



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)?

WDCS is actively involved in international fora for the protection of large and small cetacean species (whales, dolphins and porpoises), including CITES, CMS, IWC, SPAW Protocol (Cartagena Convention), and is encouraged by the focused working group on bushmeat within the CBD. Because we maintain a vast network of grassroots relationships in many countries, we expect to utilize these relationships to support the implementation of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat recommendations, and assist in gathering additional data. In addition, WDCS is working to substantiate the emergent issue of ‘marine bushmeat,’ where the opportunistic and local directed take of small cetaceans occurs around the globe, and in many locations is either unsubstantiated or anecdotal. We would expect to contribute knowledge, expertise, and other resources to partner with CBD to develop recommendations and solutions at the local level to address the threats and challenges associated with this issue.

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

There are over eighty recognized species of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises), the majority of which are the small toothed whales, dolphins and porpoises known collectively as ‘small cetaceans’. In addition to the on-going hunts for large cetaceans, small whales, dolphins and porpoises are also hunted, for both subsistence and commercial use, throughout Asia, Africa, South America, the Pacific Islands Region, North America and Europe.

The hunting and consumption of wild mammals is common globally, and such exploitation is a major threat to many species. Terrestrial animals that have been hunted for food usually are labeled as ‘bushmeat,’ but for marine mammals, and although the direct hunting of *large* cetaceans is relatively well described, the extent that small cetacean species are taken for food is a relatively new issue. The global extent and characteristics of the acquisition of these other species for use as human food has received little synthesis until more recently, encouraging more focused attention on what might be labeled the ‘marine bushmeat’ problem. Such forums as CBD, IWC and other conventions have fledgling initiatives to quantify the scope and degree of this problem, and WDCS is prepared to contribute focus, expertise, and grassroots relationships.

WDCS works through advocacy, educational outreach, legal initiatives, policy development, and other avenues to address the spectrum of threats to whales and dolphins. We have supported over 150 field research projects since our inception in 1987, and continue to support grassroots NGOS and researchers internationally that are involved with these issues, including the directed take and local consumption of whale and dolphins. We work within international treaties and fora to develop policy frameworks and

recommendations for implementation at the regional, national and local levels to address these complex issues. We have encouraged and developed local and sustainable alternatives to consumption, such as whale and dolphin watching, across the globe, and continue to work with local groups to address unsustainable and inhumane hunting and fishing practices that involved the targeted or indirect take of whales and dolphins.

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

WDCS has partnered directly with international organizations on cetacean-focused issues, such as CMS and UNEP/SPAW Protocol, and to develop discrete initiatives to raise awareness, conduct trainings, or develop policy recommendations and guidance. Some examples are the Year of the Dolphin initiative that we partnered with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)[see:

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=487&ArticleID=5352&l=en>]; capacity building workshops throughout the Caribbean and Central America with UNEP/CEP (whale-watching and stranding workshops); and educational outreach initiatives with national and local governments (Dolphin SMART program with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries and Sanctuaries programs, www.dolphinmart.org) . In addition, we contribute species expertise and support for the Secretariat's of numerous conventions, including CITES, SPAW, the IWC, and CMS. For instance, WDCS has initiated a 'marine bushmeat' working group within the IWC and its Scientific Committee.

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

WDCS maintains a vast network of respected relationships with grassroots NGOS, researchers, legal experts and government authorities that we can enlist in collaborating with the CBD Liaison group. Because the issues surrounding terrestrial and marine bushmeat are intimately linked, our focus on whales and dolphins (marine mammals) may provide additional expertise to the Liaison Group and open new avenues of inquiry. WDCS is committed to working to secure grant or other funding to support the aims and purposes of the working group.