



PRESS RELEASE

Sustainable wildlife management essential for protecting biodiversity

Montreal, 21 October 2014 – Recognizing that wildlife is an important renewable natural resource, with economic, cultural, nutritional and recreational value to humans, Parties at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12), held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, have passed a landmark decision on the sustainable use of biodiversity with regards to bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management.

The decision provides a clear mandate for sustainable wildlife management and will be carried out in tandem with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), a voluntary partnership of international organizations with substantive mandates and programmes for the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources.

“Sustainable management of wildlife is a key issue in the good governance of biodiversity,” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, speaking at the fourth meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, held in the margins of COP 12.

The decision encourages Parties to revise their regulatory systems and to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities for sustainable wildlife management as well as to reform incentives that might encourage unsustainable consumption.

The need to address biodiversity as a key element of sustainable development in the post-2015 period has been widely recognised. Sustainable wildlife management provide continuous ecosystem services and income, and contributes to the reduction of poverty. It is the sound management of wildlife species to sustain their populations and habitats over time, taking into account the socioeconomic needs of human populations.

The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management comprises 14 international organizations, with a Secretariat hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The CPW’s work plan on substantive mandates and programmes includes improving wildlife management through raising awareness and advocating sustainable practices for wildlife for food security and livelihoods, human wildlife conflict and illegal/unsustainable hunting.

At its fourth meeting, CPW partners updated their work plan. One key activity is the development of a Bushmeat Sourcebook. This publication, prepared primarily by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), provides a better understanding of how bushmeat relates to broader socio-economic and conservation issues.



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A side event hosted by the CPW, “Wildlife Management in a Landscape Perspective: enhancing biodiversity conservation and supporting livelihoods,” held 13 October 2014, highlighted practical work carried out by CPW members – including the launch of its first joint product and a fact sheet on Sustainable Wildlife Management and Biodiversity. The fact sheet describes key components of wildlife management that can provide incentives to conserve biodiversity.

As part of its next phase of activities, the CPW is developing a project proposal, to be co-funded by the Global Environment Facility, titled “Criteria and Indicators for sustainable wildlife management: a key step towards a global certification system.” Geared towards improving the social, economic, and environmental benefits derived from sustainable wildlife management, countries interested in being a pilot country to test the framework are welcome to contact the Secretariat.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 194 Parties up to now, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 168 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 54 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int.

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