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Sustainable wildlife management

Existing guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management and areas that might require complementary guidance

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its recommendation [25/7](#), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management to undertake, in line with the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a further gap analysis to identify areas that were not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations.

2. The Subsidiary Body also requested the Executive Secretary, when undertaking the further gap analysis to:

(a) Take into consideration, in line with the mandate of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework, the seven key elements of effective policy¹ for the sustainable use of wild species identified in the *Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(b) Solicit views and inputs from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental bodies, in conjunction with the comprehensive review and analysis of existing tools and guidance that could support the implementation of the goals and targets of the Framework;

* CBD/COP/16/1.

¹ The seven key elements are: inclusive and participatory decision-making; inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights; equitable distribution of costs and benefits; policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts; monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices; coordinated and aligned policies; and robust institutions, from customary to statutory.

(c) Review the list of areas that might require complementary guidance on the basis of the further gap analysis, taking account of the views referred to in paragraph 3 of recommendation 25/7;

(d) Submit the results of the further gap analysis, including the revised list, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its sixteenth meeting.

3. In response to those requests, the Secretariat issued notification No. 2023-121, inviting Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant organizations to submit views on best practices for sustainable wildlife management and information on areas that might require complementary guidance.²

4. In addition, several submissions received in response to notification No. 2023-120, on the submission of views and information on tools and guidance that could support the implementation of the Framework, were relevant to the aforementioned request by the Subsidiary Body.³

5. Pursuant to the same request, the Collaborative Partnership compiled an inventory of information received in response to notifications Nos. 2023-120 and 2023-121⁴ and information provided by its members. To ensure maximum coverage, additional information was also sourced from relevant entities. On the basis of the inventory, the Partnership subsequently prepared a draft analysis of areas not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations.

6. In notification No. 2024-063, Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant organizations were invited to provide comments and views on the draft gap analysis.⁵

7. The study finalized by Collaborative Partnership on the basis of the comments received through the peer review is available as document CBD/COP/16/INF/6. Since the mandate of the Partnership is limited to terrestrial vertebrates, the Secretariat carried out a complementary analysis to address wildlife management more broadly, in line with recommendation 25/7 and comments made during the peer review. The complementary analysis is available as document CBD/COP/16/INF/7.

II. Areas not adequately covered by guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental organizations

A. Gaps identified by the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management

8. In identifying the gaps in guidance on sustainable wildlife management, the Collaborative Partnership was guided by the knowledge gaps table for the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species (table SPM.A.2) contained in the summary for policymakers of the *Thematic Assessment Report of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*. Gaps are categorized as follows: data and

² Submissions were received from seven Parties (Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Japan and Mexico) and eight organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association, Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation – Nepal, Chemichemi Foundation, African Wildlife Economy Institute, Born Free Foundation, East Africa Community Secretariat and Midwestern Region Centre for Democracy and Human Rights).

³ Submissions made in response to notification No. 2023-120 that were relevant to the further gap analysis were received from Australia, Canada, the European Union, Finland, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Genetic Biodiversity Knowledge for Ecosystem Resilience and the University of Hong Kong.

⁴ Available at www.cbd.int/notifications/2024-063.

⁵ Submissions were received from six Parties (Canada, European Union, Mexico, Peru, Spain and United Kingdom), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and two organizations (International Union of Forest Research Organizations and Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization).

information availability and access; assessment and monitoring methods, models and scenarios; indigenous and local knowledge; and multiple uses and interactions of uses with other pressures.

1. Data and information availability and access

9. The Collaborative Partnership identified the following 14 gaps in this category:

- (a) General guidance on sustainable wildlife management in temperate regions;
- (b) Guidance on human-wildlife conflict in temperate regions and regions other than Africa and Asia;
- (c) Guidance on the management of the genetic diversity of wild terrestrial vertebrates;
- (d) Data and information on sustainable hunting (not limited to subsistence) in tropical and subtropical regions;
- (e) Data and information on sustainable forest management in temperate regions;
- (f) Data and information on the intra-African trade in wild meat and wildlife products;
- (g) Data and information on the sustainability of wild meat harvests in temperate regions and in regions other than Africa and Asia;
- (h) Data and information on non-lethal terrestrial vertebrate harvesting;
- (i) Regional guidance on non-lethal terrestrial vertebrate harvesting;
- (j) Data and information on non-extractive practices involving terrestrial vertebrates worldwide;
- (k) Regional guidance on non-extractive practices involving terrestrial vertebrates;
- (l) Data and information on the outcomes of the One Health approach to wild species use;
- (m) Data and information on regional wildlife economies;
- (n) Guidance on gender equity and the governance of wild species.

2. Assessment and monitoring methods, models and scenarios

10. The Collaborative Partnership identified the following 10 gaps in this category:

- (a) Scenario studies focusing on human-wildlife conflict in temperate regions and in regions other than Africa and Asia;
- (b) Scenario studies focusing on wild meat harvests in temperate regions and in regions other than Africa and Asia;
- (c) Monitoring and assessment of sustainable hunting (not limited to subsistence) in tropical and subtropical regions;
- (d) Tools and resources to monitor and address the genetic diversity of terrestrial vertebrates;
- (e) Internationally standardized monitoring, assessment and reporting approaches for terrestrial vertebrate populations and trade statistics;
- (f) Trend monitoring for all uses of terrestrial vertebrates;
- (g) Species management plans for terrestrial vertebrates;
- (h) Scenario studies focused on non-extractive practices involving terrestrial vertebrates;
- (i) Tools and resources to monitor and assess regional wildlife economies;
- (j) Frameworks for measuring and monitoring human-wildlife conflict.

