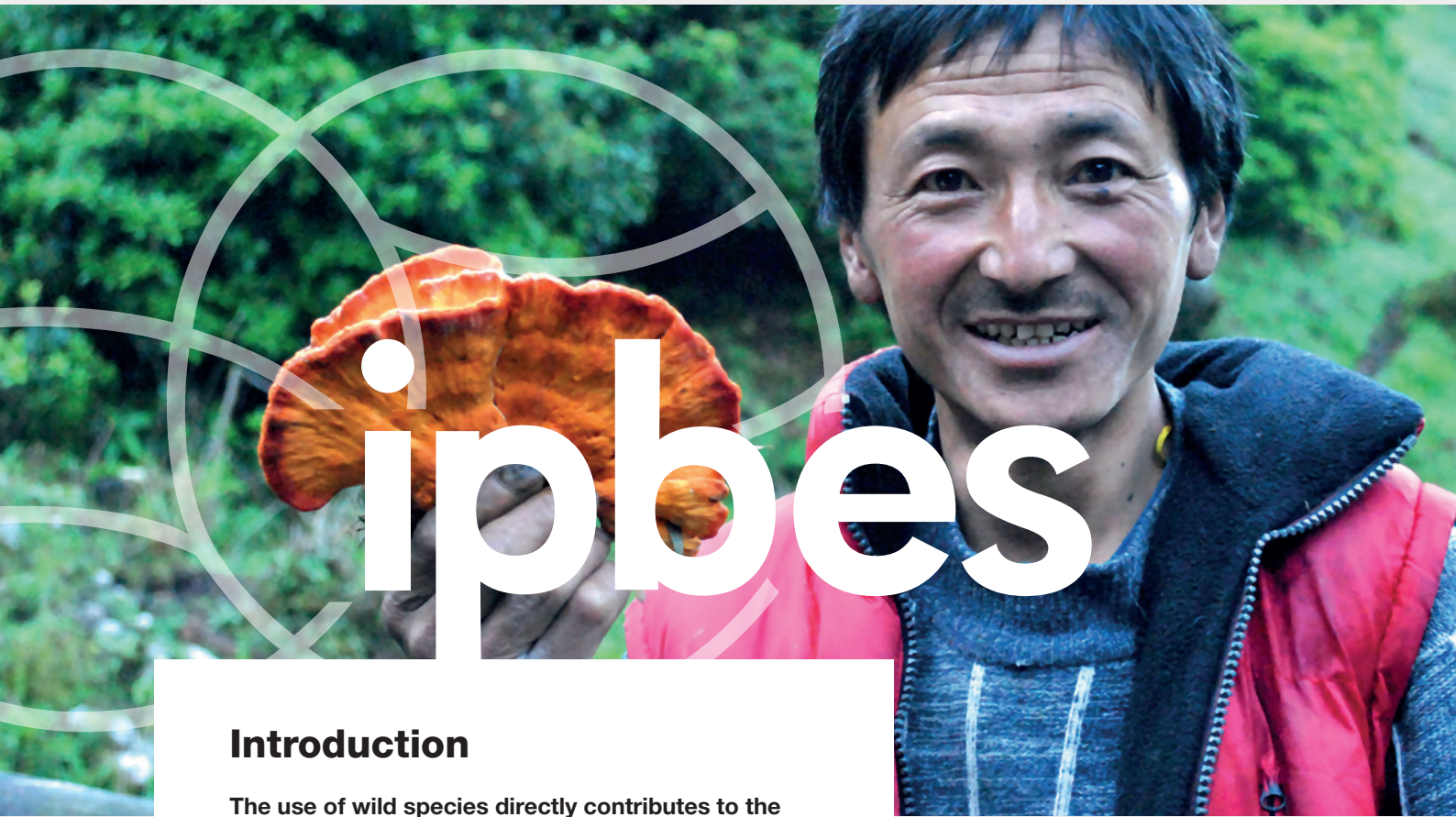


Factsheet

Messages from
the summary for policymakers

The thematic assessment report on **THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILD SPECIES¹**

Prepared by the co-chairs and technical support unit of the assessment



Introduction

The use of wild species directly contributes to the well-being of billions of people globally on a day-to-day basis and is particularly important to people in vulnerable situations (*well established*) {A.1.1}².

Sustainable use of wild species is also central to the identity and existence of many indigenous peoples and local communities (*well established*) {A.2}.

About 50,000 wild species are used for food, energy, medicine, materials and other purposes through fishing, gathering, logging and terrestrial animal harvesting globally (*well established*) {A.1.2}. They are important sources of subsistence resources and income. Uses of wild species form the basis for economically and culturally important activities worldwide (*established but incomplete*) {A.1.3}. However, overexploitation remains a major threat to many wild species (*well established*) {A.3.2}. **Ensuring and enhancing the sustainability of use of wild species is thus essential for human well-being and biodiversity conservation (*established but incomplete*) {A.3.1}.**

1. IPBES (2022). Summary for Policymakers of the Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Fromentin, J.M., Emery, M.R., Donaldson, J., Danner, M.C., Hallosserie, A., Kieling, D., Balachander, G., Barron, E.S., Chaudhary, R.P., Gasalla, M., Halm, M., Hicks, C., Park, M.S., Parlee, B., Rice, J., Ticktin, T., and Tittensor, D. (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6425599>

2. The references enclosed in curly brackets (e.g., {A.3.2, B.2.1}) are traceable accounts and refer to sections of the summary for policymakers of the IPBES Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species. A traceable account is a guide to the section in the summary for policymakers and the chapters that contains the evidence supporting a given message and reflecting the evaluation of the type, amount, quality, and consistency of evidence and the degree of agreement for that statement or key finding.

