

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

Fifty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Bangkok (Thailand), 1 October 2004

Strategic and administrative matters

Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

REPORT OF UNEP

The attached report has been submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme.

UNEP REPORT (UPDATE) TO THE 51st MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

1. In line with paragraph 16 of the Agreement between the CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP of 20 June 1997, UNEP submits an annual report on its provision of - and support to - the secretariat, including implementation of the Agreement and the administration of the secretariat for consideration at each meeting of the Standing Committee and meetings of the Conferences of the Parties. A report (SC50, Doc 34) was submitted to the 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee held in March 2004. This document provides an update.

A. UNEP SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT TO THE CONVENTION

2. UNEP continues to deploy its technical and scientific expertise to facilitate the effective implementation of CITES and the other UNEP-administered global and regional environmental conventions.

Harmonisation of National Reporting

3. Following the completion of the 4 country-based pilot projects financed by UNEP with a donation from UK), a draft summary report entitled Harmonization of Information Management and Reporting for Biodiversity-related Treaties was published by UNEP-WCMC in February 2004 and is available on their website (www.unep-wcmc.org).
4. The draft report summarizes the outcome of the 4 pilots; makes recommendations for follow-up at international level; and sets out guidelines for national level harmonization of reporting and related work.
5. Eight Conventions and International Programmes (CCD, CITES, CBD, IWC, Ramsar, WHC, Cartagena-SPAW and MAB) were covered by one or more of the pilots. CITES was included in all the pilots and CBD in three of them.

The pilot reports as a whole demonstrated that:

- (a) the 'modular' approach to harmonized reporting is practical and should be replicable in both developed and developing countries;
- (b) as well as facilitating more collaborative working between conventions focal points at national level, efficient application of harmonized reporting should also release scarce resources for other conservation-related activities;
- (c) further progress in realizing the benefits of harmonized reporting depends on synchronization of reporting cycles and the development of reporting formats to facilitate the modular approach.

6. The draft report was considered at the Expert Workshop Promoting CITES-CBD co-operation and synergy held at Vilm, Germany on 20-24 April 2004 (see below and in SC50, 34 para.14). The workshop proposed that:
 - (i) As the next meeting due in the conference cycle, the 13th COP of CITES should be asked to give a clear mandate to allow Parties to meet their biennial reporting obligations under a harmonized format to be agreed with the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions.
 - (ii) Successive COPs of CBD and the other biodiversity-related conventions should be asked to meet their reporting obligations under a harmonized format.
 - (iii) UNEP should continue to convene and facilitate the process and seek further endorsement for this by governments at the next UNEP Governing Council in February 2005.
 - (iv) UNEP should convene a follow-up workshop to consider the outcomes of the four pilot studies and refine the guidelines for the parties.
 - (v) One or more developed and further developing countries should also conduct pilot studies of harmonized reporting with effect from January 2005, taking into account the results of the follow-up workshop.
7. The Standing Committee is invited to consider how this issue can be addressed effectively during and after COP13, including the recommendation (i) above on biennial reporting obligation.
8. A follow-up workshop as recommended at (iv) above will be held in Belgium on 22-23 September 2004, funded by a donation from the Belgian authorities. UNEP hopes that CITES and the other MEAs will participate in the workshop.

GRASP report to CITES Standing Committee

9. Since March 2004, the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) has been active on a number of fronts.
 - GRASP has responded to the destruction of forest in the Virunga Volcanoes transboundary conservation area bordering DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, which began in May 2004. The UNEP Executive Director wrote to the environment ministers of DRC and Rwanda urging them to intervene to stop the destruction. The level of international pressure was sufficient to succeed in getting the settlers and their crops removed from the park. UNEP has provided USD 50,000 to facilitate building a stone wall around the affected area to clearly demarcate the park boundary and prevent further incursions.
 - UNESCO has scheduled a major international donors' conference for 16-17 September on promoting and preserving Congolese heritage. It is to be attended by the President of DRC, Mr. Joseph Kabila. A special technical workshop on GRASP (in the DRC) is scheduled for 14 September. It will include a session on "Great Apes and bush meat trade: situation analysis and need for better regional cooperation strategy", presented by Dr Bihini, IUCN Central African Office, and Coordinator of the Bush Meat Working Group.

