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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Sustainable wildlife management

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 6 of its decision [16/15](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, in particular the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 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, women, youth and relevant organizations, to prepare draft 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.

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretariat of the Convention issued an invitation, through notification No. 2025-014, to Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations to submit views and information on global guidance for sustainable wildlife management. A total of 14 submissions¹ were received (8 from Parties² and 6 from relevant organizations).³

3. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision [16/15](#), the Secretariat, through notification No. 2025-015, invited Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant

* [CBD/SBSTTA/28/1](#).

¹ All submissions are available at www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-014.

² Brazil, Canada, European Union and its member States, Finland, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Spain and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

³ Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association, Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and Women4Biodiversity.

organizations to submit information on best practices for sustainable wildlife management. A total of 21 submissions⁴ were received (nine from Parties⁵ and 12 from relevant organizations⁶).

4. In the context of the preparation of the draft global guidance, the Secretariat convened an informal technical steering committee composed of representatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The committee provided support for, and was regularly consulted during, the preparation of the draft and had opportunities to review the successive iterations thereof. The Secretariat prepared a first draft of the global guidance based on the inputs received in response to notifications Nos. [2025-014](#) and [2025-015](#); the gap analysis to identify areas that were not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and competent intergovernmental organizations;⁷ and the additional analysis of available guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management that might require complementary guidance,⁸ as well as *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

5. An expert meeting was convened in Bonn, Germany, from 9 to 11 February 2026, to review and refine the draft text. The meeting brought together experts from 18 Parties and a range of organizations and networks, including representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant United Nations entities and secretariats, intergovernmental organizations, scientific institutions, civil society organizations and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management. Participants had expertise in areas ranging from wildlife conservation and management to biodiversity policy, sustainable use, rights-based approaches, traditional knowledge, sharing of benefits arising from sustainable wildlife management and cross-sectoral governance.⁹

6. Following the expert meeting, the draft global guidance was revised to incorporate the comments and suggestions received during the meeting. The revised draft was presented for peer review through notification No.2026-024, resulting in a total of 27 submissions¹⁰ being received (19 from Parties¹¹ and 8 from relevant organizations).¹²

7. The draft global guidance was further refined on the basis of the submissions received in response to that notification.

8. The draft global guidance is annexed to the recommendation contained in section II below. The analysis on which the draft global guidance was based will be made available in an information document.

9. In line with decision [16/15](#), the draft global guidance is intended to support implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular Targets 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 22 and 23, which provide an important basis for advancing species conservation and recovery; ensuring that the use of and trade in wild species are sustainable, safe and legal; addressing risks associated with invasive alien species; and enhancing benefits for people arising from the sustainable use of

⁴ All submissions are available at www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-015.

⁵ Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Sweden and United Kingdom.

⁶ Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Conservation Visions, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Preservation Association, Plataforma Boliviana Frente al Cambio Climático, Resource Africa, Smithsonian, Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation-Nepal, United Nations Environment Programme, University of Exeter and World Federation for Animals.

⁷ CBD/COP/16/INF/6.

⁸ CBD/COP/16/INF/7.

⁹ The expert meeting was organized with the generous support of the European Union.

¹⁰ All submissions are available at www.cbd.int/notifications/2026-024.

¹¹ Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, European Union, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

¹² CBD Women's Caucus, Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, EMS Foundation-South Africa, Fungi Foundation, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation-Nepal, Sustainable Ocean Alliance and World Federation for Animals.

biodiversity. More broadly, the guidance supports implementation of relevant cross-cutting elements of the Framework, including participation, a human rights-based approach, integration of diverse systems of knowledge, equity in the distribution of costs and benefits, policy coherence and monitoring.

