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TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Forests and Wildlife: Africa's diversity for shared prosperity and security

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FAO activities on Sustainable Wildlife Management in Africa

I. BACKGROUND

1. Sustainable wildlife management is the focus of considerable international efforts. Due to its significance for biodiversity conservation, food security and livelihoods, poverty reduction, human health and well-being, sustainable wildlife management can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. In 2018, the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14) adopted decision 14/7 on sustainable wildlife management, which welcomed the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector, annexed to the decision¹.
3. Wildlife and protected area management is an integral part of the FAO Forestry Programme and contributes to two of the five Strategic Priorities of FAO: "Making agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable" and "Reducing rural poverty".
4. Forests harbour most of Earth's terrestrial wildlife species. Wildlife and forest management are not only compatible, but are intrinsically interconnected and forest management has both positive and negative implications for habitats and living conditions of wildlife.
5. Following the UN Biodiversity Conference in 2016 (CBD COP13), FAO has initiated efforts to promote mainstreaming of biodiversity, which includes wildlife, across agricultural sectors². In December 2019, the FAO Council adopted the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across

¹ CBD/COP/DEC/14/7

² FO:AFWC/2020/6

Agricultural Sectors³. In this context, a particular emphasis in FAO's work on sustainable wildlife management is given to cross-sectoral coordination and appropriate stakeholder involvement.

6. This document reports on the progress made in the implementation of FAO activities on sustainable wildlife management in 2018-2019 and proposes recommendations for consideration by the Commission.

II. SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

7. The Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme (hereafter 'the SWM Programme') is a seven-year initiative, implemented since 2017 by a consortium of partners, composed of FAO, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD).

8. Funded under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), this African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat's initiative is implemented in 13 countries⁴, among which 11 are in Africa, with the aim of halting the unsustainable hunting of wildlife for food, and thus secure the wellbeing of poor rural Indigenous Peoples and poor rural communities that are dependent on wildlife for food, income and cultural identity.

9. To date, the SWM Programme results comprise:

- Assessment of the volume of wild meat and fish consumed and the structure of the market chain that connects rural hunters to urban consumers. The results indicate that isolated rural villages in Africa remain highly dependent on wildlife for food and income, and families in growing provincial towns continue to consume large quantities of wild meat, as domestic livestock production is insufficient to meet demand and imported meat is expensive.
- Assessment of how alternative sources of protein can contribute to the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife. Fish farming and poultry production has been assessed in the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, Guyana, and Madagascar.
- Four tools on wildlife have been produced to help define the legal baseline for the sustainable management of wildlife in each country of the Programme. They are i) Tool for compiling normative texts relevant to sustainable wildlife management ii) Diagnostic tool for assessing compliance of SWM relevant normative framework with international conventions; iii) Diagnostic tool for conducting gap and consistency analysis of the national legal framework relevant to SWM and iv) Diagnostic tool to assess customary law applicable to wild meat use.
- Various protocols were developed and adopted, aiming at including human rights considerations in the implementation of the SWM Programme. Specifically, these refer to the Community Rights Based Approach (CRBA), the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols and the Programme's specific Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).

³ CL 163/11 Rev.1

⁴ The SWM Programme is implemented in Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Guyana, Madagascar, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

- A wide variety of communication activities and products⁵ have been developed to raise awareness of SWM's work, at both Programme and site levels.

10. In addition to country activities, expected SWM Programme results are intended to inform relevant global processes, notably, contribute to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the CBD decision 14/7.

11. One component of the Programme, the RESSOURCE Project⁶, has a particular focus on migratory waterbirds. It is co-funded by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), operates in five Sahelian countries (Chad, Egypt, Mali, Senegal and Sudan) and aims at significantly improving the state of the waterbird populations of the large Sahelian wetlands for the benefit of local communities, in terms of food security and local development.

