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REPORT ON THE WILDLIFE FORUM

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report summarizes the outcomes of the Wildlife Forum organized by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management¹ (CPW), a voluntary partnership of 14 international organizations working to promote the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife, and the African Union Commission on the margins of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 21 November 2018.
2. The Forum, on the theme of “Sustainable use for conservation and livelihoods”, brought together over 170 participants, representing governmental and non-governmental organizations, practitioners, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector and youth. Additionally, 500 participants followed the event online, through the Facebook official page of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), a member of the CPW.
3. The Forum was organized pursuant to a request by the Conference of the Parties to the Executive Secretary to jointly scope and organize a Wildlife Forum event in collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management. The Forum would facilitate the involvement of Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, to consider and define the priorities for work with respect to sustainable wildlife use and management, taking into account previous work on this matter, including the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (see decision XIII/8, para. 5b).
4. The Forum built on the first Wildlife Forum, held in Durban, South Africa, on 9 September 2015, in conjunction with the XIV World Forestry Congress.²
5. The Forum featured a series of multidisciplinary discussions on key issues, challenges and opportunities on sustainable use of wildlife across geographical regions for both conservation and livelihoods. There were four key sessions:

¹ See the progress report for 2017-2018 issued for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([CBD/COP/14/INF/11](http://www.cbd.int/doc/inf/inf14/inf14-en.pdf)).

² For more information on the first Wildlife Forum, see <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/programme/special-events/wildlife-forum/en/>.

- People and wildlife: health and security;
- Sharing wild meat: resolving conflicts between subsistence and commercial uses;
- From sites in Africa to shelves in Asia: solutions to unsustainable wildlife use and illegal trade;
- Wildlife and people in 2050: a vision for sustainable wildlife management.

6. The “key messages” were brought to the attention of the Conference of the Parties through an invited statement during a plenary session presided over by the Egyptian Minister of Environment on 25 November 2019. The key messages are provided in section II below. Products and awards launched at the Forum are summarized in section III.

7. Discussions from the Forum are expected to feed into the priorities on sustainable wildlife management for the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework and the Thematic Assessment of Sustainable Use of Wild Species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

8. For further information about the Forum, see [the IISD Wildlife Forum Bulletin](http://enb.iisd.org/download/pdf/sd/enbplus88num15e.pdf), available at: <http://enb.iisd.org/download/pdf/sd/enbplus88num15e.pdf>.

II. KEY MESSAGES

A. People and wildlife: health and security

9. Collaboration between biodiversity, health and related disciplines is needed to address the common drivers of biodiversity loss and disease emergence. These drivers include land use change, ecosystem degradation, habitat loss, illegal wildlife trade, and overexploitation of wildlife, as well as human population growth.

10. Measures to address illegal wildlife trade should be co-designed, co-developed and jointly implemented with indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure that they are context-specific and relatable, and to facilitate the development of a common approach to unsustainable use of wildlife.

11. Human/wildlife conflict mitigation strategies should include appropriate and relevant tools, such as fair compensation measures, land-use planning, direct incentives, and preventative management measures, including safeguarding the health and security of indigenous peoples and local communities.

12. *One Health* approaches that integrate biodiversity considerations jointly consider the interconnection between human, wildlife and ecosystem health by promoting collaboration among multiple sectors. Under the right conditions, these approaches support the development of robust monitoring strategies and ultimately make it possible to formulate more integrated, coherent solutions that benefit the environment, including wildlife, and people. Sustainable wildlife management should make an effort to better integrate these approaches.

A. Sharing wild meat: resolving conflicts between subsistence and commercial uses

13. Moving towards sustainable solutions that meet both wildlife conservation and human development goals should allow for a novel and more inclusive approach, one in which governments, multi-sectoral scientists, local communities and indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, and civil society collaborate effectively.

14. Actions that support both people and wildlife should be implemented in such a way as to ensure the sustainable harvesting of wildlife, supplemented when needed by other forms of protein, while protecting threatened animals.

15. Efforts to reduce demand from growing urban centres for wild meat should be undertaken to curtail unsustainable hunting both from local rural village hunters and professional commercial hunters

from outside village communities. Unsustainable hunting to meet urban demand reduces wild species populations – and consequently meat availability – in wildlife-dependent rural communities.

16. Solutions to unsustainable wildlife harvesting can be transferrable across regions and can serve as guidance for developing successful region-specific approaches.

B. From Sites in Africa to Shelves in Asia: Solutions to Unsustainable Wildlife Use and Illegal Trade

17. Efforts to develop and encourage legal and sustainable wildlife trade to support rural livelihoods and national economies should be treated with equal importance to the fight against and elimination of illegal wildlife trade.

18. To promote legal and sustainable wildlife trade, stakeholders should work to improve the policy and knowledge environment, create incentives, and support trade regimes that possess transparency, accountability and traceability. Such an approach will ensure the long-term viability of wildlife populations while enhancing community livelihoods.

19. Indigenous peoples and local communities can be strong allies in combating illegal wildlife trade. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, but there are many success stories with valuable lessons that should be captured and shared through peer-to-peer learning, including the use of web-based learning platforms.

C. Wildlife and people in 2050: a vision for sustainable wildlife management

20. The “future we want” in 2050 involves participatory, inclusive and integrated approaches to conserve and use wildlife sustainably.

21. Wildlife issues should be incorporated into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the role of CPW defined.

22. The IPBES assessment on sustainable use of wild species should consider the indigenous and local knowledge in conservation; as well we address the negative perception about sustainable wildlife management.

III. PRODUCTS AND AWARDS LAUNCHED AT THE FORUM

23. The report entitled *Towards a Sustainable, Participatory, and Inclusive Wild Meat Sector* was launched by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in response to recommendation XXI/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The in-depth report describes the situation with regard to wild meat consumption and trade in tropical and sub-tropical regions worldwide and provides guidance and recommendations for consideration by the Parties to the Convention. It supplements the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector, which was welcomed by the Conference of the Parties in its decision 14/7.

24. The secretariat of the CPW launched an animation video, illustrating CPW and its work to address key issues on sustainable wildlife management for achieving food security, improving livelihoods, combating illegal wildlife trade, and conserving biodiversity. The video can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kb724JEzrw&t>.

25. Towards the end of the Forum, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, commended the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation’s (CIC) biennial Markhor Award. The award recognizes and celebrates outstanding conservation performance by individuals, private or public institutions, enterprises, or projects that link the conservation of biodiversity to human livelihood, through the principles of sustainable use, as part of wildlife and ecosystem management.

26. CIC announced the Finnish Wildlife Agency's "LIFE+ Return of Rural Wetlands" project as the 2018 recipient of the Markhor Award. The project aims to ensure that wetlands remain a part of the Finnish "living landscape and focuses on restoring rural wetlands through cooperation between landowners, hunters, local associations and regional authorities working with environmental issues.

27. The Forum concluded with a reception by CIC, at which a letter from the Government of Hungary was read out announcing Hungary's intention to host a CPW Wildlife Forum in Budapest in 2021.
