

Sustainable wildlife management

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions [14/7](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/23](#) of 10 December 2022 and [16/15](#) of 25 October 2024,

Recognizing that sustainable wildlife management contributes to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ and the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework² and provides important ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits,

1. *Adopts* the voluntary global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices with a focus on: (a) inclusive and participatory decision-making; (b) the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights; and (c) the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, as contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational and local governments, relevant organizations and actors, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities to integrate the voluntary global guidance, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national development plans, wildlife policies, relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, legal and institutional frameworks, programmes and other instruments as a contribution to the broader implementation of the sustainable use objective of the Convention;

3. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments, relevant organizations and actors to strengthen regional and transboundary cooperation on sustainable wildlife management for shared species and ecosystems, including access to relevant information and data;

4. *Encourages* Parties and invites relevant organizations and actors to engage the private sector and financial institutions in integrating the voluntary global guidance into their policies, strategies, and practices, in line with Target 15 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

5. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational and local governments, and relevant organizations and actors in a position to do so, to support the implementation of the voluntary global guidance, including through capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, and the mobilization of adequate, predictable and accessible financial resources

6. *Encourages* Parties, when implementing the voluntary global guidance and relevant One Health approaches, to ensure that responses to zoonotic disease risks are informed by the best available scientific evidence and traditional knowledge, taking into account potential impacts on wildlife health, public health and the customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities;

7. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, subnational and local governments, and invites indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and relevant organizations and actors to: (a) raise awareness of the voluntary global guidance; (b) monitor and evaluate its use and effectiveness, and (c) share information, best practices and lessons learned relating to its implementation;

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

² Decision [15/4](#), annex.

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements:

- (a) To promote awareness of, and facilitate the use of, the global guidance;
- (b) To support actions by Parties to address drivers of biodiversity loss and challenges to the sustainable management of wild species;
- (c) To compile the information referred to in paragraph 7 (c) above, and make it available through the clearing-house mechanism and to the technical and scientific cooperation support centres;
- (c) To facilitate, in collaboration with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant organizations, capacity-building for Parties, relating to sustainable wildlife management;
- (d) To report on progress on the above through an information document submitted to the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, building on decisions VII/12, 15/4, 16/12 and 16/15, to initiate a consultation process on options for a potential programme of work on the sustainable use of biodiversity, by requesting information from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant organizations and actors, and to submit it for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

Voluntary global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices

I. Context

1. In decision [14/7](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity³ recognized sustainable wildlife management as an integrated approach contributing to the objectives of the Convention, namely, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The present voluntary guidance builds on that decision and subsequent decisions of the Conference of the Parties and will contribute to the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.⁴ In particular, the voluntary guidance will contribute to the achievement of Targets 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 22 and 23 of the Framework, which provide a basis for advancing species conservation and recovery, ensuring that the use of and trade in wild species are sustainable, safe and legal and enhancing benefits for people.

2. The present voluntary guidance uses the definition of the term “sustainable wildlife management” provided in decision [14/7](#) as a basis, that is, the sound management of wildlife species

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

to sustain their populations and habitat over time, considering the socioeconomic needs of human populations.

3. Sustainable wildlife management is supported by a broad international normative framework created, inter alia, by the Convention on Biological Diversity (in particular Articles 6 to 8 and 10), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Also relevant in that regard are the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity⁵ and other decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including decisions [14/7](#), [15/23](#) and [16/15](#), on sustainable wildlife management. The Framework further reinforces commitments related to halting species extinction, ensuring the sustainable and legal use of wild species, restoring ecosystems and enhancing benefit-sharing.⁴

4. Wildlife continues to provide essential ecological, economic, cultural and social benefits, especially in regions, where it supports livelihoods, food systems and cultural continuity. While many wild species are used at unsustainable levels, others are effectively conserved and managed, demonstrating the importance of context-specific approaches. Those dynamics underscore the need for coordinated, risk-informed, transparent, and adaptive management that addresses cumulative pressures and cumulative values, integrates multiple systems of knowledge and ensures that wildlife management remains ecologically sustainable and aligned with conservation objectives.

