



# AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

## TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

**Sustainable management of Africa's Forests and Wildlife resources:  
boosting Food Security and Resilience to Climate Change for improved  
livelihoods**

**Arusha - United Republic of Tanzania, 30 October - 03 November 2023**

**Sustainable wildlife management in Africa**

### Executive Summary

Wildlife plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of various ecosystem services that are essential to forests, food, and agriculture. The role of sustainable use and management of wildlife is becoming increasingly evident due to continuing global pressures on these resources and their habitats from increasing human population, urbanization, agriculture intensification and changing lifestyles. In tackling these challenges, FAO places significant emphasis on four key areas: wild meat management, human-wildlife conflict, maintaining ecological balance of forest ecosystems and community-based sustainable wildlife management. This document provides the Commission with insights into FAO's significant advancements in the realm of sustainable wildlife management between August 2022 and October 2023.

### Suggested Action by the Commission

*The Commission may wish to invite countries to:*

- Comprehensively assess their national priorities, including policies, legislation and capacity building needs pertaining to sustainable wildlife management, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
- Analyse the scale and impact of human-wildlife conflicts in national and transboundary contexts and collaborate with FAO in developing approaches to measure and monitor trends in effective human-wildlife conflict management.
- Promote the wider adoption and application of essential knowledge products, methodologies, and diagnostic tools derived from the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme.

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- Take note of the 2023-2025 workplan of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and engage with FAO and CPW partners to foster knowledge exchange and strategic alignment for advancing sustainable wildlife management agenda.

***The Commission may wish to recommend that FAO:***

- Support countries, subject to the availability of resources, with developing, monitoring and adaptively managing programmes on sustainable, legal, and safe harvest, use and trade in wild species at a national level.
- Develop a holistic capacity development programme for prevention and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts and promoting coexistence, subject to the availability of resources.
- Continue to scaling up good practices and successful models from the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme to other countries in Africa, emphasizing governance models with enabling policies and legal frameworks.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. Wildlife plays a vital role in boosting a wide range of essential ecosystem services for forests, food, livelihoods, and agriculture. Consequently, it has a significant impact across various key areas in FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its Priority Programme Areas (PPAs), including Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for food and agriculture in *Better Environment* (BE3), One Health in *Better Production* (BP3), and Nutrition for the most vulnerable in *Better Nutrition* (BN2). Additionally, wildlife directly contributes to the attainment of SDG1 (No poverty), SDG2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG15 (Life on Land).

2. In the realm of international biodiversity policy, there is a growing acknowledgment of the enhanced potential wild animals could offer to sustainable development. This potential can be fully realized through the conscientious and equitable mitigation of issues pertaining to the unsustainable and illicit use of wildlife resources. This issue has, for the first time, found explicit acknowledgment in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), a milestone achieved at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP-15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Montreal in December 2022.

3. The KMGBF not only acknowledges the importance of sustainable use, harvesting, and trade of wild species but also underscores their role in meeting human needs and providing diverse benefits. This is evident in the Targets 4 on human-wildlife conflicts<sup>1</sup>, Target 5 on safe and legal practices of using, harvesting, and trading wild species<sup>2</sup> and Target 9 on highlighting the environmental benefits derived from the sustainable use of wild species<sup>3</sup>.

4. Moreover, during the CBD CoP-15, a pivotal step was taken with the adoption of CBD/COP/DEC/15/23<sup>4</sup> focusing on sustainable wildlife management. This decision entailed the completion of tasks mandated in decision 14/7, including identifying other areas beyond the wild meat sector that may require complementary guidance, such as other geographical areas, species and uses.

## II. FAO'S INITIATIVES ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

### A. Human-wildlife conflict and coexistence

5. In direct response to the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the AFWC's request, FAO partnered closely with the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC), specifically the Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group (HWCCSG), to develop a series of ten case studies<sup>5</sup>.

