

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Tenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Shepherdstown (United States of America), 11–15 December 2000

Strategic planning

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITES STRATEGIC VISION –
ACTIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

1. At its 11th meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a Strategic Vision for CITES for the period 2001 to 2005 as well as an Action Plan with action points directed to various CITES entities, including the Plants Committee. Action points directed to the Plants Committee in the Action Plan have been extracted for ease of reference in Annex 1.

Issues for consideration

2. The Plants Committee is invited to consider how it wishes to implement actions directed towards it within the context of its terms of reference (established in Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 which is provided as Annex 2 to this document), other obligations established through Resolutions and Decisions and the availability of resources.
3. Attention is drawn to additions made to the terms of reference of the Plants Committee at CoP11, specifically the items in Resolution Conf. 11.1 Annex 2 under RESOLVES paragraphs a), c)-e) and h) iv).

Action points		Action by
GOAL 1: ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF EACH PARTY TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION		
Objective 1.1		
To assist in the development of appropriate domestic legislation and policies that encourage the adoption and implementation of social and economic incentives allied to legal instruments that:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promote and regulate sustainable management of wild fauna and flora; – Promote and regulate responsible trade in wild fauna and flora; – Promote the effective enforcement of the Convention. 		
Objective 1.4		
To facilitate development and use of appropriate technologies and information management systems that enhance and expedite the collection, submission and exchange of accurate information.		
1.4.1	On the basis of information from Parties, evaluate needs, capabilities and opportunities as related to information technologies and management.	Secretariat, with three permanent Committees
1.4.4	Develop a simple guide to the Review of Significant Trade.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
1.4.5	Develop and enhance databases that include information related to species in trade, CITES Decisions and procedures.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
Objective 1.7		
To improve the coordination between CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, and increase the effectiveness of the latter.		
1.7.1	Develop a manual specifying the obligations and procedures of the Scientific Authorities in order to encourage the development of specific training courses for them.	Secretariat with Animals and Plants Committees
1.7.2	Develop regional directories that list the botanists and zoologists in each region who are experts in CITES-listed species.	Animals Committee, Plants Committee
1.7.3	Communicate to the Parties the importance and advisability of including plants experts within the structure of the Scientific Authorities.	Plants Committee
GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES		
Objective 2.1		
To ensure that the Convention's Appendices correctly reflect the conservation and management needs of species.		
2.1.2	Regularly review the Appendices to ensure that listed taxa satisfy the relevant criteria.	Animals and Plants Committees
2.1.3	Continue the Review of Significant Trade as initiated by the Parties in Resolution Conf. 8.9.	Animals and Plants Committees

Action points		Action by
2.1.4	Evaluate trade and biological information on currently unlisted species subject to significant international trade to determine whether they would qualify for and benefit from CITES listing.	Animals and Plants Committees
Objective 2.2		
To ensure that decisions to amend the Convention's Appendices are founded on sound and relevant scientific information and meet agreed biological and trade criteria for such amendments.		
2.2.2	Encourage Parties to consult with the Animals and Plants Committees as appropriate to assist in the preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
2.2.3	For identified commodities, develop standardized units of measure for permits, trade analysis and reporting.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
Objective 2.3		
To improve the scientific basis on which Scientific Authorities make non-detriment findings.		
2.3.1	Develop practical guidance for making non-detriment findings, including a manual and checklist, and samples of non-detriment findings and case studies.	Secretariat with Animals and Plants Committees
2.3.2	Facilitate national and regional training for Scientific Authorities in the issuance of scientifically based non-detriment findings; include the use of the aforementioned guidance on non-detriment.	Secretariat with Animals and Plants Committees
2.3.5	Provide opportunities for Scientific Authorities to exchange information and data (e.g. sharing of non-detriment findings; sharing of data, management plans and case studies; postings to a website; and communication through a listserver).	Parties, Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
Objective 2.4		
To develop innovative technologies and encourage relevant research, including research into CITES implementation and enforcement, and to pursue these objectives, where appropriate, at the regional level.		
2.4.1	In collaboration with enforcement agencies, identify the needs for and potential benefits of innovative technologies.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees, Parties
2.4.2	In collaboration with Parties, international agencies, and relevant research entities, identify the available technologies (e.g. digital technology, microchips, barcodes, holograms, DNA tests) relevant to assisting the better implementation of the Convention.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
2.4.4	Develop with relevant institutions collaborative research projects for testing the appropriateness of new and forthcoming technologies.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
2.4.5	Assess progress on a regional basis.	Standing, Animals and Plants Committees

Action points	Action by
GOAL 4: PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONVENTION	
Objective 4.3	
To promote greater awareness among and cooperation with the scientific community.	
4.3.2	Participate actively at scientific meetings and conferences, and encourage participation in CITES issues by the scientific community.
	Secretariat, Scientific Authorities, Animals and Plants Committees

