



## **Convention on Biological Diversity**

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### **Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

#### **Sixteenth meeting**

Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024

Agenda item 13

#### **Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions**

### **Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management: progress report 2023–2024\***

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management is a voluntary partnership of 13 international organizations with substantive mandates and programmes to promote the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources. The partnership was established in response to paragraph 15 (f) of decision XI/25.
2. The mission of the Partnership 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 vertebrate wildlife in all biomes and geographical areas, contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to human food security, livelihoods and well-being.
3. The progress report 2023–2024, circulated herewith, highlights the joint activities and key achievements of the Partnership over the past two years, support provided to the Convention in response to recommendation 25/7 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and support provided to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The report underscores the strength of the Partnership and its collective efforts toward promoting sustainable wildlife management across various thematic areas.
4. The report is provided in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

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

## **COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: PROGRESS REPORT 2023-2024**

### **I. OVERVIEW OF THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

#### **A. Background**

1. The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management<sup>1</sup> (CPW) is a voluntary partnership of thirteen international organizations<sup>2</sup> with substantive mandates and programmes to promote the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources.
2. The CPW plays a critical role in global biodiversity efforts articulated by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In fact, the CPW was established in 2013, based on a decision UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/25<sup>3</sup> *on sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management*.
3. The vision of CPW is of a world where wildlife is valued, conserved, sustainably managed, and contributes to human well-being.
4. The mission of the CPW 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 vertebrate wildlife in all biomes and geographic areas, contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to human food security, livelihoods and wellbeing.

#### **B. Governance**

5. The Partnership expressed its appreciation for the leadership demonstrated by Ms. Ivonne Higuero, CPW Chair and Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and Dr. Dilys Roe, CPW Vice-Chair, Principal Researcher, and Biodiversity Team Leader at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED, as well as Chair of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi), during their tenure from July 2022 to July 2024.
6. Following internal consultations with and agreement from each CPW member organization, the terms of the current Chair and Vice-Chair have been extended for an additional two years, until July 2026. This extension will facilitate the continued implementation of the joint programme of work and ensure leadership continuity, enabling the CPW to maintain its momentum and further its impact.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry-fao/wildlife-partnership/en/>

<sup>2</sup> The thirteen member organizations of CPW are: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), TRAFFIC – the wildlife trade monitoring network, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-25-en.pdf>

7. Since 2013, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations serves as the Secretariat<sup>4</sup> for the CPW and has been a proactive part of the effort to increase cooperation among its 13 international organization-members.
8. On 26 May 2023, the International Trade Centre (ITC) formally withdrew its membership from the CPW. This decision was made considering ITC's current strategic focus on supporting micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in adopting sustainability practices, which is now less aligned with the primary objectives of the CPW.

### **C. Thematic Objectives**

9. The CPW delivers its mission and vision through five thematic objectives:

**Objective 1. Support countries to ensure that the use and trade of wildlife is legal, sustainable and safe**

CPW supports the development and promotion of strategies, policies, management systems and monitoring mechanisms that contribute to the sustainable use and management of wildlife and their habitats, considering the socio-economic needs of human populations. This includes the development and promotion of CPW science-based activities and products, which support countries to ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and, where appropriate, identifying sustainable alternatives to the use of wildlife for food or livelihoods as well as other measures, i.e. legislation, capacity building and outreach, where it is not legal, sustainable and safe.

**Objective 2. Raise awareness of the links between sustainable use of wildlife, food security, livelihoods and well-being, culture and the integrity of landscapes**

CPW highlights the importance of the sustainable use of wildlife, in its various forms, and landscape conservation and restoration to local peoples' livelihoods and food security as well as their cultural practices and values. This work is carried out in international policy processes and frameworks and other platforms. Strengthening the role IPLCs have in the sustainable use and management of wildlife and landscape restoration are specific focus areas. The recognition of the value of wildlife resources strengthens the rationale to ensure that the use is sustainable to maintain wildlife habitat and thus reduce the pressures for land use change.

**Objective 3. Promote the prevention, management and reduction of human-wildlife conflict and enhance coexistence**

CPW contributes to and facilitates activities to improve the understanding of the direct and underlying causes of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in the different regions of the world and supports initiatives to manage and reduce HWC and promote coexistence. The importance of application of interdisciplinary approaches, an in-depth understanding of social, political and cultural root causes of the HWC, as well as the values structure of the local communities being affected are key considerations in this thematic objective and the activities to be implemented.