12. After two years of implementation (2018-2019), the RESSOURCE Project's achievements include:

- Large-scale monitoring of waterbirds conducted in several wetlands of international importance, namely, Senegal River Delta, Lake Chad Bassin, Khor Abu Habil and Red Sea coast in Sudan, Nile River Delta and Lake Nasser in Egypt;
- Management Plan developed and the Ramsar Factsheet of the Trois Marigots Community Reserve in Senegal completed;
- Hunting pressures and waterbirds harvests assessed in the touristic hunting concessions in Chad and Senegal;
- Training and lectures on the flyway approach to waterbird conservation, and waterbird identification and census techniques conducted for ten specialists from the Mweka College of African Wildlife Management (Tanzania), the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute of Naivasha and the Garoua School for the training of wildlife specialists (Cameroon).

III. OUTCOMES OF THE MULTISECTORAL DIALOGUE AND LEARNING EVENT TO ADDRESS ISSUES AT HUMAN-WILDLIFE-LIVESTOCK-ECOSYSTEM INTERFACE

13. In 2018, at its 21st session in Dakar, the African Forest and Wildlife Commission requested FAO to provide a platform to exchange good practices and lessons learned from initiatives related to human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and illegal hunting, and, moreover, to play a supportive role in developing capacity, including in providing technical assistance on transboundary and community-based wildlife management issues⁷.

14. In response to this request, FAO held a *Multisectoral Dialogue and Learning Event* (hereafter 'Dialogue') in Africa from 30 September to 3 October 2019, in Accra, Ghana. The objective was to

⁵ These include an SWM brochure, a quarterly newsletter, videos stories, promotional materials, interviews and events

⁶ From the French « Renforcement d'Expertise au Sud du Sahara sur les Oiseaux et leur Utilisation Rationnelle en faveur des Communautés et de leur Environnement » or in English "Strengthening expertise in Sub-Saharan Africa on birds and their rational use for communities and their environment

⁷ Paragraphs 38-41, <http://www.fao.org/3/MX460EN/mx460en.pdf>

address issues related to the human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface through a cross-sectoral approach.

15. The Dialogue brought together 45 participants, of which 20 were technical government experts from 11 AFWC Member Countries (Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The experts were officials from Ministries of Natural Resources, Forestry, Wildlife, Livestock, Veterinary and Public Health, in their respective countries.

16. The following key messages and conclusions were drawn at the Dialogue:

- Actions to address HWC should aim at promoting positive attitudes towards conflict wildlife species. Coexistence is only possible if local people inherently recognize the tangible value and benefits derived from wildlife, and if such a viewpoint becomes intrinsically cultural.
- There are significant disparities in the policy and legal frameworks of many African countries for tackling HWC. The lack of supportive standalone strategies, poor enforcement, and inadequately well-defined responsibilities hinder the implementation of an integrated response to HWC.
- An effective early-warning or detection system is a critically underdeveloped or (for certain species) missing piece of the HWC prevention strategy in many Member Countries.
- Compensating farmers for the wildlife damages is an important component of a HWC mitigation strategy. However, the effectiveness of compensation payments in mitigating and resolving HWC is disputed.
- A unique and important, and very often overlooked, subset of HWC is the transmission of diseases at the human-wildlife-livestock interface. Increased contact rates between people and animals are leading to increased levels of exposure to potential pathogens.
- Bringing non-state stakeholders into the process can trigger cross-sectoral coordination (i.e. among forestry, wildlife, livestock, veterinary and health sectors) and improve its effectiveness, and can also expand the capabilities to deal with HWCs at the country and cross-border levels.

17. A full list of key messages is provided in the summary report of the Dialogue⁸.

IV. OTHER WORK RELATED TO HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

18. In Botswana, in December 2019, FAO completed a technical cooperation project on improved livelihoods in wildlife dominated landscapes, with a strong HWC component. In partnership with the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust and Panthera, capacity has been strengthened at a local level to prevent and mitigate HWC by ensuring monitoring and surveillance of the area by community scouts; better livestock management, including herding practices; construction of predator-proof bomas and kraals; and engagement of local communities in ecotourism and wildlife-based businesses.