5. According to *The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*, many wildlife populations and species are declining, in particular where such pressures as land-use and sea use change, including habitat loss and fragmentation, direct exploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species, are not effectively managed. Those interacting pressures increase extinction risk, erode ecosystem functioning, undermine nature's contributions to people and are intensified by broader indirect socioeconomic drivers, including population growth, increasing per capita consumption and expanding demands for land and sea use. Existing risks, including those caused by the dynamics of wildlife disease, increases in illegal wildlife trade and trafficking and human-wildlife conflict, may further exacerbate vulnerabilities, in particular for species with declining populations or restricted ranges and indigenous peoples and local communities closely linked to wildlife.

II. Mandate

6. The present voluntary guidance has been developed pursuant to decision [16/15](#), in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, in particular the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and with inputs from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women, youth and relevant organizations, to prepare draft voluntary global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices, with a focus on: (a) inclusive and participatory decision-making; (b) the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights; and (c) the equitable distribution of costs and benefits.

III. Purpose and scope

7. In accordance with decision [16/15](#), the voluntary global guidance applies to multiple species across terrestrial, inland water, marine and coastal ecosystems and to both extractive and non-extractive practices, including fishing, the gathering of plants, fungi and algae from the wild, logging, the harvesting of terrestrial and aquatic animals and wildlife-based tourism.

⁵ Decision [VII/12](#), annex II.

8. The voluntary global guidance addresses gaps identified in the gap analysis to identify areas not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental organizations⁶ and the additional analysis of available guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management that might require complementary guidance.⁷ Moreover, the voluntary guidance responds to submissions received further to invitations extended in notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#) and relevant findings outlined in the aforementioned *Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*.

9. The purpose of the voluntary guidance is to support Parties in strengthening policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable wildlife management, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the Framework. In line with decision [16/15](#), its objectives are:

- (a) To promote inclusive and participatory decision-making;
- (b) To facilitate the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and recognition of rights;
- (c) To promote the fair and equitable distribution of costs and benefits arising from wildlife use and management.

10. The voluntary guidance, which reflects the recognition that cross-sectoral policy coherence and coordination are important for facilitating its implementation, includes the objective of enhancing policy coherence across sectors and governance levels. That need featured prominently in submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#).

11. The voluntary guidance sets out general principles, safeguards and broad areas for action that Parties may refer to strengthening national approaches to sustainable wildlife management. While it does not provide detailed operational guidance or species-specific technical standards, those issues may, as needed and in accordance with national circumstances, be addressed through complementary national measures and relevant sectoral or taxon-specific instruments, when possible, with the facilitation of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Centres.

12. The species groupings and practice categories used in the voluntary guidance (see box below), which are based on the typology applied in the aforementioned thematic assessment report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, are intended to support application across multiple species and practices, while allowing Parties to tailor implementation to national, subnational and local contexts.

Species groupings and practice categories used in the present voluntary guidance

(a) **Species groupings:** the voluntary guidance applies to wild species across terrestrial, inland water, marine and coastal ecosystems, including aquatic and terrestrial animals, trees and other plants, fungi and algae;

(b) **Practice categories:** the voluntary guidance addresses both extractive and non-extractive practices. Extractive practices include fishing, the gathering of plants, fungi and algae from the wild, logging and the harvesting of terrestrial and aquatic animals, including the complete or partial removal of organisms, as well as the collection of parts or derivatives from wildlife. Non-extractive practices include wildlife-based tourism and wildlife observation, as well as cultural, spiritual and educational services associated with wildlife;

(c) **Use of categories:** those categories are used solely to organize the voluntary guidance across multiple species and practices. Parties are encouraged to apply them flexibly and, in a manner consistent with national legislation, customary governance systems, where applicable, and relevant international obligations. Use of such categories in the guidance does not imply that all species or practices are appropriate for sustainable

⁶ [CBD/COP/16/INF/6](#).

⁷ [CBD/COP/16/INF/7](#).

use. In particular, where alien species pose risks to biodiversity, ecosystem function or native species, management responses should prioritize prevention and control.

