

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Strategic matters

CITES AND LIVELIHOODS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with Peru and UNEP-WCMC
2. At its 57th meeting (SC57, Geneva, July 2008), the Standing Committee agreed on the creation of a Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods to implement Decisions 14.3 and 14.4 adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14, The Hague, 2007).
3. Decision 14.3 states that:

The Standing Committee shall, subject to the availability of external funding, and requesting the assistance of organizations including the IUCN Species Survival Commission, initiate and supervise a process to develop, by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

- a) *tools for voluntary use by the Parties for the rapid assessment at the national level of the positive and negative impacts of implementing CITES listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor, in conformity with Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13); and*
- b) *draft voluntary guidelines for Parties to address these impacts, particularly in developing countries. The guidelines should, where possible, assist Parties to develop local, national and regional initiatives that take account of the impacts of implementing CITES listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor. This process may benefit from taking account of the deliberations and recommendations of the CITES and Livelihoods Workshop (5-7 September 2006) and should draw on the technical contributions of Parties, the Secretariat, non-governmental organizations and other national and international agencies, such as IUCN – The World Conservation Union.*

For further clarification, the process shall not include consideration of the criteria for amendment of the Appendices or the requirement to make non-detriment findings.

4. Decision 14.4 states that:

The Secretariat shall seek external funds to enable the Standing Committee to initiate and develop the process described in Decision 14.3.
5. At SC57, the committee defined initial terms of reference for the Working Group and its composition. Peru was designated as chair. The Working Group was asked to finalize its work in time for consideration at the present meeting.
6. The members of the working group are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, India, Israel, Mali, Nicaragua, South Africa, Suriname and Zimbabwe, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, IUCN, Conservation Force, FAN Bolivia, Humane Society International, IFAW, Safari Club International, SSN, TRAFFIC and WWF and the CITES Secretariat.

7. The work of the group started immediately after SC57. With the assistance of the Secretariat and in consultation with members of the Working Group, the Chair finalized terms of reference of the Working Group and started drafting terms of reference for the consultant who would prepare the toolkit and guidelines referred to in Decision 14.3.
8. A provisional time-frame was agreed to ensure that documents would be ready before SC58. However, some delay was experienced after the initial chair left her position owing to major institutional reforms in Peru. During a transition period of five months, the chairmanship of the Working Group was vacant and communications were interrupted. As a result, there was a need to revise the entire time-frame and it has not been possible to submit any draft documents at the present meeting.
9. In March 2009, Peru appointed a new chair and work resumed thanks to her diligence as well as the generous financial contribution of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (GBP 15,000), European Commission (USD 10,000) and the Safari Club International (USD 25,000).
10. UNEP-WCMC was hired as the consultant to develop two background papers regarding the information requested in paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 14.3 for consideration by the Working Group. This consultancy shall take effect from 4 May to 31 October 2009. The two documents are expected to be ready by the end of October 2009. UNEP-WCMC will provide an oral report on the progress made in the development of the two drafts at the present meeting.
11. The Secretariat has created a forum on CITES and Livelihoods on our website which is open to the members of the Working Group, members of the Standing Committee and other interested Parties to facilitate consultations and exchange of information. The terms of reference for the Working Group and the consultancy are available on the forum.

Recommendation

12. The Standing Committee is invited to review and provide input, by electronic or other means, on the two draft documents when these are posted on the forum. The Chair of the Working Group could thereafter submit both final documents on behalf of the Standing Committee, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting.