

There are about 8 billion humans in the world. More than one person in three depends on gathering wild plant materials for food and fuel, on fishing and on hunting, mostly in poorer countries. In richer countries, wild species contribute to food variety, health and recreation, while nourishment comes mainly from farming. People everywhere depend on nature for healthy air and water, and hence on healthy ecosystems. Farming is essential to feed the world. However, cultivation must not become so intensive that it damages the ability of ecosystems to keep us healthy.

*Use of wild species is broadly sustainable for gathering and recreational hunting (redrawn from UNEP-IPBES SPM by Julian Mühle)*

An assessment by the United Nations has shown that our use of wild species is broadly sustainable for gathering and recreational hunting on land. It is less so when we depend on wild animal species for food, especially where farms and other development convert so much land that ecosystems support less wildlife. The sustainability of some marine fisheries became low, but is improving after a period of excessive use which caused fish stocks to decline. The assessment also showed that sustainable use of wild species has huge unexploited potential to help meet the UN's.

*Nature-friendly farming is important for wildlife [Link: Protect and Sustain page]*

*Sustainable use is important for UN's Sustainable Development Goals [Link: SULi/ASUB]*

### **Conservation needs local commitment**

*In a healthy ecosystem, Peruvians herd wild vicuña each year for their valuable wool © Ryan Smith/Shutterstock*

When use is sustainable, species are preserved for the future. However, species cannot be preserved without healthy ecosystems. Being able to use wild species is therefore a powerful incentive for communities to conserve species and the ecosystems on which they depend. In richer countries, recreational use of wildlife encourages monitoring of species, habitat restoration, education of citizens, and the science that underpins these activities. Cultural heritage also motivates communities everywhere, so the long-standing knowledge of indigenous people must be cherished and respected. In all cases, local people must be empowered for local conservation actions. Protected areas are known to benefit local fisheries, so sustainable use can benefit from local protection and reserves, but only where communities agree on the management measures, including prohibitions are appropriate.

*Hunters record a thousand conservation projects in Europe [Link: FACE Biodiversity Manifesto]*

*Policy for hunting, fishing and gathering to benefit conservation [Link: European Charters]*

### **Can tourism contribute?**

*Carefully managed fishing or hunting tourism can pay to conserve large areas © Shutterstock/wwwarjag*

Tourism for wildlife-watching can bring income to communities. However, sustainability of tourism is limited by constraints on travel, which may be carbon-intensive. Visitors also place extra pressure on local ecosystems, for example for water. Tourism may be more sustainable ecologically if higher prices can be charged for access to the local resources. Thus, carefully managed fishing or hunting can pay to conserve large areas, provided that local people share in and broadcast widely the benefits to them and their wildlife.

*Policy for ecotourism to benefit conservation (not ready yet) [best multilingual link]*






### **Community-Based Conservation**

*Billions of people who gather and fish and hunt need to conserve the riches of nature on which they depend*

Local sustainable use, without travel, supports local awareness of the benefits of nature. It requires those species being used to be abundant and local people to have ownership of the means to support this abundance, which can promote conservation actions everywhere. The billions of people who gather and fish and hunt need to be encouraged and empowered to conserve the riches of nature on which they depend. They need to monitor and manage their environment, to ensure that change in land for cultivation does not make wild species too rare to harvest. Such citizen-science needs guidance, but surely we should help build engagement that helps nature, not block it? Let's see if the science revolution can undo the harm to nature that has come from the agricultural revolution, factory fishing and other intensive development!

*Read a summary of UN's Sustainable Use Assessment [Link: Satellites (ASUB summary+local examples in translation)]*

Use of wild species is broadly sustainable for gathering and recreational hunting (redrawn from UNEP-IPBES SPM by Julian Mühle)

Practice	Use Category	20-year global trends		
		Use	Sustainability of Use	
Fishing		Food / Feed (big, well-managed)	Strong decrease	Strong increase
		Food / Feed (big, weakly-managed)	Weak increase	Uncertain
		Food / Feed (small-scale)	Uncertain	Uncertain
		Medicine / Hygiene	Strong increase	Uncertain
		Recreation	Strong increase	Uncertain
Gathering		Food / Feed	Weak increase	Stable
		Medicine / Hygiene	Strong increase	Uncertain
		Decorative / Aesthetic	Weak increase	Stable
Logging		Materials / Construction	Strong increase	Uncertain
		Energy	Strong increase	Uncertain
Terrestrial Animal Harvesting		Recreation	Uncertain	Stable
		Food / Feed	Uncertain	Strong decrease
Non-Extractive Practices		Recreation	Strong increase	Uncertain
		Ceremony / Ritual	Uncertain	Uncertain
		Medicine / Hygiene	Uncertain	Uncertain



In a healthy ecosystem, Peruvians herd wild vicuña each year for their valuable wool © Ryan Smith/Shutterstock(1123318475)

Carefully managed fishing or hunting tourism can pay to conserve large areas © Shutterstock/wwwarjag(1839104833)



Billions of people who gather and fish and hunt need to conserve the riches of nature on which they depend © Shutterstock/hortibaga (298102391)

**Please read this Glossary but do not translate it!**

**Recreation** is what we enjoy doing in time when we are active but not working or eating, usually as a benefit for our psychological well-being or physical health. Thus **recreational use** of wild resources as ecosystem services is hunting, fishing or gathering done not for work or subsistence but for well-being or improvement in quality of life more generally.

**Nature-friendly farming** is cultivation of crops and management of livestock which is not so intensive that it greatly reduces biodiversity; see the diagram that starts the Naturalliance page (4) on Protecting, Restoring and Enhancing Wild Resources.

**Herd**ing is the bringing together of animals into large flocks, by people who manage them.

An **incentive** is something that encourages people to act in a particular way, in this case for conservation.

**Monitoring** of species involves recording their presence, or numbers or other characteristic of them in an area.

**Cultural heritage** is left to people by their ancestors, whether represented in spoken, written, visual or tactile (touch) communication, or as material objects, which they tend to treasure because they give identity.

A **broadcast** is a way of communicating that is not directed at specific individuals: anyone can receive it.

**Citizen-science** is done by people with no formal education in the specific scientific field, for example by those who mark or record animals for **recreation**, and thereby provide standardised records in sufficient quantity for analysis by scientists.

**Factory fishing** is the capture of fish, typically aided by large machines (e.g. operating nets), at a scale which makes it hard for harvests to be sustainable.