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**Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**
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Item 18 (b) of the provisional agenda*
**Sustainable wildlife management**

# Submission from the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management regarding sustainable wildlife management**

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. On 9 October 2026, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity received a submission from the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, under item 18 (b) of the provisional agenda of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Parties, containing a progress report covering 2025 to 2026.

2. The progress report from the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management is reproduced in the annex to the present note in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* CBD/COP/17/1/Rev.1
** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

**Annex**

# COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

PROGRESS REPORT 2025–2026

Submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, host of the CPW Secretariat, for circulation as an information document at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Yerevan, Armenia, October 2026), agenda item on cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions and agenda item on sustainable wildlife management.

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

### A. Background

1. The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) is a voluntary partnership of thirteen international organizations with substantive mandates and programmes to promote the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources. The CPW was established in 2013 in response to paragraph 15 (f) of decision XI/25 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management.[1]

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

3. The vision of the CPW is 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 vertebrate wildlife in all biomes and geographic areas, contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to human food security, livelihoods and well-being.

5. At its strategic retreat held in Geneva on 10 February 2025, the Partnership recognized that, while its original focus is on terrestrial vertebrate wildlife it has, in practice, addressed issues relating to vertebrate wildlife across all biomes and geographic areas. To better reflect this practice and align with the original CBD language, it was agreed that the scope of the CPW encompasses vertebrate

[1] https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-25-en.pdf

wildlife across all biomes and geographic areas, while retaining the flexibility to contribute to broader sustainable wildlife management issues, as appropriate.

**B. Governance**

6. The Partnership continued to benefit from the leadership of Ms Ivonne Higuero, CPW Chair and Secretary-General of CITES, and Dr Dilys Roe, CPW Vice-Chair, Principal Researcher at IIED, whose terms had been extended by the members until July 2026. At its sixteenth meeting (Bonn, February 2026), the Partnership agreed to extend both terms until the election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair at its seventeenth meeting, to be held on 24 October 2026 on the margins of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the CPW Terms of Reference.

7. Since 2013, FAO has hosted the CPW Secretariat and provided the human and financial resources for its functioning. The Secretariat acts as a coordination, networking and liaison mechanism among the members, supports joint planning and implementation, and coordinates the production and dissemination of CPW outputs.

8. Membership remained unchanged during the reporting period. The Partnership recalled the provisions of its Terms of Reference on membership and clarified the process for considering any future application.

**C. Thematic objectives**

9. The CPW delivers its mission through five thematic objectives, endorsed by the members in 2023 and confirmed as the backbone of the Work Plan 2026–2028:

Objective 1. Support countries to ensure that the use and trade of wildlife is 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.

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

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

Objective 5. Advocate for sustainable and inclusive wildlife economies.

10. At its Geneva retreat, the Partnership articulated its added value in functional terms: providing a coordinated voice across biodiversity-related conventions and international processes; acting as a technical clearing house on sustainable wildlife management; bridging global policy and practical implementation; facilitating access to complementary expertise and networks, including those of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and reducing duplication among institutions. These functions guided the design of the Work Plan 2026–2028.

**D. CPW meetings**

11. On 10 February 2025, the Partnership held a strategic retreat at the CITES Secretariat headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Partners revisited the CPW mandate and thematic focus in the light of the outcomes of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, articulated the Partnership's added value, and take stock on the implementation of the joint initiatives that form the 2023–2025 Workplan, agreed to strengthen engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities in CPW activities.

12. Two virtual meetings of the Partnership were held in 2025, on 4 June and 31 October, to review the implementation of the Work Plan 2023–2025 and to finalize the joint initiatives of the Work Plan 2026–2028. The Working Group on the Work Plan met regularly between June and October 2025.

13. The sixteenth meeting of the CPW was held at the CMS Secretariat headquarters in Bonn, Germany, on 12–13 February 2026, back-to-back with the CBD expert meeting on the draft global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife. Eighteen participants representing eleven member organizations reviewed the close-out of the Work Plan 2023–2025 and agreed, for each joint initiative of the Work Plan 2026–2028[2], on lead and contributing partners, expected CPW-branded outputs, timelines and next steps.

