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Sustainable wildlife management

Additional analysis of available guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management that might require complementary guidance**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its twenty-fifth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice adopted recommendation 25/7. In the recommendation, it requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management to undertake, in line with the mandate of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a further gap analysis to identify areas that are not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations.
2. The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management prepared a further gap analysis which is presented in document CBD/COP/16/INF/6. The assessment carried out by the Partnership was limited to areas within its scope and mandate.¹
3. In order to broaden the scope of the assessment beyond terrestrial vertebrates, the Secretariat carried out an additional gap analysis of documents received in response to notifications 2023-120² and 2023-121.³ The additional analysis is presented in the current document.

* CBD/COP/16/1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

¹ The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management was established pursuant to decision XI/25. According to the revised terms of reference of the Partnership (May 2017), its mission is to increase cooperation and coordination on sustainable wildlife management issues among its members, where such adds value, in order to promote the sustainable management of terrestrial vertebrates in all biomes and geographic areas, contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to human food security, livelihoods and well-being.

² Submission of views and information on existing tools and guidance that can support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

³ Submission of information on best practices for sustainable wildlife management and views on areas that require complementary guidance.

II. Identification of areas that are not adequately covered by guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental organizations.

A. Analysis

4. The Secretariat carried out an additional analysis of the documents compiled by the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management in response to notifications 2023-120 and 2023-120⁴. In line with the request from the Subsidiary Body in its recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/7, the analysis was limited to documents received from multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental agreements. In carrying out the analysis, the Secretariat further made a distinction between documents that were considered guidance, and those of a general nature such as reports, strategic frameworks, toolkits, databases, and factsheets. In this context, documents that were considered to be guidance were decisions or resolutions of multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental organizations, as well as any voluntary or compulsory principles, guidelines, manuals, guidance, standards, and directives, aimed at guiding implementation at national or subnational level.

5. Each guidance document was assessed against the seven key elements of effective policy for the sustainable use of wild species identified in *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* and discussed in the annex. Each document was tagged with a code corresponding to an element of effective policy as listed in Table 1 below. Some guidance documents addressed more than one key element and therefore an additional corresponding code was created to cater for them. Those documents not qualifying as guidance were tagged with the code, X. Using these criteria.

Table 1.

Codes utilized for assessing guidance documents against the seven key elements

<i>Key elements of effective policy or the sustainable use of wild species</i>	<i>Corresponding code for analysis</i>
Inclusive and participatory decision-making.	1
The inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights.	2
The equitable distribution of costs and benefits.	3
Policies tailored to local, social and ecological contexts.	4
The monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices.	5
Coordinated and aligned policies.	6
Robust institutions, from customary to statutory.	7
Guidance documents addressing more than one key element.	8
Documents not qualifying as guidance for the purposes of the analysis.	X

6. The guidance documents were further analysed to assess coverage across species, practices and geographical regions, and how this coverage relates to the seven key elements. Due to limited

⁴ The compilation can be found here: https://cbd.int/doc/notifications/2024/Appendix-B-en.xlsx?_gl=1*bcyldv*_ga*MTIxNzA1ODQxNS4xNzI0NDk3NTcy*_ga_7S1TPRE7F5*MTcyNTY1NjMxMC44LjEuMTcyNTY1NjM2OC4yLjAuMA..

Secretariat financial and human resources, this analysis was very high-level and used the categories of species and practices defined by *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*. Geographical areas were defined using broad continental categories.

Guidance related to species

7. *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* defined 4 broad groups of species, namely aquatic animals, plants (excluding fungi and algae), trees, and terrestrial animals. The Secretariat analysis added a category on guidance related to fungi and algae, and another one for guidance related to multiple species. This categorization was very general, creating some problems in the sorting of certain documents across groups of species. For example, the categorization does not distinguish between marine and terrestrial aquatic species, and so all of them were placed in one broad category. Nor does the categorization apply neatly to certain aviary species such as seabirds and waterbirds which are not entirely marine, terrestrial nor aquatic. These species were placed in the aquatic animals category. While there were some problems with these categories, they allowed a high-level overview of the coverage of guidance relating to the sustainable use of species.

Table 2.

Guidance related to species

<i>Key elements</i>	<i>Aquatic animals</i>	<i>Plants</i>	<i>Trees</i>	<i>Terrestrial animals</i>	<i>Fungi and algae</i>	<i>Multiple species</i>
1 - Inclusive and participatory decision-making	1	0	0	1	0	3
2 - Inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights	0	0	2	0	0	5
3 - Equitable distribution of costs and benefits	0	0	0	1	0	1
4 - Policies tailored to local social and ecological context	6	0	3	7	0	9
5 - Monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices	18	2	4	12	0	32
6 - Coordinated and aligned policies	23	1	2	3	0	22
7 - Robust institutions from customary to statutory	6	3	4	2	0	9
8 - Multiple key elements	9	2	7	5	0	18

Legend: Number of documents

0 to 4

5 to 9

10 to 15

15 and above

8. The analysis shows that a significant proportion of guidance covers multiple species, and multiple key areas with a bias towards monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices, and coordinated and aligned policies.

