

Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity
Montreal, Canada
secretariat@cbd.int

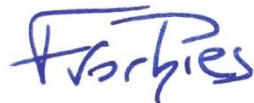
31 January 2024

Dear Executive Secretary

With reference to **Notification 2023-121 on the Submission of information on best practices for sustainable wildlife management and views on areas that require complementary guidance**, we would like to submit the following views on areas that require complementary guidance regarding:

- **Sustainability standards for harvesting and use of wild species**
- **Facilitating legal trade in wildlife products and services**

Kind regards,



Dr Francis Vorhies
Director
African Wildlife Economy Institute
Stellenbosch University
South Africa
wfv@sun.ac.za

Sustainability standards for harvesting and use of wild species

Recalling that **CBD/COP/DEC/15/23** requests the Executive Secretary “to collaborate with all relevant actors and stakeholders in order to promote the mainstreaming of the sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular that of wild species, into all relevant sectors,” there is a need for both ensuring that the use of wild species is sustainable and for assuring stakeholders that this use is sustainable.

Voluntary sustainability standards and associated certification schemes for the harvesting and use of wild species can play a vital role in this regard. The FairWild Standard, for example, with its ecological, socio-cultural, and business requirements for sustainable harvesting of wild plants is well-established and could provide insights for developing standards for other wildlife harvesting and use sectors, including wild meat.

At the African Wildlife Economy Institute at Stellenbosch University, we are exploring how to develop and promote sustainability standards for the harvesting and use of wild species – animal, plant, fungi – in both marine and terrestrial ecosystems.¹ In this regard, the sustainability outcomes as set out in **GBF Targets 5 and 9** provide a baseline of what we all would like to see included in these standards. Collaboration with CPW members and others on a programme of work on sustainability standards for wild species use would be most welcome.

GBF	Sustainability outcomes
Goal B – Nature’s contributions to people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valued • Maintained • Enhanced
Target 5 – Use, harvesting, and trade of wild species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable • Safe • Legal • Preventing overexploitation • Minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems • Reducing the risk of pathogen spillover • Applying the ecosystem approach • Respecting and protecting customary sustainable use
Target 9 – Management and use of wild species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable • Social benefits for people • Economic benefits for people • Environmental benefits for people • Enhancing biodiversity • Protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use

¹ See: [Certifying Wildlife Enterprise A presentation for ORC 2023 Dr Francis Vorhies African Wildlife Economy Institute Stellenbosch University \(sun.ac.za\)](#)

Facilitating legal trade in wildlife products and services

Mainstreaming the use of wild species into all relevant sectors requires liberalising the trade in wildlife products and services – both domestically and internationally – so that producers can secure the benefits of participating in global value chains and consumers worldwide can benefit from wildlife products. Through trade liberalisation can meet the aim of **GBF Target 5** to ensure that the trade of wild species is legal and the aim of **Target 9** to ensure the sustainable management and use of wild species through biodiversity-based activities, products, and services.

With respect to international trade, there is a need to identify and reduce non-tariff barriers to trade in wildlife products and services. The African Wildlife Economy Institute, for example, has been looking at opportunities for enhancing the intra African trade in wild meat and other wildlife products through the reduction of non-tariff barriers within the **African Continental Free Trade Area**.² The reduction of non-tariff barriers across Africa and beyond would enable trade to be legal and beneficial to people.

Further, there is an opportunity to align GBF Target 5 with the permitting processes for the trade in wild species listed in **CITES** Appendix I and II. CITES requires that export permitting is based on findings that the trade is non-detrimental, and that the wildlife product has been legally acquired. These requirements directly address the aim of Target 5 to ensure that the trade is sustainable and legal. This includes understanding the livelihood implications of trade barriers and trade facilitation.³ In this respect, we are also exploring ways to support CITES Management and Scientific Authorities in Africa to facilitate sustainable and legal trade of CITES-listed wildlife products.

Collaboration with CPW members and others on a work programme to reduce non-tariff barriers to wildlife trade and to facilitate trade in CITES-listed wildlife products would be most welcome.

² See: [Liberalising Intra Africa Trade in Wild Meat - Report of Research Findings and Recommendations | African Wildlife Economy Institute \(sun.ac.za\)](#)

³ See: [CITES, AfCFTA, and Livelihoods - Implications of the COP19 Appendices Proposals | African Wildlife Economy Institute \(sun.ac.za\)](#)