishment of a New Zealand Game Animal Council**

**WHEREAS:** The 9th World Wilderness Congress (Wild9) is a global forum of wilderness that includes many protected area experts who share experiences, lessons, advances and cutting edge approaches and ideas for protecting, conserving and restoring wild nature;

WILD9 is a platform to synthesise the collective wisdom of over 1200 delegates from 50 countries including community leaders, policy and decision-makers, wilderness land owners and managers, scientists, researchers, indigenous communities, business corporations, philanthropists, young people and many others;

New Zealand's Wilderness and Protected Areas, one of the oldest protected area systems in the world, comprise biodiversity and ecosystems that are critical to the survival of life on earth;

New Zealand's biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management approaches and methods reflect the fact that a high proportion of globally rare native and endemic species are at risk and that these can only contribute to global biodiversity by being protected in-situ in protected areas;

The direct and indirect values of the protected area network are integral to New Zealand's climate change commitments and its economic welfare and provide, and maintain, ecological services (e.g. nutrient cycling, water flow modulation, soil conservation etc) as well as other significant uses (recreation, tourism and aesthetic ambience and quality);

The international community has long regarded New Zealand as a nation with a strong commitment to the protection of its outstanding natural and cultural values and a country seriously committed to biodiversity conservation;

New Zealand's New Zealand is a remote archipelago of islands with a large proportion of endemic taxa and is particularly vulnerable to invasive species.

Changing the status of introduced animals and legitimizing their place in New Zealand's protected areas will have serious and irreversible impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems;

Current conservation and ecosystem management introduced animal control methods reflect the reality that a high proportion of globally unique native and endemic species are at risk and that these can only contribute to global biodiversity by being protected in-situ and within protected areas.

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The existing management and control framework provides diverse and free opportunities for recreational and commercial hunting of introduced pest animals.

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**Therefore:** The participants of the 9th World Wilderness Congress:

**Urge** the New Zealand Government to adopt and abide by IUCN's definitions (and defining principles) for protected area Categories I-VI.

**Appeals** to the New Zealand Government to retain existing provisions for the control of wild animals on public land and, in doing so, reiterate its commitment to biodiversity conservation.

**RESOLVED:** To express concern that the government of New Zealand was in the process of creating a statutory body, comprising a special interest group, that would be responsible for the management of wild animals within the protected area system.

Further, the congress recommends that existing measures for the control of wild animals on areas that fall within IUCN Protected Area Management Categories I- IV be maintained and where necessary strengthened.

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