



CIC 2030 Strategic Plan

Delivering the Global Biodiversity Framework

(Adopted at 70th General Assembly, Cascais, Portugal on 21 April 2024)

Executive Summary

Hunting and harvesting wildlife from the land and sea has been an intrinsic, often existential, human activity since the dawn of time. Our ancestors carried hunting knowledge to every continent, where its practice shaped our many cultures and lifepaths. Our ancestors learned to manage wildlife harvesting in ways that would ensure a bounty of wildlife flourish for the benefit of future generations.

Today, millions of people still rely on hunting as their primary source of protein and billions more rely on and benefit from the use of wild species for food, medicine, and income.¹ But these traditions are under grave threat. Much of the land that has sustained us down through the generations has been lost in the last century due to the **triple planetary crisis** as defined by the UN: climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Those precious naturalized areas that remain are under *tremendous pressure*; and many species within them are now *threatened*.

Contrary to negative public opinion, carrying on the hunting tradition of our ancestors does NOT add to society's overuse and the triple planetary crisis. On the contrary, hunting, the income and activities it generates, is one of the largest contributors to nature conservation and protection globally. Outside of instances of *wildlife crime* and abuse, science shows that responsible hunting activity is contributing positively to **sustaining** or even **regenerating** the biological diversity and health of ecosystems.

International bodies and broader society do, however, need a better understanding of the fact that most hunters are helping protect the lands they hunt on. Governments need to know that managed wildlife zones can help them meet their international conservation targets. And hunters need access to programs from a trusted source that connect their passion for hunting with actions they take to help combat the triple planetary crisis that so threatens their beloved hunting grounds. This is where the CIC needs to become the convening body. This is where CIC comes in.

Among the oldest international conservation organisations, CIC works to educate society and governments about responsible hunting's conservation value. We work concretely with indigenous peoples and hunters in 80 countries to ensure that wildlife habitats are conserved and expanded for the benefit of **ecosystem regeneration, local people and economies, and vital cultural traditions**.

¹ International Panel for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Report on Sustainable Use of Wild Species, 2022.

In the 9 decades since CIC was founded, the wildlife conservation field has changed tremendously. The **2030 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** adopted in December 2022 by 188 countries at the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) in Montreal presents a quantum leap. **Sustainable use has a central role in the GBF**, which creates *tremendous opportunities* for **increasing CIC’s messaging reach, policy influence, and real-world impact** in line with international consensus.

This CIC 2030 Strategic Plan responds to the urgency of the triple planetary crisis and hunting’s public perception deficit by **placing biodiversity regeneration and sustainable use at the centre** of all future work. Our programs should evolve to directly contribute to nature-based solutions and the adopted biodiversity targets of the GBF, with special attention to the respect of existing rights and interests of all stake holders in rural communities:

GBF Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas by 2030 (“30x30”)

GBF Target 4: Halt Species Extinction and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

GBF Target 5: Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species

GBF Target 6: Managing Alien Invasive Species

GBF Target 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably to Benefit People

GBF Target 21: Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action

CIC already has **four Global Priorities** developed by the Executive Committee in Austria in 2017 and re-enforced by 2023 CIC membership survey and partner consultation. This 2030 Strategic Plan builds on CIC’s internal priority to contribute in meaningful and measurable ways focusing on 6 of the 23 GBF Targets :

CIC Global Priority 1 – Applied Science for nature-based leadership

CIC will commit to reinvigorate its science capacity. Applied Science Division will work with scientists and research bodies to advance understanding of **sustainable use as a driver of biodiversity/ecosystem conservation & regeneration**. This focus will position CIC activities to legitimately respond to GBF targets and the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, with outcomes that include **understanding climate pressures** on wildlife; **halting extinction** of species; **resolving human-wildlife conflicts**; and managing **invasive species**. The Division will **prioritize documentation of success stories of sustainable and regenerative use** and engage biologists and research to lend credibility to this position. In line with the GBF targets, the Division will help hunters and landowners to take action and **develop nature-based leadership** in regenerating biodiversity and vital ecosystem services and **rewilding** of degraded landscapes.

CIC Global Priority 2 – Placing sustainable use at the heart of policy change

CIC will commit to empowering membership and build partnerships to drive transformative policy change and the fight against wildlife crime. Working with activated membership and these new partners, Policy and Law Division will support countries to ensure that the sustainable use and trade of wildlife is legal.. The Division will support countries to implement Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) **to deliver the GBF 30x30 target**. New programs will promote a metrics-based approach **to quantifying the ecosystem service and biodiversity benefits** in area-based sustainable use, helping to demonstrate that for many countries where CIC is active, sustainable wildlife use is an effective area-based conservation measure. The Division will help take a stand against **overuse** and **overregulating** by advocating for **bottom-up policy-making** processes, setting the right **incentives for private, public and local initiatives** and **well-organised management** coupled

with a strong stance against **wildlife crime**. Protecting the livelihoods of local communities and the growth of a **wild harvest economy** will require policy shifts. The Division will explore certification approaches to regenerative landscape management and wild harvest standards as part of CIC's commitment to advancing **One Health**.

CIC Global Priority 3 – Unifying hunters and IPLCs around our common heritage of land and wild harvest

CIC will commit to standing with IPLCs in decolonizing conservation and protecting heritage. Culture Division will nurture new partnerships grounded in local communities and indigenous people's networks that advance **hunter-led and community-led conservation**. CIC will do more to celebrate community-led conservation and highlight the struggles faced by IPLCs in maintaining their wild harvest traditions, slow food, and **healthy and sustainable diets**. Based on joint success registering Falconry as a recognized UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the Division will work to likewise enshrine **hunting traditions** as a UNESCO-accredited cultural symbol transmitted from generation to generation.

CIC Global Priority 4 – Inspire hearts and minds at global scale for hunting-led conservation

CIC commits to being a **trusted source and strategic partner** in line with the international consensus on biodiversity action. Eventually a new Division on Communication & Leadership Education could lead an effort to develop and promote externally facing marketing language and public principles that **maximize integration** with the GBF (particularly GBF Target 21). The Division will help promote **nature-based leadership** and explore new approaches to communication in the social media age, including highlighting successes from the other Global Priorities and the scientific/biodiversity basis for accelerating the **social acceptance** of hunting. This priority area will also professionalize **diverse and stable funding** and explore **innovative finance mechanisms** to ensure long-term institutional sustainability coupled with conservation impact.

Stepping up to meet internationally adopted GBF targets is also a logical continuation of CIC's resolutions, recent Statutes, and the clear results of the 2023 member- and partnership survey. **The 2030 Strategic Plan thus builds on CIC's past achievements while moving ambitiously into the future. The Global Biodiversity Framework will underpin decision-making and sweeping new undertakings in 188 countries. By integrating responsible hunting evidence and sustainable use programmes into these international processes, CIC will create tremendous new momentum for its cause.**