

Ninth Meeting of the Plants Committee

Darwin (Australia), 7 - 11 June 1999

**COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND ACTION PLAN
PROPOSED BY THE PLANTS COMMITTEE**

Introduction:

The Plants Committee (PC) was requested to provide comments on the draft of the Strategic Plan and to develop an Action Plan for the PC during the meeting held in Australia. The participants in the PC were divided into working groups chaired by the PC Chairman, PC Vice Chairman and the PC Representative of Oceania. The working groups held several meetings and the following topics were discussed: Comments on the draft of the Strategic Plan; Action Plan to be implemented by the different bodies, and the Action Plan to be implemented by the Plants Committee. The PC agreed that the PC Chairman would mesh the documents prepared by the working groups. The PC Chairman would submit the fused document to the PC representatives, Secretariat and Chairman of the Animals Committee before July 1999 for information at the meeting of the AC. The comments from the PC Committee would also be sent to the Chairmen of the Strategic Plan Working Group and the Standing Committee.

The fused document is divided in three parts:

- ❖ **FIRST PART: PC COMMENTS (PCC) ON THE DRAFT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN.**
- ❖ **SECOND PART: ACTION PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE DIFFERENT BODIES.**
- ❖ **THIRD PART: ACTION PLAN FOR THE PLANTS COMMITTEE** (in English only).

AC= Animals Committee
PC= Plants Committee
TC= Technical Committees
SC= Standing Committee

MA= Management Authorities
SA= Scientific Authorities
PCC= PC comments



FIRST PART: PC COMMENTS (PCC) ON THE DRAFT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

“No wild animal or plant species should become or remain subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade”

- **PCC:** Rewrite the title in a positive way

PC PROPOSAL:

“All wild animal and plant species subject to international trade must be managed in a sustainable way”

- **PCC:** It was recommended that some changes be made in the order the objectives were listed and that any overlapping be avoided

Goal 1: *ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF EACH PARTY TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION*

- **PCC:** Switch objective 1.6 to 1.2 and switch objective 1.7 to 1.3

Objective 1.1

To assist in the development of appropriate national legislation and policies that encourage the adoption and implementation of social and economic incentives allied to legal instruments that promote and regulate sustainable management of and trade in wild animals and plants.

- **PCC:** Add the term “international”, keeping in mind the existence of economic integration organisations that could be interested in adopting this legislation and policies.
Add the term “backing” in the broadest sense, and for that reason it was also proposed that the word “technical” be added.
A problem was pointed out: Conservation aims embodied in natural wildlife legislation may in cases be impeded by other laws with conflicting or different goals, resulting in insufficient social and economic incentives to meet overall conservation objectives.

PC PROPOSAL:

Objective 1.1

*To assist in the development of appropriate national **and international** legislation and policies that encourage the adoption and implementation of social, **technical** and economic **backing** and incentives allied to legal instruments that promote and regulate sustainable management of and trade in wild animals and plants.*

Objective 1.2

To strengthen the administrative, management and scientific capacity of Parties by improving the co-ordination of management and scientific authorities with other national agencies responsible for wild animals and plants.

- **PCC:** It was proposed that the objective be rewritten in order to emphasise that the management and scientific authorities should above all collaborate amongst themselves and with other organisations.

PC PROPOSAL:

Objective 1.2

*To strengthen the administrative, management and scientific capacity of Parties by improving the co-ordination **between** management and scientific authorities **and at the same time** with other national agencies responsible for wild animals and plants.*

Objective 1.3

To encourage Parties to strengthen their enforcement capacity and improve co-ordination among management authorities, other agencies (e.g. police, customs and quarantine), and the judiciary.

- **PCC:** Crossed references should be avoided, as is the case with objectives 1.3 and 2.5, so that there will not be any duplications.

Objective 1.4

To facilitate development of appropriate technologies and information management systems to enhance the collection and exchange of information, including databases in regard to species and trade, as well as information in regard to CITES decisions and procedures, etc.

Objective 1.5

To use the organisations specialising in supporting the Convention to assist the Secretariat and Parties in building national capacities and to facilitate improved access to and management of databases.

- **PCC:** It was agreed that “to use the organisations specialising in supporting the Convention to assist the Secretariat and Parties in building national capacities and to facilitate improved access to and management of databases” is not an objective in and of itself, but rather a step taken to reach an objective. Therefore, an alternative text is proposed for the entire objective.

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 1.5

Improve access to available information, as well as the creation of a database in those countries that do not already have a database.

Objective 1.6

To ensure that all parties have at least one designated Scientific Authority.

- **PCC:** In order to strengthen the capacity of each Party, an efficient Scientific Authority should be appointed and be able to work with the different groups within CITES. For this reason, it is important to include the term “scientific experts in flora and fauna”. To move to 1.2

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 1.6

*To ensure that all parties have at least one designated Scientific Authority **with experts in flora and fauna.***

Objective 1.7

To increase the effectiveness of the Scientific Authorities of the Parties.