14. At the time of writing, the CPW is planning to convene its next physical seventeenth meeting on the margins of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Yerevan, Armenia. The meeting is expected to focus on the election of the new Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as on planning the main activities and milestones for 2027.

## II. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

### A. Completion of the Work Plan 2023–2025

15. The Work Plan 2023–2025, developed and endorsed by all thirteen members, comprised eleven joint initiatives aligned with the five thematic objectives. Progress up to October 2024 was reported to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in document CBD/COP/16/INF/15[3]. The paragraphs below report on the completion of the initiatives during 2025 and on the main results of the cycle. At the time of writing this progress report, a Main Achievements 2023–2025 document is being finalized by the Partnership.

**Joint initiative: Gap Analysis to Support the Implementation of Decision 15/23 on Sustainable Wildlife Management**

16. The gap analysis prepared by the CPW in response to recommendation 25/7 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice[4] (document CBD/COP/16/INF/6)[5] informed the deliberations of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. In decision 16/15, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with the CPW, in particular the Secretariats of CMS and CITES, to prepare draft global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices. The follow-up to this request is reported in section III.

**Joint initiative: Technical Assistance for Integrating Sustainable Wildlife Management into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans**

17. The guidance paper on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions,[6] led by the CMS Secretariat with the CITES Secretariat, remained available to countries through the NBSAP Forum and the UNEP-led technical support under the GBF

[2] CPW Work Plan 2026–2028 (two-pager): https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hiob1XuLPYH50_az0GlcZ_Z-zMmCIP2M/view
[3] https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/69ee/2766/b5bfb3d7653ece4b954b49fe/cop-16-inf-15-en.pdf
[4] https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-25/sbstta-25-rec-07-en.pdf
[5] https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/5fc9/73ca/69bb289dbcf82268aaf0e864/cop-16-inf-06-en.pdf
[6] https://www.learningfornature.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NBSAP-Guidance-Document-on-MEAs-Focused-on-Species-Targets.pdf

Early Action Support project. Partners noted at the sixteenth meeting that uptake by Parties had remained below its potential and that future work should focus on practical support at country level.

**Joint initiative: Methodology for a Sustainable Use of Wild Species Indicator for Target 5**

18. Building on the expert workshop held in Cambridge, United Kingdom, in August 2024, the proposed binary indicator for Target 5 was presented at side events at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Work on indicators of sustainable use and trade continues under the Work Plan 2026–2028 (see below).

**Joint initiative: CITES Non-detriment Finding Guidance**

19. The revised CITES guidance on non-detriment findings was developed through fifteen online modules from the global expert workshop held in Nairobi in December 2023[7] with the participation of more than 150 experts, including several CPW members and delegates from 42 Parties and 25 organizations. The CITES NDF guidance is available on the CITES website in all official languages (English, Spanish and French) of the CITES Convention and introduces Parties to generic concepts of relevance to NDFs, including risk and uncertainty, adaptive management, and species' roles in their ecosystems. Its application to non-CITES-listed species and at different geographical scales is the subject of a new joint initiative under the Work Plan 2026–2028. All the guidance material is available in English, French and Spanish on the dedicated website[8].

**Joint initiative: Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme Legal Hub review**

20. Following the validation workshop held at FAO headquarters in June 2024, the revised legal diagnostic tool was finalized and applied under the second phase of the SWM Programme. In 2025–2026 the peer review by CPW members was extended to two further diagnostic tools, on timber forest products and on genetic resources and non-timber forest products, with completion expected by November 2026. The tools support cross-sectoral analyses of national legislation enabling sustainable wildlife management, including the domestication of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, made accessible through the Legal Hub.

**Joint initiative: Case Studies on Trade in CITES-listed Species and Livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities**

21. Case studies on CITES and livelihoods have been collected from countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, North America and South America, including small island developing States such as Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands. These case studies involve the sustainable use of a wide range of species, from mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish to corals and medicinal aromatic plants. Twenty-five case studies have been selected from the many case studies conducted from around the world. They are available in the formats of a factsheet for easy accessibility as well as in full report[9].