RESOLUTION CONF. 11.1 – ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES

Annex 2

Establishment of the Animals and Plants Committees of the Conference of the Parties

REALIZING the many problems faced by the Conference of the Parties and individual Parties concerning the lack of biological data and expert knowledge of animal and plant trade and management;

RECOGNIZING that an effective method of evaluating whether a species is appropriately listed in the CITES Appendices requires a periodic review of its biological and trade status;

RECOGNIZING the need to identify those Appendix-II species that are subject to levels of significant international trade and for which scientific information on the capacity of the species to withstand such levels of trade is insufficient to satisfy the requirements of Article IV, paragraph 3, of the Convention;

RECOGNIZING that the bulk of the world's biodiversity occurs in Africa, South and Central America and Asia, and also that the majority of animal and plant species listed in the Appendices of the Convention are from these regions;

AWARE that there are only three Parties in the North American region, but more than 40 in Africa, more than 25 in South and Central America and the Caribbean, and more than 20 in Asia, which, in addition, stretches from Israel in the west to Japan in the east;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES to re-establish the Animals and Plants Committees of the Conference of the Parties, with the following terms of reference:

within the policy agreed to by the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) provide advice and guidance to the Conference of the Parties, the other committees, working groups and the Secretariat, on all matters relevant to international trade in animal and plant species included in the Appendices, which may include proposals to amend the Appendices;
- b) assist the Nomenclature Committee in the development and maintenance of a standardized list of species names;
- c) assist the Secretariat with the implementation of the Resolution on the Identification Manual and Decisions related to it and, upon request of the Secretariat, review proposals to amend the Appendices with regard to possible identification problems;
- d) cooperate with the Secretariat on the implementation of its programme of work to assist Scientific Authorities;
- e) develop regional directories that list the botanists and zoologists in each region who are experts in CITES-listed species;
- f) establish a list of those taxa included in Appendix II that are considered as being significantly affected by trade, and review and assess all available biological and trade information including comments by the range States on these taxa to:

- i) exclude all species for which there is adequate information to conclude that trade is not having a significant detrimental effect on their populations;
 - ii) formulate recommendations for remedial measures for those species for which trade is believed to be having a detrimental effect; and
 - iii) establish priorities for projects to collect information for those species for which there is insufficient information available on which to base a judgement as to whether the level of trade is detrimental;
- g) assess information on those species for which there is evidence of a change in the volume of trade or for which specific information is available to indicate the necessity for review;
- h) undertake a periodic review of animal or plant species included in the CITES Appendices by:
- i) establishing a schedule for reviewing the biological and trade status of these species;
 - ii) identifying problems or potential problems concerning the biological status of species being traded;
 - iii) consulting the Parties on the need to review specific species, working directly with the range States in the selection process, and seeking their assistance in such reviews; and
 - iv) preparing and submitting amendment proposals resulting from the review, through the Depository Government, for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
- i) make available advice on management techniques and procedures for range States requesting such assistance;
- j) draft resolutions on matters related to animals or plants, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;
- k) perform any other functions that may be entrusted to them by the Conference of the Parties or the Standing Committee; and
- l) report to the Conference of the Parties and, if so requested, to the Standing Committee, on the activities they have carried out or supervised between meetings of the Conference;

RESOLVES further that the Animals Committee shall also deal with issues related to the transport of live animals;

DETERMINES that:

- a) the membership of the Animals and Plants Committees shall consist of:
- i) a person chosen by each of the major geographic regions consisting of North America and Oceania; and
 - ii) two persons chosen by each of the major geographic regions consisting of Africa, Asia, Europe and South and Central America and the Caribbean;
- b) each person chosen as an alternate member for a member described in paragraph a) i) or ii), shall be represented at meetings as a regional member only in the absence of the member for whom he/she is the alternate;

- c) the membership of the Committee shall be reviewed at every regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The terms of office of the regional members shall commence at the close of the regular meeting at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second regular meeting thereafter;
- d) any Party shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Committee as an observer;
- e) a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the Committee; and
- f) the Chairman may invite any person or representative of any other country or organization to participate in meetings of the Committee as an observer;

DETERMINES further the following principles for the payment of travel expenses to regional members of the Plants or Animals Committee:

- a) the Secretariat shall make provisions in its budget for the payment, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of regional members, to attend one Committee meeting per calendar year;
- b) members should make every effort to pay their own travel expenses; and
- c) travel arrangements for sponsored regional members will be made by the Secretariat in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the United Nations and, where applicable, claims for refunds must be supported by receipts, and be submitted to the Secretariat within 30 days from the completion of the travel; and

DIRECTS the Secretariat, to the extent possible, to provide funding from outside sources for the production costs of publications prepared by the Committees.