



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
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**Findings from the assessments by the Intergovernmental
Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem
Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
Change and their implications for the work undertaken
under the Convention**

Review of findings from the Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and their implications for the work undertaken under the Convention

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its decision [15/23](#), on sustainable wildlife management, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to continue the close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), including on the implications of the latter's thematic assessment on the sustainable use of wild species¹ for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in decision 15/4. It also requested the Executive Secretary to report on the progress of that activity to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. The present note has been prepared in response to those requests and contains an overview of the work on sustainable use undertaken under the Convention, as context for the assessment and how it relates to the Convention (sect. II); the key findings of the assessment (sect. III); an overview of its implications for the work undertaken under the Convention (sect. IV); and recommendations for the Subsidiary Body (sect. V).

* CBD/SBSTTA/25/1/Rev.1.

¹ IPBES, *Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (Bonn, 2022). Available at www.ipbes.net/sustainable-use-assessment.

II. Background: sustainable use in the context of the Convention

3. Sustainable use is one of the three objectives of the Convention, as stated in its Article 1. The text of the Convention makes further explicit reference to sustainable use in its Article 6 (in relation to strategies, plans and programmes), Article 8 (in situ conservation) and Article 10 (in relation to customary sustainable use), among others.

4. Sustainable use has been incorporated in the work undertaken under the Convention through the thematic programmes of work and in cross-cutting issues. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in 2004, which consist of 14 interdependent practical principles, operational guidelines and a few instruments for their implementation that govern the uses of components of biodiversity to ensure the sustainability of such uses. The objective of the principles is to provide a framework for advising governments, resource managers, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders about how they can ensure that their use of the components of biodiversity will not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity.

5. In response to the request by the Conference of the Parties in its decision XI/25, the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management was established with the aim of increasing cooperation and coordination to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, food security, livelihoods and well-being. The Partnership is currently joined by 14 members, including the Secretariat.

6. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework specifically refers to ensuring a sustainable, safe and legal use of wild species in Target 5, while addressing in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, as well as human-wildlife interactions in Target 4, and highlighting the sustainable management and use of wild species in Target 9. The implementation of these targets will build on national implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 3, 6, 7 and 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

III. Key findings of the assessment

7. The Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species and its summary for policymakers was approved by the IPBES Plenary at its ninth session, held from 2 to 9 July 2022. For a more comprehensive overview of the assessment, see the Summary for Policymakers of the Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species available online in the six official languages of the United Nations.²

8. The goal of this IPBES assessment is to identify various approaches to enhance the sustainability of the use of wild species, to identify challenges and opportunities in doing so and to reduce and deter unsustainable uses of wild species. It is also aimed at strengthening practices, measures, capacities and conservation approaches that derive from the use of wild species. The key findings of the assessment are summarized below.

9. Status and trends in uses of wild species vary depending on types and scales of use, and social-ecological contexts. This aspect of the assessment is addressed in details in document CBD/SBSTTA/25/11.

10. Billions of people around the planet rely on and benefit from the use of wild species. About 50,000 aquatic and terrestrial wild species are documented to be used for, inter alia, food, medicine, energy, materials and education purposes.

11. Wild species are important sources of subsistence resources and income. People in vulnerable situations, in particular women, children and landless farmers, are often most reliant on wild species

² Available at www.ipbes.net/sustainable-use-assessment

and most likely to benefit from more sustainable forms of use of wild species to secure their livelihoods.

12. The use of wild species supports peoples' basic needs worldwide and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Measures to ensure and promote the sustainable use of wild species can contribute to meeting many of the Goals, especially Goals 1, 2, 6 to 10 and 13 to 15.

13. The sustainable use of wild species is central to the identity, cultural expressions and livelihoods of many indigenous peoples and local communities. Furthermore, indigenous peoples manage more than 38 million km² of land in 87 countries. This area coincides with approximately 40 per cent of all terrestrial conserved areas, including many with high biodiversity value. The ability of indigenous peoples and local communities to maintain and restore practices associated with the sustainable use of wild species is constrained by multiple factors, including the lack of implementation of international instruments through national policies, and the lack of data and indicators to monitor progress in this regard.

14. Moving from the unsustainable to sustainable use of wild species is also critical for biodiversity conservation, as overexploitation remains a major threat to many wild species. Effective management systems that promote the sustainable use of wild species can also contribute to broader conservation objectives. For example, such uses as hunting, fishing and tourism can be important sources of funding for the management of protected areas and for conservation agencies. Conversely, experts note that the absence of effective institutions, regulations and enforcement may have negative impacts on biodiversity.

15. Ensuring and enhancing the sustainable use of wild species are thus essential for human well-being and biodiversity conservation.

