



TRAFFIC

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CBD CoP16
POLICY BRIEFING

TRAFFIC AND CBD CoP16

AT A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED BIODIVERSITY LOSS, TRAFFIC IS SCALING UP EVIDENCE, SOLUTIONS AND INFLUENCE TO ENSURE THAT TRADE IN WILD SPECIES IS LEGAL AND SUSTAINABLE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PLANET AND PEOPLE.

The 16th Conference of the Parties (CoP16) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will take place in Cali, Colombia from 21st October – 1st November 2024. This is the first CoP since the adoption of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) at CoP15 in December 2022. The CoP will need to make important progress to deliver ambition and enhance implementation of the KMGBF. Urgent action is required at scale to change course and reverse biodiversity loss to achieve a nature positive future. The Colombian Presidency of the CoP proposes an ambitious agenda that supports the implementation of the KMGBF. It has underlined the importance of 'Peace with

Nature' as a core theme for the meeting, recognizing that the current unbalanced relationship between people and nature leads to the overexploitation of nature.

For many years, TRAFFIC has provided expert advice, information and assistance to decision-makers in support of the further development and implementation of the CBD. TRAFFIC's 2030 Strategy is fully aligned with the long-term vision of the KMGBF: a world living in harmony with nature where biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored, and wisely used, delivering benefits essential for nature and people.

TO ACHIEVE THIS VISION, TRAFFIC HAS TWO HIGH-LEVEL GOALS BY 2030:



Illegal and unsustainable trade in wild species will be significantly reduced, in line with **Target 5** of the KMGBF



Legal and sustainable trade in wild species will provide significantly increased social, economic, and environmental benefits for people, in line with **Target 9** of the KMGBF



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This briefing provides an overview of TRAFFIC's main messages regarding key elements of the KMGBF to be discussed at CoP16, and underlines ways in which TRAFFIC can help

support Parties effectively implement this framework, alongside the decisions that will be taken at the meeting.

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MEASURING GLOBAL PROGRESS

Agenda Item 10

The direct exploitation of animal and plant species, including harvesting, hunting, fishing and logging, is considered the second biggest driver of negative impacts on nature, after changes in land and sea use (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services IPBES, 2019). Implementation of Targets 5 and 9 of the KMGBF is imperative to reverse these trends. These two targets signal renewed attention to **sustainable use** within the KMGBF, in line with one of the three Objectives of the CBD Convention, recognizing its role as a durable and powerful incentive for conservation of wild species and the crucial contribution it makes to the food security, health, livelihoods and well-being of people, particularly Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

An effective **monitoring mechanism, with robust indicators** is absolutely essential if the KMGBF is to be implemented effectively in order to reverse the rapid decline in nature. CoP16 needs to finalise and agree the monitoring framework and the procedures for a global review (to be carried out at CoP17 and CoP19) leading to an increase of actions and efforts by Parties. There remain gaps in the headline indicators for targets that still need to be addressed. The commitments from non-State actors must be an integral part of the global review of collective progress. TRAFFIC has the expertise to assist Parties with the relevant research and information needed in order to develop and measure progress on these indicators.

Working with partners, TRAFFIC has laid the groundwork for a robust indicator to monitor and ensure Target 5 is met on a national and international scale, with data collected nationally, with the potential to aggregate up to a regional or global indicator. TRAFFIC proposed the Sustainable Use of Wild Species indicator co-development process, which would enable measurement and contribute

to the adaptive management of use and trade practices (see [Indicator metadata form for compilation of data relating to headline indicators proposed in the first draft of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)). Progress has also been made by several organisations on a binary indicator for Target 5 which should be considered. Parties at the CoP will discuss a binary indicator 5.b. for Target 5 on wild species in a draft Decision (see [CBD/CoP/16/2/Rev.1](#)).

