

Progress report

Working Group 4: Animals

Krakow 20-21st February 2014

This was effectively the first meeting of this Working group as it has taken time to build interest in animal products as this is not often considered in forestry fora. The meeting took the form of a round-table brainstorming of the interpretation of the focus of the WG in light of its place in an Action dominated by foresters.

For the purposes of the WG it was agreed that “products of animal origin” should be interpreted as including only those animals which are “hunted” i.e. we will restrict ourselves to the consumptive use of animals or their products. Biodiversity and intangible values not directly related to consumption are excluded unless they are directly linked to hunting activities. Furthermore, since the focus of the Action is forestry the topic to be explored should be relevant to forest management and not a technical issue which would require technical wildlife inputs.

A wide ranging discussion around the differences between the ecology and management of animals and plants ensued. We concluded that in most cases wildlife and forestry (timber production) objectives are antagonistic. The trade-offs between these is a matter which attracts a lot of interest from a wide range of stakeholders including conservation NGOs and the general public as well as wildlife and forest management professionals. It was agreed that the WG would explore issues around conflicts related to forests and animals.

Next steps

The mapping of stakeholder interests where management of forest animals is contested. This will include prompts for responses related to game animals, game birds, insects (principally honey bees) and fish. The questionnaire will be proposed for incorporated into the common survey and the results will be reviewed at the next workshop.

