

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Strategic matters

CAPACITY BUILDING

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. This document provides a summary of the capacity-building activities that the Secretariat has conducted in compliance with the Resolutions and Decisions in effect after the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Doha, 2012). More detailed information on these activities can also be found in documents SC61 Doc. 19¹ and SC62 Doc. 19², which were presented at the 61st and 62nd meetings of the Standing Committee, respectively (Geneva, SC61, August 2011; SC62, July 2012).

3. Capacity building is also an integral element of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*, contained in Resolution Conf. 14.2, which includes the following goal and objective:

Goal 1: Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.

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

4. The Secretariat notes that many capacity-building projects and activities it has undertaken were made possible by the generous financial contribution of the European Commission, particularly under the project "Strengthening the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade". Furthermore, a number of capacity-building elements of the programme on Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) were also made possible through funding by the European Commission³.
5. As reported at SC61, the Secretariat has developed a draft framework to ensure that its capacity-building activities are built on partnerships; are targeted, sustainable and cost-effective; produce measurable results; and support the capacity-building Goal and Objective of Resolution Conf. 14.2. The framework provides coherence to the many different capacity-building activities of the Secretariat through a more strategic, targeted and integrative approach to project design and implementation. In this manner, project activities can be made mutually supportive whenever possible, and make the best use of available funding and expertise. The summaries below reflect this strategic approach, especially with regard to joint organization and funding of activities, and establishment of partnerships.
6. The capacity-building role of the Secretariat has been strengthened through the recruitment of a Capacity Building Coordinator, who joined the Secretariat on 8 October 2012. This person will work collaboratively with all Secretariat units, with implementation partners, monitor progress of capacity-building projects, and work with Parties to enhance their capacities to implement the Convention consistently and more effectively.

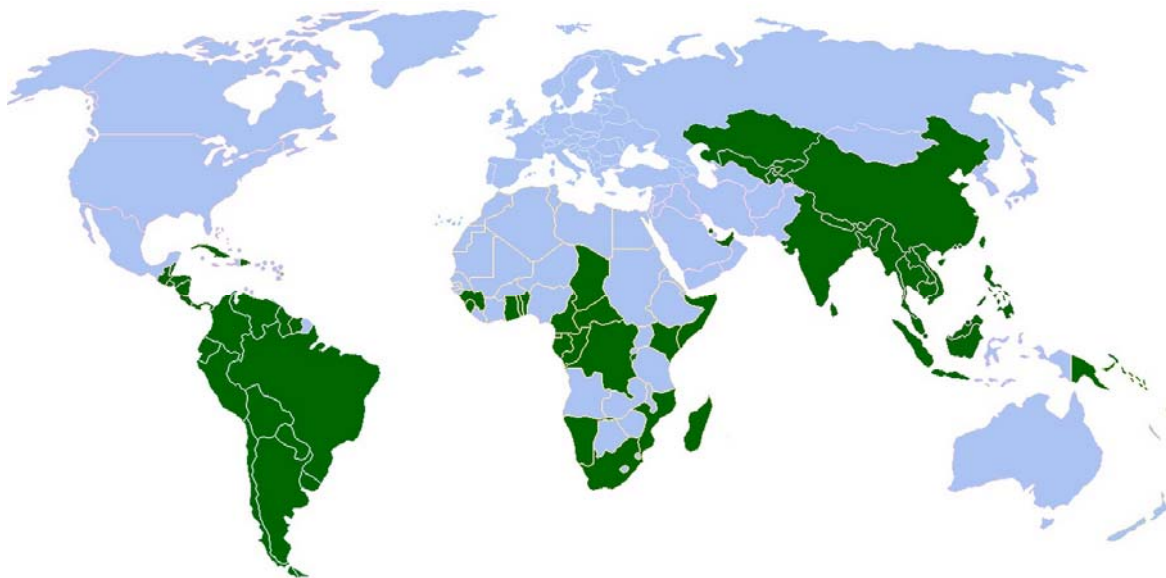
¹ See <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/sc/61/E61-19.pdf>.

² See <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/62/E62-19.pdf>.

³ See document CoP16 Doc. 53.1 for more information on MIKE and its capacity-building activities.