The KMGBF also includes Target 4 on halting species extinction. Strategies for conserving species within the framework of targets can be illustrated through the example of big cats. Conserving big cats, found on nearly every continent and serving as key biodiversity indicators, helps protect forests, maintain prey bases, mitigate climate change, and provide essential ecosystem services. Their presence in 75% of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) supports vital resources like food, water, and livelihoods, while their role as apex predators helps meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and KMGBF targets. However, poaching and illegal trade remain severe threats, requiring global collaboration, stronger law enforcement, and sustained investment to protect these species and their habitats, which are crucial for tackling inclusive development, climate resilience, public health, and biodiversity decline.

TRAFFIC is working with consortia of organisations through the Friends of Species Group and the Big Cat Policy Group on initiatives aimed at increasing the focus on species in the CBD, including through the implementation of Target 4, and thereby other global agendas, by ensuring that species are considered key components of biodiversity and defining the importance of species to ecosystems.

ACTION ON THE GROUND

Agenda Item 8

It is imperative that the KMGBF commitments are urgently translated into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the primary instrument of the CBD at the national level, and robust national finance plans. TRAFFIC commends those Parties that have already updated their NBSAPs and urges those Parties who haven't already done so to initiate or accelerate their NBSAP revision process.

TRAFFIC offices in key regions and countries that play a significant role in wild species trade are well placed to assist Parties in updating and implementing their NBSAPs and achieving their national targets, particularly those related to KMGBF Targets 5 and 9. Our expertise in wildlife trade, combined with our databases, such as our open source [Wildlife Trade Portal](#), can help better understand and address illegal wildlife trade and promote legal, sustainable and traceable trade in wildlife.

TRAFFIC is a Technical Partner to the [NBSAP Forum](#) - a global partnership aiming to support countries in implementing the CBD and its strategic plans, including global biodiversity targets. The NBSAP Forum supports countries in finding the information they need to develop and implement effective NBSAPs and prepare national reports, including a web-based e-learning platform, online forum and technical help desk.

TRAFFIC also supports Parties in coordinating their efforts at regional level in meeting global biodiversity commitments. We supported the Africa Union Commission (AUC) with its efforts to develop the "African Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP) 2023-2030" and welcome its symbolic endorsement by the African Heads of States and Governments. The AUC is now seeking to roll out the implementation of this over-arching strategy

and TRAFFIC continues to actively support this effort as a technical partner to the AUC. At CoP16, TRAFFIC will continue to engage with the AUC and the 'African Group of Negotiators (AGN)' to advocate for the effective uptake of the KMGBF Targets 5 and 9 in NBSAPs, and the development of measurable indicators to monitor and report on the effective implementation of the targets at the national level.

In collaboration with the IUCN Specialist Group on Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULI), TRAFFIC is conducting a regional survey in LAC countries to assess the integration of sustainable use in their NBSAP updates, identifying challenges and success stories. These results will be presented at CoP16 to support the Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) efforts to prioritise sustainable use in line with GBF Targets 5 and 9.

At CoP16, TRAFFIC will also specifically showcase its work with the air transport sector across Latin America to combat illegal wildlife trade (IWT). Our initiatives focus on strengthening collaboration with law enforcement as well as airports and airlines, enhancing detection capabilities, and improving enforcement against wildlife trafficking. This directly supports Target 5 of the KMGBF. By disrupting IWT routes through the aviation sector and promoting best practices, our efforts help Latin America preserve its rich biodiversity while contributing to global goals of sustainability and ecosystem protection. Strengthening cooperation and engaging private sector stakeholders ensures that the air transport industry becomes a frontline defence against illegal activities that threaten species extinction and ecosystem degradation.



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SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Agenda Item 19

The IPBES Sustainable Use of Wild Species Assessment highlights how around 50,000 wild species of animals, plants, and fungi are used for energy, medicine, materials, and other purposes and a fifth of the global population relies on wild plants for food and income. These species are equally fundamental for the survival of the ecosystems that support them and are a cornerstone to the livelihoods and cultures of IPLCs.

