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LIAISON GROUP ON BUSHMEAT

First meeting

Buenos Aires, 15-17 October 2009

REPORT OF THE LIAISON GROUP MEETING ON BUSHMEAT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Liaison Group on Bushmeat was held in Buenos Aires, at the premises of the Argentine Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development.

2. The meeting was convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with generous financial support from the European Commission, the Government of Spain and in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), in response to element 1, goal 4, objective 2 of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity (decision VI/22, annex), as well as in response to the priority areas identified by the Conference of the Parties in its decision IX/5 for further implementation of the programme of work.

3. In decision IX/5, Parties were urged, *inter alia*, to strengthen the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity and to address, as a matter of priority, major human-induced threats to forest biodiversity, including unregulated and unsustainable use of forest products and resources (including unsustainable hunting and trade of bushmeat, and their impacts on non-target species).

4. In accordance with objective 2 under goal 4 of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity (decision VI/22, annex), the objectives of the Liaison Group meeting were to:

(a) Consult in a participatory manner with key stakeholders to identify and prioritize major issues pertaining to the unsustainable harvesting of bushmeat and related products;

(b) Provide advice on the development of policies, enabling legislation and strategies that promote sustainable use of bushmeat and related products;

(c) Provide advice on appropriate alternative sustainable livelihood technologies and practices for the affected communities;

(d) Provide advice on appropriate monitoring tools.

5. As far as possible, special consideration was given to proportionate regional representation, giving special consideration to subregions where bushmeat is a major issue, and representation of relevant organizations such as members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

6. The meeting was attended by experts from Argentina, Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam, United States of America, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme Great Ape Survival Project (UNEP/GRASP), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) Permanent Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Association, the Center for

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International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the IUCN Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC), the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), Trades Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce (TRAFFIC), and the Wildlife Conservation Society. The full list of participants is attached as annex III to the present report.

7. The meeting based its deliberations on the contents of the publication *Conservation and Use of Wildlife-based Resources: The Bushmeat Crisis* (CBD Technical Series No. 33),¹ which reviewed available information on the status and trends in bushmeat harvesting and provided recommendations to the national and international level.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 15 October 2009 by Mr. Tim Christophersen, who read an opening statement on behalf of Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention. Mr. Djoghlaif stated that the bushmeat crisis was an urgent concern with multiple dimensions. He reminded participants that the 192 Parties to the Convention, in May 2008, identified the unsustainable hunting of bushmeat, and its effect on non-target species, as a priority issue. He highlighted his expectations from the Liaison Group meeting, namely: to develop policy recommendations for the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife, building on those included in the publication *Conservation and Use of Wildlife-based Resources: The Bushmeat Crisis* (CBD Technical Series No. 33). Mr. Djoghlaif stressed that strong political leadership was needed to address the urgent food-security and biodiversity challenges in many developing countries. He drew attention to the current International Year of the Gorilla, the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the International Year of Forests in 2011, and revealed the logo for the International Year of Biodiversity and its slogan, “Biodiversity is Life; Biodiversity is Our Life”.

9. Mr. Guillermo Lingua, Director of the Biodiversity Department at the Argentine Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Argentina. He said that bushmeat was a complex and diverse theme and wished the participants a fruitful meeting.

10. Mr. Edgar Kaeslin from FAO, Mr. Robert Nasi from CIFOR, and Dr. Dick Potts from CIC made opening remarks. They emphasized the importance of the meeting and offered the support of their organizations to the work on the issue.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Election of officers

11. After a self-introduction of participants, the Group elected Ms. Somaly Chan, Director of the International Conventions and Biodiversity Department of the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia and a Vice-President of the Conference of the Parties to the Conference, as Chair of the meeting.

2.2. Adoption of the agenda

12. Participants adopted the agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda proposed by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/LG-Bushmeat/1/1).

2.3. Organization of work

13. The proposed organization of work for the meeting was adopted as contained in the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/LG-Bushmeat/1/1/Add.1).

¹ Available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-33-en.pdf> and as an information document for the thirteenth meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/9).

ITEM 3. INFORMATION-SHARING AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 *Presentation of draft policy recommendations and presentations by international organizations and non-governmental organizations*

14. Under this item, Mr. Robert Nasi (CIFOR) gave an overview of the publication *Conservation and Use of Wildlife-based Resources: The Bushmeat Crisis* (CBD Technical Series No. 33), including its contents on the importance of wildlife and evidence of the bushmeat crisis. He then presented the policy recommendations outlined in chapter 7 of the publication.