II. Recommendation

10. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision¹³ along the following lines:

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 Diversity¹⁴ and the implementation of relevant targets of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹⁵ and provides important ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities and other people living in close relationship with wildlife,

1. *Adopts* the 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. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to integrate and apply the global guidance, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and legislation, in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, wildlife policies, legal and institutional frameworks and relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, policies, programmes and other instruments;

3. *Invites* Parties to promote the coherent and coordinated implementation of the global guidance across relevant sectors dealing with the management of wildlife;

4. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant actors in a position to do so, to support the dissemination and implementation of the global guidance, including through capacity-building, technical cooperation, the mobilization of financial resources and support for community- and rights-based approaches, as appropriate;

5. *Invites* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the use and effectiveness of the global guidance and share information on their experiences relating to its implementation before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources and in consultation with interested Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management:

(a) To promote awareness of, and facilitate the use of, the global guidance;

¹³ The estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements for the activities outlined in the draft decision are shown in the annex to the present document.

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

(b) To promote the exchange of experiences, tools and lessons learned regarding monitoring, adaptive management, safeguards, participatory governance and equitable benefit-sharing;

(c) To compile the information referred to in paragraph 5 above and make it available through the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate means;

(d) To prepare a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting held before the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

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 Diversity¹⁶ 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 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.¹⁷ In particular, the guidance will contribute to the achievement of Targets 4 to 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 guidance uses the definition of the term “sustainable wildlife management” provided in decision [14/7](#), namely “the sound management of wildlife species 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 Biodiversity¹⁸ 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.¹⁷

4. Wildlife continues to provide essential ecological, economic, cultural and social benefits, especially in rural and biodiversity-rich 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, accountable and adaptive management that addresses cumulative pressures and cumulative values, integrates scientific and local systems of knowledge and ensures that wildlife management remains ecologically sustainable and aligned with conservation objectives.

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁷ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹⁸ Decision [VII/12](#), annex II.

5. According to *The 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, 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 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 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 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 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.

8. The 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 organizations¹⁹ and the additional analysis of available guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management that might require complementary guidance.²⁰ Moreover, the 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 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 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](#).

¹⁹ [CBD/COP/16/INF/6](#).

²⁰ [CBD/COP/16/INF/7](#).

11. The guidance sets out general principles, safeguards and broad areas for action to support Parties in strengthening national approaches to sustainable wildlife management. While it does not provide detailed operational guidance or species-specific technical standards, those issues may be addressed through complementary national measures and relevant sectoral or taxon-specific instruments.

12. The species groupings and practice categories used in the 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. They are intended to support application across multiple species and practices, while allowing Parties to tailor implementation to national and local contexts.

Species groupings and practice categories used in the present guidance

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

(b) **Practice categories:** the 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 guidance across multiple species and practices. Parties are encouraged to apply them flexibly and in a manner consistent with national legislation, customary governance systems and relevant international obligations. Use of such categories in the guidance does not imply that all species or practices are appropriate for sustainable 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 to 6, 9, 10, 22 and 23, and relevant findings from *The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*. 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 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 wildlife management is conducted in a manner that maintains ecological processes, species and genetic variability above thresholds needed for long-term viability.	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)

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis</i>
	To be considered sustainable, wildlife management should consider ecological limits, cumulative impacts and uncertainty and avoid actions that risk irreversible biodiversity loss, 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)
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))
	States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples and local communities concerned in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (sect. C)
	Parties must consider women's roles, knowledge and, practices with respect to wildlife management, and apply the gender-responsive approach, while securing their rights and safety.	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
Integration of systems of knowledge and adaptive management	Adaptive wildlife management should be practised, based on scientific, local and traditional 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 consent and approval of the holder of that knowledge has been obtained.	Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines (decision XIII/18 , annex)

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis</i>
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))
	In accordance with national capabilities, financial support and incentives should be provided for national activities intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention, in accordance with 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))