IV. Principles

13. The present guidance draws on the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity; decision [14/7](#); the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its Targets 4,5 6, 9, 10, 22 and 23, and relevant findings from *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. It is underpinned by principles and approaches reflecting the objectives of the Convention (see table 1) that inform the design, interpretation and implementation of sustainable wildlife management in support of biodiversity conservation, human well-being and equitable governance

Table 1

Principles and approaches informing the voluntary global guidance on sustainable wildlife management

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis</i>
Ecological sustainability and the precautionary approach	Resource managers and users have the responsibility to ensure that the use of wildlife does not exceed the capacity of ecosystems to maintain or recover ecological processes species populations and genetic variability and for the continued provision of ecosystem functions and services on which both biodiversity and people depend.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (decision VII/12 , annex II)
	Parties should apply the precautionary approach in their management decisions.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	Where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat.	Convention on Biological Diversity (preamble)
	To be considered sustainable, wildlife management should consider ecological limits, cumulative impacts and uncertainty and avoid actions that risk irreversible harm to biodiversity, including through early action when evidence indicates high risk.	<i>The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species</i> (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)
	Ensure that the use and harvesting of and trade in wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 5)
	Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 10)

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis</i>
	and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services .	
Human rights-based approach and inclusive participation	Subject to its national legislation, each Party shall respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 8 (j))
	Each Party shall, as appropriate, protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 10 (c))
	Recognize that cultural and spiritual values and practices of indigenous and local communities play an important role in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and transmitting its importance to the next generation.	Decision XII/12 B, Annex
	States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples and local communities concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent ^a before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.	UNDRIP Article 19
	Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 22)
Equity and fair distribution of benefits	The needs and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities should be reflected in the equitable distribution of the benefits from the management of wildlife.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	The costs of management and conservation of wildlife should be internalized and reflected in the distribution of the benefits from its use.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 9)

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis</i>
	encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	
Integration of systems of knowledge and adaptive management	Adaptive wildlife management should be practised, based on multiple systems of knowledge.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	Adaptive management should be practised on the basis of iterative, timely and transparent feedback derived from monitoring the use, environmental, socioeconomic impacts and the status of the resource being used.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	When using traditional and local knowledge, Parties should take appropriate actions to ensure that the free, prior and informed consent and approval of the holder of that knowledge has been obtained.	Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines (decision XIII/18 , annex)
Policy coherence and institutional alignment	Supportive policies, laws and institutions should be in place at all levels of governance, and there should be effective linkages between these levels.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	As far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife should be integrated into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 6 (b))
	Each Party undertakes to provide, in accordance with its capabilities, financial support and incentives in respect for national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention, in accordance with its national plans, priorities and programmes.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 20 (1))
	The rights and obligations of Parties deriving from any existing international agreement are not affected by the provisions of the Convention, except where the exercise of those rights and obligations would cause a serious damage or threat to biological diversity.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 22 (1))
	Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 20)

^a All references to “free, prior and informed consent” refer to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” and “approval and involvement”.

V. Safeguards

14. Safeguards in the present voluntary guidance (see table 2) are procedures and measures intended to ensure that sustainable wildlife management interventions avert or minimize unintended adverse impacts on biodiversity and promote ecological integrity, social equity and accountability. Safeguards may include environmental and social impact assessments and public participation and

should be applied in a context-specific, transparent and continuously improvable manner in line with national circumstances and legislation.

Table 2

Safeguards for the sustainable management of wildlife

<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Basis⁸</i>
Ecological integrity	Wildlife management measures should maintain ecological integrity and biodiversity, ensuring that management does not result in population decline of species, habitat degradation, loss of ecosystem function or the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 8, in particular 8 (h))
	Interventions should not transfer ecological or social risks from one species, ecosystem or community to another, nor exacerbate cumulative pressures across landscapes and seascapes.	Decision V/6, annex II (principles 3 and 5)
	Wildlife-related interventions should, as appropriate, be subject to environmental and social impact assessments and supported by monitoring and evaluation and include cumulative impact assessments where multiple interventions or pressures affect the same species, ecosystems or communities.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 14)
	Wildlife management measures should prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species by identifying and managing pathways for their introduction and, supporting their eradication or control, especially in priority sites.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 6)
Social equity and human well-being	Sustainable wildlife management measures should ensure that the use and harvesting of and trade in wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 5)
	Sustainable wildlife management measures should enable progress towards human-wildlife coexistence. Sustainable wildlife management measures should, where relevant, explicitly identify, prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflict, recognizing that wildlife can pose a direct threat to safety, livelihoods and well-being of people and that unmanaged conflict can drive retaliation and undermine conservation and sustainable development objectives.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 4)
	Management actions affecting customary access, subsistence use or culturally significant practices should involve affected communities and, where appropriate, include fair and effective forms of redress.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Articles 8 (j) and 10 (c))

⁸Basis are sources of information that provided inspiration for the principles and safeguards, and are not necessarily verbatim citations of the text from those sources

