



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on Biological Diversity  
Sixteenth meeting**  
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Agenda item 19  
**Sustainable wildlife management**

### **Decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 25 October 2024**

#### **16/15. Sustainable wildlife management**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling its decisions [14/7](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/19](#) of 19 December 2022 and [15/23](#) of 10 December 2022,*

*Recognizing that the sustainable use and management of wild species contribute to the achievement of relevant goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>1</sup> and to the Sustainable Development Goals,*

*Recognizing also the support of the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme<sup>2</sup> for Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>3</sup> in implementing the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector<sup>4</sup> at various levels, from community-level support to governmental institutional support on policy and legal work,*

*Welcoming the progress made by the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management,*

*Recognizing that the overexploitation of species has been identified by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss,*

*Recognizing also that the sustainable use of wild species is critical to halting and reversing biodiversity loss and therefore well embedded in the work undertaken under the Convention, including through multiple programmes of work, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity<sup>5</sup> and the Framework,*

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

<sup>1</sup> Decision 15/4, annex.

<sup>2</sup> See [www.swm-programme.info/](http://www.swm-programme.info/).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>4</sup> Decision [14/7](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> Decision [VII/12](#), annex II.

*Stressing also* that the sustainable use of wild species is central to the identity and existence of many indigenous peoples and local communities and women,

1. *Welcomes The Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including its summary for policymakers and key messages, and notes its relevance to the work undertaken under the Convention and to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

2. *Recognizes* that the monitoring of wild species is resource-intensive and will require more support and investment in all countries to overcome the strong limitations generated by the capacity, financial, technical and institutional challenges, which are more pronounced in developing countries, and stresses that monitoring efforts that are inclusive of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and scientific approaches and facilitate the equitable participation of all key actors can better inform decision-making;

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, subnational governments at all levels and relevant organizations to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, girls and boys, youth and persons with disabilities in the decision-making processes related to wild species, in line with Targets 22 and 23 of the Framework;

4. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, subnational governments at all levels, indigenous people and local communities, women and relevant organizations, according to their needs, capacities and circumstances, in accordance with relevant international obligations, and as appropriate, to:

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

(b) Consider, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, the seven suggested policy actions, or “key elements”, from the assessment, as referred to in paragraph 6 of recommendation [25/7](#) of 19 October 2023 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in developing and implementing policies on sustainable use, namely, inclusive and participatory decision-making; the inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and the recognition of rights; the equitable distribution of costs and benefits; policies tailored to local social and ecological contexts; the monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices; coordinated and aligned policies; and robust institutions, from customary to statutory;

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

(d) Support policies that consider the levels of poverty, inequality and food insecurity across groups in vulnerable situations that rely on the sustainable use of wild species, and support complementary alternatives for people living in poverty to prevent unsustainable practices;

(e) Address the needs and circumstances of people living in vulnerable situations, as well as challenges relating to land tenure, resource use rights and the inequitable distribution of costs and benefits derived from the sustainable use of wild species for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework;

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

(g) Work together with partners, including the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, to develop indicators for monitoring the status of and trends in the use of wild species, social, economic and environmental benefits and the implications for groups in vulnerable situations, taking into consideration the indicators of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;<sup>6</sup>

(h) Address potential challenges to the sustainable use of wild species, including the impacts of climate change, unsustainable practices and increase in demand and technological developments that result in unsustainable practices, that have negative impacts on wild species, in an integrated manner to achieve the goals and targets of the Framework;

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

(j) Address constraints, such as the lack of implementation of international instruments in national policies and the lack of data and indicators to monitor progress in this regard, as well as the loss of languages, that undermine the ability of indigenous peoples and local communities and of women to maintain and restore practices associated with the sustainable use of wild species for the achievement of targets concerning such use;

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

(l) Enhance the understanding of: (i) the links between the use of wild species and the major drivers of biodiversity loss, in particular pathways for the introduction and spread of invasive alien species; and (ii) tools to prevent such introduction and spread, in support of the achievement of Target 6 of the Framework;

(m) Coordinate efforts at the national and international levels to address the illegal, and all forms of, unsustainable harvesting and use of and trade in wild species, while promoting sustainable, safe and legal trade in support of the achievement of Target 5 of the Framework;

(n) Promote further research to better understand the links between the use of wild species and zoonotic diseases, including vector-borne and neglected diseases, taking into account the social, economic and environmental determinants of health and making use of existing knowledge;

(o) Promote further research, co-produced with indigenous peoples and local communities, and women, on scenarios relating to the sustainable use of wild species, including for gathering, animal harvesting and non-extractive practices;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate and enhance synergies in the field of sustainable use of wildlife with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,<sup>7</sup> the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals<sup>8</sup> and the secretariats of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, in particular

<sup>6</sup> Decision 15/5, annex I.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1651, No. 28395.

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;
- (c) The equitable distribution of costs and benefits;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the guidance referred to in paragraph 6 to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration at a meeting to be held before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, ensuring that such guidance avoids the duplication of existing guidance;

8. *Encourages* Parties to foster scientific and technical cooperation, capacity-building and technology transfer activities and partnerships to address the gaps outlined in paragraphs 9 to 12 of document [CBD/COP/16/11](#), taking into account the specific challenges faced by developing countries;

9. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, subnational governments at all levels, indigenous people and local communities, women and relevant organizations to submit information on best practices for sustainable wildlife management, and requests the Executive Secretary to compile and synthesize the information thus submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-seventh meeting;

10. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, subnational governments at all levels and relevant organizations to promote, consistent with relevant international obligations, incentives to enhance biodiversity conservation and ensure the sustainable use of wild species, including innovative finance solutions, in a way that is supportive of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth engaged in the conservation and sustainable management of wild species;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, and other relevant organizations, and in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, to facilitate regional dialogues to build a common understanding regarding the application of the seven key elements referred to in paragraph 4 (b).

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