16. The use of wild species is globally increasing, but the sustainability of the uses depends on the social and ecological contexts in which they occur. Approximately 34 per cent of marine wild fish stocks are overfished, while 66 per cent are fished within biologically sustainable levels, but this global picture conceals strong spatial heterogeneities. At the global level, populations of many terrestrial animals are declining as a result of unsustainable use, but the impacts of use on wild species and society can be neutral or positive in some places. Destructive logging practices and illegal logging, on the other hand, threaten the sustainable use of natural forests.

17. Environmental drivers, such as climate change, pollution and invasive alien species, have an impact on the abundance and distribution of wild species, as well as on their use by local communities and indigenous peoples.

18. Global trade in wild species has grown considerably over the past 40 years. The absence of effective regulations to address supply chains generally increases pressure and results in unsustainable use and, sometimes, in wild population collapses. International trade has also been recognized as a growing source of introduction of invasive alien species. Illegal trade in wild species is considered the third largest type of illegal trade and is often associated with social injustices and the involvement of criminal networks.

19. Conflicts, including armed conflicts, can have significant impacts on sustainable use. Some major issues that can result in unsustainable use include the migration and settlement of displaced peoples, the overexploitation of species by armed forces, the disruption of institutional structures and processes governing wild species and the disruption of economies.

20. Culture, including language, knowledge, religion, food habits, values and philosophies, influences the way in which people interact with wild species. Culture is dynamic, and such actions as education and awareness-raising may achieve more sustainable uses of wild species. However, education, communication and public awareness are usually not considered policy options.

21. Effective governance, institutions and policies can, however, promote positive outcomes and mitigate the negative impacts of various drivers.
22. The concept of sustainable use has evolved over time and differs among cultures. More recent conceptualizations revolve around the idea that sustainable use emerges from the dynamics of socio-ecological systems that maintain biodiversity and ecosystem functions in the long term, while contributing to human needs and well-being.
23. The sustainability of the use of wild species in the future is likely to face several challenges, including climate change, growing human demand and technological developments. Scenarios projecting the future use of wild species indicate that transformative changes integrating plural value systems, the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, changes in social values, effective institutions and governance systems, among others, are needed to ensure sustainable use.
24. The assessment contains a set of seven suggested policy actions, or “key elements”, to support the sustainable use of wild species, namely:
 - (a) Inclusive and participatory decision-making;
 - (b) The inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights;
 - (c) The equitable distribution of costs and benefits;
 - (d) Policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts;
 - (e) Monitoring social and ecological conditions and practices;
 - (f) Coordinated and aligned policies;
 - (g) Robust institutions, from customary to statutory.
25. The sustainable use of wild species will also imply a transformative change in the perception and conceptualization of nature, moving away from a human-nature dualism to a more systemic view of humanity as an integral part of nature.

IV. Implications of the assessment for the work undertaken under the Convention

26. The key messages of the assessment emphasize that the sustainable use of wild species is critical for people and nature. Billions of people, in particular those in vulnerable conditions, rely on the use of wild species. The foregoing confirms the need for transformative changes with the involvement of all of society, as stated in section B (purpose) of the Framework.
27. The assessment builds on the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines and proposes seven key elements (see para. 24 above) that can be used as levers of change to promote and enhance the sustainable use of wild species.
28. The assessment is highly relevant to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, its programmes of work and the goals and targets of the Framework. The information that it contains can support the alignments of policies, the development of indicators and the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The assessment provides valuable information, including on the status of and trends in uses of wild species that can inform decision-making, recommendations for the development and implementation of policy options, and an insight into future challenges for the sustainable use of wild species.
29. Pursuant to the request by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in its decision 15/23, and drawing on the findings of the assessment, information regarding areas beyond the wild meat sector that might require complementary guidance on promoting sustainable use and avoiding over-exploitation is provided in document CBD/SBSTTA/25/11.

30. The main findings of the assessment provide key information for the work undertaken under the Convention and include:

(a) Key messages that highlight the linkages between the use of wild species and social, ecological and cultural elements, among others. Furthermore, the assessment describes the relevance and contributions of ensuring the sustainable use of wild species within the broader context of conservation and for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Critical information on elements that should be integrated into policy instruments and tools to ensure effectiveness, including support from robust and adaptive institutions, participatory mechanisms, adaptability to changing circumstances and the incorporation into policy processes of scientists and holders of indigenous and local knowledge holders, among others;

(c) Relevant information on the status of and trends in uses of wild species that can strengthen the programmes of work, including on agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland water biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, island biodiversity and mountain biological diversity, the response to cross-cutting issues, such as protected areas, and partnerships. The information used is also relevant to address the main factors affecting the sustainable use of wild species (e.g. land and seascape changes, climate change, socioeconomical implications and increase in demand);