<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Basis^b</i>
	Benefit-sharing arrangements should be transparent and based on clear rules, and should not exacerbate existing inequalities, including gender-based disparities.	Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (principle 12, operational guidelines)
	Where major wildlife-related interventions are proposed, including species translocations, invasive species management or the establishment of protected areas, impact assessments should, as appropriate, identify cultural values, potential trade-offs and distributional impacts, with full and effective participation of affected indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders.	Decision VIII/28 annex and decision VII/16 F
Transparency and accountability	Sustainable wildlife management frameworks should promote transparent governance, including access to relevant information and data relating, for example, to monitoring results, harvest data, licensing systems and revenue allocation.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 21)
	Wildlife harvest, handling and trade practices should, as appropriate, comply with animal welfare, ethical and safety standards, norms and values of indigenous peoples and local communities and with national legislation and applicable international obligations.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Articles 8 (l) and 10 (b))

VI. Key elements for developing and implementing policies on sustainable wildlife management

15. Pursuant to decision [16/15](#), the present voluntary guidance is based on the seven key elements of effective policy actions, derived from *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*, which were identified for use in developing and implementing policies on the sustainable use of wild species. Those key elements are:

- (a) Inclusive and participatory decision-making;
- (b) Inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and recognition of rights;
- (c) Equitable distribution of costs and benefits;
- (d) Policies tailored to local socioecological contexts;
- (e) Monitoring of socioecological practices and conditions;
- (f) Coordinated and aligned policies across sectors;
- (g) Robust institutions from customary to statutory.

16. Elements (a), (b) and (c) are addressed principally in sections VII.B, C and D below, respectively, while elements (d), (e), (f) and (g) are integrated across the present voluntary guidance, including in section VII.A and sections IV and V.

17. The key elements were identified in *The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* as enhancing the sustainability of the use of wild species and as a prerequisite for stronger implementation across practices. They influence the effectiveness of sustainable wildlife management by strengthening legitimacy, supporting adaptive and context-specific implementation, improving policy coherence and coordination and reinforcing the institutional conditions needed to respond to socioecological change.

VII. Actions for implementation of sustainable wildlife management

18. The present section comprises a set of four possible actions that Parties may consider in the context of supporting the implementation of sustainable wildlife management: crosscutting elements to support policy coherence and cross-sectoral integration; inclusive and participatory decision-making; inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights; and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits. Subsections B, C and D reflect the focus of the areas specified in decision [16/15](#), subsection A was added because its subject matter figured prominently in the submissions received following the issuance of notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#).

19. Implementation of the present voluntary guidance may be adapted to national and local contexts, taking into account ecological conditions, cultural diversity and governance systems. In adapting the voluntary guidance, Parties may consider differences among ecological regions, including temperate, tropical, subtropical, arid, polar, mountain, island, coastal and urban contexts, recognizing that implementation needs, pressures, data availability and governance arrangements may vary across regions and practices.

20. Moreover, regional practice-specific and technical tools may, as appropriate, complement the voluntary guidance in areas where more detailed methodologies, indicators, scenario analyses or operational standards are needed.

A. Cross-cutting elements: policy coherence and cross-sectoral integration

21. Policy coherence and cross-sectoral integration are important because sustainable wildlife management is influenced by interacting drivers across sectors and governance levels and within diverse socioecological contexts. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services assessment identifies coordinated and aligned policies, robust customary and statutory institutions, monitoring of socioecological conditions and practices and policies tailored to local socioecological contexts as key elements for enhancing sustainability. Those approaches can help to align measures across relevant sectors and scales, strengthen institutional support for implementation, reduce fragmentation and policy inconsistencies and enable adaptive responses to changing socioecological conditions. The following actions should consequently be taken as appropriate and with due consideration given to national circumstances and priorities:

(a) Promoting coherent policy, legal and institutional conditions for the sustainable and inclusive management of wildlife, including sustainable wildlife economies that are consistent with conservation objectives, ecological limits, traceability requirements, equitable benefit-sharing and the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and relevant organizations and actors;

(b) Enhancing cross-sectoral regulations and coordination to address key pressures on wildlife management by identifying lead agencies, coordination and monitoring mechanisms and relevant protocols for:

- i. Prevention of wildlife crime, illegal harvest and unsustainable use or trade;
- ii. Prevention of habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation;
- iii. Mitigation of climate-related risks and climate change impacts;
- iv. Prevention of biosecurity risks, invasive alien species and zoonotic disease risks;
- v. Reduction of Pollution;
- vi. Management of legal, sustainable and traceable wildlife use and trade;

