



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 24.4.13

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LIVELIHOODS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

There is broad agreement amongst Governments and relevant stakeholders that local communities and indigenous people have an important role to play in the conservation of natural resources. The Decisions proposed in this Document instruct the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to compile best practice case studies for involving local communities in the conservation of CMS-listed species and facilitate activities for Parties to share these best practices.

Implementation of the attached draft Decisions will contribute towards the implementation of targets 1 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 14 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015 – 2023.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LIVELIHOODS

Background

1. Natural resources are central to rural people's livelihoods. For millennia, human communities secured their livelihoods by gathering, hunting and fishing in a collective fashion.¹ Apart from the socio-economic interests, wild species, places, and ecosystems can hold special cultural or spiritual value for indigenous communities, and this value can be used as a conservation tool, as part of community-based management practices.
2. Since the 1980s, the colonial and post-colonial approaches to biodiversity conservation, with their mostly top-down measures, such as the establishment of protected areas, which excluded local communities from lands the resources of which they previously used, are no longer considered sufficient by many scientists^{2,3}. During the 1980s and 1990s several countries experimented with community-based natural resource management.⁴
3. Calls to include local communities in biodiversity conservation have gained increasing reception in international policy fora. Currently, numerous global mandates promote the involvement of local communities in conservation. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), calls for the integration of ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, and poverty reduction strategies, and for the enhancement of the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities as part of global efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species. SDG 16 calls for *ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels* and to *substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms*. Both constitute important targets to improve natural sustainable resource management through local communities. Aichi Target 14 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recognizes the needs of local and indigenous communities in the protection of ecosystems.
4. Furthermore, several declarations have been made in the context of combatting wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife, that call for commitments of Governments and the international community to engage local communities in natural resource management and sustainable use of wildlife, including through strengthening legislative and policy frameworks needed to enhance the benefits acquired by local communities from wildlife resources, where they have traditional and/or legal rights over these resources (London Declaration (2014), Kasane Statement (2015), UNGA (2015), Hanoi Statement (2016)).
5. Within the CMS Family, the need to include local communities in conservation is already well recognized. Community engagement is a very important factor present in a variety of existing Single Species Action Plans, Initiatives and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). For example, the Pacific Loggerhead Turtle Special Species Action Plan recognizes the rights of indigenous people to take turtles and calls on "indigenous communities to develop and implement marine turtle management plans that consider cumulative impacts and aim to achieve sustainable use". Furthermore, requests to "expand and increase capacity of indigenous ranger programmes that conduct research and monitoring of marine turtle, including Loggerhead Turtles, at rookeries and feeding grounds". Another example from the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope 2016-2020 presents the following action: "Build local engagement in Saiga conservation through livelihood enhancement and public awareness activities, including community rangers, educational initiatives and ecotourism".

¹ Borrini-Feyerabend G, Pimbert M, Farvar M, Kothari A, Renard Y. 2004. Sharing Power: Learning by Doing in Co-management of Natural Resources Throughout the World, IIED/IUCN/CEESP/CSD/CMWG, Tehran / Gland.

² D. Hulme and M. Murphree. 'Communities, Wildlife and the 'New Conservation' in Africa'. J. Int. Dev. 11, 277±285 (1999)

³ S. Chape, M. Spalding, M. D. Jenkins 2008. The World's Protected Areas. Prepared by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. University of California Press. Berkeley, USA.

⁴ Roe D., Nelson, F., Sandbrook, C. (eds.) 2009. Community management of natural resources in Africa: Impacts, experiences and future directions, Natural Resource Issues No. 18, International Institute for Environment and Development, London, UK.

6. Engaging with and respecting the values of local and indigenous peoples is mentioned as a priority in Target 14 of the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015 – 2023. Some of the actions that Parties agreed to take include: considering how local communities can benefit from conservation, either financially or in another form; recruiting local agents for combatting illegal killing and wildlife trade; raising awareness about endangered species in rural areas; involving community needs and interests in legislation and placing insurance systems to tackle human-wildlife conflict effects.
7. However, while CMS instruments call for the engagement of local communities there has never been a study done to identify best-practice cases.
8. Following the calls of international policy fora for more community engagement in natural resource management, CMS is seeking to support its Parties to engage local communities better in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species by 1) compiling best practice case studies; 2) through the organization of capacity-building activities and side events to implement the best-practice examples at the national level.
9. In alignment with the Joint CMS-CITES Work Programme and based on the decisions passed by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES Decisions 17.36 and 17.40), it is suggested that, where feasible, the two Conventions work collaboratively.

Recommended actions

1. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 1 of this document.

ANNEX 1

DRAFT DECISIONS

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LIVELIHOODS

Directed to the Secretariat

12.AA The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources,

- a) Prepare a study of best-practice cases of community involvement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species, including factors such as land rights, management responsibilities, authority over distribution of benefits by communities and spiritual values;
- b) Based on the results of the best-practise case study and, where feasible, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), facilitate the organization of workshops and side-events to showcase successful livelihood experiences and exchange lessons learnt, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations;
- c) Report to the Standing Committee at its 48th and 49th meetings and the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.

Directed to Parties

12.BB Parties are requested to cooperate with the Secretariat in compiling information on instruments, including legislation, policies and action plans that promote community involvement in conservation of CMS-listed species;

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

12.CC Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to the Secretariat in developing the study referred to in decisions 12.AA, paragraphs (a) (b) and decision 12.BB.