European Commission-funded project on *Strengthening the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade*

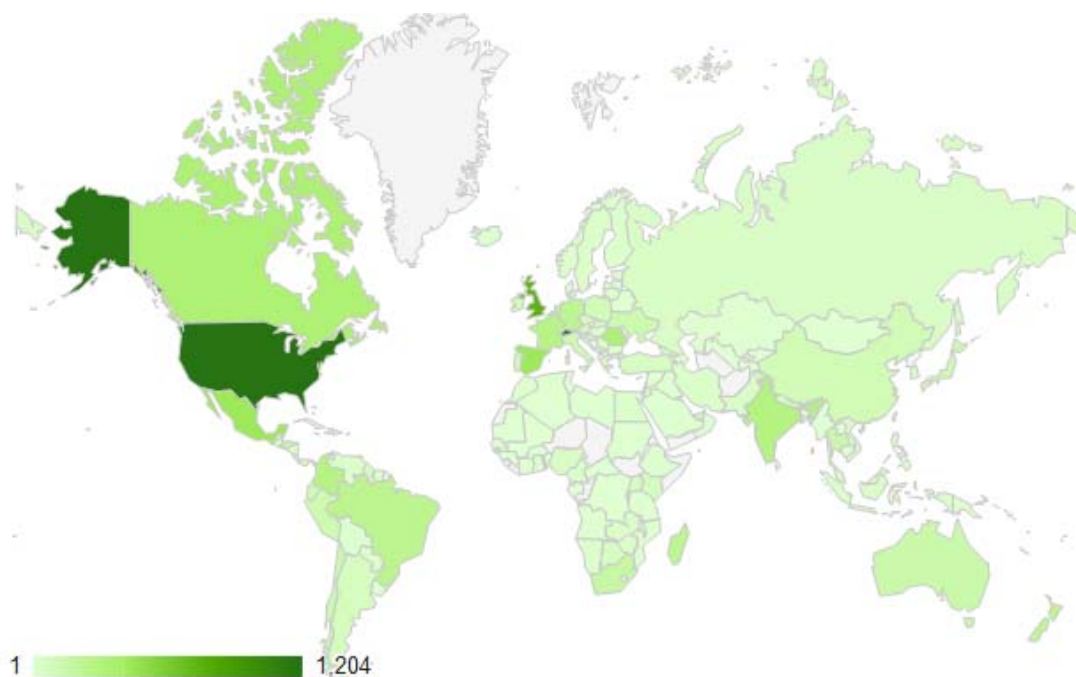
7. The European Commission has generously provided funding of USD 3,512,500 for a several-year project on *Strengthening the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade*. The objective of this project is to contribute to biodiversity conservation and to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor. It aims at strengthening developing country capacities to implement CITES and satisfying the CITES-related requirements of their trading partners (such as the European Union) to prevent overexploitation and ensure sustainable international trade in wild fauna and flora. The Secretariat is very grateful to the European Commission for this important funding contribution.
8. Detailed summaries of activities in Phase I and Phase II of the project are available in documents SC61 Doc. 19 and SC62 Doc. 19. For their implementation, partnerships have been established with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), ICPO-INTERPOL, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International University of Andalusia (UNIA), TRAFFIC and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), among others.
9. A number of countries have been targeted, partners contacted and specific projects designed and initiated. Projects have been and are being implemented in countries in Central and West Asia, South and Southeast Asia, Africa, and Central and South America⁴. Projects with partners cover non-detriment findings, compliance, enforcement, monitoring and more effective trade controls. A number of other projects are also being implemented to assist Parties in achieving the lifting of trade suspensions (European Commission Regulation 828/2011 of 17 August 2011 and European Commission Regulation No 757/2012 of 20 August 2012) and of CITES recommendations to suspend trade. These projects also aim to improve communications between Parties and the European Commission regarding trade suspensions.