**Objective 4. Embed the sustainable use and management of wildlife in the One Health agenda**

CPW contributes to global discussions on One Health, taking a broad perspective of the multiple interlinkages between the sustainable use and management of wildlife, human health and biodiversity. This holistic approach recognizes both benefits and risks of wildlife use for human health and well-being, including those linked to nutrition and food security, the provision of ecosystem services and other contributions of nature as well as consideration of zoonotic disease risk, arising from land use and land use change and harvest, trade and consumption of wildlife.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife-partnership>

**Objective 5. Advocate for sustainable and inclusive wildlife economies**

CPW supports the development of sustainable wildlife-based economies at international, national and local levels through the contribution of technical and evidence-based knowledge and guidance on sustainable use of wild species and on increasing the effective participation of IPLCs in wildlife management decision-making, as well as wider policy recognition of the importance of such an approach to the long-term survival of nature and people.

10. The CPW tackles these thematic objectives by:

- collecting, drawing upon and presenting evidence of the importance of sustainable use and management of wildlife for nature and people to support international policy making. CPW, furthermore, provides evidence-based case studies and knowledge-based technical guidance on thematic areas and in response to emerging global issues related to sustainable wildlife management.
- contributing, as and where appropriate, to the implementation and monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (the Global Biodiversity Framework) under each of these thematic objectives, including through the development of relevant indicators, tools and guidance, the organization of dialogues and consultations with relevant stakeholder groups, including Wildlife Forum meetings.
- seeking to enable effective engagement of IPLCs and be informed by the diverse experience of various practitioners of sustainable wildlife management. CPW also applies multidisciplinary approaches that integrate gender issues in designing and implementing activities related to the sustainable use and management of wildlife, as and where appropriate; and
- pursuing interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and systemic approaches, taking into consideration the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)' Assessment Report on Sustainable Use of Wild Species and other scientific resources, as relevant.

**D. CPW Meetings**

11. On 26 February 2023, the Partnership's strategic meeting took place in Dublin, Ireland, held in conjunction with United Nation Environment Programme's (UNEP) workshop on the Wild Biodiversity Economy Initiative on 27-28 February 2023. During the strategic meeting, CPW's thematic objectives (outlined in paragraph 9) were formally endorsed. The participants also discussed the CPW Workplan and key joint initiatives, while reviewing project ideas and potential fundraising opportunities aligned with the thematic objectives. On World Wildlife Day 2023 under the theme to '*Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation*', the CPW published a joint statement<sup>5</sup>, announcing its commitment to work together on the above-mentioned thematic objectives.
12. The fifteenth meeting of the CPW was held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 26-28 September 2023. During the meeting, partners reviewed the Partnership's work priorities and developed a joint Workplan for 2023-2025<sup>6</sup> (further details are outlined in the next section).
13. The Partnership held two virtual coordination meetings in February and June 2024 to review the progress on implementation of the joint initiatives of the Workplan for 2023-2025 and to identify priority actions needed to further advance the work. These meetings provided an opportunity for partners to assess the achievements, address challenges, and ensure that the ongoing efforts are

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<sup>5</sup> <https://wildlifeday.org/en/message/joint-statement>

<sup>6</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/639fdff9-19b4-4027-93c4-92d11c8968ee/content>

aligned with the Workplan for 2023-2025 and thematic objectives. The next virtual coordination meeting is planned in November 2024.

## II. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

14. In an effort to provide an up-to-date overview of developments in the sustainable wildlife management field, the CPW hosted a side event<sup>7</sup> for CBD Parties and other participants on the sidelines of the CBD's twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-25). During this event, the Partnership officially launched its Workplan for 2023-2025<sup>8</sup>. The Workplan was actively promoted by CPW partner organizations through their respective websites and social media channels, ensuring broader visibility and engagement with stakeholders across multiple platforms<sup>9</sup>.
15. All thirteen member organizations of the CPW collaboratively developed the Workplan for 2023-2025, which includes eleven joint initiatives, each aligned with the five thematic objectives previously agreed upon by the partnership. These initiatives represent a broad spectrum of collaborative efforts, involving all CPW partners, subsets of member organizations, and, where appropriate, collaborations with non-member organizations.
16. The Workplan for 2023-2025 promotes wildlife's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, other internationally agreed frameworks, such as Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD, and the objectives of relevant global biodiversity-related agreements, such as CITES and Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
17. The progress achieved in the implementation of the joint initiatives outlined in the Workplan for 2023-2025 is detailed below.