15. Following the presentation, a number of questions were raised by participants. The discussion focused on the terminology of bushmeat. Following the discussion, the Liaison Group agreed to define bushmeat (or wild meat) hunting as the harvesting of wild animals in tropical and sub-tropical forests for food and for non-food purposes, including for medicinal use.

16. Mr. Edgar Kaeslin (FAO) made a presentation on the issue of disease spread through hunting of wildlife, citing several examples of diseases being transmitted from animals to humans and vice versa. Bushmeat hunting, by increasing the proximity of humans and wild animals, might have an impact on disease spread and pose health risks for both wildlife and humans. Mr. Kaeslin highlighted the need for community education on the health risks of bushmeat hunting. Participants noted the importance of the engagement of the World Health Organization on the issue of bushmeat and its attendance at future meetings of the Liaison Group.

17. Mr. Dick Potts (CIC) gave a presentation co-authored with Mr. Kai-Uwe Wollscheid, CIC Director General, who was unable to attend the meeting. He highlighted the need to engage the private sector and to involve hunters as the main users of wildlife. He illustrated the correlation between number of species and the percentage at risk within a region, based on IUCN Red List and other data. He drew attention to two predictors of red-listing of species by IUCN: habitat loss and fragmentation and hunting pressure (which was positively related to size). He presented a graphical analysis of sustainability of bushmeat harvesting and related tipping points.

18. Ms. Nathalie van Vliet (TRAFFIC) gave a presentation on TRAFFIC activities in Central Africa, including bushmeat-market surveys, poaching and illegal trade scoping studies, law-enforcement monitoring, and supporting the development of the bushmeat strategy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She highlighted TRAFFIC activities with respect to the creation of a Central African bushmeat monitoring system, with the objective of generating accurate statistics on bushmeat harvesting at the regional level and as a complement to the FAO food balance sheets. She said that a first meeting of experts had been held in Douala, Cameroon, from 7 to 9 December 2008 and had identified the next steps, including the establishment of expert groups to develop indicators and thresholds levels and the development of a strategy to embed the monitoring system in existing regional structures. There followed questions from the floor, which pertained to TRAFFIC's collaboration with Governments in developing indicators to use in a monitoring system and to the relationship between monitoring and law enforcement.

19. Mr. Andrew Taber (IUCN Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC)) discussed some of the key wildlife issues and trends in Latin America, to complement presentations from Asian and African countries. He emphasized that the situation in Central America and in dry and sub-tropical forests across the region was similar to that of South-East Asia in that forest degradation had already led to a major loss of wildlife. In contrast, in other areas with low human-population densities, such as in parts of the Amazon basin, native forests were often still in better shape. In these areas, improved wildlife management, rather than difficult-to-implement hunting prohibitions, was key to conserving bushmeat species. Mr. Taber also mentioned that an area greater in size than Europe had essentially not been surveyed for terrestrial wildlife in South America, particularly in the Brazilian Amazon, where there are likely species yet unknown to science. He also highlighted that good examples existed for sustainable community-based subsistence and commercial wildlife use in Peru and elsewhere, which could be replicated in the region. He also underlined that the socio-economics of wildlife use could be complex with, for instance, game-meat hunting for subsistence buffering more valuable domestic livestock (goats

and cattle), which was sold for cash in Bolivia on both indigenous-community lands and large ranches. Finally, he said that many SSC Specialist Groups were focused on taxa heavily harvested as bushmeat (e.g., deer, tapir, antelope, pigs, peccaries, primates, rodents). Those groups brought together top scientists, who could provide support on how best to conserve and manage bushmeat species. In addition, the well established IUCN Red Listing criteria, particularly using regional assessment criteria, could be used to make an initial assessment on which species could be considered for sustainable use (typically those of least concern) as opposed to strict protection. Accordingly, forging stronger links with SSC would be useful for advancing the Liaison Group's work in the future.

20. Mr. Ian Redmond, Year of the Gorilla Ambassador, presented the links between bushmeat hunting, gorillas, and forest resilience to climate change. He presented the Global Methodology for Mapping Human Impacts on the Biosphere (GLOBIO) mapped model simulations of human impact on forests by 2030, which suggested that, only 10 per cent of great apes' habitat in Africa and only 1 per cent in South-East Asia would remain free of the impacts of infrastructure development,. He also highlighted the importance of gorillas for seed dispersal (and thus forest resilience and permanence of efforts for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)), and for significantly contributing to national tourism economies. He presented the objectives of the International Year of the Gorilla, which include raising funds and political will for implementing the UNEP-CMS Gorilla Agreement Action Plan (www.YoG2009.org).