The [Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Management of Wildlife](#) (CPW), was established a decade ago through CBD Decision XI/25 to increase cooperation and coordination on sustainable wildlife management issues among its members in order to promote the sustainable management of terrestrial vertebrate wildlife in all biomes and geographic areas, contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to human food security, livelihoods and well-being. It is a partnership of 13 international organisations (including the Secretariats of the CBD, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Wild Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES), as well as NGOs including TRAFFIC) with substantive

mandates and programmes to promote the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources.

TRAFFIC welcomes the draft CoP decision which encourages Parties to work together with partners, in particular through the CPW, to develop indicators for monitoring the status of, and trends in the use of, wild species, along with social, economic and environmental benefits and the implications for groups in vulnerable situations, taking into consideration the indicators of the monitoring framework (see [CBD/CoP/16/2/Rev.1](#)). TRAFFIC has contributed to a gap analysis conducted by the CPW of areas of work that might require the development of complementary guidance for the Parties. Among the documents to be discussed are:

- [CBD/CoP/16/11](#) Existing guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management and areas that might require complementary guidance
- [CBD/CoP/16/INF/6](#) Gap analysis to identify areas that are not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental

agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations (undertaken by CPW)

- [CBD/CoP/16/INF/7](#) Additional analysis of available guidance, tools and documents related to various areas of sustainable wildlife management that might require complementary guidance (undertaken by CBD Secretariat)

The decision also proposes to CoP16 that the Executive Secretary collaborate with the CPW, Parties and others, including IPLCs, women and youth, to facilitate regional dialogues to build a common understanding regarding the application of the seven key elements of the IPBES Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species. The CPW has responded with the development of its 2023-2025 Work Plan ([Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management Strategic Roadmap](#)).

MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

Agenda Item 20

TRAFFIC welcomes efforts to ensure that the Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Marine Areas (EBSAs) process continues to be supported by up-to-date science, participation of relevant experts, and supports the adoption of the proposed modalities to (re-)describe these important areas. We believe further efforts are needed to mobilize resources, build capacity, transfer knowledge and technology to implement the existing Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, and to address the gaps and areas in need of additional focus to ensure adequate implementation of the KMGBF targets. TRAFFIC considers a number

of the gaps and areas in need of additional focus identified in the annex of the draft CoP decision (see [CBD/CoP/16/2/Rev.1](#)), are vital with an additional focus of:

- 1(x) To ensure data on capture and trade of marine resources is adequately recorded to support management and conservation of species and where trade occurs it is transparent, and supported by adequate traceability systems to capture data and ensure legal and sustainable trade and deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU).





BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH

Agenda Item 22

Biodiversity is a key environmental determinant of human and animal health, underscoring the importance of maintaining ecosystems and the wild species populations they support. After lengthy debate by Parties, SBSTTA-26 recommended adoption at CoP16 of a final version of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health (see [CBD/CoP/16/2/Rev.1](#)). TRAFFIC welcomes the actions proposed in the Global Action Plan and supports its adoption at CoP16. Any ensuing impact, however, will depend on design and implementation of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools.

Actions by Parties to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages will also be essential, including those that benefit food security, human livelihoods and medicinal systems, which can be enhanced by multi-sectoral approaches such as One Health. Targeting human behaviours and practices associated with exploitation of wild animals, including farming, can contribute to reducing risks of pathogen spillover and zoonotic disease emergence (see [WOAH Guidelines on Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade](#)).

In 2020, TRAFFIC's Wildlife TRAPS Project - a long-running partnership funded by USAID

and implemented by TRAFFIC in collaboration with IUCN – entered a new phase focusing on collaborations with health sector partners to reduce potential zoonotic disease risks associated with trade in wild animals. This work has produced new knowledge which Parties could benefit from in their implementation of the CBD's biodiversity and health agenda, including:

- [A Risk Analysis of Zoonosis Along the Bushmeat Value Chain in Cameroon](#), which explores how to balance this practice with global health priorities, striving for a wild meat trade that is safe, sustainable, and legal.
- [The Game Meat Value Chain in Northern Tanzania](#), which evaluates a national management model aiming to ensure ordinary people can benefit from sustainable, safe, and legal trade in wild meat.
- [A Review of Options for Managing and Tracing Wild Animal Trade Chains to Reduce Zoonotic Risk](#), which assesses how existing supply chain management and traceability tools could be adapted to wild animal trade chains to reduce zoonotic disease risks and discusses monitoring needs for legal wild animal trade to be considered safe and sustainable.