⁴ The project on Strengthening the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade covers 106 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Countries in green represent participation in ongoing projects and in workshops during Phase II of the European Commission project on Strengthening the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade

10. The projects cover a wide range of activities that are country-, region- and species-specific. Special attention was placed on assisting Parties in making more effective non-detriment findings and complying with their obligations under the Convention. Online tools have also been developed to assist Parties with science- and enforcement-related activities.
11. Activities related to conducting field studies and inventories, training of enforcement officials and establishing networks to control deliveries were also developed and implemented. Other projects focused on efforts to combat illegal international trade in CITES-listed species, including tigers; and the impact of corruption on the conservation of the environment. Finally, a meeting was organized in support of the Standing Committee Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods, in Nazca, Peru, from 26 to 28 September 2012.
12. In support of the above, projects were designed to develop comprehensive material support, such as specific toolkits, checklists and CITES e-permitting systems, to ensure a solid scientific basis for decision-making, efficient trade regulations and effective controls.
13. In this context, the CITES Virtual College⁵ contributes to the sustainability of many of the projects and facilitates transfer of knowledge and expertise. Currently, three courses are available: a course on making non-detriment findings; a course developed for enforcement officials, prosecutors and the judiciary; and a course for Customs officials.
14. During Phase II of the European Commission project, the College has experienced high usage, with, at the time of writing (September 2012), 11,562 visits from 176 countries and territories representing 89 different language groups. The Secretariat notes the positive comments received from Parties at SC62 regarding the future enhancement of the College. The Secretariat is also thankful to Portugal for its translation into Portuguese of CITES training materials found in the Training Centre of the College. Work with China is ongoing regarding the translation of the College into Chinese, and the Secretariat is thankful for this collaboration and support. Discussions are also underway with partners, such as TRAFFIC, regarding inclusion of their capacity building materials to enhance course work.



11,562 visits to the CITES Virtual College up to 20 September 2012

⁵ See <https://eva.unia.es/cites/>.

15. The International University of Andalusia (UNIA), in Spain, generously hosts the Virtual College and is also collaborating with the Secretariat to develop the College. In this regard, students enrolled in future editions of UNIA's Master's course on *Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: the International Framework* will be required to complete an online phase to the course, comprised of four units. This will ensure the continued use of the Virtual College by CITES authorities, which traditionally constitute the largest group of students in the Master's programme⁶. The collaboration also facilitates the participation of the Secretariat in the Master's programme in support of Decision 14.10. For example, during the 2011-2012 academic year, Secretariat staff directed four students in their Master's dissertation, three of which have now graduated.

Capacity building and science

16. Parties discussed Decisions 15.23 to 15.25 on *Non-detriment findings* at the joint sessions of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (AC26 and PC20, Dublin, March 2012). The Committees provided extensive comments on the non-detriment findings training materials that are available from the Virtual College, and recommended that these be updated and expanded (see document AC26/PC20 Doc. 9). They proposed that the contents of the Virtual College itself be made available on CD-ROM for those without easy access to the Internet. The Committees agreed that their members should seek non-detriment finding examples or case studies from their region for inclusion on the CITES website, and also agreed to ask the Conference of the Parties to request Parties to do likewise. Finally, they agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties that they be given a permanent mandate to provide scientific advice on training materials used in CITES capacity-building⁷.
17. With regard to Decisions 12.90 to 12.93 on *Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species*, the CITES Secretariat has based its work on Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas* and the annexed *Guidelines for management of nationally established export quotas*, both of which were based on the work of the Export Quota Working Group of the Standing Committee.
18. The CITES and ITTO Secretariats have been collaborating on a joint programme on timber species since 2005. Information about this programme can be found in document PC20 Doc. 19.2 submitted by the Secretariat at PC20. More information on the cooperation between CITES and ITTO can also be found in document CoP16 Doc. 13 on *Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements*.
19. The Secretariat is also discussing with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) possible joint activities and participated in the meeting of the country-led initiative *A Pathway to a Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development – Focus on the Role of Markets and the Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management*, organized from 10 to 13 January 2012 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The Secretariat is looking forward to discussion on possible future collaboration with UNFF as well as with the FAO Forests Department on capacity-building activities in the context of the management of trade in CITES-listed forest species and products.

Capacity building and enforcement

20. The CITES Secretariat continued to contribute to the Green Customs Initiative. As stated on the Green Customs website, the objective of this initiative is to "enhance the capacity of Customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements"⁸. Materials developed in support of Green Customs are available through the Training Centre of the CITES Virtual College.
21. The Secretariat also participated in a number of meetings where building enforcement capacities was discussed, such as the establishment of networks to control deliveries; efforts to combat illegal international trade in CITES-listed species, including tigers; and the impact of corruption on the conservation of the environment. These meetings were held in cooperation or in conjunction with Parties, the Green Customs Initiative, International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), ICPO-

⁶ In the 10 previous courses, 258 students from 72 countries received specialized training on CITES and on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

⁷ See also document CoP16 Doc.23 on Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species – Report of the Animals and Plants Committees.