21. Ms. Heather Eves (Advisor, Bushmeat Crisis Task Force) gave a presentation on capacity-building work in East Africa through the MENTOR ("Mentoring for ENvironmental Training in Outreach and Resource conservation") fellowship programme. Funded under the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wildlife Without Borders–Africa programme, the programme was designed to build regional conservation capacity and identify solutions to the bushmeat crisis through a training programme for eight African fellows supported by four mentors involving 12 months fieldwork and six months of academic studies. The group identified and worked on bushmeat solutions such as providing alternatives for both protein and income, governance, awareness and education and made advances, such as producing an action plan, communications strategy, and engaging key stakeholders in partnership to address bushmeat in East Africa. The eight fellows graduated from the programme this fall and are working with mentors to build the Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network (BEAN). Ms. Eves then presented the reviews of Technical Series 33 by members of the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force.

22. The documentary film *Africa's Green Heart* produced by filmmaker and ethnographer Mr. Steve Taylor was shown. Filmed in Sierra Leone, Gabon, Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it presents imagery and personal interviews of environmental issues in the Congo basin, and explores themes such as diamond and mineral mining, logging, hunting and the bushmeat trade.

3.2 Presentations by participants from developing countries and intergovernmental regional organizations

23. Participants from developing countries were invited to present their views and experiences regarding the use of bushmeat, with a particular view on lessons learnt in a national and regional context.

24. Mr. Raman Letchumanan, Head, Environment Division of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gave a presentation on ASEAN activities with respect to bushmeat, which included the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, protected area management and the Heritage Parks Programme, guidelines and training for protected area jobs, the Heart of Borneo Initiative, and the Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora.

25. Mr. Antonio Matamoros, Environment Coordinator, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), gave a presentation on the structure and activities of ACTO and gave an overview of its activities with respect to traffic control on international trade. He said that one of the objectives was to help countries in the Amazon region develop institutional and technical capacity to strengthen adherence to commitments related to traffic control on international trade, such as those derived from the

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

26. Mr. Suon Phalla, Deputy Director, Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity, Forestry Administration, Cambodia, gave a presentation on behalf of Cambodia. He highlighted a drop in forest cover from 73% to 59% between 1965 and 2006 and the significant number of wildlife species that depended on forests. Bushmeat harvesting was marked by illegal trade, which averaged 500 tonnes of wildlife between 1999 and 2001. Uses of wildlife included food, pets, exports, decorations and medicine. He highlighted the government national forest programme, which had established 10 more protected areas, covering a total of over 1.5 million hectares, relevant national legislation, such as the law on forestry, and national programmes, such as the tiger national action plan. Mr. Phalla identified the following challenges, needs, and opportunities: eradicating illegal species trade by strengthening law enforcement, increasing public awareness of priority species and their habitats, and developing sustainable use of wildlife resources based on scientific knowledge.

27. Ms. Hoang Thi Thanh Nhan, Director, Division of Species, Genetic Resource Conservation and Biosafety, Viet Nam Environment Administration, gave a presentation on behalf of Viet Nam. She noted the following trends: increases in wildlife hunting, unsustainable consumption and illegal trading of wildlife. She identified opportunities such as participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES and other forums; government support of biodiversity conservation; and the multiple policies and legal frameworks available to protect wildlife. She then spoke of the challenges associated with bushmeat, and in particular of cultural consumption habits, notably the consumption of bushmeat as a luxury item. She also identified the lack of enforcement measures, lack of resources, and the conflict between conservation and development as challenges.

28. Mr. Anak Pattanavibool of the Wildlife Conservation Society, Thailand, gave a presentation on the situation surrounding bushmeat in Thailand. Hunting for bushmeat happens in and around protected areas and is considered an easy source of income for some local people. It has resulted in the depletion of depleted large ungulates and primates from many protected areas, of which many are under “empty forest syndrome”. Medium ungulates, such as muntjacs and wild pigs, remained in almost all protected areas and buffer zones. Undercover sale of bushmeat can be found in food shops around the protected areas. Bushmeat is considered delicacy for some consumers. No national policies legalized hunting of protected species, and hunting of non-protected species outside protected areas was allowed but not promoted. Opportunities included strengthening the protection on core populations in key protected areas to boost up populations of ungulates using SMART PATROL. Restoration of some ungulates based on legal captive-breeding programmes could help speed up the recovery of ungulates in many protected areas and buffer zones.