22. At CoP20, the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted new Decisions 20.34 to 20.36 on Livelihoods[10]. Specifically Decision 20.35 requested CITES Secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to support the development of case studies on the use of certification and labelling systems for products of CITES-listed species from Indigenous peoples and local

[7] Workshop materials: https://cites.org/eng/node/138336
[8] https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php
[9] https://cites.org/eng/prog/livelihoods
[10] https://cites.org/eng/dec/index.php/55895

communities in international trade to explore feasibility and identify best practices; and report to the Standing Committee on progress made with regard to the implementation of paragraphs. CPW partners are invited to contribute to the development of case studies, as relevant.

**Joint initiative: Human-Wildlife Conflict Component Indicator for Target 4**

23. The conceptual framework for a component indicator on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence, developed by an open working group led by the IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group with the participation of several CPW members, was presented at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Further refinement of the framework, including a reporting template under informal review by CPW partners, continues under the Work Plan 2026–2028, with piloting expected in 2027–2028.

**Joint initiative: One Health Information Brief for sustainable wildlife management**

24. The CPW Information Brief on enhancing sustainable wildlife management towards a One Health approach, led by WOAH with contributions from all members, is being finalized in 2026 following technical review by partners. It sets out key considerations and priority actions for embedding sustainable wildlife management in the One Health agenda, with reference to the One Health Joint Plan of Action of the Quadripartite, extended to 2029[11], and to the relevant targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The brief is to be launched publicly on One Health Day, 3 November 2026.

**Joint initiative: Piloting of WOAH Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade**

25. Following the two pilot workshops held in Thailand in December 2023 and March 2024, WOAH, with TRAFFIC and IUCN, replicated the multi-sector workshop methodology[12] in Cambodia and Viet Nam. The methodology, which identifies risk interfaces along wildlife trade supply chains, maps stakeholders and builds capacity for risk assessment, management and communication, is being extended to Central Africa under the Work Plan 2026–2028.

**Joint initiative: Peer Review of the Biodiversity and Health Action Plan**

26. Several CPW members contributed to the peer review of the revised draft Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health in 2024. Following its consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, CPW members stand ready to support its implementation, notably through the One Health Information Brief and related outreach.

**Joint initiative: Wild Biodiversity Economy**

27. UNEP completed four regional scoping studies (Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America) with inputs from CPW members, as inputs to the development of a programme on the biodiversity economy. A framework of principles for assessing the sustainability of different wildlife uses, adding animal welfare and human health to the ecological, social and economic dimensions, was developed by IIED, IUCN SULi and TRAFFIC with inputs from UNEP. Further development of the programme continues under the Work Plan 2026–2028.

[11] https://www.woah.org/en/quadripartite-collaboration-extends-the-one-health-joint-plan-of-action-to-2029/
[12] WOAH Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade: https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2024/05/wildlife-trade-guidelines.pdf

**Communication and outreach**

28. The Partnership issued joint statements on World Wildlife Day 2025[13] and on the International Day for Biological Diversity 2025[14], revamped the Partnership Logo, finalized its Visual Identity Guidelines, and is developing a new CPW website hosted by FAO.

29. CPW partners organise a number of side events to promote the joint activities and progress made with the implementation of the Workplan, namely, at two side events at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Cali, October–November 2024), on indicators for Targets 4 and 5 (human-wildlife conflict and sustainable use and trade of wild species) and on highlights from the joint initiatives of the CPW, one side event on the CPW Joint Initiatives at the seventy-eighth meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (Geneva, February 2025), and during the twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (Samarkand, November–December 2025), where the side event "CPW in Action and Beyond", held on 28 November 2025 with panellists from ten member organizations, showcased the results of the Work Plan 2023–2025 and launched the Work Plan 2026–2028.

30. The CPW will hold a side event at the sidelines of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Yerevan, on 23 October 2026, on how collaborative work by its members under the Work Plan 2026–2028 can help address gaps identified in relation to sustainable wildlife management.

**B. Work Plan 2026–2028**

31. The Work Plan 2026–2028 was developed between June and November 2025 by a working group of ten member organizations open to all members, on the basis of the conclusions of the Geneva retreat, a survey of members and consultations on each proposed initiative. It was endorsed by all members and launched at the twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES on 28 November 2025. It comprises fourteen joint initiatives aligned with the five thematic objectives.