Sustainable use of wild species is critical for people and nature



7,500 species of wild fish and aquatic invertebrates

are used all over the world *(well established)* {A.1.2}.

Fisheries constitute a **major source of food** from wild species, with a total annual harvest of 90 million tons over recent decades, of which about 60 million tons go to direct human consumption, with the rest used as feed for aquaculture and livestock *(well established)* {A.1.2}.

Small-scale fisheries are strongly anchored in local communities' ways of life on all continents and support over 90% of the 120 million people engaged in capture fisheries globally. About half of the people involved in small-scale fisheries are women *(well established)* {A.1.1}.



31,100 species of wild plants and 1,500 species of fungi

are used all over the world *(well established)* {A.1.2}.

Gathering wild plants, fungi and algae takes place in **both developed and developing countries worldwide**. **Such a practice is closely associated with cultural and subsistence practices, and can also supply global markets** *(established but incomplete)* {A.1.4}. Wild plants, algae and fungi provide food, nutritional diversity and income for an estimated **one in five people** around the world, in particular women, children, landless farmers and others in vulnerable situations *(well established)* {A.1.1}.



7,400 species of trees

are used all over the world *(well established)* {A.1.2}.

Wild tree species are currently the major source for wood and wood products and will continue to be so in the coming decades *(well established)* {A.1.5}. Logging is an important source of subsistence resources and income for millions of people worldwide *(well established)* {A.1.5}: **2.4 billion people (approximately one third of the global population) rely on fuelwood for cooking** and an estimated 880 million people globally log firewood or produce charcoal, particularly in developing countries *(established but incomplete)* {A.1.1}.



1,700 species of wild terrestrial invertebrates and 7,500 species of wild amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals

are used all over the world *(well established)* {A.1.2}.

Terrestrial animal harvesting (which includes hunting) contributes to the **food security** of many people living in rural and urban areas worldwide, especially in developing countries. Wild aquatic and

terrestrial animals constitute key sources of protein, fat, and micronutrients, such as calcium, iron, zinc and fatty acids, for the global human population *(well established)* {A.1.2}.



Nature-based tourism, including wildlife watching, supports mental and physical well-being, raises awareness and facilitates connections to nature, in addition to bringing local benefits such as direct income generation to local communities

(well established) {A.1.6}.




































Wildlife watching generates substantial revenue, contributing US\$120 billion in 2018 to global gross domestic product (five times the estimated value of the illegal wild species trade) and sustaining 21.8 million jobs *(well established)* {A.1.6}.


DEFINITIONS


Sustainable use was defined in article 2 of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* in 1992 as "the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations." The assessment notes that sustainable use is also an outcome of social-ecological systems that aim to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem functions in the long term, while contributing to human well-being.


Wild species refers to populations of any species that have not been domesticated through multigenerational selection for particular traits, and which can survive independently of human intervention that may occur in any environment. This does not imply a complete absence of human management and recognizes various intermediate states between wild and domesticated.


The uses of wild species are globally increasing but the sustainability of these uses depends on the social and ecological contexts in which uses occur



Practice	Use category	20-year global trends	
		use	sustainable use
FISHING 	Food Feed	 3	 3
		 4	
		 5	
	Medicine Hygiene		
Recreation			
GATHERING 	Food Feed		
	Medicine Hygiene		
	Decorative Aesthetic		
LOGGING 	Materials Construction		
	Energy		
TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HARVESTING 	Recreation		
	Food Feed		
NON-EXTRACTIVE PRACTICES 	Recreation		
	Ceremony Ritual		
	Medicine Hygiene		



 WELL ESTABLISHED


 ESTABLISHED BUT INCOMPLETE


 UNRESOLVED

 INCONCLUSIVE

  STRONGLY OR SLIGHTLY INCREASING

  STRONGLY OR SLIGHTLY DECREASING

 STABLE

 HIGH VARIABILITY IN TRENDS

Global trends in use and sustainable use of wild species from 2000 to the present.