- Following the huge publicity generated by the GRASP preparatory experts meeting in Paris, November 2003, *Cite des Sciences*, a Paris based scientific exhibition center, will hold a great apes exhibition at Villette Cite' des Sciences using GRASP materials and information on 9th November 2004. The exhibition will feature the latest figures and maps concerning the distribution of the great apes, great ape art objects and interviews with great ape experts, including Jane Goodall and Richard Leakey, both GRASP patrons.
- The first meeting on the GRASP Interim Executive Committee was convened on 12 March. It is chaired by Uganda, and includes representatives from DRC, Indonesia, UK, the CITES Secretariat, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Orangutan Foundation. The second meeting is scheduled for 2 September. It will consider a host of applications to join the GRASP partnership and the timing and location of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes in 2005.
- A fund-raising dinner in support of GRASP was hosted by the UK Minister, Elliot Morley and UNEP's Executive Director on 24 May at the Zoological Society of London. Richard Leakey, a GRASP patron gave the keynote address.
- The report and documents arising from the Preparatory Expert's meeting on Great Apes and GRASP are available on the GRASP website at www.unep.org/grasp
- The third edition of the GRASP newsletter was released in May 04 and is available on the GRASP website.
- UNEP and UNESCO have agreed on the operation of a joint secretariat for GRASP.

Expert Workshop Promoting CITES -CBD Cooperation and Synergy

10. UNEP, together with the Geneva Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, GTZ and DEFRA (UK) financed this workshop held on 21-24 April 2004.
11. A paper for the substantive agenda of COP 13 including recommendations to Parties and the final report of the workshop has already been submitted by Ireland on behalf of the European Community. UNEP believes the workshop was a "ground-breaking" event. There is a good basis for joint working between CITES and CBD at national as well as secretariat levels.

Strengthening the Scientific Base of UNEP

12. An Intergovernmental Consultation on Strengthening the Scientific Base of the United Nations Environment Programme was held in Nairobi on 14 – 15 January 2004. Convention Secretariats, including CITES, were invited as observers to this meeting. UNEP also took advantage of intergovernmental consultation to organize and two day meeting with leading scientific and technical experts which took place on 12 – 13 January 2004, as well as an informal inter-agency meeting that took place on 16 January 2004, and in which CITES participated.
13. The conclusions and recommendations from the intergovernmental consultations and a summary report from the scientific and technical meeting were considered by the 8th special session of Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Jeju, on 29 – 31 March 2004.

14. Key recommendations relevant to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) include:

- Strengthen existing mechanisms and cooperation with other assessments, MEAs, IGOs, science community and other partners.
- Set assessment priorities within the context of MDGs and WSSD in the form of coherent environmental assessment partnership framework.
- The need for a scientifically based focused assessment of inter-linkages in cooperation with the MEAs and others. It was considered highly desirable to map the current assessment landscape, including interlinkages, as a basis for improved understanding of current activities and improved coordination. Strengthen cooperation and support to national, sub-regional, regional institutions and initiatives for assessment and early warning.
- Cost-effectiveness, cooperation and strengthening of existing institutions and multilateral environmental agreements must be improved.

All documents and the meeting reports can be found on: <http://science.unep.org>

UNEP-WCMC Services to CITES

15. UNEP-WCMC has had a close working relation with CITES. WCMC provided information services to CITES which includes management of the CITES trade databases (now available on line), and development of reports based on analysis of reported trade and the biennial reports.

Support provided to CITES include:

16. Meetings

Participation in the following meetings:

- 13th and 14th CITES Plants Committee Meetings in Geneva and Namibia, respectively.
- 19th and 20th CITES Plants Committee Meetings in Geneva and South Africa, respectively.
- CITES Nomenclature Committee Meeting (Animals) on 19 and 20 August 2003 in Geneva.
- 50th CITES Standing Committee Meeting in Geneva.

17. Printed Materials, reports and documents

Checklist of CITES Species. Inskipp T., & Gillett, H. J. (Eds) 2003. CITES Secretariat/ UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. ISBN 1 899628 23 1.