(d) The conceptualization of sustainable use is constantly evolving over time. The assessment suggests that it would be best operationalized through a specific set of targets or indicators subject to periodic reviews. This is relevant to the work undertaken under the Convention, in particular for the development of indicators for and the achievement of relevant targets of the Framework, including Targets 4, 5, 9 and 10. Furthermore, the assessment also describes the relevance of incorporating indicators addressing the socio-ecological aspects of the sustainable use of wild species;

(e) The importance of ensuring the equitable distribution of benefits in governance and institutional frameworks. The assessment also focuses on ensuring that gender is considered in the governance of wild species, in particular with regard to the distribution of costs and benefits, which is in line with Targets 22 and 23 of the Framework;

(f) The central importance of the sustainable use of wild species to the identity, cultural expressions and livelihoods of many indigenous peoples and local communities, which is critical for achieving the Convention objectives and implementing the provisions of section C, paragraph 7 (a), of the Framework, in which the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and as partners in its conservation, restoration and sustainable use are acknowledged.

V. Recommendations

31. The Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of Parties,

Recalling its decision [15/23](#) of 19 December 2022,

Recognizing that the sustainable use of wild species is critical to bending the curve of biodiversity loss and therefore well embedded in the work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹ including through multiple programmes of work, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity² and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,³

Noting that billions of people around the world rely on the sustainable use of wild species, which are particularly critical to people in vulnerable situations,

Also noting that the sustainable use of wild species is central to the identity and existence of many indigenous peoples and local communities,

1. *Welcomes* the thematic assessment on the sustainable use of wild species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;⁴

2. *Endorses* the key messages contained in the assessment and notes its relevance to the work undertaken under the Convention and to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including, its Targets 4, 5 and 9 in particular, as well as Targets 3, , 10, 12, 18,20, 22 and 23;

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, girls, children, youth and persons with disabilities in the governance of wild species, in line with Targets 22 and 23 of the Framework;

4. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, according to their needs, capacities and circumstances, to:

(a) Use the information provided by the assessment in implementing the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework, including when updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, setting national targets and preparing national reports;

(b) Consider the seven suggested policy actions, or “key elements” from the assessment in developing and implementing policies on sustainable use, namely, 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; monitoring social and ecological conditions and practices; coordinated and aligned policies; and robust institutions, from customary to statutory;

(c) Incorporate inclusive and participatory mechanisms for the development of policy instruments and tools, monitoring frameworks and indicators, including for Targets 4, 5, 9, 10, 22 and 23 of the Framework, ensure that changes in socioeconomic contexts and alignments with sectoral policies are taken into account in such instruments and tools, and promote the incorporation of plural knowledge systems to enhance decision-making and strengthen the adaptive capacity of policy instruments concerning the sustainable use of wild species;

(d) Work together with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to address challenges relating to land tenure, resource use rights and the inequitable distribution

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² Decision VII/12, annex II.

³ Decision 15/4, annex.

⁴ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, *Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (Bonn, 2022).

of costs and benefits derived from the sustainable use of wild species for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention;

(e) Support efforts to incorporate education, communication and awareness-raising concerning the sustainable use of wild species for the achievement of the Framework, in line with its Target 21;

(f) Work together with partners, in particular through the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, to promote the sustainable use of wild species, develop indicators for monitoring the status of and trends in the use of wild species, in collaboration with relevant international organizations;

(g) Address potential challenges for the sustainable use of wild species, including the impacts of climate change, increase in demand and technological developments, in an integrated manner to achieve Targets 4, 5, 9 of the Framework;

(h) Identify the links and contributions of sustainable wildlife use to the achievement of broader conservation goals and the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure policy alignment, and support poverty alleviation and policies to secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests as enabling conditions for the sustainable use of wild species;

(i) Address constraints, such as the lack of implementation of international instruments in national policies, lack of data and indicators and loss of languages, that undermine the ability of indigenous peoples and local communities to maintain and restore practices associated with the sustainable use of wild species for the achievement of targets concerning such use, including Targets 4, 5 and 9 of the Framework;

(j) Strengthen customary institutions and rules, and promote the participation of holders of indigenous and local knowledge in the development of policy instruments and tools;

(k) Enhance the understanding of the links between the use of wild species and pathways for the spread of invasive alien species, in support of the achievement of Target 6 of the Framework;

(l) Work with Parties, other Governments and organizations to coordinate efforts to halt the illegal harvesting of and trade in wild species, in support of the achievement of Target 6 of the Framework;

(m) Promote further research to better understand the links between the use of wild species and zoonotic diseases.
