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**BEYOND ENFORCEMENT: INVOLVING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL
COMMUNITIES IN COMBATING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE: REGIONAL WORKSHOP
FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary hereby provides, for the information of participants in the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), an output statement from the participants in the workshop “Beyond Enforcement: involving indigenous peoples and local communities in combating illegal wildlife trade” held in Limbe, Cameroon from 24 to 25 February 2016. The workshop explored how best to engage indigenous peoples and local communities that live close to wildlife in efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade.
2. The information is provided by the Executive Secretary in the language and format in which it was received.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/1/Rev.1.

Summary of Lessons Learned**THE LIMBE DELIBERATIONS ON IWT AND IPLCS**

1. This region has seen a strong recent growth in protected areas, illustrating clear commitment to conservation. However, these areas are primarily state-managed National Parks, often with inadequate resources and capacity for effective management and for community engagement, and limited or no formal involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in its management.
2. West and Central Africa are key regions for exports of some high-value illegally traded commodities, including elephant ivory, pangolins and timber.
3. Drivers of illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in this region include weak implementation and rule of law, corruption (including within the police, military and other legal authorities), political instability, extensive and extreme poverty, low levels of education, ready availability of arms, and large remote forest, savannah and dryland areas that make law enforcement or detection of illegal activity difficult.
4. Community managed areas may be particularly targeted by organised poachers as, although states have formal responsibility for law enforcement in these areas, they often have less armed enforcement present.
5. While Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) are sometimes viewed as "the problem" or the perpetrators of IWT, they are often exploited by outside poachers - receiving tiny amounts of money for poaching wildlife for international IWT relative to their market value. They usually do not have information on the scale and damage caused by the trade.
6. Engagement in IWT typically only benefits few in the community, and results in longer term broad social costs including insecurity, resource depletion, and loss of community cohesion.
7. Indigenous Peoples and local communities often have unique and outstanding skills for either conservation or for IWT because of their day to day proximity to wildlife. They can be either the "hands of the poachers", or "the eyes and ears of enforcers". This means it is crucial to develop approaches that make it more attractive to them to conserve wildlife than to engage in IWT.
8. Conservation organisations often fill a gap left by the state in providing or supporting basic services. However, as a result expectations are often raised as to what they can provide, and IPLCs feel let down by them. This can lead to poor relations with, and distrust of, conservation.
9. Law enforcement against IWT often mainly targets local people, whereas the people driving and benefiting from the trade (the "white collar" culprits) are often not targeted, sometimes because it too dangerous to tackle these powerful criminals.
10. There are cases where law enforcement against IWT has been associated with severe human rights abuses. Conservation organisations can be inadvertently effectively complicit with these abuses by turning a blind eye to such issues.
11. Harsh or unjust law enforcement can contribute to alienating IPLCs and raise the incidence of poaching.
12. Trust in police and the legal system, and recognition of wildlife laws as legitimate and fair, are critical in motivating people to provide the information and intelligence that is key for effective law enforcement against IWT.
13. Enforcement solutions developed jointly with communities, and involving community members working alongside or cooperatively with enforcement authorities can be powerful ways to combat IWT.
14. Hunting for international IWT is distinct from subsistence hunting or commercial bushmeat hunting, although there is some overlap. Subsistence hunting is not the major conservation problem.

