



One Forest Summit

Ministerial Session – 1st March 2023

[Umbrella and emblematic species of tropical forests and their link with natural and cultural heritages – pillar 1]

Duration : 1h30

Concept of the event

Great apes and elephants living in tropical forests are iconic endangered species, known as "umbrella" species, meaning that their protection also entails the protection of a wide range of fauna and flora species sharing their habitat.

This event aims to highlight the practices, beliefs and values associated - the intangible cultural heritage - with these species by local communities. By highlighting the links between people and rainforest species, this approach would safeguard living heritage and strengthen biodiversity conservation.

In particular, this approach could build on existing networks of biosphere reserves that are habitats for certain emblematic species, such as the one created for the great apes, and strengthen them by identifying potential new biosphere reserves

Finally, the event will examine the steps necessary for researchers and local communities to value together the ecological, social and spiritual roles associated with these species, and for local actors to register the living heritage associated with threatened and emblematic species on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, starting with an inventory organized at the national level.

This would then:

- (1) strengthen the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage that recognizes the interconnection between humans and nature, and promotes values that respect biodiversity and the natural environment ;
- (2) to link research in the human and biological sciences with communities, civil society and education;
- (3) make the link between tropical forests, climate and biodiversity more tangible for citizens in order to better preserve biodiversity and irretrievable carbon reservoirs

Participants will include community representatives, scientists and policy makers.

The event will initiate a process that may eventually lead to the following results:

- Registration by countries of indigenous cultural practices related to endangered, umbrella, emblematic (and possibly indicator) species of tropical forests (great apes, elephants, pangolins...) in their national inventory.
- Initiation of a multi-country process to register cultural practices related to endangered species, umbrellas of forest ecosystems as intangible cultural heritage of humanity.
- Proposal by countries to create new Biosphere Reserves (MAB-UNESCO) to improve the safeguarding of living heritage practices linked to emblematic species and to strengthen the protection and conservation of these species and their habitat
- Strengthening networks of countries in the range of these species to act for the preservation of their forest habitat and the indigenous cultures related to them.
- To register these different initiatives and the joint work of researchers in ecology, anthropology and local communities and to follow their development and their effects through the digital platform developed in the framework of the One Forest Summit

Program

Bridging nature and culture: a call to recognize indigenous cultures related to endangered emblematic species for the protection of tropical forests through the One Forest Guardians

Programme, sequences and panelists

Moderation : Inza Kone, Thierry Nzamba Nzamba, Sabrina Krief

Reporting : Sabrina Krief / Inza Kone

Opening

Hindou OUMAROU IBRAHIM, Geograph, activist for indigenous peoples, TCHAD

Sabrina KRIEF : introduction

Part 1 : The Forest Guardians : endangered umbrella emblematic species and the local communities : an indivisible link as an innovative method to better preserve the tropical forests (20 min)

Moderation : Inza KONE

Sabrina KRIEF, MNHN : the endangered and umbrella species, their ecological and social role-
The case of chimpanzees, our closest relatives

Nadia BELAIDI, CNRS/MNHN : The knowledge and culture of local communities in new conservation paradigms of international conventions

Noéline RAONDRY-RAKOTOARISOA, UNESCO-MAB : the Biosphere reserves as experimental areas for innovative projects to monitor emblematic endangered species in relation with local communities

Timothy CURTIS, UNESCO-Patrimoine Immatériel : the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Part 2 : The endangered and emblematic species of forests and the cultural diversity of local communities (20 min)

Moderation : Thierry Nzamba Nzamba

Julius KAGANDA, KICHIDA, Uganda : Chimpanzee is my totem

Jean-Christophe BOKIKA, ONG : Mbou Mon Tour, RD CONGO The debt of bonobo

Carla-Louise MOUSSET, GABON : Pangolins as precious species

Paulin KIALO, CENARES, GABON : Exogene conservation VS endogene preservation : towards a reconciliation?

Part 3 : The natural and cultural heritages: how to root the indivisible link for protecting forests and indigenous cultures (20 min)

Moderation : Sabrina Krief

Charles TUMWESIGYE, Uganda Wildlife Authority

Martin MUGARRA BAHINDUKA, Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, UGANDA

Ministry of Culture, GABON

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