(c) Promoting the embedding of ecological connectivity and habitat conservation in spatial and development planning by mapping and safeguarding key habitats, corridors and migratory pathways, as well as areas of cultural and socioecological importance, incorporating them into zoning

and strategic environmental assessment processes and aligning actions with national land-use or sea use plans and, where relevant, regional and global connectivity initiatives;

(d) Promoting stronger integration of sustainable wildlife management issues into green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas, where appropriate, through the adoption of nature-based solutions and ecosystems based approaches, and ensure biodiversity inclusive urban planning, and by updating urban wildlife management guidelines, establishing protocols for the prevention of and response to human-wildlife interactions in urban areas and supporting cross-sectoral initiatives that enhance wildlife literacy and encourage urban residents' engagement in the stewardship of neighbourhood wildlife; by significantly increasing the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas

(e) Strengthening regional and transboundary cooperation for shared populations, species and ecosystems by establishing or using existing regional platforms and developing and integrating bilateral or multilateral arrangements for coordinated conservation actions, monitoring, harmonized harvest or trade controls and the joint management of transboundary protected areas and corridors;

(f) Supporting business, private and financial sectors, as appropriate, in undertaking biodiversity mainstreaming within and across all sectors, with a view to ensuring the sustainable management of wild species, including by ensuring that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal eliminating wildlife crime, unsustainable use and unsustainable legal trade; and regulating the disclosure by businesses, companies and financial institutions of risks, dependencies and impacts on wildlife along their supply chains;

(g) Addressing challenges to the sustainable management of wild species, such as landscape and seascape changes, climate change, pollution, invasive alien species, overexploitation and zoonotic diseases;

(h) Strengthening cooperation and coherence with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental organizations, including through the use of existing instruments and available data as appropriate to avoid duplication.;

(h) Promoting more systematic integration of climate-related risks into wildlife management particularly in climate-vulnerable developing countries, through ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions by assessing, where relevant, the effects of climate change on species populations, habitats, ecological connectivity, disease dynamics, human-wildlife interactions and the sustainability of use and by adjusting management responses in the light of those effects;

(i) Strengthening or establishing national wildlife inventories, monitoring systems and adaptive management frameworks to support the periodic review and evidence-informed adjustment of management instruments, including quotas, permits and management plans, in the light of ecological evidence, risks and uncertainty;

(j) Strengthening minimum monitoring and reviewing arrangements, as appropriate, by establishing baseline ecological, economic and social information, the periodic review of management measures, the monitoring of outcomes and cumulative pressures and transparent reporting mechanisms that support adaptive management and timely adjustment where practices are found to be unsustainable or inequitable;

(k) Advancing targeted formal, non-formal and informal education, awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives in response to specific implementation needs, through training of trainers and partnerships with academic institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and community institutions;

(l) Supporting the mobilization of adequate human, technical and financial resources by integrating costs associated with wildlife management into sectoral budgets, gaining access to

biodiversity finance mechanisms including by facilitating access to international biodiversity financing mechanisms, in accordance with national priorities, circumstances and capacities and, where appropriate, leveraging sustainable financing instruments consistent with national priorities and safeguards.

B. Inclusive and participatory decision-making

22. Inclusive and participatory decision-making strengthens legitimacy, improves the quality and acceptability of decisions and supports the implementation of sustainable wildlife management that is responsive to socioecological contexts. Consistent with submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#), effective wildlife management depends on the transparent, structured and full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society organizations, scientists and relevant authorities, and participation should extend beyond consultation to include shared decision-making, co-management and co-design, as appropriate, and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances. The following actions should be taken to support sustainable wildlife management, as appropriate and with due consideration given to national circumstances and priorities:

(a) Facilitating fit-for-purpose participatory processes by ensuring early stakeholder mapping, clear roles and responsibilities, accessible information in relevant languages, adequate timelines and financial resources for participation and documentation on how inputs were considered;

(b) Promoting the early engagement of stakeholders in the design of wildlife management measures and policies, including harvest regimes, spatial planning and restoration initiatives, applying free, prior and informed consent procedures, as applicable;

(c) Supporting the participation in decision-making processes, as appropriate, of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant stakeholders, such as public authorities, private landowners, wildlife managers, civil society, academia, private sector actors and health and veterinary authorities;

