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THE TRADE IN WILDLIFE

A FRAMEWORK TO IMPROVE
BIODIVERSITY AND LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES



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The Trade in Wildlife: A Framework to Improve Biodiversity and Livelihood Outcomes

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This paper provides an analytical framework for assessing the impact of international trade in wildlife and wildlife products on conservation and local livelihoods. It also explores the role of factors related to particular species and their habitat, governance settings, the supply-chain structure, and the nature of the end market. The framework is relevant for importers and exporters, regulators, policymakers, non-governmental organizations, community representatives and researchers seeking to improve the sustainability of international wildlife supply chains.

Descriptors: **Endangered Species, Biodiversity, Sustainable Development, Economic Development.**

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Foreword



The world's biological resources are under threat from climate change, urbanization, invasive species and the increasing demand from mankind for food and fibre.

Biodiversity provides vital goods and services for mankind and, in particular, for rural communities that depend on natural resources for shelter, food and cash income. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) report describes nature as the 'GDP of the poor' given the strong contribution of forests and other ecosystems to the livelihoods of poor rural households.

In response to rising consumer incomes and a growing population, the demand for natural resources is steadily increasing. Hence, concerns are arising that many aspects of this trade are not sustainable. There is a need for policymakers, project designers, communities and the private sector to understand how trade has an impact on the world's wildlife and how these impacts can be mitigated.

This study provides a framework to enhance the understanding of the factors determining sustainable use of natural resources. It outlines the role of policies, property rights, supply-chain governance and consumers in fostering a more sustainable use of the world's biodiversity and greater income streams to the communities involved in its management.

ITC carried out this analysis as part of its commitment to mainstream sustainability into Aid for Trade programming. Notably, ITC designs Aid for Trade projects that enable poor communities to derive income from the sustainable management of their biodiversity resources. In Zambia, for example, ITC has supported women's collector associations to strengthen the sustainability of the collection of devil's claw. In Madagascar, ITC supports women's associations of raffia producers to improve climate-adaptation measures, product quality and business capacity. Furthermore, ITC is working with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the private sector to strengthen sustainable sourcing of python and crocodile skins for the luxury fashion industry.

In closing, I gratefully acknowledge the fruitful collaboration with the IUCN's Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi). We look forward to continuing the partnership that combines ITC's knowledge of markets with IUCN's scientific and conservation expertise.

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