15. IPLCs also often feel like victims of an international demand for illicitly sourced wildlife commodities and request this particular matter to be included and taken seriously within strategies addressing behaviour change in consumer countries of IWT.
16. Subsistence hunting is often very important for nutrition and/or traditional medicinal practices and plays important cultural roles in traditional communities. However, even legal hunting is sometimes illegitimately stopped by laws and law enforcement against IWT.
17. Many IPLCs have been excluded from traditional territories and prevented from exercising traditional hunting rights without prior consent or compensation, exacerbating conflict with – and resentment of – conservation and conservation agencies and organisations.
18. There is a mismatch between formal legal approach to wildlife management and traditional approaches including cultural and spiritual traditions. Identifying synergies between these approaches could help reduce conflict.
19. Even remote communities are now part of the cash economy, and want and need cash income to raise their standard of living. This can be from conserving wildlife or from other activities that do not harm wildlife; and that are chosen by people themselves as culturally appropriate and economically beneficial.
20. In the West and Central African regions, in some areas subject to poaching for IWT, there is relatively little funding being directed towards community development activities; with much more being directed to enforcement.
21. Funding and resources that go direct to IPLCS and the organisations that work directly with them are likely to be most effective.
22. Engaging communities in a meaningful way needs to go well beyond consultation or co-management "on paper". IPLCs need to be empowered, with strengthened rights and a real sense of ownership or stewardship over wildlife. A feeling of empowerment and having control over their own resources can be a very powerful motivator for people to protect and conserve wildlife.
23. Improving the meaningful engagement of IPLCs in the management of protected areas, and/or supporting community managed wildlife areas, can be powerful approaches in combating IWT. Diversifying categories of protected areas beyond state-managed ones - particularly considering the inclusion of Indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs) - in the region is likely to be beneficial.
24. The relative benefits that IPLCs gain from IWT, on one hand, and from conservation and sustainable use of wildlife, on the other, is a critical equation. Where IWT gives people more benefits, they are more likely to engage in it. Relevant benefits from conservation and sustainable use include not just financial benefits, but broader socio-cultural benefits including control over their own wildlife resources, and access to large undisturbed areas to pursue traditional modes of life.
25. IPLCs need to be able to gain income or other non-financial benefits from conserving wildlife or from other activities that do not harm wildlife; and that are freely chosen and culturally appropriate.
26. Such activities can include carrying out tourism, including gaining a share of revenues from sport hunting or viewing tourism, hunting and gathering of wild species, and wildlife trade.
27. Motivating people to support conservation is a critical challenge for alternative livelihoods-based approaches, including tourism, alternative meat sources like poultry, and sustainable use of non-timber products. These must be approached with caution, given that benefits from these are unlikely to outweigh what can be gained from illegal wildlife trade, especially in high value species. Tourism is very difficult in many parts of this region.
28. Making conservation beneficial for people is more difficult when people are negatively impacted by wildlife, such as crop damage from elephants and gorillas, with no compensation.
29. Raising awareness of the illicit profits being made from IWT by others, the damage caused by IWT, and the long-term costs to their livelihoods when these resources are lost, is very important.

Those involved in sensitisation of IPLCs themselves need adequate knowledge and capacitation to support this important work.

30. IPLCs should be engaged from the start in discussing and guiding conservation and management approaches - approaches and solutions should be "co-developed" with IPLCs.
31. Building community institutions and solidarity is critical for effective community-based management of wild resources, and is challenging. Often traditional structures of authority and organisation have been eroded. External forces (political conflict, armed poaching gangs, jihadism etc) can exacerbate tensions within a community, but also be a strong motivator for communities to unite to tackle problems, including security of life and property.
32. The living conditions and adequate salaries of ecoguards, Customs officers and other law enforcement staff are important elements in effective responses: improvements in living conditions and strengthened incentives for performance are likely to improve outcomes.
33. Despite decades of investment in community-level initiatives to achieve conservation objectives, there has little systematic monitoring — biological or socio-economic — in the region to enable whether the approaches taken have been effective.
34. IPLCs in West and Central Africa currently have no functioning and effective communication platform where experiences and solutions on the issues of IWT can be exchanged.
35. Community-based conservation is not a silver bullet - this has to be part of an integrated package of measures addressing IWT. Short term initiatives are very unlikely to achieve success and long-term investments are likely to be required. However, once the right enabling conditions are in place, community conservation can be a critical tool in the fight against IWT.

Done in Limbe, Cameroon, 25 February 2016

Les Participants
The participants