6. These series encompassed various African countries, spanning Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. The Tanzanian example involved a community-driven camera trapping program that fosters collaborations between local communities and the organisation "Lion Landscapes", capitalizing on wildlife presence to provide healthcare, veterinary support, and education. Kenya's case study delved into the dynamics between honeybees and elephants, leading to the implementation of beehive fences for mitigating conflicts. Zimbabwe's focus was on innovative conflict prevention approaches in northwest Hurungwe, offering alternative livelihoods and livestock disease management. Another Kenyan case study centered on piloting insurance schemes to address human-wildlife conflicts, while Mozambique's comprehensive strategy for conflict management was

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/4/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/5/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/9/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-23-en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife/100886/en/>

backed by FAO's support, evidenced by enhanced databases and innovative tools such as crocodile cages.

7. In 2023, FAO, in collaboration with IUCN's HWCCSG, prepared an additional fifteen case studies, which are in final stages of production. The first batch was published in August 2023 and covered additional examples from Africa, namely spatial planning for elephants in Botswana, and understanding baboon behaviour patterns in Zimbabwe.

8. The case studies are also being integrated into the recently published IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence<sup>6</sup>. These Guidelines establish fundamental principles and practices, offering practical direction on effectively addressing conflicts and promoting harmonious coexistence with wildlife. Encompassing analytical approaches and decision-making tools, the Guidelines are not limited to specific species or regions.

9. To support Central African countries, in 2022, FAO funded the project under Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) entitled "*Support for Improving Human-Wildlife Conflict Management in Gabon, Cameroon, and the Democratic Republic of Congo*". This project collected vital information on institutional, political, and legislative aspects of HWC, and evaluated the effectiveness and limitations of tools and methods used by local communities to address HWC. This effort resulted in technical reports, and a regional HWC program is nearing completion. The program will undergo validation during an upcoming regional workshop, bringing together key regional institutions (ECCAS, COMIFAC), national entities, and HWC partners in Central Africa.

10. In May 2023, in response to a request from the Government of United Republic of Tanzania, FAO launched a two-year Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) which is designed to bolster human-wildlife conflict management in the country, focusing on enhancing community involvement and institutional capabilities.

## **B. Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW)**

11. In observance of the 2023 World Wildlife Day, the CPW revealed its commitment to collaborate on the subsequent five priorities<sup>7</sup>:

- support countries to ensure that the use and trade of wildlife is legal, sustainable, and safe, including through supporting governments in measuring, monitoring and adaptively managing use and trade of wild species;
- raise awareness of the links between sustainable use of wildlife, food security, livelihoods and well-being, culture, and the integrity of landscapes;
- promote the prevention, management and reduction of human-wildlife conflict and enhance coexistence;
- embed the sustainable use and management of wildlife in the One Health agenda; and
- advocate for sustainable and inclusive wildlife economies.

12. The CPW's 2023-2025 Work Plan has been harmonized with these five priorities, encompassing more than 15 joint initiatives spanning across all priorities (Annex 1). The Work Plan was officially launched at the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD, in Nairobi, on 16 October 2023.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/50756>

<sup>7</sup> ENG: <https://wildlifeday.org/en/message/joint-statement>

FR: <https://wildlifeday.org/fr/message/declaration-conjointe>

13. The progress report, highlighting the collaborative accomplishments of CPW is accessible as a CBD Information Document: CBD/COP/15/INF/25<sup>8</sup>.

### C. Wild meat: Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme

14. In 2022-2023, the SWM Programme<sup>9</sup> continued to support the co-development and piloting of eight innovative and scalable models of participatory wildlife management using a holistic and community-rights based approach. Those models aim at conserving wildlife and ecosystems, while securing the access to and use of sustainable sources of food and livelihoods (including wildlife-based) for IPLCs across a variety of socio-ecosystems by:

- Putting in place an enabling legal framework for sustainable wildlife management. To this aim the SWM Programme created and launched the Legal Hub<sup>10</sup> in 2021, an on-line platform offering a centralized and user-friendly access point to legal texts and analysis across all relevant sectors in 13 countries.
- Helping traditional and indigenous communities to build the capacity they need to decide how to manage their wildlife resources sustainably;
- Reducing demand for wild meat in urban areas through behavioral change approaches.

15. In July 2023, FAO welcomed EUR 25 million in additional funding from the European Union (EU) to extend and scale up the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme. This second phase will run from August 2023 to May 2029 and will be part of NaturAfrica, the new EU initiative for biodiversity conservation in Africa. The new EU funding will be used to increase the impact and sustainability of the Programme by completing the models and sharing lessons learnt, tools and innovations at national, regional, and international levels.