### Joint Initiative 1: Contribution to a gap analysis to support the implementation of CBD Decision 15/23 on sustainable wildlife management

18. In its recommendation 25/7<sup>10</sup>, the SBSTTA-25 requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the CPW to undertake, in line with the mandate of the CBD 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 (MEAs) and by competent intergovernmental organizations.
19. Pursuant to the same request, the CPW compiled an inventory of existing information<sup>11</sup> received in response to notifications Nos. 2023-120<sup>12</sup> and 2023-121<sup>13</sup> and information provided by its members.
20. Based on the inventory, the CPW subsequently prepared a gap analysis of areas not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and by competent intergovernmental organizations. The gap analysis carried out by the

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/side-events/5223>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/newsroom/news-detail/collaborative-partnership-on-sustainable-wildlife-management-outlines-new-roadmap-for-2023-2025/en>

<sup>9</sup> CITES Secretariat: <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/i/cpw/CPW%20Work%20Plan%202023-2025.pdf>; CBD Secretariat: <https://mobile.x.com/UNBiodiversity/status/1714278465065951727>; TRAFFIC: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/traffic-international\\_cpw-work-plan-2023-2025-activity-7120060599715160064-wg\\_q/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/traffic-international_cpw-work-plan-2023-2025-activity-7120060599715160064-wg_q/); FAO: <https://www.fao.org/forestry/newsroom/news-detail/collaborative-partnership-on-sustainable-wildlife-management-outlines-new-roadmap-for-2023-2025/en>; CIC: <https://www.cic-wildlife.org/15th-cpw-meeting-in-rome-and-the-2023-2025-work-plan/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-25/sbstta-25-rec-07-en.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> The inventory is available [here](#).

<sup>12</sup> Submission of views and information on existing tools and guidance that can support the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

<sup>13</sup> Submission of information on best practices for sustainable wildlife management and views on areas that require complementary guidance.

Partnership was limited to areas within its scope and mandate. In identifying the gaps in guidance on sustainable wildlife management, the CPW 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<sup>14</sup>.

21. The gap analysis by Collaborative Partnership based on the comments received through the peer review is available as document CBD/COP/16/INF/6<sup>15</sup>.

**Joint Initiative 2: Provision of technical assistance for integrating sustainable wildlife management into CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**

22. Through the GEF enabling activity GBF-Early Action Support (EAS) implemented by UNEP and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, NBSAP Forum 2.0<sup>16</sup> was re-launched in 2023 on the International Day for Biological Diversity as an online community of practice and knowledge platform to connect practitioners and technical experts around the 23 Targets in the Global Biodiversity Framework. It aims to support countries and stakeholders to implement the Convention, its strategic plans, including targets in the Global Biodiversity Framework by providing opportunity to:

- share relevant news, publications, and e-learning resources related to NBSAPs on the online forums<sup>17</sup>. catalyze discussions on the Framework's implementation across the 23 targets, including the Targets 4,5 and 9 related to wildlife management and sustainable use.
- provide technical resources featured in its resource library<sup>18</sup> currently 28 resource materials relevant to GBF Targets 4, 5 and 9 are available through the NBSAPs Forum.
- host webinar or other e-learning<sup>19</sup> offerings; GEF Early Action Support Webinar Series #5 on National Target Alignment: Tools and Technical Support.
- raise awareness by championing each target and facilitating stakeholder engagement.
- collaborate with other organizations operating in the same area of expertise.

23. In regard to technical assistance on integrating sustainable wildlife management into CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, as the world marked the international day for Wildlife 2024, a guidance paper on *“NBSAPs and synergies among Biodiversity-related Conventions, with a focus on the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework that address wild-species”*<sup>20</sup> was made available and disseminated to countries through the NBSAPs Forum. It is a product under the CPW, led by the CMS Secretariat in conjunction with the CITES Secretariat and was aimed at providing a practical way of encouraging that the commitments of governments under other biodiversity-related MEAs are brought into NBSAPS.

