



Introduction to side event on the FAO-CIC Wildlife Partnership

by

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It is my pleasure to **welcome** you to this special event on the FAO-CIC wildlife partnership. I would like to thank CIC, and in particular its Director, Kai Wollscheid, for having taken the initiative to organize this joint event during COFO / World Forest Week. The Forestry Department's collaboration with CIC in addressing wildlife issues in Central Asia dates back to 2002 (Bishkek Global Mountain Summit). It has proved to be an **evolving process** where the priorities for the wildlife sector of participating countries are being reviewed and redefined and where adaptive technical support is being considered to address the problems that have jointly been identified.

Two workshops on developing sustainable wildlife management laws and practices have already been organized together, and I'm pleased to announce that a follow-up workshop will take place in Prague and Zidlochovice next week. **Three publications** on legal issues are the main outcome from this process. We have learned that conservation and sustainable use of wildlife is a **complex** issue requiring a high level of organization in society and diverse adaptive management approaches to be successful. Moreover, there is still a lot of **homework** to do for all participating countries with regard to improving the legal, institutional and society structures and responsibilities dealing with the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and its habitats as none of the reviewed countries has yet a comprehensive legal instrument to fully address all implications of sustainable wildlife management.

As a **next step**, there is need to further evaluate if in any of the countries covered by the above mentioned studies (i.e. Western & Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa) the required regulating and enabling environments are sufficient. If not, then we have to ask, can the requirements be achieved in the near future with reasonable amounts of additional capacity building and backstopping. Let's take as an example **hunting tourism** that would require the following preconditions to be fulfilled:

1. existing and well-functioning hunting laws, regulations and institutions;
2. local people fully empowered, including access to information, land and revenues
3. (local) government authorities and hunting tourists sufficiently proficient in hunting issues (e.g. tourists to have passed exams);
4. no obvious conflicts between different land users, e.g. resident and tourist hunters and/or hunting and ecotourists, respectively;
5. local beliefs, traditions and interests as well as internationally accepted ethical standards fully considered.

If such candidate countries can be identified, more specific management activities and projects on the ground could be elaborated and promoted in a case by case approach, when requested. To this aim, we will seek to engage additional **partners** with complementing expertise and experience (e.g. CBD, CIFOR, IUCN, WWF, BirdLife International), some of whom have already been involved at earlier stages.

Further opportunities to strengthen and diversify our collaboration in 2009 include next week's workshop in Prague, the CIC General Assembly in April in Paris and the planned expert meeting on bushmeat prior to the World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires in October.

And from the **funding** side there are also good omens for the future: the FAO Development Law Service has recently secured funding from the FAO / Multi-donor Partnership Programme (FMPP) 2009 for the following activities:

- ✓ complementary legal study for another 10-12 countries in Africa (to be identified)
- ✓ parallel study on wildlife legislation in **Latin America**;
- ✓ participation of a FAO legal officer and an international legal consultant in a proposed regional training workshop on wildlife management in Southern Africa.

With these words, I would like to thank you for your attention. Let me hand over to the next speaker, Mr Kai Wollscheid, who will give you further insights into the FAO-CIC wildlife partnership.