18. Also produced were the following documents and reports: *Review of Significant Trade: Analysis of trade trends with notes on the conservation status of selected species. Volume 1 and II.*

- *Review of Significant Trade: Analysis of trade trends with notes on the conservation status of selected species. Volume 2. Animals.*
- *A review of Nomenclatural Status of CITES Species produced for the CITES Nomenclature Meeting (Animals), 19 and 20 August 2003 in Geneva.*
- *A review of Nomenclatural Status of CITES Species produced for the CITES Nomenclature Meeting (Animals), March/April 2004, South Africa.*
- *Contributed towards the production of CITES Plants Committee document.*

- Contributed towards the production of CITES Animals Committee document.
- Thorough feedback was also provided in the preparation of the CITES Nomenclature Report for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

19. Preparations for the production of the CITES Global Analysis have continued in this period. A sample of the analysis to be contained in the book is being produced for distribution, to obtain feedback and support fundraising activities.

20. Technical information and support

- CITES Trade database continues to be maintained by UNEP-WCMC, on behalf of the CITES Secretariat, with a total of 908 059 trade records entered between December 2002 and June 2004. The total number of records in the CITES Trade Database currently stands at 5 780 643.
- The CITES Trade database moved onto the Oracle platform, and is now available on-line from the UNEP-WCMC and CITES websites. Users can query the database and download CITES trade data.
- UNEP-WCMC also manages the CITES Species database and this output is delivered via the CITES website.

21. Other services

- Participation in the Periodic Review of the Appendices Working Group.
- Participation in the Reporting Obligations Working Group.
- Assistance has also been given to the following CITES Parties:

Country	Description of service
Austria	Provision of species data for the development of a system on transport requirements
Brazil	Provision of a complete list of CITES species for inclusion in their CITES database system
Fiji	Assistance with 2000, 2001 and 2002 Annual Report compilation and provision of comments on format and content. In discussions with TRAFFIC Oceania South Pacific Office in Fiji about possible assistance. Provision of CITES species lists for Fiji in Excel format.
France	Provision of a complete list of CITES species
Japan	Continued discussions with Japan on how best UNEP-WCMC could assist Japan with their information management needs and annual reporting problems
Mexico	Provision of a complete list of CITES species and a list of CITES species known to occur in Mexico
South Africa	Provision of a complete list of CITES species for their national system
United Arab Emirates	Provision of CITES species lists and CITES Trade data.
United Kingdom	Ongoing discussions about their data needs and how best UNEP-WCMC could assist with these

Country	Description of service
Vanuatu	Assistance with Annual Report compilation and provision of a report of exports from Vanuatu as reported by other Parties, and also reports of exports to Vanuatu from other CITES Parties. Provision of CITES species lists for Vanuatu in Access format.

Coral Reefs

22. The UNEP Coral Reef Unit (CRU) leads and co-ordinates the UNEP (and UN) support for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems as part of the sustainable development of people and communities who depend on them. Working with partners within the framework of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and ICRI's operational networks, CRU facilitates the implementation of existing and the development of new coral reef policies, including those which relate to and would need the support of CITES and CITES Contracting Parties.
23. UNEP published in June 2004 a report on cold-water corals, which include precious corals (*Corallium* spp.) and several other species listed under CITES. For the first time, this report provides a comprehensive compilation of information and data from around the world on the distribution, state and threats to cold-water coral reefs, which are comparable in size, structure and function to their warm-water counterparts. UNEP is looking forward to close cooperation with CITES and CITES Contracting Parties in the implementation of the report's recommendations. Information leaflets are available from the UNEP Delegation and the full report can be downloaded from http://www.unep-wcmc.org/press/cold_water_coral_reefs.

24. 10th Meeting of the MEA Secretariats

The tenth Meeting of the MEA Secretariats was held on 8-9 March 2004 in Nairobi. This meeting was attended by the Executive Secretaries of all the UNEP-administered conventions (including CITES) as well as those of the CCD and Ramsar conventions. Following issues were discussed:

(a) Systematic contact between UNEP and secretariats of the MEAs.

Annual or biannual meetings between UNEP and the MEA Secretariats could be organized to coincide with the preparation of UNEP's work programme. These could, preferably be held back to back with the meetings of the Environment Management Group to promote synergies with the intergovernmental organizations represented there. This could be complemented with bilateral meetings with the MEA Secretariats.

(b) Focus areas for UNEP

- UNEP should focus on areas where it has comparative advantages in terms of human and financial resources such as transboundary issues, capacity building and institution building at the national level, work on compliance and enforcement at the regional and national level, trade and the environment, outreach and public awareness and identification of joint programmes of work.

