

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

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

Strategic matters

CITES AND LIVELIHOODS

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods (Peru) in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted three Decisions on livelihoods. Decisions 15.5 and 15.6 were directed to the Standing Committee and Decision 15.7 was directed to the Secretariat.
3. Decision 15.5 states that:

*The Standing Committee shall continue the operation of its Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods so that it can:*

- a) *revise the draft resolution contained in Annex 1 to document CoP15 Doc. 14 and make specific recommendations at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*
- b) *finalize the toolkit 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);*
- c) *finalize the voluntary guidelines for Parties to address the negative impacts, in order to assist Parties in developing local, national and regional initiatives that take account of the impacts of implementing CITES listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor; and*
- d) *prepare a final version of the tools and guidelines for review and endorsement by the Standing Committee at its 62nd meeting.*

*The Working Group shall continue to work electronically through a forum available on the CITES website. If funding is available, consideration may be given to holding one or more meetings, if possible in regions more likely to be affected by the outcome.*

*The process shall not include consideration of the criteria for amendment of the Appendices or the requirement to make non-detriment findings.*

4. Decision 15.6 states that:

*The Standing Committee shall present a report at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made with regard to the implementation of Decision 15.5.*

5. Decision 15.7 states that:

*On completion of the draft guidelines and toolkit by the Working Group, the Secretariat shall make the draft documents available on its website for comments by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations, and shall invite such comments via a Notification to the Parties. The comments shall be made available to the Working Group for consideration in the development of revised draft documents to be submitted for approval at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee.*

Composition of the Working Group

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, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Conservation Force, FAN Bolivia, Humane Society International, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Safari Club International, the Species Survival Network (SSN), TRAFFIC, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the CITES Secretariat.
7. In light of recent meetings on bushmeat and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) which are relevant to the issue of CITES and livelihoods (see paragraphs 12 and 14 below), the Standing Committee may wish expand the membership of the Working Group to include Parties and organizations concerned with bushmeat and CBNRM issues. These might include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), regional organizations such as the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), and development cooperation agencies. The Chair of the Working Group considers it essential to ensure wider participation from mega-biodiversity countries as well as the provision of relevant case studies from those countries.

Draft toolkit and guidelines

8. Draft tools for rapidly assessing the impact of CITES listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor and guidelines for addressing such impacts were provided to the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (Doha, March 2010). It was thereafter envisaged, under Decision 15.7, that the Working Group would submit revised draft tools and guidelines for approval at the present meeting, but the Group has not yet been able to complete this work.
9. The Chair and the Secretariat determined through earlier consultations that a regional meeting should be convened to discuss and revise the draft tools and guidelines. Efforts were therefore focused on identifying funds for this purpose. At the time of writing (June 2011), the Secretariat had identified EUR 30,000 (generously provided by the European Commission for implementation of CoP15 decisions) for organization of one of the meetings envisaged under Decision 15.5 but had not yet been able to identify a meeting date and venue. Other donors are invited to come forward at this meeting with funds that could support the meeting and other activities envisaged under Decision 15.5.
10. The Secretariat recently learned that the Working Group's review of the draft tools and guidelines had been hampered by the absence of French and Spanish translations. Funds have now been identified to undertake the necessary translations.
11. In light of the developments described above, a revised timetable for implementation of the Working Group's terms of reference is being proposed for the Standing Committee's consideration:
  - September 2011: translation of the draft tools and guidelines into French and Spanish is completed.
  - October 2011: Parties concerned by cases studies used in the draft guidelines provide their comments on those case studies; Working Group members review the French and Spanish translations of the draft tools and guidelines.
  - February 2012: a regional meeting is organized with the assistance of the CITES Secretariat and the ACTO Secretariat to discuss and revise the draft tools and guidelines; participants agree upon a revised draft version of the tools and guidelines.
  - March 2012: comments on the revised draft version of the tools and guidelines are invited through a Notification to the Parties.

- May 2012: with the help of a consultant, the Working Group prepares a final version of the tools and guidelines
- July 2012: the tools and guidelines are submitted at SC62 for endorsement.

#### Livelihoods-related activities: CBNRM and bushmeat

12. A symposium on the relevance of CBNRM to the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species in exporting countries was organized by the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management, and the European Commission. The event took place in Vienna, Austria, from 17 to 20 May 2011, and was supported by the CITES Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), FAO, TRAFFIC, the IUCN Species Survival Commission, WWF, the International Institute for Environment and Development, and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC). The symposium focused on linkages between economic incentives and the implementation of CITES obligations to achieve improved conservation outcomes in developing countries. Participants considered how rural poverty negatively impacts on efforts to conserve biodiversity and use it sustainably, and how effective CITES implementation in developing countries requires the support of local communities, in addition to international trade controls and national law enforcement.
13. Case studies presented in the symposium included those from Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Namibia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Andean countries of South America. Eighty participants from 24 countries, including CBNRM experts from developing countries, representatives from the CITES office of the European Commission as well as various United Nations bodies, and a range of non-governmental organizations concerned with nature conservation and animal protection discussed a broad range of issues in four working groups. These issues included: principles and characteristics of successful CBNRM programmes; income generation, conservation outcomes and implications of CITES species listings; impacts of trade restrictions and other EU policy measures; and relevant international goals, policies and initiatives for biodiversity. The final outcomes of the symposium are expected to provide the basis for extensive policy discussion within the European Union. Furthermore, symposium conclusions should stimulate efforts to enhance effective strategic interactions between CITES and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and to achieve wider policy coherence among MEAs on the issue of rural communities as conservation and sustainable use partners.
14. A joint meeting of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group was convened from 7 to 10 June 2011 at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by CBD, CITES and CIFOR. Results of the meeting, which was made possible with funding from the European Commission, are reported in document SC61 Doc. 42.
15. The Chair of the Working Group considers that livelihoods, CBNRM and bushmeat are interconnected issues that mainly have a direct impact at the domestic level and may therefore not always be of direct relevance to CITES (which deals with international trade). Nevertheless, decisions regarding international wildlife trade should not affect negatively poor rural communities that depend upon wild fauna and flora for their livelihoods. To ensure this, the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species by indigenous people and local communities should be integrated into poverty reduction strategies and the portfolios of regional development banks and development cooperation agencies, such as the *Agence française de développement* (ADF), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

#### Recommendations

16. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee approve the revised Working Group timetable provided in paragraph 11 above.
17. The Secretariat also recommends that the Standing Committee consider expanding the membership of the Working Group on CITES and livelihoods to additional Parties, international and regional organizations as well as development cooperation agencies.