



SBSTTA 23

Montreal, Canada 25 - 29 November 2019

Agenda Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Sustainable wildlife management**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

This statement is made on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

This agenda item is of extreme importance to us and one that we have much to offer. Over thousands of years we have proven practices of living in harmony with nature, governed by our core values, such as respect, and through the application of our Indigenous and traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies and through adaptive and holistic decision making.

When talking about sustainable wildlife management, it is important to understand that core to this topic is our food security, understanding that food security goes well beyond calories and nutrients. Wildlife is not only for consumption of protein; we have strong rooted cultural values and norms. Many of us, our spirituality is connected and rooted to the animals referred to as wildlife here - It is a reciprocal relationship as the wildlife also need us.

The importance of involving IPLCs in conserving biodiversity is further recognized through the involvement of IIFB as a partner in the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW).

IPLCs wish to implore that the work of Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management to advance their work in other geographical areas beyond the tropical zone through direct engagement and meaningful partnership with the Indigenous peoples and local communities of each respective area and to further bring forward multidisciplinary approaches to the use of and trade in wildlife.

It is important to support and actively work to build equity and promote IPLCs role in wildlife management practices, to bring forward best practices and potential guidelines through meaningful engagement of our knowledge systems, innovations, technologies, and practices that support our food security, as defined by us.

We stress the importance of awareness and capacity building among national and local governments and conservation authorities, to support and secure Indigenous Peoples and Local communities land tenure systems and wildlife management authority and co-management approaches, recalling that the IPBES Assessment shares that the *"Full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is important and would contribute to conservation, restoration and management of the extensive areas of land and water over which they retain rights or control"*.



We call for recognition, that many of our communities have developed and apply community-based monitoring tools and data collection systems on wildlife species and illegal use and trade, hence the need for support by the parties.

We look forward to sharing our experience and information with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management.

Thank you.