



Panamanians value their tradition as much as they do their flora and fauna species.



One of the CITES COP19 participants.



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WORLD POPULATION INCREASES TO 8 BILLION WHILE WILDLIFE POPULATION CONTINUES TO DECLINE

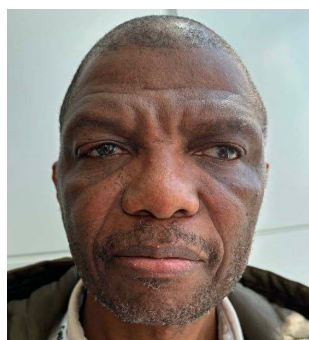
The world's human population reached 8 billion yesterday, signalling a milestone in human development while that of wildlife continues to decline. *The milestone is an occasion to celebrate diversity and advancements while considering humanity's shared responsibility for the planet,* said the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres.

However, world population growth is considered bad for wildlife conservation because it threatens wildlife with habitat loss – a major cause of the decline in wildlife populations worldwide. A recently published Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report warns the world, “Nature and its vital contributions to people, which together embody biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are deteriorating worldwide.”

Shouldn't CITES also do an annual endangered wild fauna and flora population assessment in order to make the world aware of how well we are doing to conserve endangered species?

This seems something that would give CITES greater recognition worldwide. In dealing with all endangered species big and small, CITES would avoid the misleading concentration on such iconic mammals as elephants and rhinos and tigers. Notably, if CITES were to publish the decline of different types of wild fauna and flora [big and small] it would be useful information for conservationists.

WILDLIFE PRODUCER COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE DEMAND AN ADVISORY ROLE IN CITES



South African wildlife producer communities representative and the country's representative for SADC Community Leaders' Network, Mr Lourence Mokogane

Speaking as guest of honour at a CITES COP19 side event attended by the world's most influential indigenous and wildlife producer communities' representatives, the Zimbabwe Minister of Environment, Tourism, Climate Change and Hospitality Industry, Hon. Nqobizitha Mangaliso Ndhlovu said, “The CITES Secretary-General talks about the need to reflect on how we have fared regarding community involvement in conservation. CITES can't continue to lag regarding community involvement in its decisions. Without the involvement of communities, CITES remains ineffective.”



SADC CLN Photo & Guest of Honour, Zimbabwe Minister of Environment Tourism Climate Change and Hospitality Industry, Hon. Nqobizitha Ndhlovu (wearing a scarf)

South Africa's representative of the Community Leaders Network, Mr Lourence Mogokane said that he was disappointed by CITES parties' continued delay in recognising the need to establishing a Community Advisory Committee.

"We are the people who matter most but CITES is making decisions for us and preventing us from using our natural resources, sustainably. We must have a committee in CITES because some of the decisions being made at CITES are uninformed and need community input," said Mr Mogokane.

Speaking on behalf of millions of Southern African countries' wildlife producer communities who bear the cost of co-existing with wildlife but continue to receive restricted benefits due to a continuous no-vote for sustainable use by the majority of CITES member countries, Dr Rodgers Lubilo, Chairman of SADC Community Leaders Network said that "If CITES has to live longer and continues to be legitimate it needs to recognise community involvement in wildlife conservation discussions."

THE SOURCE SUGGESTS ITS READERS NOTE THAT: The U.S.A. and Mexican wildlife producer communities have joined their Southern African counterparts in calling for communities worldwide to be granted a CITES Advisory Committee.

Jessica Ford, a representative of the U.S.A.'s Navajo Nation, its largest Native Tribe, said, "We are interested, and we want to be involved in CITES."

MOCK VOTE TO WATCH WORLD CUP WHILE ATTENDING CITES COP19 REVEALS 'NAUGHTY' DELEGATES

As part of the testing of the CITES COP19 voting equipment, the Chairman of Committee Room 1 asked delegates to answer yes or no – if they would watch World Cup matches that start on 20 November 2022 in Qatar, while CITES COP19 business is in progress.



The Chairman of Committee Room 1 seems to have received an overwhelming YES-VOTE from those who would like to watch World Cup Soccer 2022 and he declined to announce the results of the mock vote. Nevertheless, the voting machines testing exercise was successful. This coming Saturday and Sunday delegates will take a break from COP19 activities. However, **THE SOURCE** wonders if there will be absenteeism during the weekend when missing delegates could claim to have gone to 'church.'

Meanwhile, it remains anybody's guess whether those who said they would watch World Cup Soccer 2022 were joking. Turning from a jovial to a serious mood, the chairman of Committee Room 1 then said that no one would be allowed to watch World Cup Soccer during COP19. All the television screens at the COP19 venue will be blocked from showing football.

But you can be certain that some die-hard football fans at COP19, have already planned long nights of football watching. They would like to watch the football teams of their countries and their favourite soccer stars playing at the world cup 2022.