19. In Zimbabwe, in July 2019, FAO supported the development of a *HWC prevention and mitigation strategy for the Binga Rural District Council (RDC)*. To better understand the drivers and

⁸ FO:AFWC/2020/Inf.4.

root causes of HWC, two inception workshops, with local authorities and communities, were organized by CIRAD, FAO and BIO-HUB Trust.

20. Since March 2019, FAO is implementing a project, funded by the Government of Japan, on sustainable management of HWC and promotion of appropriate agricultural practices among vulnerable, food and nutrition-insecure communities in the Hurungwe District of Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe.

V. COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

21. The Second Wildlife Forum (hereafter ‘Forum’), with the overarching theme ‘Sustainable Use for Conservation and Livelihoods’, was organized by the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and the African Union Commission (AUC), on 21 November 2018, on the sidelines of the UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP14), in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

22. The Forum was attended by over 170 participants, representing governmental and non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), youth, practitioners, and businesses. Additionally, 500 participants followed the event online.

23. At the Forum, FAO launched the CPW animation video⁹, addressing the role the CPW can have in tackling key issues on wildlife management. CIFOR and the Secretariat of the CBD launched the report entitled Towards a Sustainable, Participatory, and Inclusive Wild Meat Sector¹⁰, which supplemented the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector, welcomed by the CoP in its Decision CBD/COP/DEC/14/7.

24. The outcomes of the Forum are available as an Information Document CBD/COP/14/INF/51¹¹ and provided in the IISD Wildlife Forum Bulletin¹².

25. To develop a better understanding on how sustainable wildlife management issues can be integrated into the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD, the CPW organized a Consultative Workshop on Sustainable Wildlife Management Beyond 2020, on 25-26 June 2019, in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

26. The report of this workshop was brought to the attention of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP18 Inf. 64¹³), and to the first meeting of the CBD Open-Ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/WG2020/1/INF/3¹⁴).

27. Finally, during the 23rd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD, in Montreal, the CPW Secretariat delivered a keynote presentation about CPW and its relevant initiatives as well as contributed to the deliberations on the implementation of COP decision 14/7 and on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kb724JEzrw>

¹⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8ca9/8f95/d06a6f4d99339baebd13648a/cop-14-inf-07-en.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/f724/2dd9/af2683d6ad20ee6fd77c7ce9/cop-14-inf-51-en.pdf>

¹² <http://enb.iisd.org/download/pdf/sd/enbplus88num15e.pdf>

¹³ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/inf/E-CoP18-Inf-064.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2d1f/ab01/681ae86a81ab601e585ecfe0/wg2020-01-inf-03-en.pdf>

VI. POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

28. The Commission may wish to

a) invite countries to:

- adopt a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach when implementing sustainable wildlife management strategies, as recommended in decision 14/7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in FAO's mainstreaming biodiversity strategy.
- share with FAO relevant country case studies on the role of wildlife management in sustainable forest management by the end of August 2020, with the further aim of preparing a technical study to be discussed at the next session of the AFWC, and at the World Forestry Congress in 2021.

b) recommend that FAO:

- continue implementing the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, and upscale and out-scale lessons learnt to other countries in Africa, and report on progress made at its next session.
- continue promoting international knowledge exchange and coordination on issues related to sustainable wildlife management, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, as appropriate and subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, and report on progress made at its next session.
- prepare a study on the role of sustainable wildlife management in sustainable forest management in Africa, including in biodiversity mainstreaming, for discussion at the next session of the AFWC and at the World Forestry Congress in 2021.
- continue building capacity on sustainable wildlife management, in particular, the issues at human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface, by facilitating South-South exchange, organizing additional multi-stakeholder dialogues, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, as well as improving access to already existing knowledge and tools.