V. Safeguards

14. Safeguards in the present 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.

Table 2

Safeguards for the sustainable management of wildlife

<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Basis</i>
Ecological integrity	Wildlife management measures should maintain ecosystem integrity and biodiversity, ensuring that management does not result in long-term habitat degradation, loss of ecosystem function or the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. Interventions should not transfer ecological or social risks from one species, ecosystem or community to another, nor exacerbate cumulative pressures across landscapes and seascapes.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 8, in particular 8 (h))
		Decision V/6, annex II (principles 3 and 5)
	Significant wildlife-related interventions should, as appropriate, be subject to environmental and social impact assessments and supported by monitoring and evaluation.	Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 14)
	Where major wildlife-related interventions are proposed, including species translocations, invasive species management or the establishment of protected areas, social feasibility assessments should complement environmental and social impact assessments to identify cultural values, potential trade-offs and distributional impacts. Wildlife management measures should prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species by identifying and managing pathways for their introduction and, where relevant, supporting their eradication or control, especially in priority sites.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 6)

<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Basis</i>
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, 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.	<i>Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence</i> (International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission)
	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))
	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)
Transparency and accountability	Sustainable wildlife management frameworks should be sustainable and 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 and with national legislation and applicable international obligations. The application of emerging technologies in wildlife monitoring and management should respect equity, accessibility, cultural appropriateness and community rights.	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 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 guidance, including in section VII.A and sections IV and V.

17. The key elements were identified in *The 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; C. 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 guidance may be adapted to national and local contexts, taking into account ecological conditions, cultural diversity and governance systems. In adapting the 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 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 and other relevant stakeholders;

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

- (i) Wildlife crime and illegal use or trade;
- (ii) Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation;

- (iii) Climate-related risks;
- (iv) Biosecurity risks, invasive alien species and zoonotic disease risks;
- (v) Pollution;
- (vi) 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 urban planning processes, where appropriate, through the adoption of nature-based solutions 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;

(e) Strengthening regional and transboundary cooperation for shared 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 eliminating wildlife crime, 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 and invasive alien species, and strengthening cooperation and coherence with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements addressing common challenges;

(h) Promoting more systematic integration of climate-related risks into wildlife management 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 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 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, 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 into sectoral budgets, gaining access to biodiversity finance mechanisms 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 meaningful 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. 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 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 relevant stakeholders, such as public authorities, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, 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, such as biocultural community protocols, community forestry arrangements 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, 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;

(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 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 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 and habitat monitoring 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, the locations of threatened species or confidential traditional knowledge;

(j) Advancing the One Health approach by integrating wildlife 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 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 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 other relevant stakeholders, derived tangible 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 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, knowledge, practices 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 vulnerable groups;

(d) Promoting measures to protect the safety and rights of women and men environmental human rights defenders, with consideration of gender differentiated violence and issues experienced by defenders;

(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 revenues and other benefits from sustainable wildlife use, trade and tourism 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;

(g) Strengthening accountability for benefit-sharing and 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 tourism such as impact monitoring;

(j) Exploring innovative and sustainable financing 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 equitable 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 economy, 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 other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

Annex

Estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements

The table below has been prepared by the Secretariat to show the estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements for the activities requested of the Secretariat, as outlined in the draft decision, in support of its consideration. The present annex is not part of the draft decision submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body.

Extrabudgetary resource requirements

(United States dollars)

<i>OP</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Meeting costs^a</i>	<i>Staff travel</i>	<i>Staff costs^b</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>PSC (13 per cent)</i>	<i>Total</i>
6 (a)	Promote awareness of, and facilitate the use of, the global guidance	28 000	31 500	63 000	122 500	15 925	138 425
6 (b)	Promote the exchange of experiences, tools and lessons learned regarding monitoring, adaptive management, safeguards, participatory governance and equitable benefit-sharing	—	—	54 000	54 000	7 020	61 020
6 (c)	Compile the information referred to in paragraph 5 of the draft decision and make it available through the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate means	—	—	36 000	36 000	4 680	40 680
Total					212 500	27 625	240 125

Abbreviations: PSC, programme support costs; OP, operative paragraph of the draft decision.

^a Including participants' travel.

^b Consultants, partners and additional staff.