

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

ADDRESSING UNSUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL AND AVIAN WILD MEAT
UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc. 24.4.7

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The Working Group welcomed the document and recommended the adoption of the resolution by COP.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

Page 2, text box: Wild Meat vs bushmeat

- The use of the term 'wild meat' instead of the term 'bushmeat' was much welcomed, as bushmeat commonly only referred to forest species. However, non-forest species, such as cheetah and wild dog were heavily affected by unsustainable wild meat consumption. The use of the term wild meat would thus provide a possibility to also refer to non-forest species.
- It was confirmed that consultations had been held with CBD on the suggested use of the term 'wild meat' and that this use had been supported by the CBD Secretariat.
- It was requested that for reasons of clarity, the title of the decisions be amended to 'Addressing unsustainable use of wild meat from terrestrial sources', as there were also aquatic avian species, which were covered under the Aquatic Wild Meat resolution. Furthermore, a definition of wild meat as used in the document would be beneficial.
- In addition to considering meat within the wild meat definition, other specimens of species, such as marine turtle eggs should also be considered.

Page 6, para 15.:

- Care should be exercised when recognizing use as traditional subsistence use, as this use often no longer was traditional use but commercial and unsustainable use. A balance should be kept between maintaining traditional rights and conferring a voice to endangered species. In this context, creating alternative livelihoods was crucial.

It was suggested that paragraph 5 be amended as follows:

- 5. Hunting can have direct impacts on prey populations, as well as indirect effects on the functioning, structure and composition of the ecosystems they are part of.[13] Evidence of depletion effects are available for the Congo Basin in which 60% of 57 forest mammals were assessed as being unsustainably harvested (93% of ungulates and 63% of primates and carnivores).[14] In the Amazon basin, comparisons of un hunted and heavily hunted sites indicate a reduction of more than 90% in the biomass of harvest-sensitive species.[15] Similarly, studies from India conclude that 20 of the 33 mammals hunted in Arunachal Pradesh are endangered, vulnerable or near threatened according to the IUCN Red List [16]. The IUCN Red List states hunting as the main threat to these species. Throughout India as many as 25 large mammals showed substantial probabilities of local extinction over the past century because of widespread hunting and land-use changes (deforestation, agricultural expansion), together with rapid economic and demographic growth in the last 100 years.[17 'Forest Survey of India 2005; Das et al. 2006']

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

- Recommended for adoption