



Wildlife Forum, Wednesday 9 September 2015
XIV World Forestry Congress, Durban, South Africa

Summary report of the Wildlife Forum: 9 September 2015

The first Wildlife Forum, organized by [the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management \(CPW\)](#), was held as an official one day special event during the fourteenth [World Forestry Congress \(XIV WFC\)](#) in Durban, South Africa, on 9 September 2015. Over 1000 participants from governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions, local and indigenous communities and youth representatives attended the forum. Discussions and debates were held on various aspects of sustainable wildlife management to improve local livelihoods through exchanges of information on experiences, best practices and research.

Opening plenary

The community theatre group, Resource Africa, kicked off the event at its opening plenary, with a play depicting the many complexities in wildlife management: hunting, wildlife crime, human-wildlife conflict, land tenure and governance, some of the issues discussed during the day.



Performance by Resource Africa
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“Forest management needs to be more than the management of forest conservation,” stated Eduardo Mansur, Director at FAO and CPW Secretary, in his welcoming remarks. He continued that the future of forests depends on a broad spectrum of issues including the sustainable management of wildlife.



Moderator for the opening plenary, Eduardo Mansur, FAO.
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Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and Chair of the CPW, delivered a keynote speech on the important roles that the communities play in wildlife management, and the necessity of having economic incentives with clear policies in place. He also stated that the current efforts for biodiversity conservation and wildlife management are not enough. Further work is needed by the stakeholders to scale up these efforts by challenging and pushing the boundaries to achieve sustainable wildlife management.

John Scanlon, Secretary-General, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), gave a TED-style talk on how illegal wildlife trade can undermine the sustainability of legal trade, highlighting some of the reasons why we need to get illegal

trade under control. Impacts of illegal trade are multifaceted, affecting sustainable development and issues on the rights of the local and indigenous communities. Scanlon's speech can be viewed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5xeQzIIWNI&feature=youtu.be>.



Keynote speakers Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD (left), and John Scanlon, CITES (right) © CITES Secretariat

Can strengthening communities' roles in wildlife management help conservation? Rights, governance and tenure in wildlife management

Nathalie van Vliet, Associate Researcher of CIFOR, set the stage with her keynote address on the community engagement in wildlife management. She explained some of the reasons for seeking community engagement in wildlife management, while arguing that responsibilities of sustainable management and conservation can be discussed only when issues of the ownership of land, forests, and wildlife are solved.

Dhaneshree (Dani) Ndebele from Resource Africa facilitated the discussions among the panellists who shared their experiences on some of the

positive lessons learnt in various countries. The use of innovative ways to engage communities, the establishment of healthy stakeholder consultation processes and good governance structures, the importance of jobs and benefits from forests and protected areas, as well as the incorporation of customary laws in mitigating wildlife crime were raised.

There are good practices in involving communities, but it was agreed that there are also challenges to be solved. Some examples are the absence of ownership of land and resources by communities, the insufficient benefits accrued to communities from wildlife resources, the distinct lack of trust between resource managers and communities, the existing labelling of communities as the "bad guys", and the inadequate consultation for various issues to solve problems.

The session concluded that successful wildlife management requires meaningful participation of communities, policymakers and other stakeholders, and that there is a need to take risks when all other interventions are failing because too many assumptions are made about what makes resource use sustainable or unsustainable. There is also a need to bridge the trust-deficit that exists between officials and the communities to manage wildlife effectively. To address these issues, long term commitment and the involvement of the youth is essential. Having strong inter-agency collaboration, adequate legislation and the deployment of novel and innovative approaches are needed to counter wildlife and forest crime.



Panel discussion during the governance and tenure session. (L to R) Dhaneshree Ndebele, Resource Africa, Nathalie van Vliet, CIFOR, Jean-Claude Nguingiri, FAO, Sultana Bashir, BirdLife International, Vitalie Gulca, Forest Research and Management Institute, Moldova, Sanjayan Kumar, IFS © IISD Reporting Services / Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Human–wildlife conflict: A major threat to Sustainable Wildlife Management

During this session facilitated by René Czudek, Forestry and Wildlife Officer at FAO, discussions and debates on trying to find solutions to human-wildlife conflicts (HWC) were sought. Bartolomeu Soto, Director at the National Directorate of Protected Areas of Mozambique, delivered a keynote speech on the HWC in Mozambique that occur when humans are in contact with wildlife species such as elephants, crocodiles and lions. He explained that the Government of Mozambique adopted the Human Wildlife Policies in which the Government accepts the responsibility of resolving HWC, determines the land use planning, and prevents diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease from spreading to livestock. “Governments should make interventions by taking proactive approaches to minimize HWC and co-exist with wildlife,” stated Soto.