3. Indigenous and local knowledge

11. The Collaborative Partnership identified the following six gaps in this category:

- (a) Survey and assessment of wildlife use practices by indigenous communities;
- (b) Equitable incorporation of indigenous values and relationships with wild species within policy guidance;
- (c) Equitable application of indigenous and local knowledge to human-wildlife conflict guidance;
- (d) Equitable application of indigenous and local knowledge to the management of genetic resources;
- (e) Approaches to support indigenous people and local communities in conducting research, monitoring and governance;
- (f) Capacity-building and support for sustainable community livelihoods and related biodiversity enhancement.

4. Multiple uses and interactions of uses with other pressures

12. The Collaborative Partnership identified the following 10 gaps in this category:

- (a) Impacts of sustainable wild species use on poverty alleviation;
- (b) Impacts of sustainable wild species use on food security, especially in temperate regions where data are most lacking;
- (c) Impacts of technological advancements on sustainable wild species use and management;
- (d) Interactions between ecological and social components of uses of wild species, that is, linkages between sustainable use of wild species and social, economic and environmental benefits and detriments;
- (e) Impacts of intra-African trade in wild meat and wildlife products on species conservation and livelihoods;
- (f) Interactions between ecological and social components of non-extractive practices, including cultural and spiritual practices;
- (g) Impacts of climate change on populations, habitats and use of terrestrial vertebrates;
- (h) Impacts of climate change on wildlife health and knock-on effects on human beings and domestic animals;
- (i) Interactions between climate change and the human consumption of wild terrestrial animal meat;
- (j) Impacts of zoonoses on wild meat consumption and wildlife populations.

B. Additional gaps identified by the Secretariat**1. Species**

13. For aquatic animals, the Secretariat found gaps in guidance on inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights, the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, and robust institutions. On the other hand, it found that there was adequate guidance on the monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices and on coordinated and aligned policies related to aquatic animals.

14. With regard to terrestrial animals, the Secretariat found that there was adequate guidance on the monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices and limited guidance on policies

tailored to local social and ecological contexts and to multiple key elements. On the other hand, it identified gaps in guidance on inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights, the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, coordinated and aligned policies, and robust institutions.

15. With regard to trees, other plants, fungi and algae, the Secretariat found gaps in guidance across all seven key elements.

2. Practices

16. In terms of fishing, the Secretariat found that there was adequate guidance on the monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices and coordinated and aligned policies. There were gaps, however, in guidance on inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights, the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts, and robust institutions.

17. With regard to non-extractive practices, the Secretariat found that there was adequate guidance on the monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices, but gaps across all six remaining key elements.

18. With regard to gathering, logging and terrestrial animal harvesting, the Secretariat found gaps in guidance across all seven key elements.

19. In terms of guidance covering multiple practices, the Secretariat found gaps in guidance on inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights, the equitable distribution of costs, and benefits and policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts.

3. Geographical coverage

20. In terms of global coverage, the Secretariat found gaps in guidance on inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights, and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits.

21. In all regions except Europe, the Secretariat found gaps in the coverage of guidance across all seven key elements.

22. In Europe, the Secretariat found that there was adequate guidance on the monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices, with some guidance on coordinated and aligned policies and robust institutions. However, there were gaps in guidance on inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights, the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, and policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts.

III. Areas that might require complementary guidance

23. The list of areas that might require complementary guidance presented in paragraph 45 of document CBD/SBSTTA/25/11 was based on the findings of the *Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*, in which the use of wild species was identified to be unsustainable or facing emerging threats. The analyses referred to in the present document contain a review of existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations to provide a wider basis of references to be taken into account in identifying areas that might require complementary guidance.

24. In their respective analyses, the Collaborative Partnership and the Secretariat found that most available guidance was targeted towards multiple species, practices and geographical regions. Where guidance for species groups existed, it was largely focused on the monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices, and coordinated and aligned policies. A similar pattern was observed for sustainable use practices.

25. In addition to the knowledge gaps identified by the Collaborative Partnership, numerous gaps in guidance were identified by the Secretariat across practices, species and geographical regions, in particular with regard to inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights, the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, and policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts.

26. It would not be feasible for all identified gaps to be filled under the processes undertaken under the Convention, and given that the emphasis in the seven key elements is mostly on local social and ecological contexts,⁶ guidance could be more useful if it were produced at the regional and subregional levels. In that regard, the Conference of the Parties could consider inviting regional and subregional organizations to produce guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife.

27. The Conference of the Parties may therefore wish to focus on global-level guidance focused on multiple species and multiple practices, in line with the mandate of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework. As shown in the table below, the most critical gaps in guidance at the global level across multiple species and practices are related to inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights, and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits.

Coverage of guidance at the global level and across multiple practices and species

<i>Key elements</i>	<i>Multiple practices</i>	<i>Global</i>	<i>Multiple species</i>
1. Inclusive and participatory decision-making	4	4	3
2. Inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights	4	7	5
3. Equitable distribution of costs and benefits	1	1	1
4. Policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts	7	15	9
5. Monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices	30	53	32
6. Coordinated and aligned policies	27	45	22
7. Robust institutions from customary to statutory	10	14	9
8. Multiple key elements	18	32	18

Note: number of documents: 0–4 (red); 5–9 (orange); 10–15 (light green); 15 and above (dark green).

28. The list of areas that might require complementary guidance, as revised on the basis of the further gap analysis, therefore stands as follows:

- (a) Global guidance on inclusive and participatory decision-making;
- (b) Global guidance on the inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights;
- (c) Global guidance on the equitable distribution of costs and benefits.

IV. Recommendation

29. When considering paragraph 5 of the draft decision contained in recommendation 25/7, as reproduced in the compilation of draft decisions, the Conference of the Parties may wish to take into consideration the analyses summarized in the present document.

⁶ See CBD/COP/17/INF/7 for further details.