24. The guidance document is among other resources and reference documents related to GBF Targets 4,5 and 9 that have been made available to countries through the NBSAP Forum, e-learning

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.ipbes.net/sustainable-use-assessment>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/5fc9/73ca/69bb289dbcf82268aaf0e864/cop-16-inf-06-en.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/en/news/nbsap-forum-2-0-launches-to-help-nations-meet-2030-targets-for-nature>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/forums/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/resources/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nbsap-forum/elearning/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.learningfornature.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NBSAP-Guidance-Document-on-MEAs-Focused-on-Species-Targets.pdf>

platforms for the project as well as through UNEP-led technical support workshops organized in the scope of the GBF EAS project covering eligible countries in the following regions: Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa, Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe countries. Currently, a total of 28 resource materials relevant to GBF Targets 4, 5 and 9 are available through the NBSAPs Forum.

**Joint Initiative 3: Contribution to the development of methodology for Sustainable Use of Wild Species Indicator for Targets 5 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

25. The expert workshop on indicators of sustainable use and trade of wild species, held on 1-2 August 2024 in Cambridge, UK, marked a key step forward in a nearly 20-year process to develop sustainable use indicators. This process began in 2005 with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Working Group, which aimed to refine indicators for the use, harvest, and trade of wild species, aligned with the CBD 2010 Biodiversity Targets. Building on this groundwork, an in-person 2019 workshop followed by a virtual workshop in 2020, both under the CPW, refined Target 5 of the GBF, ensuring the indicators were measurable and practical for implementation.
26. The recent 2024 workshop involved 39 experts from multiple national and international organizations (CIFOR-ICRAF, University of Oxford, Federal University of Espírito Santo, World Conservation Society (WCS), University of Kent, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), IUCN SULi, University of Bangor, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC), and Instituto Serrapilheira) with the aim of creating a Binary Indicator for Target 5 to be presented at CBD COP-16 for further consultation, refinement and potential adoption by Parties. This indicator proposal is designed to track the first steps in regulating the sustainable use, harvest, and trade of wild species. It serves as an essential tool for the early stages of implementing policy frameworks and monitoring programs, allowing the collection of critical data on these activities that can feed in other indicators. This indicator proposal will be presented in two already-approved side events at COP-16, one<sup>21</sup> led by CPW and one by CASCADE.

**Joint Initiative 4: Testing CITES Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) guidance for sustainable wildlife management**

27. A CITES Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) is a determination based on best available scientific information that international trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. This assessment is made at a national level by the CITES Scientific Authority and is essentially a science-based risk assessment. However, the methodology can be applied to any species (including non-CITES listed species) to determine sustainable levels of harvest and use.
28. CITES Decisions 19.132-134<sup>22</sup> direct the Secretariat, and the Animals and Plants Committee, in consultation with CITES Parties, to build on previous efforts to inventory and review available NDF guidance, and to address apparent gaps and needs by updating or developing additional materials.
29. The CITES NDF project brought together Parties, observers and independent experts to develop overarching guidance, through eleven online workstreams, and a global expert workshop on 4-8 December 2023 in Nairobi, that was attended by more than 150 participants from 42 CITES Parties and 25 organizations, including the following CPW Partners: CIC, CITES, FAO, IUCN and TRAFFIC. The NDF guidance that has been produced introduces readers to generic concepts of relevance to NDFs, including risk and uncertainty, adaptive management and species' roles in their ecosystems. A comprehensive 5-step process for making NDFs entails both simplified and

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/side-events/5757>

<sup>22</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/dec/index.php/44360>

comprehensive approaches for making NDFs. Several case studies and practical examples are included in the guidance. Parties are invited to test this guidance in the field, providing feedback that can be used to update future guidance materials as may be needed. All the guidance material is available in English, French and Spanish on the dedicated website<sup>23</sup>.

