



Cooperation for the Convention on Biological Diversity

Draft Technical Note – Sustainable Wildlife Management

29/09/2023

Authors

Marie-Christine Cormier Salem, Research Director at the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) - **Political Ecology and Geography**

Audrey Darnaude, Research Scientist at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) - **Marine Ecology and Conservation**

Alison Hutchinson, Research Associate at the Newcastle University - **Ecology and Species Conservation**

Vincent Leblan, Research Fellow at the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) - **Anthropology**

Anna Meredith, Professor at the University of Edinburgh - **Zoological and Conservation Medicine**

Pierre Spielwoy, COOP4CBD, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle

Prepared under contract for the European Commission, DG Environment

Project title: CO-OP4CBD



Funded by
the European Union

Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission.
Neither the EU nor the EC can be held responsible for them.

We acknowledge that the **Secretariat document** represents a useful and accurate summary of the *IPBES Thematic Assessment on Sustainable Use of Wild Species*. We agree with the '**considerations for future work**' proposed in it and with the three broad **recommendations in section 51**.

We welcome the recognition of the **broader definition of the term 'wildlife'** in this document, which reflects the use of the term '*wild species*' defined by IPBES, to include all taxa (terrestrial and aquatic animals, plants, fungi, algae, trees) from all biomes, eco-regions, and ecosystems. This definition includes all species and encompasses all aspects of biodiversity (genetic, but also functional). We also recognize the IPBES **diverse valuation and values of species** (IPBES methodological assessment on values) associated with SWM and recommend that every aspect of species' values are considered in decision-making, including the instrumental, relational, and intrinsic value of biodiversity. Acknowledging the diversity of values can lead to more equitable, just, and sustainable outcomes for people and wild species.

We recommend that this broader definition of the term '*wildlife*' is adopted by the CBD Parties or, for consistency with IPBES, '*wild species*' is used instead of '*wildlife*' from now on (see chapter 1 of IPBES SUWS). Indeed, to be effective, sustainable '*wildlife*' (or '*wild species*') management must refer to a broad definition allowing consideration of not only all key species, but also their habitats, and species interactions within them.

Building on the recommendations of the Secretariat document, and related to the IPBES Thematic Assessment on SUWS, **we strongly encourage the Parties to recognize the need to:**

1. '**Make sustainable more equitable**'. Address the three pillars of the CBD (conservation, sustainable use and equity) simultaneously, to ensure and improve the balance between them, avoid negative trade-offs and promote co-benefits. The building and implementation of sustainable management strategies must involve all stakeholders (local, global, and invisible) in every stage (co-design, co-construction, etc.). Particular attention should be paid to identify and involve the most vulnerable and invisible (or forgotten) people, often women, who are highly dependent on wild species' use.
2. '**Make conservation more holistic**'. Supplement current management approaches, which are mainly species-based, with a greater focus on ecosystem dynamics and local knowledge. Wherever possible, adopt integrative, holistic approaches at all scales, from local to global, considering the dynamic and complex interconnections between species and habitats. A special focus should be placed on key species for ecosystem functioning and/or Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) that are not currently the target of sustainable management plans and strategies (e.g., forage fish, marine invertebrates), to reduce the risk of entire socio-ecosystems unexpectedly declining or collapsing.
3. '**Connect strategies between sectors and between countries**'. Referring to areas that may require the development of complementary guidance (paragraph 45 list a-g); give additional consideration to the intersectoral connections between the focus areas. We also suggest a further focus on both existing and new agricultural and aquacultural practices which are not mentioned in the Secretariat's document. Additionally, recognising

that wild species use may intersect with other interests such as crop protection from wildlife depredations, the broader contexts and overlying motives of wild species use requires further attention. Wherever possible, encourage synergies across sectors and facilitate global integrated coordination between countries (in Europe and beyond) for the development of management plans and strategies.

Referring to **future work**, we recommend to systematically:

- Facilitate the identification and sharing of **best practices** among stakeholders, and encourage their recognition and application at relevant scales. For instance, the development of eco-certification and eco-labelling schemes with demonstratable and transparent processes to ensure equity, social and environmental justice, and the prevention of perverse outcomes (i.e., greenwashing).
- Consider the recommendations 1-3 above **for the development of new regulations** (e.g. for the High and Deep Seas) or the deployment of **new technologies** (e.g., renewable energy plants, biofuels, etc.) with an impact on wild species (as defined above).
- **Consider transnational and transboundary movement** (of wild species and humans), to adopt policies at relevant scales.
- Implement a **'One Health' approach** and build capacity for rigorous wildlife health surveillance to ensure safe sustainable wildlife management and prevent disease emergence or spillover, including zoonoses.
- Promote measures and mechanisms to **avoid environmental injustice** in its three dimensions (distribution, procedural, recognition) and recognise the **multiple values for wildlife** (beyond instrumental).
- Recognising the role of European countries as significant drivers of wildlife use and trade (source, consumer, and transit) there is an urgent need to **limit imported wildlife degradation**, in all parts of the world, and encourage strategies with a **low environmental footprint** (e.g., local networks, short circuits). As a first step towards this, the new European agreement on forest products for example could be extended to other taxa and biomes.

We encourage Parties to note that the implementation of this complementary guidance will require global integrated coordination between countries and sectors.