ROOTS OF RECOVERY

Agenda Item 23

Wild plants play a vital role in the livelihoods and cultures of communities around the world. Thousands of consumer products used for food, cosmetics, health and other uses, contain ingredients obtained from wild plants, while timber and wood products are the most significant commodity in wild species trade by volume and value around the world. Wild ingredients often come from the most biodiverse ecosystems on earth and are often collected by some of the most impoverished communities. The 'hidden harvest' supplying these ingredients often provides a critical source of income in rural areas.

However, thousands of species are at risk from a combination of over-harvest, habitat loss and other factors, with over 20% of species in use estimated to be threatened with extinction. The resulting threats to ecosystems and biodiversity also threaten the value of wild plants to harvesting communities, businesses and consumers. The need for sustainable harvesting and fair-trading practices is urgent as demand continues to grow. Trade grew by 75% over the past decade, driven by the expanding natural ingredients markets.

As a partner of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, with the focus on implementation of goals related to sustainable and legal harvest, use and trade in plants and plant products, TRAFFIC supports the

draft recommendations included in [CBD/CoP/16/2/Rev.1](#), and stands ready to support Parties, observers and other organisations to implement the Voluntary complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of Targets 5 and 9 of the KMGBF, per recommendation 25/4 Plant conservation 6 (b). The [WildCheck platform](#) is an evolving resource for government agencies and other stakeholders to collect and share information about the sustainability of trade and use in wild plant ingredients.

TRAFFIC supports the request to Parties, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, and relevant organisations to provide financial and technical support to enabling the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), in particular in developing countries.

TRAFFIC already, with the support of the UK and Nepal governments, is advancing locally-led action in Nepal focussing on wild plants threatened by unsustainable and illegal trade through implementing international guidelines to ensure harvesting and trade is sustainable and legal (see [Scaling conservation of Himalayan plants and fungi through sustainable trade in Nepal's Himalayas](#)) with actions in line with the proposed Voluntary measures 5 (b) and 9, and in support of Nepal's commitments under NBSAPs.

BUSINESS FOR BIODIVERSITY

The private sector significantly impacts biodiversity and species through the trade and use in wild species by industries like forestry, fisheries, pharmaceuticals, fashion, tourism and finance. However, these sectors can promote sustainable supply chains by adopting practices that avoid illegal wild species trade, reduce species overexploitation, and use certified sustainable parts and products, incentivising the conservation of species and ecosystems.

Increasingly, banks and investors are integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria to steer investments away from biodiversity-harming industries toward sustainable alternatives. Expectations are increasing for financial institutions and businesses to conduct due diligence and ensure transparency in their supply chains, through initiatives such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) of the European Union, preventing financing of activities harmful to biodiversity.

Achievement of the KMGBF is dependent on the integration of nature considerations into private sector and financial decision-making and regulation, as reflected in Targets 14 (mainstreaming – Action Item 17), 15 (disclosure) and 18 (subsidies), as well as the mobilisation of finance from all sources (Target 19, resources mobilisation). TRAFFIC supports the need for this approach to be reflected throughout all levels and stages of the KMGBF implementation, including the resource mobilisation strategy for 2025-2030 to be agreed at CoP16 and through concrete steps reflected in the revised NBSAPs.

COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Agenda Item 15

As recognised in Annex K to the KMGBF, “Enhancing communication, education, and awareness on biodiversity and the uptake of the KMGBF by all actors is essential to achieve its effective implementation and behavioural change, and to promote sustainable lifestyles and biodiversity values”. TRAFFIC has a proven reputation for excellence in the field of [Social and Behaviour Change](#) (SBC), and provides wide-ranging technical support to governments, business and civil society actors in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, to realise this ambition using evidence, insight and innovative approaches.

TRAFFIC supports governments to use Social and Behaviour Change strategies to reduce demand for illegally traded and overexploited species and change consumer choice towards legal, sustainable options. TRAFFIC is already working closely with the CITES Secretariat and Parties to that Convention, around delivery of [Resolution Conf 17.4](#) and the associated

STRONGER TOGETHER

Agenda Item 13

TRAFFIC supports the call for greater synergies and cooperation between the CBD and other conventions and international organizations as outlined in [CBD/CoP/16/10](#) building operational linkages across the multi-

TRAFFIC seeks to employ its expertise in wild species trade within the framework of the CBD to develop Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to leverage private sector resources, expertise, and innovation to meet KMGBF Targets. TRAFFIC also supports working with business and the finance sector, including through international cooperation initiatives through supporting wildlife trafficking financial taskforces, to help track and halt financial flows linked to illegal wildlife trade, cutting off funding for poaching and trafficking networks.

[official Guidance](#), authored by TRAFFIC and adopted at the 19th Conference of the Parties.

TRAFFIC is the Technical Lead on associated regional training events being delivered [Asia, October, 2023](#); [Africa, September, 2024](#); and in LAC, March 2025. TRAFFIC is supervising regional pilots of the Guidance in Asia (on *Totoaba spp.*) and Africa (on *Vulture spp.*). TRAFFIC is also currently delivering a two year ‘Technical Support Program’ on behaviour change for the 30+ countries implementing Wildlife Conservation for Development objectives under the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-World Bank hosted Global Wildlife Program. Issues being dealt with include wildlife trade and One Health, Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence and Wildlife Based Economies with a focus on Nature-based Tourism.

lateral environment agreements, at global and national levels. With wild species use and trade now prominent in the biodiversity agenda and, for the first time, the KMGBF including targets related to wildlife harvest, use and trade, a

vital role can be played by other multilateral environmental agreements in supporting the effective implementation of the KMGBF.

For example, as the Convention responsible for ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species, CITES has a unique role to play in ensuring that these targets are met. At the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in 2019, CITES Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 18.3 on the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030, which fully recognises that CITES may provide benefit to, and draw strength from, linkages with other international biodiversity efforts, such as the KMGBF.

More recently in 2022, CITES CoP19 adopted Decisions to identify the linkages between the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and highlight areas of alignment with the KMGBF, as a starting point for an assessment of how CITES can contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the framework. This work would be an important opportunity to ensure that the indicators being used by the CITES Strategic Vision and the KMGBF are consistent, harmonised and mutually supportive of each

other. This will also ensure that the indicators developed for the CITES Strategic Vision are also used for purposes of reporting to the KMGBF.

The CMS is also actively engaging in CBD processes, including the KMGBF. Decision 14.6 adopted at CMS CoP14 in 2024, for example, urges Parties to ensure that migratory species’ needs and considerations are integrated in the revision and update of NBSAPs and national targets in line with the KMGBF.

Importantly, at CoP16, Parties should reflect the whole-of-society and human rights-based approaches in key decisions including Article 8(j) (Agenda Item 14) on traditional knowledge and Indigenous People, the resources mobilisation strategy (Agenda Item 11), the global review, and the monitoring framework.

THE KMGBF is a plan for all. Conservation actions can only be successful if part of a wider effort across business, financial institutions, and all parts of government to reform damaging practices and address nature loss and recognise the role and rights of IPLC and other rights holders as custodians of biodiversity.



**WORKING TO ENSURE THAT TRADE IN WILD SPECIES
IS LEGAL AND SUSTAINABLE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
PLANET AND PEOPLE.**

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