#### **Joint Initiative 5: Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme Legal Hub review exercise**

30. As part of Phase 2 of the SWM Programme<sup>24</sup> (2024-2027), implemented by a consortium of four partners (FAO, CIRAD, CIFOR, and WCS) — with FAO and CIFOR as CPW members, the main legal diagnostic tool used to inform the on-line legal platform – Legal Hub<sup>25</sup> - used to facilitate access to legal information, has been reviewed based on the experiences and lessons from Phase 1. This tool has been used to conduct cross-sectoral analysis of national legislations enabling the sustainable management of wildlife to identify potential inconsistencies, gaps or loopholes, including in relation to key multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. CMS, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), CITES, The Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR), CBD, etc) and sustainable development agendas.
31. In this context, the review of the Legal Hub aimed to enhance the integration of the One Health and community rights-based approaches, along with key principles from relevant MEAs. A peer review process for the updated legal diagnostic tool began in December 2023. This involved contributions from FAO technical divisions, SWM Programme partners, all CPW members, National Legal Consultants, and external organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). These stakeholders provided valuable feedback on the tool. A multi-stakeholder workshop, attended by all reviewers, was held at FAO Headquarters in June 2024, marking the culmination of this collaborative review process. The workshop's goal was to review and validate the consolidated version of the legal diagnostic tool.
32. The validated thematic sections of the final legal diagnostic tool will be made publicly accessible and serve as a foundation for conducting in-country legal analyses. These analyses will assess the strengths and gaps in national legal frameworks across various sectors, particularly in relation to the implementation of key MEAs. The findings from these assessments can be leveraged, including by the SWM Programme, to support law reform processes and promote an enabling environment for sustainable wildlife management. This approach will integrate holistic, One Health, and community-based perspectives, ensuring a more inclusive and comprehensive strategy for wildlife conservation and public health.

#### **Joint Initiative 6: Collation of new case studies on commercial trade in CITES-listed species and how this may contribute to the wellbeing and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

33. Building upon the CITES Resolution Conf. 16.6 on Livelihoods<sup>26</sup>, there is an ongoing appeal to Parties for the submission of case studies illustrating positive and negative instances where the trade in CITES-listed species impacts both conservation efforts and livelihoods. In this joint initiative, CPW is involved in identifying potential case studies and actively participating in their documentation.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.swm-programme.info/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.swm-programme.info/legal-hub>

<sup>26</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/document/E-Res-16-06-R18.pdf>

- 34. An updated template for case studies is under development by the CITES and Livelihoods working group. It is anticipated that a new set of case studies will be collected and published prior to the next CITES CoP in 2025.
- 35. Additionally, several members of the CPW contribute to the deliberations of the CITES Livelihoods Working Group.

**Joint Initiative 7: Involvement in KMGBF's Target 4 Human-Wildlife Conflict Component Indicator Development**

- 36. The IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group (HWCCSG) has been leading an open Working Group to develop a component indicator within the Monitoring Framework for the human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and coexistence element of Target 4 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>27</sup>.
- 37. Several CPW partners have actively participated in the Working Group, which includes both technical experts and CBD Parties. Over a 10-month period, members engaged in a series of online workshops facilitated by the HWCCSG Chair, Policy Officer, and key members. These workshops included eight iterations of the concept, data sources, organization of metrics, discussion about essential and optional metrics, and feasibility of data gathering. Several participants also gave brief information talks about existing HWC data collection efforts in various countries. The Working Group also looked at other indicators and existing related assessment. By May 2024, after four initial workshops, the Working Group was streamlined to a core group of 35 active members. The resulting conceptual framework was presented at a side event<sup>28</sup> at CBD SBSTTA-26, with the draft indicator framework scheduled to be showcased at CBD COP16.

**Joint Initiative 8: Creation of One Health Information Brief for sustainable wildlife management**

- 38. Since the release of the CPW Joint Statement on zoonotic diseases and wildlife in the context of COVID-19<sup>29</sup> in 2020, significant global developments have taken place. These include the integration of the One Health approach into the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the establishment of the One Health Quadripartite and its Joint Plan of Action (JPA), and the growing recognition of the indispensable role sustainable wildlife management plays in achieving biodiversity goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 39. In light of these global advancements, and at the time of writing this report, the CPW is in the process of finalizing an information brief. This document will outline key considerations to enhance sustainable wildlife management in support of the One Health approach and relevant Targets within the Global Biodiversity Framework. Key highlights from this brief will be presented during the COP-16 Biodiversity and Health Day on 24 October 2024.