32. At its sixteenth meeting, in Bonn in February 2026, the Partnership agreed on lead and contributing partners, expected outputs and timelines for each initiative:

| **Joint initiative** | **Lead (in bold) and contributing partners** |
|---|---|
| Joint contribution to the draft global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife in response to decision 16/15 | CBD Secretariat, with the CMS and CITES Secretariats; all members |
| Contribution to the Global Initiative on Taking of Migratory Species | CMS Secretariat; CBD, UNEP, CIFOR-ICRAF, WOAH, CIC, TRAFFIC |
| IN-WILD: Development and piloting wildlife use and trade indicators in support of MEA sustainable use goals and targets, such as Target 5 and 9 | IUCN, TRAFFIC and CIFOR-ICRAF |
| Development of guidance on how to apply the CITES NDF guidance to non-CITES-listed species and at different geographical scales | CITES Secretariat and IUCN; TRAFFIC, CMS, CIFOR-ICRAF |
| Review of SWM Programme legal diagnostic tools informing the Legal Hub analysis | FAO; interested members |
| Contribution to the further refining of the Target 4 human-wildlife conflict component indicator framework | IUCN SSC HWCCSG; CBD, CIC, CITES, FAO, IIED |
| Support to countries in Central Africa to implement WOAH guidelines for reducing the risk of disease spillover at markets selling wildlife and along the wildlife supply chain | WOAH; IUCN, TRAFFIC, CIFOR-ICRAF, CIC, UNEP |
| Sustainable Wild Food Harvests: Realities and Relevance for Human Wellbeing | IUCN and CIC; CIFOR-ICRAF, WOAH, CMS interested |
| Linkages between disease transmission and human-wildlife conflict | IUCN; FAO, WOAH, UNEP |
| Biodiversity Economy: development and implementation of a programme to advance the sustainable use of biodiversity for the benefit of people and nature | UNEP; IIED and others |

[13] https://wildlifeday.org/en/press-release/joint-statement-collaborative-partnership-sustainable-wildlife-management-world
[14] https://www.fao.org/forestry/newsroom/news-detail/when-wildlife-thrives--people-thrive/en

| | |
|---|---|
| Global Repository on Sustainable Wildlife Management | WOAH; FAO, all members |
| Sustainable Use of Wild Species Transformative Partnership Platform (SU-TPP) | CIFOR-ICRAF; CIC; IUCN and IIFB on the Steering Committee |
| CPW Wildlife Forum | IIFB, with the Secretariat and interested members |
| Amplification of World Wildlife Day messages through a unified social media campaign and coordinated outreach | CITES Secretariat; all members |

## III. FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS 15/23 AND 16/15 ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

33. In decision 16/15[15], the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with the CPW, in particular the Secretariats of CMS and CITES, to prepare draft global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife applicable to multiple species and multiple practices, with a focus on inclusive and participatory decision-making, the inclusion of multiple systems of knowledge and the recognition of rights, and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits.

34. CPW members supported this process through strategic and technical oversight, review of the zero and first drafts, participation in the CBD expert meeting held in Bonn on 9–11 February 2026, encouragement of submissions from their networks, and technical inputs during the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. In line with the approach agreed with the CBD Secretariat, members submitted their peer review comments individually on behalf of their organizations.

35. Sustainable wildlife management agenda item CBD/SBSTTA/28/5/Rev.1[16], including the draft global guidance, was considered by the CBD Subsidiary Body at its twenty-eighth meeting, and Recommendations CBD/SBSTTA/REC/28/4[17] were adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. CPW members stand ready to support the further work on the guidance, subject to decisions of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, through the joint initiatives of the Work Plan 2026–2028.

36. With reference to paragraph 1 (a) of decision 15/23[18] on the completion of work mandated in decision 14/7, the SWM Programme continued to assist countries in implementing the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector at the national level, through access to legal information via the Legal Hub[19] and support to reform processes, the identification and promotion of good practices for sustainable wildlife use and management, and the examination of food and livelihood alternatives, with attention to customary sustainable use.

[15] https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-15-en.pdf
[16] https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/1dfe/ff0a/483e4603545538fa2089ce0d/sbstta-28-05-rev1-en.pdf
[17] https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-28/sbstta-28-rec-04-en.pdf
[18] https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-23-en.pdf
[19] https://www.fao.org/sustainable-wildlife-legal-hub/en