

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Strategic matters

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *CITES STRATEGIC VISION: 2008-2013*

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on behalf of the Chair of the Working Group on the Strategic Vision.
2. In Resolution Conf. 14.2, the Conference of the Parties adopted the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*.

Adjustment of the *Strategic Vision*

3. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 15.10 on *Post-2010 biodiversity targets* where it directed the Standing Committee to "review the adopted post-2010 biodiversity targets and, if necessary, make adjustments to the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* as appropriate."
4. There was no decision or resolution adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Doha, 2010) to extend the validity of this Strategic Vision or to establish a procedure for developing a new one beyond 2013. However, at its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 13.1, which extended the validity of the *Strategic Vision through 2005*, and its associated Action Plan, until the end of 2007.
5. At the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61, Geneva, August 2011), the Secretary-General introduced documents SC61 Doc. 14.1, on "Progress report on the implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*", and SC61 Doc. 14.2, on "Planning for 2014-2016". In the discussion that followed, there was considerable support for extending the validity of the existing Strategic Vision to 2016, 2019 or 2020, with some adaptation to integrate indicators of the contribution of CITES to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
6. The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on the Strategic Vision to report at the present meeting on:
  - a) whether to extend the validity of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013 to 2016, 2019 or 2020; and
  - b) how to incorporate the Post-2010 Biodiversity Targets into the Strategic Vision.
7. The Committee also asked the Secretariat to:
  - a) prepare a revised draft of the Strategic Vision incorporating the Post-2010 Biodiversity Targets and taking into account the comments made at the present meeting;
  - b) distribute this draft to the working group; and
  - c) otherwise provide general support to the working group.
8. The members of the Working Group were specified as follows: China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, International Union for

Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Species Survival Network (SSN) and TRAFFIC. The Chair of the Standing Committee agreed to chair the Working Group, which worked through electronic means.

9. The Secretariat prepared a revised draft of the Strategic Vision, incorporating the Post-2010 Biodiversity Targets and taking into account the comments made at SC61, and distributed it to the Working Group on 4 November 2011. Comments were received from Germany, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, IWMC – World Conservation Trust and SSN.
10. The Secretariat then prepared a further revised draft of the Strategic Vision that took into account all of the comments received from the Working Group. It was circulated to the Working Group on 2 March 2012. There were no negative comments received on this further revised draft of the Strategic Vision, a copy of which is annexed to the present document.

#### Indicators for the *Strategic Vision*

11. In Decision 14.1, adopted at CoP14 (The Hague, 2007), the Standing Committee was instructed “to develop indicators for each of the objectives contained in the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013”.
12. In accordance with that Decision, the Standing Committee, at its 57th meeting (Geneva, July 2008), adopted indicators of the achievement of these objectives. These indicators can be viewed on the CITES website at <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/E-SV-indicators.pdf>.
13. At CoP15, the Conference adopted Decision 14.37 (Rev. CoP15), on *National reports*, including paragraph c) as follows:

*The Standing Committee, with the assistance of its Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements and the Secretariat, shall:*

...

- c) *by its 61st meeting (SC61), follow up on how the reporting required in the indicators for the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013 would be undertaken and, by SC62, begin applying the indicators.*

#### Implementation of the *Strategic Vision*

14. In Resolution Conf. 14.2, the Conference of the Parties:

*Instructs the Standing Committee to review the progress in implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013, and in achievement of the Objectives, at each of its ordinary meetings during the term of the Vision, and to report at the 15th and 16th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.*

15. The Secretariat's Costed Programme of Work (CPW) is based on the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008 -2013* and its activities under the CPW are described in other discussion documents prepared for the present meeting (see documents SC62 Doc. 9.1 and SC62 Doc. 9.2).

#### Recommendations

16. It is recommended that the Standing Committee:
  - a) support the revised *Strategic Vision* attached in the Annex and propose to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting that:
    - i) it adopt the revised Strategic Vision; and
    - ii) it extend the validity of the CITES Strategic Vision, as revised, to 2020;
  - b) consider the views of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements regarding the reporting required in relation to indicators for the Strategic Vision; and
  - c) establish a process for applying the indicators.

## CITES STRATEGIC VISION: 2008-204320

### **General introduction**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was concluded on 3 March 1973. It entered into force after ratification or accession by 10 States, on 1 July 1975.

Since then, the number of countries that have ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Convention has continued to increase. With ~~472~~175 Parties, CITES is widely regarded as one of the most important international conservation instruments. During this period, the Conference of the Parties has shown itself to be capable of adapting to changing circumstances and, through the adoption of Resolutions and Decisions, has demonstrated an ability to construct practical solutions to increasingly complex wildlife trade and conservation problems.

At its ninth meeting (Fort Lauderdale, 1994), the Conference of the Parties commissioned a review of the Convention's effectiveness. The principal purposes of the review were to evaluate the extent to which the Convention had achieved its objectives and the progress made since CITES came into being and, most importantly, to identify deficiencies and requirements necessary to strengthen the Convention and help plan for the future. At its 10th meeting (Harare, 1997), the Conference agreed to an Action Plan for implementing certain findings and recommendations of the review. A central finding was the need for a strategic plan and, at its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), the Conference of the Parties adopted the *Strategic Vision through 2005*, and an *Action Plan*.

