

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-21 May 2005

Strategic planning

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *STRATEGIC VISION* AND ITS ACTION PLAN UNTIL 2007

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), the Conference of the Parties adopted a *Strategic Vision through 2005* that includes an Action Plan with action points directed to various CITES entities, including the Plants Committee. At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties decided to extend until the end of 2007 the time validity of the Strategic vision and its action Plan (see Decision 13.1).
3. The action points directed to the Plants Committee in the Action Plan are presented in the Annex to this document.
4. In Decision 13.1 on the *Strategic Vision* the Conference of the Parties decided:
  - d) *to urge all Parties and to instruct the Secretariat and the permanent Committees to evaluate their efforts in relation to the implementation of the existing Strategic Vision and Action Plan and to submit the outcome thereof to the Strategic Plan Working Group through their representatives on that working group;*
  - e) *that the Strategic Plan Working Group shall submit its proposal to the Standing Committee for approval at its annual meeting prior to the deadline for the submission of proposals for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which is to be held in 2007.*
5. The Plants Committee is invited to consider the activities outlined in the Annex to this document, determine what progress it has achieved in implementing the action points directed to it, and evaluate what remains to be accomplished in the remaining two-and-a-half years. These elements, as well as the time-frame for the evaluation called for in Decision 13.1, paragraph d), should be taken into account when establishing the working programme priorities for 2005-2007.

Action points		Action by
<b>GOAL 1: ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF EACH PARTY TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION</b>		
<b>Objective 1.4</b> 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
<b>Objective 1.7</b> 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 plant experts within the structure of the Scientific Authorities	Plants Committee
<b>GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES</b>		
<b>Objective 2.1</b> 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
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
<b>Objective 2.2</b> 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
<b>Objective 2.3</b> To improve the scientific basis on which Scientific Authorities make non-detriment findings.		

<b>Action points</b>		<b>Action by</b>
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 findings.	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 web site; and communication through a listserver).	Parties, Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
<b>Objective 2.4</b>		
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
<b>GOAL 4: PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONVENTION</b>		
<b>Objective 4.3</b>		
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