Comments on Methodologies for national wildlife trade reviews

Carolyn Fischer CITES Workshop on Economic Incentives and Trade Policy 1-3 December 2003



The Main questions

- 1. Goals and guiding principles
- 2. Policy instruments
- 3. Policy implementation: institutional capacity
- 4. Finance
- 5. Legislation
- 6. Assessment



Scope

- CITES regulates international trade
- International trade transmits economic incentives between national markets
- If goal broader than CITES compliance, focus should include domestic wildlife trade
- Economic drivers of national trade determine feasibility of and need for border trade policy
 - Opportunities for economic incentives



Importer/Consumer Country

- Focus on demand
- Where are trade restrictions enforced?
 - Customs? Retail? Consumers?
- Economic incentives in trade policies
 - Tariffs/quotas/certification
 - High price reserves products for high-value uses
 - Too high drives market underground
 - Regulate intermediaries
 - Carvers, traditional medicine shops



Importer/Consumer Country (2)

- Economic incentives for demand reduction
 - Public information
 - Tax final goods
 - Promotion of substitutes
 - Subsidies?
 - Reduction of trade barriers?



Exporter Country

- Focus on supply
- Where are trade restrictions enforced?
 - Border? Habitat? Domestic intermediaries?
- Economic incentives in trade policies
 - Tariffs/quotas/certification
 - Revenues can help finance conservation / enforcement
 - Agency incentives
 - Governance issues



Exporter Country (2)

- Economic incentives for supporting policies
 - Habitat conservation
 - Property rights
 - Promotion of sustainable alternatives
 - Community compensation for cooperation
 - Domestic retail markets
- Supporting policies can have bigger effect on wildlife trade than import/export regulations