**Joint Initiative 9: Assist in country piloting the “WOAH’s Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade”**

- 40. In collaboration with TRAFFIC and IUCN, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) organized a series of two pilot workshops (in December 2023 and March 2024) in Thailand to support the country's implementation of the Guidelines<sup>30</sup>. The methodology developed for these workshops, which focused on engaging a multi-sector audience, is designed to be replicable in

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.hwcctf.org/hwcindicatordevelopment>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/side-events/5388>

<sup>29</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3cc5ad00-91c6-420f-8d39-04abf532a342/content>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2024/05/wildlife-trade-guidelines.pdf>

other countries, thereby scaling up the piloting phase globally. The key outcomes of the workshops were:

- A better understanding of disease risks associated with wildlife trade and management, including identifying relevant stakeholders in the country.
- Identification of key interfaces in selected trade activities that pose risks.
- Mapping of key stakeholders and their responsibilities.
- Enhanced knowledge on communication and awareness strategies.

41. The first workshop used case studies to identify stakeholders involved across the wildlife trade supply chain and pinpointed areas of potential pathogen spillover. The second workshop focused on risk assessment, management, and communication, as outlined in the guidelines. These workshops fostered initial networking between different sectors, creating opportunities for strengthened collaboration in managing risks along the wildlife trade supply chain. Additional workshops are being planned in Africa and the Middle East.

#### **Joint Initiative 10: Contribution to the peer review of CBD's revised version of the “*Biodiversity and Health Action Plan*”**

42. At its fourteen meeting, the COP to the CBD, requested the Executive Secretary, among other things, to develop a draft global action plan to mainstream biodiversity and health linkages into national policies, strategies, programs and accounts. Further, at its fifteenth meeting, the COP, requested the Executive Secretary to complete the work on the draft global action plan pursuant to decision 14/4<sup>31</sup>, and drawing on the deliberations of the resumed session of the twenty-fourth meeting of the SBSTTA.

43. Following the Notification 2024-002<sup>32</sup>, several CPW partners participated in the peer-review process of the Plan in February 2024. Once the COP-16 reaches a decision on the plan, its implementation can begin. Successful execution will require the active support of partner organizations, incl. CPW, as the plan emphasizes the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to achieve its objective.

#### **Joint Initiative 11: Wild Biodiversity Economy Initiative**

44. In support of the implementation of Decision 15/23 UNEP further developed the Wild Biodiversity Economy (WBE) Initiative that intends to strengthen sustainable use practices of land and species as a competitive livelihood and development strategy to meet people's needs, whilst also reducing biodiversity loss. Four regional scoping studies covering Asia and Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean and North America were done to create a knowledgebase to help understand how different regions have recognised biodiversity related economies and integrated this dimension into their national/regional policies. This initiative will promote the uptake of viable and attractive biodiversity economy approaches to support the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity in a manner that delivers socio-economic development to countries and, in particular those communities that are the stewards of biodiverse land.

45. In September 2024, the CPW partners provided inputs to the regional scoping studies that will inform the final scope and focus of the initiative. The CPW partners also identified the areas of complementarity that the respective partners could contribute towards.

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-04-en.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2024-002>

46. In addition to the regional scoping studies, a contribution to the WBE Initiative has been the development and testing of a framework of principles for assessing the sustainability of different wildlife uses. This component has been led by IIED, IUCN SULi and TRAFFIC building on a project funded by the UK Darwin Initiative with inputs provided by UNEP. The framework adds animal welfare and human health to the more conventional ecological, social and economic dimensions of sustainability with the aim to provide countries with a tool to assess whether trade is sustainable, safe and legal and thereby contribute to the achievement of Target 5 of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

### **III. FOLLOW UP TO COP DECISION 15/23 ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

47. Following on from the requests made in the CBD COP Decision 15/23<sup>33</sup>, the CPW produced the gap analysis identifying other areas beyond the wild meat sector that may require complementary guidance, such as other geographical areas, species and uses, making full use of the outcomes and the findings of the report of the CPW Consultative Workshop on Sustainable Wildlife Management Beyond 2020 and the results of the survey on sustainable wildlife management. Further information is provided in paragraphs 18-21.

48. Furthermore, in reference to paragraph 1(a) of CBD decision 15/23 concerning the completion of work mandated in decision 14/7, the SWM Programme has been assisting the countries where it is operating in implementing the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector at the national level. This includes i) reviewing and strengthening policy and legal frameworks through facilitating access to legal information (via the Legal Hub) and assisting in reform processes, ii) identifying and promoting best practices on the ground for sustainable wildlife use and management, and iii) examining provisions for food and livelihood alternatives, particularly in relation to the customary sustainable use of wildlife.

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-23-en.pdf>