(c) UNEP could provide political support to the MEAs by:

Facilitating communication between the environment and other related areas, improving public participation and access, preparing a research data base on gaps and emerging issues, examining potential conflicts between multilateral environmental agreements and presenting linkages between the agendas of international meetings, such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and multilateral environmental agreements.

d) UNEP could provide practical support through the establishment of an interdivisional task force within UNEP to co-ordinate and enhance activities in support of the MEAs and by providing an assessment of decisions of previous MEA meetings that had called for UNEP action, to identify progress on their implementation and also the successes and failures

(e) Strengthening the Regional Delivery through:

- Capacity-building and training, national level coordination and implementation of the environmental component of sustainable development frameworks at ministerial level; Follow-up of the decisions taken by the Parties, assistance in development of subregional and regional collaboration mechanisms through subregional and regional ministerial forums and Use of regional workshops on MEAs (as in the Regional Office for Europe) with the participation of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, politicians, experts and other stakeholders

(f) Improve coherence among MEAs through:

Ensuring that experiences gained in one multilateral environmental agreement could be passed on to others Convention secretariats should make case studies available to each other and to UNEP.

(g) Development of Issue-based Modules to support the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related Conventions

The main idea of the project would be to assist countries initially in Africa implementing the MEAs, which they are Party to, in a coherent way by providing them with structured information on crosscutting topics. This would be done through the development of specific products in the form of **issue-based modules** on those crosscutting topics.

The project aims at developing a system that could be applied to any crosscutting topic of any combination of MEAs. However, as the biodiversity MEAs (Ramsar, CITES and CBD) have clearly showed interest in this approach and as biodiversity is one of the priority topics of WSSD and CSD, this project would in first instance focus on crosscutting issues among biodiversity related conventions. However, in order to improve the implementation of all biodiversity commitments and maintain the political momentum for biodiversity protection high, this would include not only the traditional biodiversity conventions but also other processes such as CSD, UNCCD and UNFCCC, when relevant to the topics chosen.

The Lusaka Agreement on Co-Operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka Agreement)

26. Since the last Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement which was held in July 2003, UNEP as requested by one of its decisions undertook a review and evaluation of the work of the Lusaka Agreement since its adoption (September 1994 to date). The draft review report is ready. It is currently being reviewed internally and thereafter it will be peer reviewed and revised before it is submitted to a regional stakeholder workshop comprising the Parties to the Agreement, other invitees to review and make their comments before it is submitted for

consideration, possibly to the next Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement planned for the end of 2004 or early 2005.

27. The review proposes mechanisms for effective implementation of the Lusaka Agreement including financial implications of the Agreement. It critically analyzes and assesses the achievements and problems or challenges facing the implementation of the Agreement, both at national level with national Bureaus, at regional level with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), and at international level in relation with relevant organizations.

UNEP guidelines on enforcement and compliance with MEAs

28. The draft UNEP Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs is currently being revised taking into account useful comments and recommendations received from the five regional workshops held so far and is expected to be finalized by the end of September 2004. The draft will be translated into French, Spanish and Arabic to enable us to test that Manual in the remaining three Regional workshops for Latin American countries, French speaking African countries and Arabic speaking countries either later towards the end 2004 or the first quarter next year.

B: UNON ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THE CONVENTION

CITES administrative issues

29. UNEP/UNON have continued to work closely with the CITES Secretariat in the provision of administrative services to the Secretariat. The following actions have been taken:

Personnel Issues

30. Two translator's posts were reclassified from P-3 to P-4 level before SC 50; they have been advertised but the process is yet to be completed.
31. The Executive Director approved the appointment of Mr. Liu Yuan against the post of Information Network Officer with the effective date of 19 April 2004

Accounting and Financial Management Services

There continues to be good co-operation and consultation between the Secretariat's administrative staff and their counterparts in UNON in this area. The Secretariat and/or UNON prepare all financial reports in consultation with each other.

Relationship between UNEP and its administered MEAs & Review of the Agreement between the CITES Standing Committee and UNEP

UNEP's response to the proposed changes in the agreement with the CITES Standing Committee is at an advanced stage, and will be presented separately to the 51st Meeting of the Standing Committee.

Doc: UNEP Report to the 51st CITES Standing Committee
16 August 2004