



SBSTTA-20

Montreal, Canada, 25 - 30 April 2016

Agenda Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Sustainable wildlife management**

Thank you, Chair, I am speaking on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and addressing Agenda Item 9: Sustainable Wildlife Management.

IIFB welcomes document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/11 and thanks the Secretariat for the very informative document about the past and current status of work on this issue, including the proposed roadmap on wildlife for food security. The document states that 80% of the protein in rural diets in tropical developing countries comes from bushmeat. It is important to note that other wildlife, coastal and marine resources should also be included in sustainable wildlife management for the social and -cultural well-being of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

IIFB also recognizes the role of sustainable wildlife management in the achievement of 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Goal 15. IIFB reiterates its call to Parties to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the work of the CBD, recalling the Global Action Plan on Customary Sustainable Use, as a mechanism for consulting with indigenous peoples and local communities on wildlife-management-related issues.

We appreciate some governments' efforts to put in place national policy and legal frameworks that recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to manage and sustainably utilize wildlife resources. However, this is not happening quickly enough thereby jeopardizing our ability to jointly fulfill our obligations under the Convention, and this needs urgent attention in the updating and implementation of NBSAPs and preparation of the sixth national reports.

Therefore, IIFB calls upon parties to develop policies and laws that promote sustainable use of biodiversity through supporting community-based wildlife management with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, consistent with Decision XI/25/8 and Decision XII/18. Such policies and laws should ensure that the authority to manage wildlife is devolved to the community level for the equitable governance and management of wildlife in accordance with CBD's Article 8(j) and related provisions. Benefits from wildlife should be equitably shared with the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who are the *bona fide* custodians of these resources.

Indigenous peoples and local communities have sustainably managed wildlife populations through traditional knowledge systems. However, there is a need to develop and strengthen their capacity in the light of increasing technological development in order to complement existing sustainable wildlife management initiatives.



IIFB submits that for indigenous peoples and local communities, biodiversity and traditional knowledge are intrinsically connected and inseparable. Thus, there is need to link the sustainable use of wildlife to the CBD's work on customary sustainable use under the Working Group 8j and related provisions. We call upon on Parties and the CBD Secretariat to ensure close coordination between SBSTTA and the Working Group on Article 8(J) and Related Provisions on these matters. The two groups (SBSTTA and the Article 8(j) Working Group) are in our view unique but mutually reinforcing in many respects and especially when it comes to sustainable wildlife management.

In the proposed recommendation to COP13, IIFB recommends the following:

*In operative para 1: "the reference to strengthening governance processes should instead refer to equitable governance and effective management processes"*

In operative para 3 and 4: the reports on the progress of this work also be reported to the Working Group8j and Related Provisions, in addition to SBSTTA.

*In operative para 4 relating to the organisation of a Wildlife Forum event, IIFB calls on Parties to also take into account the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.*

In addition, IIFB proposes the following new operative paragraphs for the recommendation:

1. Requests Parties to create and/or strengthen legal and policy measures for the recognition of indigenous peoples' and local communities' customary rights and community conserved areas that contribute to the sustainable wildlife management in accordance with CBD's Articles 10(c) and 8(j).
2. Requests Parties to work with Indigenous peoples and local communities to provide training and capacity building in sustainable wildlife management including exchanging information and skills at various levels.

The IIFB will submit the details in writing.

I thank you.