⁸ See <http://www.greencustoms.org/index.htm>.

INTERPOL, WCO and UNODC. A detailed summary of these meetings is available in document SC62 Doc. 29 on *Enforcement matters*.

22. ICCWC launched the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit on 25 July 2012. The toolkit provides government officials, Customs, police and other relevant enforcement agencies with a framework to analyse, prevent, detect and combat wildlife and forest offences. Furthermore, ICCWC also announced that it had secured USD 600,000 through the World Bank Development Grant Facility (DGF) to strengthen in 2013 national enforcement capacities to fight wildlife crime, with the prospect of further funding in the next two years.

Conclusions and recommendations

23. Capacity building activities cut across all areas of work related to CITES and are mentioned in many different Resolutions and Decisions. A review of activities related to capacity building with a view to identifying areas of possible rationalization and consolidation, where appropriate, may offer Parties and the Secretariat opportunities for more effective and cost-effective implementation of relevant Resolutions and Decisions. The Secretariat also notes the indicators related to Objective 1.8, *Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity-building programmes in place*, of the Strategic Vision.
 - 1.8.1 *The number of Parties with national and regional training programmes and information resources in place to implement CITES including the making of non-detriment findings, issuance of permits and enforcement.*
 - 1.8.2 *The number of training and capacity-building programmes conducted or assisted by the Secretariat.*
 - 1.8.3 *The proportion of Parties having received capacity building support from the Secretariat on request.*
24. Among capacity-building activities, those that strengthen national capacities in terms of non-detriment findings, enforcement and compliance have been identified repeatedly by Parties as areas of priority.
25. In light of the above, the Secretariat encourages Parties, donors and partners to support Party-driven activities, including through financial and in-kind support, and the establishment of partnerships, to enhance national and regional capacities to implement and comply with the Convention.
26. Given the role of the CITES Virtual College in supporting and sustaining capacity-building activities, the Secretariat encourages Parties to use the CITES Virtual College, and to participate in reviewing its contents through the Animals and Plants Committees, and Management and Scientific Authorities, as appropriate. The Secretariat also encourages Parties to translate materials and courses found in the CITES Virtual College into their national languages.
27. The Secretariat believes that Decisions 14.12, 14. 13, 15.21, 15.22 have been implemented and can be repealed.
27. The Secretariat, therefore, recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decision in the Annex to the present document.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Capacity building

Directed to Parties

16.XX Parties are urged to:

- a) support and provide financial and in-kind resources for capacity-building activities, particularly those in support of Goals 1 and 3 of the Strategic Vision;
- b) use the CITES Virtual College to support capacity-building activities;
- c) participate in reviewing the contents of the CITES Virtual College through their Management and Scientific Authorities, as appropriate; and
- d) translate the contents of the CITES Virtual College into national languages.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.XX The Secretariat shall:

- a) undertake a review of capacity-building activities found in Resolutions and Decisions to assess whether and how they could be rationalized and consolidated, and report its findings and recommendations at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, and report on proposed revisions to Resolutions and Decisions, and, if considered appropriate, present a draft resolution on capacity building, at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- b) collaborate with the Animals and Plants Committees on relevant capacity-building activities, *inter alia* to improve and expand the Secretariat's training materials on the making of non-detriment findings, including those available through the CITES Virtual College;
- c) within the mandate of Goals 1 and 3 of the Strategic Vision, provide targeted capacity-building support to CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, Customs and law enforcement entities, the judiciary, legislators and other stakeholders;
- d) subject to the availability of financial resources, assist and support the Parties' own capacity-building efforts to implement the Convention at the national level;
- e) subject to the availability of financial resources, deliver general and specialized training through regional workshops and the CITES Virtual College;
- f) develop and further enhance partnerships with institutions and organizations providing Parties with capacity-building assistance of relevance to CITES, for example through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the International University of Andalusia;
- g) provide guidance to Parties on accessing financial resources to support the implementation of CITES (such as the Global Environment Facility and the African Elephant Fund); and
- h) undertake needs assessments and gap analyses to improve CITES capacity-building efforts.