29. Mr. Ricardo Banchs, Wildlife Directorate of the Argentina Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development gave a presentation on behalf of Argentina. He described the situation of bushmeat in dry sub-tropical Argentine forests, which were under great pressure from crop and livestock expansion. He said that most bushmeat consumption in Argentina was local in nature, with bushmeat trade being almost non-existent. Consumption also stemmed from cultural rather than economic factors, as people obtained their protein sources from domestic animals and cultivation, notably cattle. He reviewed the three major bushmeat consuming groups: indigenous groups, *Criollos* (groups of mixed race), and small-village inhabitants living near the forest, as well as their hunting habits. Bushmeat hunting took place mainly in the Chaco region, which harboured the majority (70 per cent) of Argentina’s native forests. He reviewed the scientific studies conducted on bushmeat, none of which evaluated the impact of hunting on populations and species. He noted a study on the economic value of bushmeat, which had been estimated as over 4 million dollars a year in the western part of the Chaco region. He then concluded that bushmeat gave economic value to the standing forest, and therefore the sustainable use of wildlife offered an opportunity to address habitat destruction, one of the biggest threats to wildlife.

3.3 *Discussions of policy recommendations*

30. On the basis of previous interventions, the Group was invited to review the policy recommendations developed by a broad range of experts and organizations, as presented in chapter 7 of CBD Technical Series No. 33.

31. The Group considered the recommendations in two working groups, on the basis of the targeted level (national level or international level). The results of these working group discussions are highlighted in annex I below.

32. The working groups reported back to plenary, and based on the results of the discussions, begun developing a statement for the World Forestry Congress.

33. A drafting group was set up to develop a statement for the World Forestry Congress plenary session under its programme item 1.6 “Wildlife Associated with Forests”.

3.4 *Drafting of a statement for the World Forestry Congress and next steps*

34. The draft statement to the World Forestry Congress was presented to the Group and adopted (see annex II below).

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

35. The Group recommended that the Executive Secretary include the results of its work, including recommendations, in the in-depth review on sustainable-use activities of the Convention, to be tabled at fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

36. The Group also recommended that another meeting be held prior to or back-to-back with the fourteenth meeting of SBSTTA to further consult the findings with additional country representatives and technical experts.

ITEM 5. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

37. During the last session, participants were invited to consider the draft report prepared by the Secretariat.

38. A closing statement was given by Tim Christophersen, on behalf of the Executive Secretary. Mr. Christophersen thanked the partners and participants for their active support and contributions, and the host country and staff of the Ministry of Environment for their effective organization of the meeting.

39. The report was adopted, as amended, and the meeting was closed at 1 p.m. on Saturday, 17 October 2009.

Annex I

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BUSHMEAT

National level

1. Increase capacity to fully evaluate the bushmeat issue for policy and planning

National Governments should evaluate the role of bushmeat and other wild animal products in national and local economies as well as the ecological services provided by wildlife and biodiversity as an essential step towards conserving and sustainably using this resource. This can be done by:

- Increasing the visibility of the existing bushmeat market as a precursor to putting its management on a sounder footing;
- Increasing capacity to monitor levels of bushmeat harvest and consumption in national statistics to inform improved policy and planning.
- Incorporating a realistic and open assessment of wildlife consumption and its role in livelihoods into major policy and planning documents.

2. Engaging the private sector and extractive industries

Wildlife management, including bushmeat species management, should be an essential part of management or business plans for the extractive industries (oil, gas, minerals, timber, etc.) operating in tropical, sub-tropical forest, wetland and savannah ecosystems.

3. Rights and tenure, and traditional knowledge

Access, rights and associated accountability, as well as the responsibility to sustainably manage wildlife resources should be transferred whenever possible to local stakeholders who have a vested interest in maintaining the resources and who can deliver sustainable, desirable solutions. Capacity of these empowered local communities should be built and strengthened to ensure that they have the capacity to exercise these rights. Conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources would be enhanced through the incorporation of traditional knowledge into management and monitoring systems, as well as by favouring the use of the most ecologically friendly (e.g. species specific), cost efficient, and humane hunting methods.