(d) Promoting or strengthening participatory governance mechanisms through clear terms of reference, decision-making procedures and mechanisms for managing interactions where statutory, customary and private systems intersect;

(e) Recognizing and supporting community-based governance instruments, as applicable, such as biocultural community protocols, community forestry arrangements, co-management approaches and buffer zone governance systems, and recognizing the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and their knowledge systems, including cultural, spiritual and relational values associated with wildlife, through technical assistance, legal support, capacity-building and appropriate funding, consistent with national legislation and relevant international obligations;

(f) Promoting and, where appropriate, strengthening tenure and access arrangements through the recognition of the role of customary wildlife management systems in the development of policy instruments and tools, where applicable, and clarifying how tenure and use rights relate to wildlife governance, benefit-sharing and responsibilities for stewardship;

(g) Facilitating transparent access to relevant socioecological and economic information by publishing management plans, harvest or quota rationales, monitoring summaries, benefit-sharing arrangements, licensing rules and revenue allocation, while protecting sensitive information where disclosure, for example, of poaching hotspots or confidential traditional knowledge, could increase risks;

(h) Promoting balanced representation in wildlife governance bodies through such measures as quotas, the rotation of seats and addressing barriers faced by women, youth and underrepresented groups, including those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity; in line with national legislation;

(i) Facilitating the establishment of accessible grievance prevention, dispute resolution and conflict management mechanisms and ensuring that outcomes are monitored and used to improve policy and practice;

(j) Applying participatory risk assessments, scenario planning and trade-off analyses where decisions with significant ecological or social implications are being taken. Parties may consider providing, where needed, facilitation, technical support and capacity-building to enable equitable participation;

(k) Promoting inclusive dialogue and joint action in contexts of human-wildlife conflict and zoonotic disease risk by linking wildlife authorities with communities, health and veterinary services and relevant sectors and by using practical measures, such as early warning systems, community response teams and agreed protocols for safe handling and reporting.

C. Inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and recognition of rights

23. Sustainable wildlife management can be strengthened when it draws on multiple systems of knowledge and is implemented in ways that ensure the recognition of relevant rights, governance systems and responsibilities. Submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#) highlighted that scientific knowledge is often more effective when considered alongside traditional knowledge and that respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including with regard to customary governance systems, tenure arrangements and rights relating to knowledge, is an important condition for effective and equitable implementation. Parties should advance sustainable wildlife management through the following actions, as appropriate and with due consideration given to national circumstances and priorities:

(a) Providing recognition for local and customary governance systems, tenure arrangements and community-defined rules relevant to wildlife management, consistent with national legislation and relevant international obligations, including through legal recognition, support for customary institutions and negotiated agreements where systems overlap;

(b) Encouraging approaches that support the application of appropriate protocols and procedures for seeking the free, prior and informed consent and approval of knowledge holders, while respecting intellectual property over traditional knowledge, data sovereignty, culturally appropriate benefit-sharing from knowledge use and community-defined access rules;

(c) Facilitating the establishment of mechanisms for integrating scientific and traditional systems of knowledge as distinct and complementary sources of evidence in wildlife planning, monitoring and review;

(d) Facilitating community-based knowledge documentation systems and locally governed repositories, such as community-managed archives, databases or other systems for storing and transmitting knowledge, where communities agree to them, while respecting community-defined access, use and sharing protocols;

(e) Fostering intergenerational knowledge transfer and adaptive learning processes to allow management systems to respond to socioecological change, through community exchanges, mentorship programmes and learning-by-doing approaches embedded in management cycles;

(f) Enabling, where appropriate, the integration of community-based monitoring and citizen science into national biodiversity inventories and reporting systems, using standardized yet adaptable methods, training and resourcing for data collection, management and feedback to communities;

(g) Incorporating, where relevant and appropriate, attention to population structure, connectivity and wild genetic diversity, drawing on scientific and traditional systems of knowledge and applying safeguards relating to consent, culturally appropriate use of knowledge and data governance;

(h) Strengthening capacities for species inventories, population assessments as well as monitoring of habitat and genetic diversity, taxonomy, ecological monitoring, the use of digital technologies and the management of biodiversity databases, by prioritizing risk-based and ecosystem-based approaches in data-poor contexts and promoting open and FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) principles, where feasible;

(i) Encouraging transparent access to monitoring and management information, as appropriate, while applying safeguards for sensitive data, for example, geospatial data on habitats, the locations of threatened species or confidential traditional knowledge;