At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 13.1, which extended the validity of the Strategic Vision and Action Plan until the end of 2007. It also established a procedure for developing a new Strategic Vision through 2013, particularly to contribute to the achievement of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The present document is the result of this process.

At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.X, which extended the validity of the Strategic Vision and Action Plan to 2020 and included amendments to contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

With this new Strategic Vision, the Conference of the Parties to CITES outlines the Convention's direction in the new millennium and takes into account, within the context of its mandate issues such as:

- contributing to the UN Millennium Development Goals relevant to CITES;
- ~~– contributing to the WSSD target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;~~
- contributing to the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and the implementation of the CITES relevant *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- contributing to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012) to promote the development of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- contributing to the conservation of wildlife as an integral part of the global ecosystem on which all life depends;
- cultural, social and economic factors at play in producer and consumer countries;
- promoting transparency and wider involvement of civil society in the development of conservation policies and practices; and
- ensuring that a coherent and internationally agreed approach based on scientific evidence is taken to address any species of wild fauna and flora subject to unsustainable international trade.

## **Purpose**

The twofold purpose of the Strategic Vision is:

- to improve the working of the Convention, so that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels; and
- to ensure that CITES policy developments are mutually supportive of international environmental priorities and take into account new international initiatives, consistent with the terms of the Convention.

## **Structure**

In order to achieve this purpose, three broad goals, of equal priority, have been identified as the key components of the Strategic Vision:

- Goal 1: Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.
- Goal 2: Secure the necessary financial resources and means for the operation and implementation of the Convention.
- Goal 3: Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and to achieving globally agreed goals and targets by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.

The goals aim at consolidating the existing strengths of CITES, ensuring the implementation of the mandate of the Convention, and further improving the relationship with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and related conventions, agreements and associations.

Within the framework provided by each of these goals, this Strategic Vision identifies a number of objectives to be achieved. Corresponding indicators of progress are to be developed by the Standing Committee and reviewed by the Conference of the Parties.

This document provides a framework for the future development of the existing body of Resolutions and Decisions. While it should provide guidance on how the goals and objectives are to be achieved, the Conference of the Parties, the Committees or the Secretariat as appropriate will take required action. The document also serves the Parties as a tool for the prioritization of activities, and decisions on how best to fund them, in light of the need for the rational application of costs and the efficient and transparent use of resources.

It should be noted that all references to 'trade' in the Strategic Vision refer to trade as defined in Article I of the Convention.

## **CITES vision statement**

Conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss and making a significant contribution towards achieving the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets

### THE STRATEGIC GOALS

**GOAL 1** ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH AND IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION

## **Introduction**

The effectiveness of the Convention depends upon its full implementation by all Parties, whether they are consumers or producers of wild animals and plants. Full implementation relies, in turn, upon each Party's:

- commitment to the Convention and its principles;
- scientific expertise and analyses;
- capacity building; and
- enforcement.

***Commitment to the Convention and its principles***

The proper functioning of the Convention depends to a great extent on the commitment of Parties to comply with and implement the Convention and its principles.

**Objective 1.1** Parties comply with their obligations under the Convention through appropriate policies, legislation and procedures.

**Objective 1.2** Parties have in place administrative procedures that are transparent, practical, coherent and user-friendly, and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.

**Objective 1.3** Implementation of the Convention at the national level is consistent with decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

**Objective 1.4** The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation needs of species.

**Objective 1.5** Best available scientific information is the basis for non-detriment findings.

**Objective 1.6** Parties cooperate in managing shared wildlife resources.

**Objective 1.7** Parties are enforcing the Convention to reduce illegal wildlife trade.

**Objective 1.8** Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity-building programmes in place.

**GOAL 2** SECURE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MEANS FOR THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

**Objective 2.1** Financial resources are sufficient to ensure operation of the Convention.

**Objective 2.2** Sufficient resources are secured at the national/international levels to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.

**Objective 2.3** Sufficient resources are secured at the national/international levels to implement capacity-building programmes.

**GOAL 3** CONTRIBUTE TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING THE RATE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND TO ACHIEVING GLOBALLY AGREED GOALS AND TARGETS BY ENSURING THAT CITES AND OTHER MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENTS AND PROCESSES ARE COHERENT AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

**Objective 3.1** Cooperation between CITES and international financial mechanisms and other related institutions is enhanced in order to support CITES-related conservation and sustainable development projects, without diminishing funding for currently prioritized activities.

**Objective 3.2** Awareness of the role and purpose of CITES is increased globally.

**Objective 3.3** Cooperation with relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations is enhanced.

**Objective 3.4** The contribution of CITES to the relevant Millennium Development Goals and the sustainable development goals set at WSSD, the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and the *relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets* and the relevant outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.

**Objective 3.5** Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, as appropriate, in order to achieve a coherent and collaborative approach to species which can be endangered by unsustainable trade, including those which are commercially exploited.