

January 23, 2024

David Cooper  
Acting Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
United Nations Environment Programme  
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
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Dear Sir,

**RE: CBD Notification 2023-121 - Submission of information on best practices for sustainable wildlife management and views on areas that require complementary guidance**

In response to the invitation to Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and relevant organizations to submit views on best practices for sustainable wildlife management and information on areas that might require complementary guidance, the Foundation delved on: **New technology that could result in unsustainable practices:**

1. **Drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)** - These devices are increasingly being used to monitor wildlife populations, assess habitats, and detect poaching activities. However, over-reliance on drones and UAVs could lead to over-reliance on technology and neglect of data gathered through conventional research methods. Moreover, drones could unintentionally disturb wildlife, undermining conservation goals.
2. **Genetic engineering and gene editing** - Researchers are exploring the use of genetic engineering to control invasive species, bring back extinct species, and create genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for conservation. Although genetic engineering could have positive impacts on wildlife management, there are fears that it could lead to unintended consequences such as the creation of hybrid species, disrupting ecosystems, and compromising genetic diversity.
3. **Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning (AI/ML)** - AI/ML technologies are being used increasingly in wildlife management to collect, analyze and interpret data and automate various tasks. However, AI/ML models could have inherent biases, leading to inadequate decision-making and inappropriate conservation actions. Moreover, the use of AI/ML could lead to an over-reliance on technology over the human judgment, potentially leading to ineffective wildlife management outcomes.
4. **Automated Poaching Technologies:** As technology advances, poachers may exploit automation, artificial intelligence, and other cutting-edge tools to increase the efficiency and scale of illegal hunting activities. Drones, night vision technology, and advanced weaponry can pose serious threats to wildlife populations.
5. **Invasive Surveillance Technologies:** Excessive surveillance technologies, including satellite monitoring and high-tech sensor networks, might infringe on the privacy of wildlife and disturb their natural behavior. Constant monitoring could disrupt breeding, feeding, and migration patterns.

6. **Uncontrolled Synthetic Biology:** The use of synthetic biology for conservation purposes, such as creating synthetic organisms to replace endangered species, could lead to longer-term ecological consequences if not carefully regulated and tested.

Thank you for the opportunity to make the contribution.

Sincerely,



Nancy Marangu  
Executive Director  
Chemichemi Foundation