

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Strategic matters

Cooperation with other organizations

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM
ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)

1. This document has been prepared by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat.
2. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 15.12 as follows:

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat

Without taking a position about the necessity for, or nature of, such a Platform, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, participate in discussions concerning a possible IPBES, to provide all necessary input into the process of IPBES and to ensure that the role of CITES receives due recognition. The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee to seek additional guidance.

3. Further to this Decision, the interim Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees attended the "Third Ad Hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on An Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 12 June 2010. This participation was funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Spain respectively.
4. The report and the recommendations of this meeting are included in the Annex of the present document.
5. This outcome was welcomed at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, October 2010), where the CBD Parties adopted a decision encouraging the United Nations General Assembly at its 65th session to consider the establishment of the intergovernmental science-policy platform at the earliest opportunity.
6. On 20 December 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution which requested UNEP, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for IPBES and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, to convene a plenary meeting of IPBES to determine its modalities and institutional arrangements, in order to fully operationalize it.
7. UNEP discussed this matter at the 26th Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Nairobi, 21-25 February 2011) on the basis of document UNEP/GC.26/6 available on this page: <http://www.unep.org/gc/gc26/working-docs.asp>. It adopted Decision GC26/4, which, *inter alia*, requests the Executive Director of UNEP, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, to convene a first plenary meeting of IPBES in 2011 and to continue to facilitate any ensuing process to implement the platform until such time as a secretariat is established.
8. UNEP subsequently proposed that two plenary sessions of IPBES be organized to determine the operational modalities and institutional arrangements for the Platform. A first session provisionally scheduled for 3-7 October 2011 may consider the draft principles and procedures governing the work of

IPBES, its governance structure, the process for nomination and election of officers and the nomination and selection of one or more host institution(s) and a host country for the Platform. A second session planned for early 2012 might then be in a position to determine these modalities and institutional arrangements and also consider the detailed draft work programme.

9. The Plants Committee discussed developments concerning IPBES at its 19th meeting (Geneva, April 2011) and the Animals Committee is scheduled to do so at its 25th meeting (Geneva, July 2011). An oral report on their deliberations will be provided at the present meeting.
10. The Standing Committee is requested to note the developments detailed in the present document. At its 25th meeting (Geneva, July 2011), after discussing the subject of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Animals Committee adopted the conclusions contained in the Annex to the present document.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE 25TH MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE*

1. Considering that IPBES has held three consultative meetings and that, in December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to request the Governing Council of UNEP to convene a plenary meeting of IPBES, and that the Governing Council has determined that the first plenary meeting will take place in Nairobi in October 2011 to take important decisions on the structure, scope and functioning of IPBES.
2. Noting that Decision 15.12 and 15.13 (below) directed the Animals & Plants Committees and the Secretariat to provide input into the process of the development of IPBES in order that the Standing Committee can report to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as required by Decision 15.16, as follows:

15.12 Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat

Without taking a position about the necessity for, or nature of, such a Platform, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, participate in discussions concerning a possible IPBES, to provide all necessary input into the process of IPBES and to ensure that the role of CITES receives due recognition. The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee to seek additional guidance.

15.13 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall work with the United Nations Environment Programme to identify possible sources of external funding to support the participation called for in Decision 15.12

15.14 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall report at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the IPBES

3. The outcome of the process involved in Decision 15.12, was discussed at the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee. As this Decision is now largely discharged, this paper now seeks the additional guidance from the Standing Committee as required by Decision 15.12.
4. The Committees, noting the outcome of the 3rd Ad Hoc Inter-governmental and Multi-stakeholder meeting on IPBES in Busan (June 2010), recommend that the Standing Committee **instruct** the CITES scientific committees, through their chairs, and the Secretariat to continue their engagement with IPBES and **request** the Secretariat to continue to seek funds to enable this continued participation.
5. The Committees **recommend** that the Standing Committee endorse the following points to guide the engagement of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Secretariat and the Parties, in their engagement with IPBES.
 - a) The Chairs of the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee and the Secretariat should participate in the IPBES plenary meetings, subject to the availability of financial resources, to ensure that CITES is properly represented; their terms of Reference should be determined by the Standing Committee
 - b) IPBES should support and establish a regular process for seeking the views and understanding the needs of biodiversity-related Conventions and Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

- c) IPBES should support access to reliable existing knowledge and generate knowledge on, and facilitate regular assessments of, the conservation and sustainable use of key species in ecosystems, including their economic valuation; IPBES should not duplicate the work of existing MEAS.
 - d) IPBES should provide particular support to the Scientific Authorities to the Parties to CITES. This could involve:
 - i) Improving access to knowledge to enable the CITES bodies and Parties to fulfil their functions more effectively, especially in the making of non-detriment findings and in the review of significant trade.
 - ii) Documenting best practice in the use of science in biodiversity conservation and in ensuring the continued provision of ecosystem services.
 - iii) Providing capacity building support to CITES Scientific Authorities from developing countries, upon request, to help them fulfil their specific obligations under CITES. This would both build capacity to carry out applied science and assist in meeting obligations under the Convention.
 - iv) In addressing the science-policy interface from both sides, IPBES should ensure that decision makers and policy makers, such as CITES Management Authorities, benefit from capacity building support on how to obtain, interpret and use scientific advice in the taking of decisions and the adoption of policy measures.
6. Management Authorities of Parties are encouraged to coordinate and enhance information exchange with their competent national authorities for IPBES.