Guidance related to practices

9. *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* defined five broad categories of practices pertaining to the use of wild species. These are fishing, gathering, logging, terrestrial animal harvesting, and non-extractive practices. The Secretariat analysis added a category related to guidance covering multiple practices.

Table 3.

Guidance related to sustainable use practices

Key elements	Fishing	Gathering	Logging	Terrestrial animal harvesting	Non-extractive practices	Multiple practices
1 - Inclusive and participatory decision-making	1	0	0	0	0	4
2 - Inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights	0	0	2	0	1	4
3 - Equitable distribution of costs and benefits	0	0	0	1	0	1
4 - Policies tailored to local social and ecological context	4	0	1	5	8	7
5 - Monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices	13	2	5	4	14	30
6 - Coordinated and aligned policies	16	0	2	3	3	27
7 - Robust institutions from customary to statutory	1	3	4	2	4	10
8 - Multiple key elements	9	2	7	5	0	18

Legend: Number of documents



10. The analysis shows that a significant proportion of guidance is geared towards multiple practices with a strong tendency towards monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices, coordinated and aligned policies, robust institutions, and multiple key elements.

Geographical coverage of guidance

11. In analysing the geographical coverage of documents received, the Secretariat used broad continental definitions, namely: Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Polar regions. An additional category was included for guidance with global coverage.

12. The analysis shows that a significant proportion of guidance produced is global in nature. There is adequate guidance on policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts, monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices, coordinated and aligned policies, robust institutions, and multiple key elements.

Table 4.
Coverage of guidance across geographical regions

Key elements	Africa	Americas	Asia-Pacific	Europe	Polar Regions	Global
1 - Inclusive and participatory decision-making	1	0	0	0	0	4
2 - Inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights	0	0	0	0	0	7
3 - Equitable distribution of costs and benefits	1	0	0	0	0	1
4 - Policies tailored to local social and ecological context	2	1	2	4	1	15
5 - Monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices	1	1	1	10	2	53
6 - Coordinated and aligned policies	0	0	1	5	0	45
7 - Robust institutions from customary to statutory	3	1	1	5	0	14
8 - Multiple key elements	3	0	2	3	0	32

Legend: Number of documents



B. Gaps identified

Guidance related to species

13. For aquatic animals, the analysis shows that there are gaps relating to inclusive and participatory decision-making, inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights, equitable distribution of costs and benefits, and robust institutions. There is adequate guidance on monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices, and coordinated and aligned policies as relates to aquatic animals.

14. For terrestrial animals, there is adequate guidance relating to 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. There are gaps related to inclusive and participatory decision-making, inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights, equitable distribution of costs and benefits, coordinated and aligned policies, and robust institutions.

15. For plants, trees, and fungi and algae, there gaps across all seven key elements.

Guidance related to practices

16. In terms of fishing, the analysis shows there is adequate guidance on monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices and coordinated and aligned policies. There are gaps in guidance related to 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 and robust institutions.

17. For non-extractive practices, there is adequate guidance on monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices, with gaps across all six remaining key elements.
18. For gathering, logging, and terrestrial animal harvesting, there are gaps in guidance across all seven key elements.
19. In terms of guidance covering multiple practices, there are gaps related to inclusive and participatory decision-making, inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights, equitable distribution of costs and benefits and policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts.

Geographical coverage of guidance

20. In terms of guidance with global coverage, there are gaps related to inclusive and participatory decision-making, inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights, and equitable distribution of costs and benefits.
21. In all regions except for Europe there are gaps in coverage of guidance across all seven key elements.
22. In Europe there is adequate guidance on monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices, with some guidance on coordinated and aligned policies and robust institutions. There are gaps in guidance related to inclusive and participatory decision-making, inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights, equitable distribution of costs and benefits, and policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts.

III. Conclusions

23. The analyses carried out by the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and the Secretariat showed that most available guidance produced is targeted towards multiple species, practices and geographical regions. Where guidance for species groups exists, it largely focuses on monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices, and coordinated and aligned policies. A similar pattern is observed for sustainable use practices (please see Tables 2 to 4 above).
24. In addition to the knowledge gaps identified by the Collaborative Partnership, numerous gaps in guidance were identified by the Secretariat's analysis across practices, species and geographic regions, particularly relating to inclusive and participatory decision-making, inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights, equitable distribution of costs and benefits, and policies tailored to local social and ecological context.

Annex

Seven key elements of effective policy for the sustainable use of wild species identified in *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*

1. The summary for policy makers of The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species highlighted the urgent need to implement and scale up policy instruments that work to address current and future pressures on wild species. It further underlined that current and projected future pressures on wild species can best be addressed by concerted interventions that scale up policy actions which have been demonstrated to support sustainable use.

2. In this regard *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* identified a set of seven key elements (policy actions), which when integrated into binding and voluntary agreements and credit schemes, have been shown to enhance sustainability of the use of wild species.

Key element	Description	Examples of policy actions
Inclusive and participatory decision making	Stakeholder diversity promotes buy-in and collaboration, and expands the knowledge base for decision-making (e.g., co-management), provided that power imbalances and conflicts are. Specific actions to promote inclusive and participatory processes include enacting policies with clear guidance on procedures for decision-making and representation (e.g., specifying membership roles and responsibilities) and building capacity that enables all parties to participate fully.	• Enact policies with clear guidance on transparent processes for decision-making and representation. • Build the capacity of all actors. • Develop national, regional, and international contact points, platforms and community facilitators, mediators.
Inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights	Sustainable use of wild species will be enhanced by policy processes that protect indigenous and local knowledge and draw on diverse forms of knowledge, bringing scientists, indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant actors together in a co-learning process. Measures to ensure that indigenous and local knowledge holders have provided free, prior and informed consent for, and receive benefits from, the use of their knowledge are important, for example, through the enactment of access and benefit-sharing mechanisms.	• Ensure that decision-making processes are mandated to draw on diverse forms of social and ecological knowledge. • Develop measures to gain free, prior and informed consent for the use of knowledge and to ensure knowledge-holders benefit. • Promote the obligation to secure the substantive and procedural rights that are guaranteed by law for all potentially affected persons.

Equitable distribution of costs and benefits	Policies that overlook social equity increase the risk of unsustainable use of wild species. Specific actions and plans could include enacting guidelines on access and benefit sharing that are currently common in voluntary agreements, and applying governance and institutional frameworks that ensure fair and equitable distribution of costs and benefits. This may ensure that policies do not inadvertently criminalize or deprive local communities or marginalized individuals of access and equitable distribution of costs and benefits, and identify measures that may ensure preventing the misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.	• Incorporate the contents of voluntary guidelines on fair and equitable sharing of benefits into legally binding agreements. • Distribute costs of management through social safety nets while ensuring that costs of management do not exceed benefits. • Apply governance and institutional frameworks that promote equitable benefit-sharing. • Ensure that policies do not inadvertently remove access for indigenous peoples, local communities or marginalized individuals.
Policies tailored to local social and ecological context	Effective policies are purpose- built to local, social and ecological conditions in which uses take place. Actions to empower indigenous peoples and local communities and respect their rights, access and customary rules are fundamental to the development of context- specific policies.	• Develop science- and evidence-based policies according to specific local ecological and social contexts, and follow the precautionary approach as appropriate. • Respect local communities' rights and access and customary rules. • Empower local communities.
Monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices	Monitoring is resource intensive and will require more support and investment in all countries to overcome the capacity, financial, technical and institutional challenges that generate strong limitations to monitoring wild species, which are more pronounced in developing countries. Monitoring efforts that are inclusive of indigenous peoples, local communities and scientific approaches, and facilitate equitable participation of all key actors, can better inform decision-making.	• Incorporate guidelines and tools in project and programme planning to ensure social and ecological monitoring and evaluation of all interventions and their implications for the rights of people involved. • Invest resources in coordinated social and ecological monitoring programmes. • Support scientific and community-based social and ecological monitoring programmes.
Coordinated and aligned policies	Policy outcomes will also be more effective and will lead to fewer negative and unintended consequences when attention is paid to coordinated interactions between approaches, actors, and scales.	• Coordinate international, regional, national and subnational policies and governance. • Integrate policies across sectors. • Coordinate policies across practices.

Robust institutions, form customary to statutory	Institutions that support collaborative and decentralized learning and shared interests in sustainable use are more effective than centralized systems aimed only at top-down governance. Adaptive and dynamic institutions capable of adjusting to changing circumstances will be needed to face current and future challenges to sustainable use of wild species. The integration of conflict resolution mechanisms will make institutions more effective, while transparency initiatives connected to legally mandated measures of accountability will enhance trust in institutions.	• Design adaptive and dynamic institutions capable of adjusting to ecological and social changes. • Develop conflict resolution mechanisms and manage conflicts. • Integrate transparency measures into formal, legally mandated accountability policies. • Ensure all relevant customary and statutory policies, laws and institutions are respected in national and international agreements.
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