Objective 1.8

To encourage Parties to develop and implement effective conservation plans for the recovery of species, leading to their ultimate deletion from the appendices.

- **PCC:** It was recommended that the term “management programs” be added since this accomplishes the main objective which is to maintain each species at a sustainable level. It was also recommended that objective 1.8 be deleted and added to objective 2.4.

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 1.8

*To encourage Parties to develop and implement effective conservation plans **and management programs** for the recovery of species, leading to their ultimate deletion from the appendices.*

Objective 1.9

To encourage the proper funding for CITES implementation and enforcement by Parties, including the adoption of national mechanisms that have resource users make a greater contribution to such funding.

- **PCC:** It was recommended that this objective be transferred to Goal 7 since it was agreed that its contents are of an economic nature.

Objective 1.10

To fully use the potential of regional co-ordination and collaboration in capacity building efforts.

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 needs of species.

- **PCC:** It was recommended that the term "management" be added since this accomplishes the main objective which is to maintain each species at a sustainable level. It was suggested that this objective be fused with objective 2.2.

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 2.1

*To ensure that the Convention's appendices correctly reflect **management and** the conservation needs of species.*

Objective 2.2

To ensure that decisions to amend the Convention's appendices are founded on sound and relevant scientific information that addresses agreed biological and trade criteria for such amendments.

Objective 2.3

To improve the scientific basis by which Scientific Authorities make non-detrimental findings.

- **PCC:** The following text was recommended for the Spanish version and will not affect the versions in other languages. Non detrimental findings = dictámenes de las autoridades científicas sobre las extracciones no perjudiciales del medio silvestre.

Objective 2.4

To encourage, guide and assist Parties to implement effective procedures for the recovery, conservation and management of species in the Convention's appendices.

- **PCC:** It was proposed that this objective be fused with objective 1.8 and the following text. It was pointed out the need to craft this wording so that it doesn't suggest that a listing is all bad.

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 2.4

*To encourage, guide and assist Parties and **at regional level** to **develop and implement** effective procedures for the recovery, conservation and management of species in the Convention's appendices **leading to their ultimate deletion from the Appendices.***

Objective 2.5

To encourage further research, including research into innovative technologies relevant to CITES implementation and enforcement.

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 2.5

*To encourage **at national and regional level** further research, including research into innovative technologies relevant to CITES implementation and enforcement.*

Objective 2.6

To encourage that the above objectives, and those under 2.4 and 2.5 in particular, are pursued where appropriate at the regional level.

- **PCC:** It was agreed that this objective be deleted as it is redundant and it could be resolved in the following manner: to add the mention "**at regional level**" in objectives 2.4 and 2.5.

Goal 3: CONTRIBUTE TO THE ELIMINATION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS

- **PCC:** It was proposed that it would be better to tone down the title of this goal since it refers to something that is impossible to accomplish. If in a few years time, the Strategic Plan is evaluated, it will be more positive to have contributed to the elimination of illegal international trade than to not have accomplished its complete elimination. It is necessary to increase the awareness of the existence of plants, and the existence of illegal trade in plants. For this reason, it was recommended the insertion of two new objectives (3.5 and 3.6) relating to awareness raising.

Objective 3.1

To promote a high degree of co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration among national and international law enforcement agencies.

- **PCC:** Keep in mind its possible relation with objective 1.3

Objective 3.2

To stimulate bilateral, regional and global efforts to combat illegal international trade in wild animals and plants.

Objective 3.3

To encourage the development of effective regional co-operative efforts, particularly among countries with common borders.

Objective 3.4

To encourage mutual technical assistance in enforcement matters.

- **PCC:** It is related to objective 2.5.

PC PROPOSAL: New!: *Objective 3.5*

To improve awareness within enforcement agencies of illegal trade in CITES plant issues.

PC PROPOSAL: New!: *Objective 3.6*

To facilitate enforcement tasks by creating identification materials for CITES-listed plant species.

Goal 4: TO PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONVENTION

Objective 4.1

To strengthen partnership with national and international NGOs.

- **PCC:** It was recommended that all objectives be rewritten following the same guidelines for the groups or organisations mentioned. In other words, the text should read “to improve communication and collaboration”.

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 4.1

To improve communication and collaboration with national and international NGOs.

Objective 4.2

To strengthen alliance with relevant local communities, consumer groups, traders and trade associations.

- **PCC:** Same comment as that for objective 4.1. It was also considered advisable to use a broader term than trader, at least in Spanish version, substituting it with “empresarios” y “organizaciones empresariales”.

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 4.2

To improve communication and collaboration with relevant local communities, consumer groups, traders and trade associations.

Objective 4.3

To promote greater awareness by and co-operation with the scientific community.