4. Review of national policies and legal frameworks

States within the range of bushmeat species are strongly encouraged to review existing policies and legal frameworks related to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife. Whenever possible, outside strictly protected areas and species, it is recommended to establish policies, capacity, and management systems that support the legal and sustainable hunting of targeted species (i.e. common and fecund).

The review should ensure:

- The coherence of policy and legal frameworks through mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in the various sectoral and national planning exercises²;
- That management schemes are practical and feasible for harvestable species as well as those in need of strict protection (e.g., endangered species);

² Including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), forest management plans, national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), national forest programmes (NFPs), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA), National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA), REDD-PIN, National Bushmeat Action Plans, National Wildlife Management Plans and Regulations, species-specific national management and conservation plans.

- Realistic approaches to enforcement in which control measures are consistent with capacity;
- Rationalizing legal and regulatory texts to reflect actual practices without surrendering key conservation objectives;
- Favouring the harvest of low-risk species (e.g. highly productive species) while promoting trade-offs to enhance protection of high-risk species;

5. *Landscape-level management*

An effective and coherent network of protected areas is essential to ensure the effective conservation of wildlife, including threatened species. Wildlife populations outside protected areas are also essential and management should be instigated at the highest possible landscape scale.

6. *Science:*

Management decisions should be made based on the best available and applicable science and the precautionary principle. Further research is crucial and better information management is needed. Appropriate monitoring systems of bushmeat harvest and trade should be developed and implemented at national level, and allow for comparability of bushmeat harvest and trade at the regional level. Standard and comparable population status assessment methods should be developed and implemented. New and additional reliable knowledge on used species' populations and on levels of use and trade should be made available for consideration within the IUCN Red Listing process.

7. *Substitution and other palliative measures*

The development of alternative food and income sources is essential as wildlife alone cannot be sustainably used to support current or future livelihood needs, but these palliative measures (farming, ranching, captive breeding...) are unlikely to be effective alone in conserving wildlife resources. In the long term, there is no substitute for proper management of the resource for protection and production, as appropriate.

8. *Capacity-building and awareness-raising*

To achieve conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources, capacity building and public awareness need to be raised at national and local levels across a range of themes, including: governance and law enforcement, wildlife monitoring and management, livelihood alternatives, and collaboration across government, private and public sectors.

9. *Health*

Where wildlife hunting and bushmeat trade occur, appropriate public health information and capacity building should emphasize disease prevention to mitigate risk and protect both human and animal health. In regions with bushmeat trade, sanitary control and biosecurity measures are necessary to prevent the sale of infectious meat or animal products which can contribute to the spread of pathogens (including emerging infectious diseases and parasites) between wildlife, domestic stock and people. Furthermore, wildlife, domestic livestock and human health need to be monitored and legislation, regulations, and enforcement need to be developed and implemented to reduce the threat of epizootics from newly emerging infections.

10. *Climate change*

Mechanisms such as REDD+ should take into account the importance of wildlife for maintaining healthy ecosystems and ecological services, and for the permanence of forest carbon stocks and forest adaptation capacity.

11. *Special management areas:*

Specific areas for wildlife management should be designated at national and local levels, similar to permanent forest estates designated to manage timber resources. These may span existing protected area systems and multi-use landscapes (e.g., game management areas or districts).

International level

1. *National and international strategies to address bushmeat*

- Support and strengthen national political will to take action on key bushmeat and existing conservation commitments
- Support and strengthen existing international commitments and agreements and encourage new ones concerning the conservation and sustainable use of transboundary and shared wildlife resources.

2. *Participatory processes*

- International community invites national Governments to develop or strengthen participatory and cross-sectoral processes in formulating and implementing the sustainable management and harvesting of bushmeat species.

3. *Policy processes*

International partners should seek to effectively integrate wildlife conservation strategies for long-term sustainability into relevant internationally supported development policy processes, such as poverty reduction strategies.

4. *Impacts of international trade on natural resources*

International policy processes and institutions concerning trade and development should take steps to better assess and mitigate impacts of extraction and trade of natural resources such as timber, fish, minerals and oil etc. on wildlife and resulting bushmeat demands.

5. *International trade in wild bushmeat*

The international community is concerned with the potential threat that a growing international trade in bushmeat may have on wild populations and discourages an international trade in illegally harvested bushmeat.

