



Provisional programme

Post 2020 Wildlife Trade: current challenges and opportunities for demand reduction

Thursday 18 March 2021 0900-1130 GMT | WP1867V1

To be held virtually

Recent research by the Inter-governmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES, 2019) has shown that over-exploitation of natural resources is the second biggest cause of biodiversity loss, after land-use change. Illegal Wildlife Trade, and demand for the associated products, are symptoms of this over-exploitation and themselves drivers of biodiversity loss. In the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and vital global discussions this year about how we need to protect our environment and biodiversity into the future, tackling the demand for IWT products should be recognised and addressed as an important component of the overall problematic.

This online meeting will bring together up to 25 senior government representatives and some selected experts in this field, from across Asia, for an open discussion on ways in which the current situation may impact efforts to reduce the demand for IWT products. Based on country and regional experiences and through a sharing of good practice, the meeting aims to identify:

- what participants see as the main challenges and opportunities for demand reduction initiatives
- prospects for understanding consumer behaviour, collaborating, and establishing partnerships to develop a broader suite of regional demand reduction initiatives
- ways in which to maximise links with key international events in 2021, in particular the Biodiversity CoP 15, but also beyond.

In partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

(Speakers invited and themes proposed * denotes not yet confirmed)

Thursday 18 March

0845-0900

Participants join meeting

0900-0910

Welcome and introductions

Julia Purcell

Programme Director, Wilton Park

0910-0925

1. Opening remarks

The Rt Hon Lord Zac Goldsmith

Minister of State (Minister for Pacific and the Environment), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Ivonne Higuero

Secretary-General, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

0925-1005

2. Plenary discussion: Taking an evidence based approaches to demand reduction: successes, challenges and opportunities

This session will be a panel conversation before opening up to roundtable discussion, exploring how governments can build on evidence for best practice and support the scale-up of successful demand reduction initiatives throughout the region. It will further explore how partnerships can be leveraged across the region to support existing demand reduction initiatives and develop new ones. It will also consider how we might capitalise on increased public awareness around the health risks of consuming illegally traded wildlife products, in order to reduce demand.

1005-1015

Break

1015-1020

3. Introduction to break out groups

Julia Purcell

Programme Director, Wilton Park

1020-1105

4. Breakout session: Demand reduction: examining obstacles, consumers and strategic opportunities

Participants will break into smaller groups to explore ways in which to maintain momentum and bring about change, focusing on the opportunities for greater cooperation on demand reduction, how best to engage consumers to reduce demand and how to maximise links with key international events in 2021.

1105-1120

5. Reflections from break out groups

Feedback from break out groups.

1120-1130

6. Conclusion, recommendations and next steps

Brief concluding session

Julia Purcell

Programme Director, Wilton Park

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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