

## CBD: Updates of relevance to wildlife trade from CoP12 in Pyeongchang, South Korea

Two weeks of deliberations by 194 Parties and more than 3000 delegates to the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea (6–17 October 2014), left participants with mixed views on the outcomes. While the call for integration of biodiversity into the new sustainable development goals (SDGs) and multiple technical decisions taken to support the sustainable use of biodiversity were important advances, more financial and technical support is needed to prevent the unregulated and unsustainable exploitation of wild fauna and flora. The following agenda items relevant to work relating to wildlife trade and sustainable use of biodiversity were discussed.

### Sustainable Use and Conservation of Plant Biodiversity

The Plant Conservation Report 2014 launched at CoP12 evaluated the progress made by Parties towards achieving the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC). The report assesses the value of wild plants and the available information on their conservation status. A significant number of GSPC targets were found to show slow rates of progress towards delivery, in particular those related to *in situ* conservation and sustainable use. This raised concerns by Parties and conservation organizations and led to the expression of stronger commitments to capacity-building activities on plant conservation, as stipulated in CoP12 Decision XII/15. These will, however, need to be monitored and resourced to ensure implementation, and greater and urgent commitment of Parties to GSPC is needed if the ambitious 2020 Targets are to be met. TRAFFIC contributes to GSPC through supporting the implementation of the FairWild Standard and the uptake of the Timber Legality Framework. Case studies demonstrating practical implementation of the FairWild Standard were presented at CoP12 side events, including work with the traditional Chinese medicine industry in China, the sustainable value-chain of Ayurveda ingredients in India, and community plant resource management work in Viet Nam.

### Sustainable Wildlife Management and Bushmeat

TRAFFIC has provided substantial input to this work stream of the Convention since 2008, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW). The CoP12 Decision XII/18 on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management* mandating the CBD Secretariat to work with the CPW to prepare technical guidance on the role of sustainable wildlife management in developing and implementing integrated sustainable wildlife management programmes was a positive move.

The Decision asks to strengthen financial and technical support to developing countries for the establishment and implementation of effective traceability, monitoring and control systems for bushmeat at the national and local levels and to help develop national and local wildlife surveillance systems to strengthen countries' biosecurity associated with bushmeat consumption and trade practices. Furthermore, enhanced co-operation was requested between national focal points of the CBD and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on sustainable wildlife management, including bushmeat. The Decision encouraged Parties to develop, revise or update their regulatory systems to differentiate between subsistence uses and illegal hunting, and domestic and international trade of specimens of wild species and products, in a mutually supportive manner with CITES and other international obligations to avoid penalizing the countries and people using wildlife resources

for subsistence; to strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to exercise their rights and responsibilities in relation to the sustainable management of wildlife; and to review, and, as appropriate, reform, incentives that might encourage unsustainable consumption of bushmeat. To support these essential steps aimed at mitigating the over-exploitation and illegal wildlife trade that strongly undermine efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to garner further support from key partners, TRAFFIC and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) convened a side-event with targeted contributions from the governments of Viet Nam, Namibia, France and Germany, as well as from the CITES Secretariat and the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) to showcase the need to strengthen capacities to combat poaching and the illegal wildlife trade.

### Biodiversity and Health

The State of Knowledge Review on "Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health", developed by a wide range of experts, and carried out as part of the joint collaborative work between the CBD Secretariat and the World Health Organization (WHO), was launched during the CBD CoP12. This is an important collaboration in times of increased need for attention to zoonotic diseases that are, *inter alia*, transmitted by wild meat consumption, and the recognition of dwindling medicinal resources from biodiversity and its further development was supported by CoP12 Decision XII/21 on *Biodiversity and human health*. This collaboration is complemented by the ongoing update of the WHO/IUCN/WWF/TRAFFIC Guidelines on the Conservation of Medicinal Plants. TRAFFIC has provided technical contributions to the development of the review, on the importance of ensuring wild plants harvested for health and livelihoods are managed sustainably and adequate benefit-sharing mechanisms are put in place. This work was carried out in collaboration with the Biodiversity and Community Health Initiative (BaCH).

### Global Biodiversity Outlook Report

The CBD's Strategic Plan, which includes 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets to be achieved by 2020, was agreed by CBD CoP10 in Nagoya in 2010. It represents the only global agenda tackling biodiversity loss, including the unsustainable and illegal exploitation of wild plants and animals. The fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4), released in Pyeongchang at CoP12, demonstrated that many countries are far from fulfilling the ambitions of the plan. CoP12 urged Parties to take comprehensive and urgent measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, including the corresponding National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Further issues high on the CoP12 agenda included the coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, among others.

For more information on TRAFFIC's work on CBD and on CoP12 outcomes see [www.traffic.org/cbd](http://www.traffic.org/cbd) and [www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-12](http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-12), respectively.

*TRAFFIC acknowledges WWF Japan, the Polifund measure implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union-China Environmental Governance Programme for their support directed towards specific side events co-organized by TRAFFIC and/or for their general support for TRAFFIC's expert participation during CBD CoP12.*

**Roland Melisch**, Senior Director—Africa & Europe, TRAFFIC  
E-mail: [roland.melisch@traffic.org](mailto:roland.melisch@traffic.org);  
**Anastasiya Timoshyna**, Medicinal Plants Programme Leader,  
TRAFFIC. E-mail: [anastasiya.timoshyna@traffic.org](mailto:anastasiya.timoshyna@traffic.org)