- **PCC:** Same comment as that for objective 4.1. It was also proposed to stress the need to reach an optimal relation with the scientific community

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 4.3

To improve communication and collaboration with the scientific community in order to get a greater interchange of information and co-operation.

Objective 4.4

To stimulate production and dissemination of informative materials to a broad public at a local, national, and regional level by using culturally relevant examples.

Objective 4.5

- **PCC:** Add an additional objective to improve communication and collaboration with the media.

PC PROPOSAL: New!: Objective 4.5

To improve communication and collaboration with the media.

Goal 5: INCREASE CO-OPERATION AND CONCLUDE STRATEGIC ALLIANCES WITH INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

- **PCC:** The proposed translation for the English word “stakeholders” is “organismos afines” in Spanish

Objective 5.1

To ensure an optimal working relationship with UNEP, as well as close co-ordination and synergy with the CBD and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

Objective 5.2

To ensure close co-operation and co-ordination with other related Conventions, Agreements and associations (e.g. IWC, ITTO, IATA.)

- **PCC:** Remove “e.g.” and add “and others” since it should not be limited to such specific examples.

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 5.2

To ensure close co-operation and co-ordination with other related Conventions, Agreements and associations (IWC, ITTO, IATA and others).

Objective 5.3

To ensure the co-ordination of scientific and technical programmes, and the efficient distribution of responsibilities with relevant technical partners (e.g. IUCN, WCMC, and TRAFFIC.)

- **PCC:** Remove “e.g.” and add “and others” since it should not be limited to such specific examples. It cannot be taken for granted beforehand that a contractual relationship exists because in some cases this is not necessary. In the Spanish translation change “asociados técnicos” for “asociaciones técnicas relevantes”. It needs clarification, especially on “and the efficient distribution of responsibilities with relevant technical partners.” (does it mean there are redundancies, overlaps? Is the existing distribution inefficient?. If so in what way?)

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 5.3

To ensure the co-ordination of scientific and technical programmes, and the efficient distribution of responsibilities with relevant technical partners (IUCN, WCMC, TRAFFIC and others.)

Objective 5.4

To ensure the continued recognition, acceptance and compatibility of CITES measures with provisions of GATT and WTO.

- **PCC:** This objective be at least rephrased, and possibly deleted. There was some confusion in the working group about the intended meaning. As it stands, it may be read as implying that CITES should change to be compatible with GATT, rather than vice versa. It may also imply there are inconsistencies where the general view seems to be there are not in practice. Working group tended to prefer wording along the lines of ‘close co-operation and co-ordination’, as in objective 5.2. If there is no need for a specific objective on WTO, ‘WTO and GATT’ should be added to brackets in Obj. 5.2. Working group acknowledges there may be a special reason for retaining this as a separate objective.

Goal 6: PROGRESS TOWARD FULL GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP

Objective 6.1

To secure at least 20 more Parties to the Convention by 2005 with a special focus on range countries of species subject to significant trade and important consumer countries of wild plants and animals, as well as countries located in regions with relatively low representation.

Objective 6.2

To encourage ratification of the 1983 Amendment to Article XXI of the Convention and the subsequent accession by eligible regional economic integration organisations.

Goal 7: PROVIDE THE CONVENTION WITH AN IMPROVED AND SECURE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BASIS

Objective 7.1

To resolve the problems caused by late and inadequate contributions to the CITES Trust Fund.

Objective 7.2

To ensure that the decisions of the Conference of the Parties take full account of financial implications for the CITES Trust Fund.

Objective 7.3

To seek funding of the Convention’s priorities from GEF.

- **PCC:** It was proposed to add “and others” in order to increase the possibilities of obtaining funds and to add “in support of the Parties” since the funds should not only be applied to the priority measures, but also to supporting the Parties in order that they may set up and develop priority measures.

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 7.3

To seek funding of the Convention's priorities and in support of the Parties from GEF and others.

Objective 7.4

To encourage additional voluntary contributions and to seek new ways of securing financial assistance from the donor community.

Objective 7.5

To encourage the exploration of new funding mechanisms that include financing programs with income generated from resource users.

Objective 7.6

To increase the level of realistic planning and forecasting, and to improve financial and implementation reporting.

Objective 7.7

To review and simplify, where possible, existing measures, procedures, mechanisms, and recommendations for the implementation of the Convention.

Objective 7.8

To ensure that the three working languages are treated equally in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and permanent committees.

- **PCC:** Correction of the Spanish translation: "Comité Permanente" is the Standing Committee. Although it is understood that "committees" is in the plural, the text would be clearer if the three committees were cited using their full names.

PC PROPOSAL: Objective 7.8

To ensure that the three working languages are treated equally in meetings of the Conference of the Parties, Standing Committee, Plants Committee and Animals Committee.

PC PROPOSAL: New!: Objective 7.9

To promote the adoption of support mechanisms to finance population studies and projects for the recovery of species in their countries of origin