Keynote speaker,
Sithembelenkosini
Moyo, FAO
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Phiri

Sithembelenkosini Moyo, Junior Technical Officer, FAO, spoke about her own childhood experiences with HWC. She highlighted her family’s problems with baboons and elephants that raided their crops, and lions and hyenas that attacked their livestock. “The children spend most of their time in the fields scaring away birds and baboons instead of reading,” Moyo said, and continued that, “the damage caused by these animals outweighs the benefits arising from them so we feel there is no incentive for conserving them”. Without solutions and strategies to tackle HWC, the communities face challenges for livelihoods and managing the sources of their income to support themselves.

To provide some solutions to HWC, Sébastien Le Bel, Researcher, CIRAD, presented their research

on the tools and management efforts. He focused on the use of a chili dispenser to chase away elephants that can be used to prevent potential conflicts.

The audience actively participated in the second part of the session as juries in a role play that aimed at finding a solution to HWC at court. A widow complained that elephants had killed her husband and destroyed all the crops to feed her children. She asked the judge to have the elephants shot to solve the problem. The audience was divided into groups of national authorities, international non-governmental organizations (NGO) and the local community, with each group proposing solutions to the woman’s conflicts with the wildlife. They flagged green cards if they agreed and red cards if they disagreed to the proposed actions. The local authorities suggested to (i) revisit the wildlife policy to ensure HWC is reflected; (ii) partially compensate communities for the losses; and (iii) train various stakeholders in HWC management. All these proposals were flagged with green cards to endorse them.



Audience participating
as juries
© FAO/Maxwell Phiri



The audience were also in favour of all the proposals by the International NGOs that provided alternatives to the killing of elephants: (i) implement proper land use plans and build infrastructure to prevent wildlife from encroaching in on human settlements; (ii) ensure the communities are aware of the benefits from wildlife resources; and (iii) capacity building of stakeholders in HWC management. The proposals from the community representatives

received mixed support from the audience when they proposed to (i) kill the animals and (ii) build infrastructure like fences to protect the crops and people. The audience agreed with their other proposals, which were to (iii) provide tools to scare the elephants away; (iv) ensure communities benefitted from the wildlife resources to motivate proper wildlife management; (v) create a system for receiving compensation for the losses and damages caused by wildlife; and (vi) hold training sessions for stakeholders for HWC management. The session concluded that HWC is a complex issue which requires a combination of solutions such as providing adequate compensation for the losses and damages and training stakeholders by providing tools for scaring away animals and building fences to minimize HWC in order to achieve effective wildlife management. Collaborative effort is crucial to ensure that there is harmony between humans and wildlife.



Actors in the role play, Bartolomeu Soto, National Directorate of Protected Areas of Mozambique (left), as the assistant judge, and René Czudek, FAO (right), as the judge
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CPW publication launching event

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias launched the two CPW fact sheets on sustainable wildlife management. Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer at the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), presented the third in the series of the fact sheets, [Sustainable Wildlife Management and Animal Health](#). In his speech, he stated, “Wildlife management has become an integral aspect of the One Health approach that

looks at health from every angle. When exotic diseases are introduced into wildlife populations, whether from man, pets or livestock, morbidity and mortality are very often dramatic”. The fourth fact sheet, [Sustainable Wildlife Management and Human-wildlife Conflict](#) was introduced by René Czudek, Forestry and Wildlife Officer, FAO. Human-wildlife conflict can create challenges for wildlife conservation and its successes, as it is a complex issue, but the fact sheet presents these issues in a concise manner.



Two CPW fact sheets on sustainable wildlife management that were launched

Delegates also had the opportunity to take a look at the first 50 selected terms in the *Glossary of Wildlife Management Terms and Definitions*, a CPW initiative led by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Its Deputy Executive Director, Michael Kleine explained, “When finished, this glossary will include 300 terms in English, French, Spanish and German. The objective is to present the various terms in wildlife management, as used by different professions”.

Adrian Lombard, President, International Association for Falconry and the Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) made a speech, indicating that the conservation and sustainable use of resources that are practiced by the falconers link them to the communities, to improve their livelihoods.