- Approximately 34% of marine **wild fish** stocks are overfished and 66% are fished within biologically sustainable levels, but this global picture displays strong heterogeneities (*well established*) {B.1.1}. Unintentional bycatch of threatened and/or protected marine species is unsustainable for many populations, including wild sea turtles, seabirds, sharks, rays, chimaeras, marine mammals and some bony fishes. Reducing unintentional bycatch and discards is progressing, but still insufficient (*well established*) {B.1.2}.
- Trade in **wild plants, algae and fungi** for food, medicine, hygiene, energy, and ornamental use is increasing (*well established*) {B.1.3}.
- Logging** for energy is prevalent globally, but reliance on wood for heating and cooking is highest in developing countries (*well established*) {B.1.6}. Destructive logging practices and illegal logging threaten sustainable use of natural forests (*established but incomplete*) {B.1.7}.
- Globally, populations of many **terrestrial animals** are declining due to unsustainable use, but the impacts of use on wild species and society can be neutral or positive in some places (*well established*) {B.1.4}. Large-bodied mammals are the most targeted species for subsistence and commercial hunting, as these animals provide more meat for consumption and sale to generate more economic benefits for hunters' households (*well established*) {B.1.5}.
- Nature-based tourism is an important **non-extractive practice** and recreational use of wild species. Demand for media (e.g., documentaries) and *in situ* observing (e.g., wildlife watching tourism) related to wild species was growing up to 2020 (*well established*) {B.1.8}.

3. Corresponds to large-scale fisheries with intensive management, data rich.
 4. Corresponds to large-scale fisheries with weak management, data limited.
 5. Corresponds to small-scale fisheries, based on a range of sources.

Environmental and social drivers that enhance or undermine the sustainability of use:

- Environmental drivers** such as climate change, pollution and invasive alien species impact the abundance and distribution of wild species as well as the uses and practices by local communities and indigenous people (*well established*) {B.2.2}.
- Global trade** in wild species is a major driver. It has expanded substantially over the past 40 years (*well established*) {B.2.11}.
- Illegal harvesting and trade** in wild species involves numerous species and is the **third largest class of illegal trade** (*established but incomplete*) {B.2.12}.
- Lack of attention to **gender** and **equitable distribution of costs and benefits** undermine the sustainability of use (*well established*) {B.2.9}.
- Effective governance, institutions, education and public awareness** can promote positive outcomes and mitigate negative impacts (*established but incomplete*) {B.2.15}.

Key elements of policy actions that support sustainable use of wild species have been identified (*established but incomplete*) {D.2}.

Key elements						Policy options
Inclusive and participatory decision-making	■	■	■	■	■	Enact policies with clear guidance on transparent processes for decision-making and representation Build the capacity of all actors Develop national, regional, and international contact points, platforms and community facilitators, mediators
Inclusion of multiple forms of knowledge and recognition of rights	■	■	■	■	■	Ensure that decision-making processes are mandated to draw on diverse forms of social and ecological knowledge Develop measures to gain free, prior and informed consent for the use of knowledge and to ensure knowledge holders benefit Promote the obligation to secure the substantive and procedural rights that are guaranteed by law for all potentially affected persons
Equitable distribution of costs and benefits	■	■	■	■	■	Incorporate the contents of voluntary guidelines on fair and equitable sharing of benefits into legally binding agreements Distribute costs of management through social safety nets while ensuring that costs of management do not exceed benefits Apply governance and institutional frameworks that promote equitable benefit-sharing Ensure that policies do not inadvertently remove access for indigenous peoples, local communities or marginalized individuals
Policies tailored to local social and ecological context	■	■	■	■	■	Develop science- and evidence-based policies according to specific local ecological and social contexts, and follow the precautionary approach as appropriate Respect local communities' rights and access and customary rules Empower local communities
Monitoring of social and ecological conditions and practices	■	■	■	■	■	Incorporate guidelines and tools in project and programme planning to ensure social and ecological monitoring and evaluation of all interventions and their implications for the rights of people involved Invest resources in coordinated social and ecological monitoring programmes Support scientific and community-based social and ecological monitoring programmes
Coordinated and aligned policies	■	■	■	■	■	Coordinate international, regional, national and subnational policies and governance Integrate policies across sectors Coordinate policies across practices
Robust institutions, from customary to statutory	■	■	■	■	■	Design adaptive and dynamic institutions capable of adjusting to ecological and social changes Develop conflict resolution mechanisms and manage conflicts Integrate transparency measures into formal, legally mandated accountability policies Ensure all relevant customary and statutory policies, laws and institutions are respected in national and international agreements

■ VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS
 ■ VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS AND CERTIFICATION SCHEMES
 ■ VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS, CERTIFICATION SCHEMES AND LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENTS
 ■ NOT PRESENT

Seven key elements of effective policy for sustainable use of wild species, their presence in current international agreements and examples of policy options.

Colour coding based on the data drawn from analysis of chapter 2 (figure 2.3 in 2.2.6.2). Pictograms represent (from left to right): fishing, gathering, logging, terrestrial animal harvesting and non extractive practices.

The world is dynamic and to remain sustainable, use of wild species requires constant negotiation and adaptive management {D.3}.

- Successful adaptation and negotiation require attention to the dynamics of both the social and ecological contexts of uses (*well established*) {D.3.1}.
- To address current and projected future pressures, concerted interventions will be needed to implement and scale up policy actions that have been shown to support the sustainable use of wild species {D.2}.
- The sustainable use of wild species will benefit from a transformative change in the prevailing conceptualization of

nature, shifting from the human-nature dualism deeply rooted in many (but not all) cultures, to a more systemic view that humanity is part of nature (*well established*) {D.3.4}.

