



## Questionnaire for the expression of interest for participating in a collaborative partnership on sustainable wildlife management

1. What are your expectations for a collaborative partnership on sustainable wildlife management (with a focus on supporting developing countries in implementing the recommendations of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat)?

IFAW believes that fair, collaborative partnerships are essential to actualise the CBD Vision “*Living in Harmony with Nature*” and to successfully achieve the CBD Mission “to halt the loss of biodiversity...” in a way that benefits the welfare of both humans and animals.

IFAW welcomes the increased awareness and political will for the need to put humans’ relationship with their environment on an ecologically sustainable footing as reflected within the CBD Strategic Plan 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as in recommendations of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat.

Whilst, *for example*, the commercial bush-meat trade has well-recognized and documented effects on both species conservation and biodiversity, it is important to recognize the tremendous impact that such trade also has on animal welfare. The welfare of individuals is severely compromised in a number of ways; just to name one: the suffering experienced by primate orphans who are often illegally traded as pets. Another concern is the use of snares and traps, which are consistently inhumane and unselective methods of killing animals. The unselectivity adds dramatically to the loss of biodiversity leads as massive numbers of non target animals get killed, including from highly endangered species.

We recognize that the line between subsistence hunting and commercial exploitation is perforated and that wild animals, their parts and derivatives continue to be traded commercially throughout the world. Commercial trade in wildlife and wildlife products, both legal and illegal, nationally and internationally, causes tremendous suffering of individual animals, endangerment of wild animal populations, species extinctions worldwide, degradation of biodiversity and deprives local communities from benefiting from subsistence living.

Within collaborative partnership we expect to develop appropriate policies, legal frameworks and management regimes, adequate law enforcement capacity as well as education and awareness-raising as the most immediate way to implement lasting solutions.

Further, the trade in wildlife usually causes great suffering to the animals involved. Animals that are captured alive often endure inhumane conditions in captivity, during transport and at the point of sale.

Additionally, to reduce suffering associated with the bush-meat crisis, appropriate facilities to shelter and rehabilitate animals should be included within substitution and other mitigative measures, as they are an absolute requirement to allow the effective confiscation of illegally traded pets. Recognizing that the pet trade is inextricably linked to the bush-meat crisis, actions

must be taken in every affected country to ensure that law enforcement agencies are capable of being effective. Many species in international so-called “exotic pet” trade face extremely high mortality rates, even before reaching the marketplace, which is another factor increasing the loss of biodiversity. Appropriately managed sanctuaries and confiscation facilities are essential for the care of confiscated wildlife. Without such facilities, confiscations are unlikely to occur and the negative impacts of the bushmeat trade on animal welfare will continue to increase.

2. What are key experiences of your organization in sustainable wildlife management at global, regional and national level?

Founded in 1969, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) works for adequate protection of individual animals, animal populations, wildlife habitats and their biodiversity all over the world. Our work connects animal welfare and conservation, demonstrating that healthy populations, naturally sustaining habitats and the welfare of individual animals are intertwined. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW provides hands-on assistance to animals in need, whether it's dogs and cats, wildlife and livestock, or rescuing animals in the wake of disasters.

IFAW assists governing bodies in developing and implementing wildlife conservation and animal welfare policies, legal frameworks and management regimes. We conduct law enforcement capacity-building programmes, run public education and awareness-raising campaigns and assist in development of long-lasting solutions e.g. to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.

IFAW believes that effective measures are necessary to reduce the commercial exploitation of animals including strict, clear policies and legislation, adequate enforcement with strong penalties and consumer awareness programs. As such, IFAW promotes the precautionary principle in international conventions (i.e., CITES, CMS), works with law enforcement agencies to enhance compliance and enforcement mechanisms (e.g., training programs for customs officers), and raises consumer awareness to reduce market demand for wildlife and their products.

We are international, with local expertise and leadership in all of our field offices. Our team includes rescue workers, veterinarians, policy experts, campaigners, scientists, educators and the highest quality support staff all driven by a determination to help animals in need.

Over the years IFAW has developed working relationships and partnerships with a number of institutions at the global, regional and national level in sustainable wildlife management, *inter alia*, with:

- International and regional MEAs, like CBD, CITES or CMS and other international conventions and national governments.
- Inter-governmental agencies such as, INTERPOL Environmental Crime Program, Lusaka Agreement Task Force etc, on capacity-building for wildlife law enforcement to prevent wildlife trafficking and elevating the profile of wildlife crime;
- National wildlife law enforcement authorities and agencies to increase capacity for anti-poaching and other enforcement activities among wildlife enforcement authorities;
- Relevant partners to help individual wild animals displaced or orphaned by the bushmeat trade, relocating them to appropriate places of safety and undertaking rehabilitation for release back to the wild, or placing them in sanctuaries for long term care.
- The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), GRASP, Ape-Alliance the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force (BCTF) and others, to help raise the profile of the bushmeat crisis among the public, politicians and decision makers;

3. Which organizational format would you suggest for a possible partnership on sustainable wildlife management? (Please cite examples of other international partnerships, if possible).

For example: The Bushment Crisis Task Force (BCTF) or the African Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) models of collaborative partnerships.

4. Which resources could you contribute to the partnership, if any?

Within our capacity, we can provide assistance in areas of our key expertise (as given above under "2.") and offer our experience in coalition building, in formulating successful partnerships and in project implementation.

**Peter Pueschel | Programme Director**

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