

Notification 2023-121: Submission of information on best practices for sustainable wildlife management and views on areas that require complementary guidance.

The following inputs are provided by the Mexican CITES Scientific Authority (CONABIO) and SBSTTA National Focal Point:

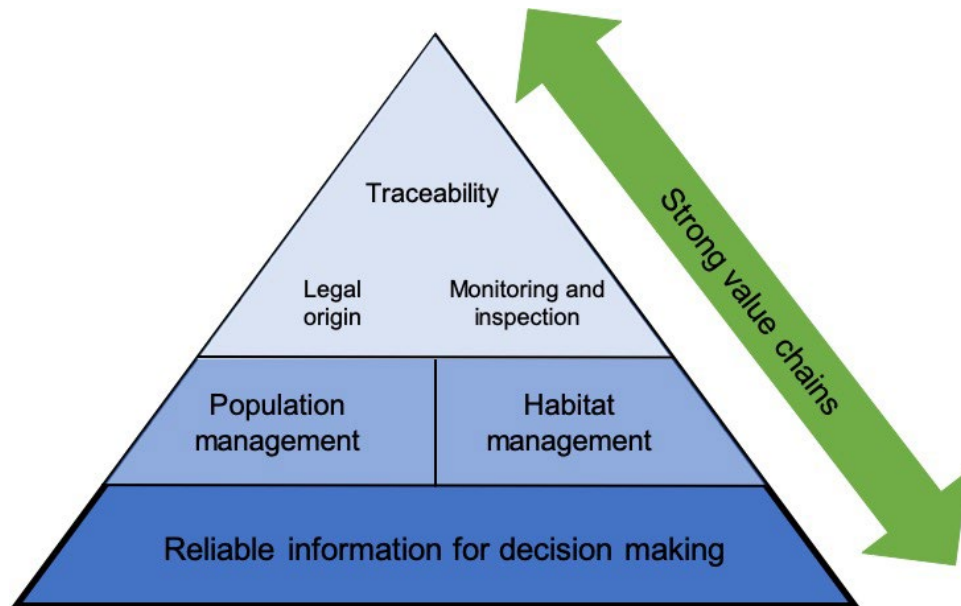
a) Specific comments:

Original text in document CBD/SBSTTA/25/11	Proposal (new text in green, deleted text in red)	Justification
33. It is said in the assessment that wild tree species continue to be the main sources of wood and wood products at the global level and that destructive logging practices and illegal logging threaten the sustainable use of natural forests. While an increase in the production of plantation wood is expected, it will not be sufficient to meet the projected increase in demand for timber.	... While an increase in the production of plantation wood is expected, it will not be sufficient to meet the projected increase in demand for timber. <u>Furthermore, tree plantations, particularly monocultures, displace native forests. Forest plantations and more sustainable practices like inventory-based management plans, selective logging and reduced-impact logging practices may meet some of the growing demand and should be promoted.</u>	Highlighting the assessment's message on implications of monoculture plantations is important to orient the possible complementary management guidelines for forestry.
45 b). Unsustainable harvesting of terrestrial animals for the pet trade;	(b) Unsustainable harvesting of terrestrial animals for the pet trade ;	Should not be limited to a specific trade purpose, guidance is needed for sustainable animal harvesting, ranching and gathering in general.

b) On the perspective of the seven key elements of effective policy for the sustainable use of wild species identified in the Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:

- We consider that for sustainable development to be a reality, it must encompass and address environmental aspects, economic issues and social matters. And for this, it is crucial to have multisectoral and multistakeholder involvement: national and subnational governments; private sector; academic sector; civil society; indigenous people and local communities (with a gender perspective).
- For us, a value chain begins with people handling and harvesting wildlife while conserving it; it continues with people working on transformation, transportation and marketing; until the product reaches the final consumer. Therefore, it is important to strengthen the links along this chain to benefit all actors involved, make the processes more efficient, and involve all of them in conservation of the species and its habitat for the long term. To achieve this, the following elements are also needed:
 1. Fair and equitable distribution of benefits for all stakeholders in the value chain
 2. Prior informed consent (PIC)
 3. Mutually agreed terms (MAT)

4. Develop business models
5. Define a market strategy (considering various market scenarios)
6. Capacity building (i.e. on organization, negotiation, commercialization, product quality, etc.)
7. Added value
8. Establishing a fair price
9. Certification schemes
10. Encouraging cooperation between ex situ breeding operations and in situ conservation programs both nationally and internationally (between importing and exporting countries).



c) Areas that are not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations.

- Regarding best practices for sustainable wildlife management, conservation, and use of native species of fauna and flora included in the CITES Appendices, Mexico developed and implements Management Units for Wildlife Conservation (UMA) and forest lands as areas to promote alternative production and management schemes that are compatible with the care of wildlife, through the rational, orderly and planned use (extractive and non-extractive) of the renewable natural resources contained within them. The UMA and can be for free-range management (specimens or populations of species that develop in their natural conditions) or intensive management (in captivity) and forest lands can be natural forests or commercial plantations with different degrees of intensive management.
- The CITES Scientific Authority uses specific methods to determine the sustainability of the use/export of species of flora and fauna and issues recommendations to strengthen their management, for which information and inputs are usually requested from the UMA/forest lands on their management plans and monitoring reports.

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- In this sense, we have detected elements that need to be strengthened through additional guidelines, to be able to generate more robust information to support the decision-making processes, such as:
 - a. Monitoring methods appropriate for the taxon or species to be harvested (sample size, representativeness of sampling, geo-references of sampling and capture sites, etc.).
 - b. Species management plans (for the target species, containing the methodology for evaluating populations and in some cases their prey, and other management needs).
 - c. In case of any transformation processes, information on loss coefficients or equivalents, conversion factors, etc.
 - d. Estimation of population parameters (abundance, density), population dynamics (abundance, population structure, trends).
 - e. Species demographics (birth rates, survival, mortality, growth, succession).
 - f. Reference values for estimating and comparing population parameters.
 - g. Estimation of sustainable harvest rates.
 - h. Location, description and extent of remaining habitats (GIS or location coordinates).
 - i. Density and trends of the prey species of the target species (when harvesting predator species).
 - j. Role of the species in its ecosystem
- If useful, we also share in our present response, two posters that we developed and presented during the 2nd Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings (NDF), held in Nairobi, Kenya, from December 4th to the 8th, 2023 (<https://bit.ly/P05t3rMX>), which provide tools for ranking or hierarchizing in decision-making based on available information to facilitate issuing NDF and share case studies for sharks and puma.

d) The mandate of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

- For this section we recommend reviewing CITES document SC77.16: <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/SC/77/agenda/E-SC77-16.pdf> and following up on further discussions within CITES in this matter. It presents a mapping of linkages between CITES Strategic Vision and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These are very relevant and should be considered to encourage synergies and take measures to achieve coordination and reduce duplication of activities.
- We particularly recommend analysing linkages not only between mandates, objectives and goals of the different MEAs, but also among indicators (e.g. CITES Strategic Vision and GBF indicators), as some of them will require the same information. If investment is going to be made to obtain/measure the information needed for the indicators, it will be essential to avoid duplication in order to have a more efficient use of limited resources.