16. The progress report, highlighting the accomplishments of the SWM Programme is accessible as an AFWC-24 Information Document: FO:AFWC/2023/INF.4.

### D. Wildlife trade

17. The FAO plays a vital role in contributing to the African Union's Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa<sup>11</sup> through various activities. Here are several ways in which FAO's efforts support this critical strategy:

- **International Cooperation:** In July 2023, FAO embarked on the establishment of a collaborative program of action with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This joint effort aims to ensure the global alignment of initiatives with the African Strategy while addressing the international facets of illegal wildlife trade.
- **Regional level:** FAO is currently implementing a TCP Project to directly support the implementation of the above-mentioned strategy. One of the key activities under this project is to develop a monitoring and implementation framework, which will provide guidance and support to members in reporting on the progress of implementation at the national level.
- **Policy, regulatory framework and advisory support:** FAO assists African countries in developing and implementing knowledge-based policies and regulations that promote sustainable wildlife management in all its dimensions - environmental, social, and economic. This includes support in drafting legislation, aligning policies and legislation with international

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/1f9b/1f54/5be8297edfe4e59be7c73578/cop-15-inf-25-en.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.swm-programme.info/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.swm-programme.info/legal-hub>

<sup>11</sup> [33796-doc-african\\_strategy\\_strategy\\_africaine\\_au.pdf](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/1f9b/1f54/5be8297edfe4e59be7c73578/33796-doc-african_strategy_strategy_africaine_au.pdf)

agreements and conventions, and creating national action plans. FAO also provided support to African Union is developing their Regional Action Plan for the implementation of KMGBF.

- **Technical Expertise:** Through the CPW network, FAO offers technical expertise on issues such as sustainable, safe, and legal wildlife trade, anti-poaching strategies, prevention and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts and sustainable hunting practices, and maximising benefits for conservation and human well-being through sustainable, legal, and safe use and trade practices.
- **Capacity Building:** FAO provides technical assistance and capacity-building programs related to sustainable wildlife management to African countries.

## **Annex 1. CPW Work Plan for 2023-2025**

The CPW delivers its mission and vision through five thematic objectives and associated joint initiatives:

1. ***Support countries to ensure that the use and trade of wildlife is legal, sustainable and safe***
  - Contribution to a Gap Analysis to Support CBD Decision 15/23 Implementation on Sustainable Wildlife Management
  - Provision of Technical Assistance for Integrating Sustainable Wildlife Management into NBSAPs
  - Contribution to Development of Methodology for KMGBF Sustainable Use Indicators (Targets 5 and 9)
  - Testing CITES Non-detrimental finding (NDF) Guidance for Sustainable Wildlife Management
2. ***Raise awareness of the links between sustainable use of wildlife, food security, livelihoods and well-being, culture and the integrity of landscapes***
  - Collation of new case studies on commercial trade in CITES-listed species and how this may contribute to the wellbeing and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities involved in such use, if sustainable, including for the conservation of the species (CITES CoP18 on CITES and livelihoods)
3. ***Promote the prevention, management and reduction of human-wildlife conflict and enhance coexistence***
  - Involvement in KMGBF Target 4 Human-Wildlife Conflict Component Indicator Development
4. ***Embed the sustainable use and management of wildlife in the One Health agenda***
  - Creation of One Health Information Brief for Sustainable Wildlife Management
  - Assist in country piloting the “WOAH’s Guidelines for reducing the risk of disease spillover events at markets selling wildlife and along the wildlife supply chain”
  - Contribution to the Peer Review of CBD's Revised Biodiversity and Health Action Plan
5. ***Advocate for sustainable and inclusive wildlife economies***
  - Wild Biodiversity Economy: development of a new and innovative programme to advance the sustainable use of wild lands and wild species for the benefit of people and nature

### ***Cross-cutting activities***

- Case study development (incl. HWC case studies, People Not Poaching Platform, Species Use Database case studies and others as relevant)
- Technical advice and contribution to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the field of SWM
- Organization of the CPW Wildlife Forum