



Increasing IP&LC Visibility & Influence within CITES



**Presentation by Lusizi Mwale, Principal Warden
Conservation/Livelihoods WG Chair, at IPLCs Side Event,
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Introduction

- This presentation highlights strategies to enhance the role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs) within CITES decision-making processes.



Increasing IP&LC Visibility in CITES

- - Recognizing IP&LC contributions to conservation
- - Establishing formal representation mechanisms
- - Advocating for inclusion in national delegations



Enhancing National Engagement & Capacity Building

- - Training programs on legal frameworks & advocacy
- - Access to CITES information in local languages
- - Collaborative partnerships with NGOs & governments



Successful Community-Led Initiatives

- - Zambia: Community Resource Boards (CRBs)
- - Namibia: Communal conservancies model
- - South Africa: Community-based fisheries management



Recommendations



- - Showcase successful initiatives at CITES forums
- - Advocate for inclusive policies & revenue sharing
- - Create platforms for ongoing dialogue & learning

Closing Remarks

- IP&LCs are the backbone of conservation. Their voices must be amplified within CITES to ensure biodiversity thrives alongside empowered communities.