6. *International policy environment*

In order to optimize the sustainability of hunting, the international community should support integrated national, transboundary, and local action to build partnerships among organizations and institutions to:

- (a) Build enforcement capacity
- (b) Develop and implement protein and income alternatives
- (c) Increase awareness and education regarding bushmeat hunting and trade.

These actions taken together have the potential to encourage communities to sustainably manage their wildlife resource and reduce the demand for bushmeat.

7. *International science*

The international community should encourage ecosystem research to inform future policy, with a focus on natural forest regeneration, including the role of seed-dispersers such as primates and game-birds, DNA bar-coding, keystone species, disease transmission and impacts on climate change.

8. *Incentives*

Financial mechanisms and payments for ecosystem services such as REDD should take into account the importance of ecosystem functioning and the role of forest fauna in forest health and resilience.

9. *Forest certification*

Forest certification schemes should take into account the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife to maintain healthy forest ecosystems.

Annex II



CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILDLIFE IN TROPICAL AND SUB-TROPICAL FORESTS

Statement to the XIII World Forestry Congress on the Bushmeat Crisis

Introduction

The loss of tropical forest fauna is reaching critical levels. Forestry operations are often closely linked to commercial bushmeat hunting through logging roads and crews. The 'empty forest syndrome' and biodiversity loss caused by habitat degradation and the over-exploitation of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians in many tropical and sub-tropical countries has become a global threat:

- Up to 75% of tropical tree species depend on animal seed dispersal. Many tree species will no longer be able to reproduce without their seed dispersers, affecting ecosystem services.
- The degradation of forest ecosystems makes national and local economies weaker and more vulnerable to climate change.
- Food security for indigenous peoples and local communities is at risk. Up to 80% of protein intake in rural households in Central Africa comes from wild meat³.
- Increasing human-wildlife contact and the related bushmeat trade spreads infectious diseases, such as Ebola and Nipah.
- Habitat loss increases human-wildlife conflict and reduces the potential for sustainable wildlife management.

The first CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat⁴ met 15-17 October 2009 in Buenos Aires. Some key recommendations of the Group with relevance for the forest sector are:

- **Sustainable management of wildlife:** Capacity building, incentives and alternatives must be implemented for hunters, traders and consumers to sustainably manage bushmeat.
- **Climate change:** Mechanisms such as REDD+ should take into account the importance of wildlife for healthy ecosystems and for the permanence of forest carbon stocks and forest adaptation capacity.
- **Forest concessions and certification:** Management plans and certification schemes for sustainable forest management (SFM) must include wildlife management, to maintain healthy and productive forest ecosystems.
- **Rights and tenure:** Local communities should be empowered to manage, and be accountable for, managing local resources in their own – and the national – best interest.
- **Good governance:** Policies and legal frameworks need to be reviewed and strengthened with full stakeholder participation, including all relevant sectors.

³ The Liaison Group defines bushmeat (or wild meat) hunting as the harvesting of wild animals in tropical and sub-tropical forests for food and for non-food purposes, including for medicinal use.

⁴ The meeting was convened in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC).

- **Landscape-level management:** An effective and coherent network of protected areas is essential but not enough. The conservation and sustainable management of wildlife outside of protected areas is equally important.
- **Partnerships:** Effective collaboration among national and international actors is needed.
- **Capacity building:** Effective management, including law enforcement, requires capacity-building at national and local levels.
- **Science:** Decision-making should be based on best available scientific information; further research and better management of information are needed.

The bushmeat crisis is a complex problem, but feasible solutions do exist in many locations and regions. The Liaison Group recommends an open and transparent debate at the national level to better address the issue.

Strong leadership by Governments and the private sector is needed to address the bushmeat crisis. The Bushmeat Liaison Group applauds those leaders in the public and private sector who are already supporting the conservation and sustainable use of forest fauna. The participants of the World Forestry Congress are encouraged to replicate the positive examples and success stories throughout the area of sub-tropical and tropical forests, where the decline of forest-based animals is a concern.

*The full report of the Bushmeat Liaison Group meeting is available on www.cbd.int
For more information please contact the CBD Secretariat at secretariat@cbd.int*

Further information is also available in CBD Technical Series Nr 43 “The Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wildlife-based Resources: The Bushmeat Crisis” (www.cbd.int/ts)

Annex III

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C. Inter-governmental organizations

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA)

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CIC - International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

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