(j) Advancing the One Health approach by integrating wildlife and livestock health surveillance into sustainable wildlife management frameworks; establishing information-sharing channels among environment, forestry, fisheries, agriculture and health authorities; and incorporating safe handling, biosecurity and risk communication measures into wildlife management plans, as appropriate and consistent with the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health and the One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026) of the Quadripartite collaboration on One Health;

(k) Encouraging, where One Health approaches are applied, the monitoring and periodic review of outcomes for wildlife populations, ecosystem integrity, human well-being, domestic animal health and spillover risk reduction, to strengthen evidence-based learning and adaptive management;

(l) Facilitating through technology transfer, technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and access to financial resources, the use of emerging technologies, such as remote sensing, acoustic monitoring, eDNA, digital permitting and traceability tools, in monitoring and enforcement, ensuring equity, accessibility and cultural appropriateness.

D. Equitable distribution of costs and benefits

24. The equitable distribution of costs and benefits is important for sustainable wildlife management, as it strengthens fairness, legitimacy and long-term effectiveness, in particular where the burdens and benefits associated with wildlife use, conservation and coexistence are unevenly distributed. In the submissions received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#), it was highlighted that wildlife management was more likely to be effective and durable where those who bore the costs of living with wildlife, including indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, derived tangible, intangible and equitable benefits from their stewardship, sustainable use and conservation efforts. Parties should advance sustainable wildlife management through the following actions, as appropriate and with due consideration given to national policies, circumstances and priorities:

(a) Ensuring that benefit-sharing arrangements encompass both monetary and non-monetary benefits, such as capacity-building, equitable access to information and monitoring results, institutional strengthening, the recognition of customary governance systems and support for cultural traditions, traditional knowledge, practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and subsistence use;

(b) Facilitating fair, transparent, participatory and accountable benefit-sharing arrangements on the basis of clear eligibility, governance structures and grievance mechanisms;

(c) Giving due attention to the differentiated costs borne by those living with wildlife, such as human-wildlife conflict, opportunity costs and regulatory burdens, through preventive, mitigative and incentive-based measures, giving particular attention to gender-differentiated impacts, women's participation and leadership and persons in vulnerable situations;

(d) Promoting measures to protect the safety and rights of environmental human rights defenders, with consideration of gender differentiated violence and challenges experienced by defenders, in line with national legislation;

(e) Facilitating, where appropriate, the establishment or strengthening of insurance mechanisms, compensation schemes and other incentive-based instruments to address crop damage, livestock loss and other costs associated with human-wildlife interactions in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, thereby supporting coexistence and reducing social and economic vulnerability;

(f) Enabling legal and policy frameworks that allow benefits from sustainable wildlife use, trade and tourism and other wildlife economy activities to reach indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders by clarifying revenue-sharing formulas, devolving appropriate fiscal authority and supporting social enterprises and businesses of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;

(g) Strengthening accountability for benefit-sharing of wildlife revenues through independent oversight, regular financial and performance audits, the disclosure of revenue flows and allocations and accessible grievance and remedy mechanisms, together with protections against retaliation;

(h) Recognizing the roles of small-scale harvesters, processors and social enterprises within wildlife value chains and ensuring that regulatory measures do not disproportionately disadvantage actors operating within local and customary systems;

(i) Promoting diversified and climate resilient livelihood strategies linked to sustainable wildlife management, such as non-extractive uses, and applying sustainability safeguards for wildlife observation and nature-based tourism, including ecotourism such as impact monitoring;

(j) Exploring innovative and sustainable financial mechanisms, such as biodiversity-related levies, payments for ecosystem services and public-private partnerships, with clear socioecological safeguards, including additionality, avoidance of perverse incentives, the monitoring of biodiversity outcomes and respect for rights;

(k) Promoting access to markets for sustainably sourced wildlife parts and derivatives, while ensuring that commercialization remains aligned with conservation objectives and within ecological limits and providing incentives for alternative business models with clear socioecological benefits, including those within the social and solidarity economy⁹, while taking into account the precautionary approach;

(l) Supporting restoration and recovery initiatives where wildlife populations, habitats or ecological functions have declined. Such initiatives should take into account the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, including effects on tenure, access, livelihoods and customary sustainable use, and provide for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

⁹ As defined by the International Labor Organization in [ILC.110/Resolution II](#)