Moderator, Bonn  de Bod, SABC and the panellists, (L to R) Ben Janse van Rensburg, CITES, Mette Wilkie, UNEP, Chen Hin Keong, TRAFFIC, Cedric Coetzee, KZN, Deon Burger, INTERPOL, Steven Johnson, ITTO   CITES Secretariat

Cooperation, legislation and innovation

This session highlighted novel approaches and technologies in the area of wildlife crime and legislation. Each of the six panellists presented work that featured collaborative projects and shared resources that are currently being employed in the fight to combat illegal trade in wildlife and timber. It was facilitated by South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) presenter Bonn  de Bod, who currently hosts the longest-running environmental programme in television history, "50|50". De Bod opened the session with two short film clips that emphasized the hope and despair of the current situation in South Africa – first a stark look at a rhino that survived a poaching attempt and then a profile of the all-women "Black mambas" anti-poaching unit that patrols a buffer reserve near the Kruger National park with great success. The "Black Mambas" were recently announced as winner of a United Nations Environmental UNEP Champions of the Earth award, and Ms. de Bod said their resilience and dedication give her hope.



Short footage of "Black mambas"   SABC

Ben Janse van Rensburg, Director of enforcement, CITES, began the panel presentations by discussing CITES decisions on

increased cooperation, the use of specialized investigative techniques and forensics, the CITES legislation project, general financing mechanisms, and the collaborative efforts of the International Consortium in Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC). He was followed by Mette Wilkie, Director at UNEP, who gave an update on UNEP activities since the Secretary General issued a mandate earlier this year that charges UNEP with coordinating UN-level measures to combat illegal trade. She also discussed the environmental implications and outreach efforts undertaken by the UN, and the UN links to fundings such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the African Elephant Fund.

TRAFFIC's Global Forest Trade Programme Leader, Chen Hin Keong, discussed lessons learned from applying the common legality framework for assessing legality of forestry operations, timber processing and trade, and urged the illegal trade forces that focus on timber and wildlife to work more closely together, particularly as both are often battling the same cartels. Steven Johnson, Assistant Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) followed with updates regarding joint operations with CITES, including present innovative technologies for the monitoring of timber species.

Deon Burger, INTERPOL's Coordinator of Business and Outreach, spoke on joint projects with CITES, including the Infra Terra (International Fugitive Round Up and Arrest) programme that targeted nine high-profile criminals and worked to close down illegal trade routes. Cedric Coetzee, General Manager of the

KwaZulu Natal Regional Government presented an update on rhino poaching activities in the region, which he called “unacceptable, but currently sustainable.”

De Bod next opened the panel for a debate, asking whether legalizing the trade in rhino horn could perhaps save the species. CITES’ Rensburg thought it could help if properly managed, but also questioning why global institutions such as the UN waited so long to engage effectively in the current conservation crisis.

Bushmeat: biting the hands that feed



John E. Fa facilitating the bushmeat session
© Daniel Kobei

John E. Fa, CIFOR, facilitated this session that presented new studies on the use of wild meat in tropical areas in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The current challenges were discussed, while also proposing new lines of research to achieve sustainable consumption and trade of bushmeat.

The Deputy Director General of CIFOR, Robert Nasi, made a keynote presentation, providing an overall view on the role of bushmeat for food security and nutrition. He mentioned that wild meat resources not only provide sources of protein, but also act as supplies of fat that contains vitamins and is energy-rich, as well as micronutrients such as haemoglobin that can reduce the risk of anaemia.

Guillaume Lescuyer of CIRAD/CIFOR presented his research on the economic importance and impacts of bushmeat trade and consumption. This was followed by Nathalie van Vliet, who spoke about the various components that can affect the sustainability of hunting, such as ecological and social aspects. She explained that adaptive management of wildlife enables sustainability by allowing flexibility with its monitoring systems, mechanisms for control and enforcement and management rules to name a few. In Freddy Pattiselanno’s presentation

(presented on his behalf by Nasi), he explained the roles of bushmeat in Papua, Indonesia, for the local communities and tribes for consumption and in some cases, trade.

The speakers discussed the various approaches and effective measures that could be taken to achieve sustainable harvest of bushmeat. They concluded that multi-disciplinary approaches are needed to ensure its sustainability so that wild meat resources are not depleted, and that the local communities can improve their livelihoods from consuming and trading them.



Panellists, (L to R) Robert Nasi, CIFOR, Nathalie van Vliet, Guillaume Lescuyer, CIFOR, Sébastien Le Bel, CIRAD
© Daniel Kobei

Closing Plenary

The President of African Women’s Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF), Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet gave a keynote speech to emphasize the important roles of the local communities’, especially the women, who are consumers and users of wildlife and bushmeat, in sustainably managing the wildlife resources. She stressed that it is “important to understand the problems women are facing, like poor organisation of women, lack of capacity, information and support, and the corruption with governance, and then to reconsider, acknowledge and recognise the key roles women are playing in the management of resources as responsible resource managers”.



Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet, REFACOF, speaking of gender issues and wildlife management © CITES Secretariat

She also emphasized that it is necessary for women to get involved in the decision-making of wildlife management, and to achieve this, there must be “a mechanism to address women’s needs, promote the participation in multi-stakeholder platforms, security for tenure and rights over wildlife, and the necessity to scale up the initiatives to a more national, regional and global level.”

Jan Heino, President, Policy and Law Division International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), and Vice- Chair of the CPW, stated that “if sustainably managed, wildlife can provide continuous income and nutrition,” and that one of the benefits of holding such discussions and debates during the World Forestry Congress was to allow cross-sectoral information exchanges for a better understanding of the issues on sustainable wildlife management. He highlighted the key messages that emerged during the fruitful discussions at the Wildlife Forum (Info Box 1).

There are positive examples of strengthening community involvement in the wildlife resources, but further improvement is needed for their participation to create solutions and bring fundamental changes to wildlife and natural resource uses. As one of the major threats to sustainable wildlife management, human-wildlife conflict is an area where a range of complementary measures must be selected to mitigate conflict. Proper analysis of the situation to understand the causes and consequences so that humans and wildlife can cohabit is crucial. To combat illegal wildlife crime, novel approaches and technologies are emerging where the common legality framework and the lessons learnt could further enhance



Jan Heino, CIC, presenting the key messages in the closing plenary
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conservation and wildlife management practices. It was also recognized that both national and international strategies with multidisciplinary approaches have the potential for sustainable use and harvesting of bushmeat, which results in better conservation, livelihoods and food security for the local communities.

Fundisile Mketeni, Chief Executive Officer, South African National Parks, made the closing remarks as a representative of the host country, South Africa. He acknowledged the issues raised and discussed during the Forum, stating that “incentives for communities should be clear and enabling to allow for stakeholders’ involvement”. He continued and stressed the need to come up with solutions and to scale up efforts to face the challenges that many nations face, such as human-wildlife conflicts, proper wildlife management for a long-term sustainable goal, illegal trade, and the importance of involving the community. Mketeni concluded his speech by reminding the audience that the community involvement is the key to achieving sustainability, and that it is necessary to ensure that there are economic returns from wildlife.



Fundisile Mketeni, SANParks, making the closing remarks
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Safari excursion to Tala Game Reserve

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) organized a wildlife safari after the Wildlife Forum, inviting about 60 delegates to a community/private sector game reserve called the Tala Game Reserve, about one hour north of Durban. Participants enjoyed the abundant wildlife such as nyala, hippopotamus, kudu and rhino as the rangers guided them with interesting facts and information about the

animals and the game reserve. A short workshop was also held after the safari where two community members, Willy Pabst, Vice-Chairman of Save Valley Conservancy, and John Hanks, zoologist, exchanged views and information on the sustainable use of wildlife in an interactive discussion, moderated by Ali Kaka, CIC Ambassador for Africa. The discussion concluded that sustainable use of resources is important, while also considering the increasing habitat loss and land use changes, illegal bushmeat trade, poaching and poverty of the local communities.



Safari excursion at the Tala Game Reserve © CIC

INFO BOX 1

Key recommendations from the Wildlife Forum

- The sustainable management of wildlife is an important part of integrated approaches to the multipurpose use of natural resources and can play a meaningful role in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. Done sustainably, wildlife management can provide benefits for food security, livelihoods, natural heritage and biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.
- Multidisciplinary approaches with strong community participation are needed to combine knowledge on the sustainable use and trade of wild meat and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs), strengthen legal frameworks and health protocols, and promote law compliance, multi-sectoral collaboration, innovative market approaches, and best practices.
- The role of indigenous and local communities in wildlife management is essential and must be strengthened through participatory approaches, including in wildlife monitoring and the eradication of poaching and wildlife crime.
- It is possible to sustainably harvest wild meat and other NTFPs and compatible with conservation, improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition. Better understanding of the causes and consequences of human-wildlife conflicts, including analyses of local situation, is needed in order to create models for mitigating conflicts and increasing the tolerance of indigenous and local communities to co-exist with wildlife.
- Combating the illegal trade in wildlife requires:
 - a coordinated effort at all levels, treating such crimes as serious crimes, and deploying the same tools and techniques used to combat other serious crimes;
 - the involvement of indigenous and local communities, recognizing that basic levels of security must first be in place for communities to benefit from the legal use of wildlife;
 - stronger interagency and cross-border collaboration; and
 - the deployment of novel and innovative approaches and tools for the monitoring of wildlife populations, use and trade, including new identification and traceability tools.

Note: Technical papers, presentations and speakers' profiles are available on the [XIV World Forestry Congress website](#).