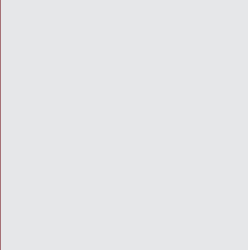




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Sustainable management of wildlife and food security

through sound legal frameworks, institutions and
practices



Wildlife and food security

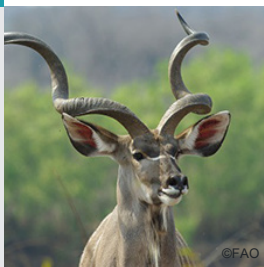
Millions of people depend on wild meat for food and income

Research shows us that the demand for wild meat is growing, especially in urban areas. Where hunting for wild meat is not managed in a sustainable manner, wildlife populations decline and rural communities suffer increased food insecurity.

How can FAO help?

Appropriate and effective laws and institutions enable sustainable wildlife management and, in turn, improve food security. However, enacting legal reforms is a complex exercise. Ensuring effective implementation of legislation is also a challenge, especially when the populations and locations most affected are distant from centres of national or local government.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is uniquely placed to provide technical and legal support to countries. The legal experts in our Development Law Service work closely with our scientific experts. This means that our support for the development of institutions and laws is tailored for the specific situation of each region, country or province.



FAO projects

The Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme

The FAO-led Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme¹ aims to improve the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in forest, savannah and wetland ecosystems in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. This 7-year ACP initiative is being implemented in collaboration with CIFOR, CIRAD and WCS² and a variety of national partners.

FAO, drawing on the expertise of its Development Law Service, is implementing the legal component of the SWM Programme, which aims to strengthen national institutional and legal frameworks in thirteen countries.

In order to achieve sustainable wildlife management, our work focuses on addressing the rights and needs of rural populations and indigenous people by:

- ensuring a people-centred approach;
- understanding how statutory laws and customary systems are used;
- considering how these systems can complement each other.

We help countries identify where and how their institutions and laws may need to be adapted to ensure that the benefits they enjoy from wildlife are available to future generations.

1. Funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Global Environment Facility.

2. The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).



Our innovative research and global tool kit

Legal tools

FAO has developed an integrated approach to consider the rights of all stakeholders involved in the SWM Programme, including the most vulnerable. We are following a Programme-specific, human rights based approach. This includes a Free, Prior and Informed Consent protocol, as well as an effective mechanism for addressing any stakeholder grievances.

As part of the SWM Programme, we are reviewing more than 2,000 legal texts that regulate different aspects of meat and fish value chains in the thirteen countries. To assist in this process, we have developed **legal assessment tools** to:

- evaluate consistency with international conventions and guidelines;
- analyse consistency across sectoral legislations and identify potential gaps;
- understand the relationship between statutory and customary law; and
- assess the degree to which laws are implemented and enforced.

The development and use of these tools with national counterparts strengthens national capacity to initiate and implement law reform.

These approaches and tools can be adapted for use in other countries to support their efforts to promote conservation and sustainable use of wildlife.

We are here to help

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Development Law Service
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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