

## MUSLIM STATEMENT ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

30 August 2012

The animals and insects play a vital role in the ecosystem of the earth. These species should be respected, protected and not to be destroyed. If a species become extinct it can never, ever be replaced and a whole ecosystem with many lives can be affected. It is important that humankind does not become a perpetrator of this great sin. The animals and the insects have a right to share mother earth with humankind. According to the Quran: **"There is not an animal (that lives) on earth, nor a being that flies on its wings, but (forms part of) communities like you"** (Quran 6:38).

Any killing of animals without justification in Islam is not allowed even if the victim is a very small animal or bird. This is stipulated in the following tradition, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: **"No human being kills a sparrow or [something] larger, without right, except that Allah will ask him about it (hold him responsible!) on the Day of Judgment"** It was asked: **O Prophet of Allah! What is its right? He said: " It's right is that you slaughter it and eat it, you do not kill it and throw it away."**(An- Nisai )

Abuse of animals like bull fighting or cockfighting for sport is prohibited in Islam. The Apostle of Allah (SAW) **prohibited to provoke the beasts for fighting.** (Abu-Dawud) It is the duty of humankind to protect the animals. Animal abuse should be prevented. **The Prophet (SAW) clearly forbade beating (animals) on the face** (Bukhari). As part of the creation of Allah (TA) animals should be treated with dignity.

We must show respect and love towards the animal kingdom. Islam is against poaching, overfishing and illegal trade of the animal species. It is our duty to protect the animal kingdom instead of destroying it so that our future generations can benefit from what wildlife can offer to this world.

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