



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2005/017

Geneva, 6 April 2005

CONCERNING:

Synergy between CITES and CBD

Secretariat's review of the Vilm report

1. Decision 13.2 directs the Standing Committee to identify possible priority actions to improve synergies between CITES and CBD in areas of common concern and to provide guidance to the Committee's Strategic Plan Working Group on the items to be considered in the revision of the Strategic Vision and Action Plan,
2. In preparation for this exercise, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees, is directed in Decision 13.4 to "review the findings and recommendations of the Vilm report in order to identify its most relevant aspects".
3. The Secretariat has completed this review and the results are provided in the Annex to this Notification. As directed in Decision 13.5, the Secretariat is making its conclusions available to the Parties in order to enable them to submit comments for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 53rd meeting (Geneva, 27 June-1 July 2005).
4. Parties wishing to make such comments in advance of the Standing Committee meeting are requested to submit these to the Secretariat by 2 May 2005 so that they may be incorporated in a document to be put to the Committee.

Annex

Secretariat's review of the Vilm report on CITES-CBD synergy

The following is the Secretariat's review of the findings and recommendations of the report of the Expert Workshop Promoting CITES-CBD Cooperation and Synergy (International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, Germany, 20-24 April 2004) contained in document CoP13 Doc. 12.1.1, Annex 2. This review was carried out and is being distributed in accordance with Decisions 13.4 and 13.5.

The Vilm report offers a broad range of conclusions and recommendations concerning improved cooperation and synergy between CITES and CBD. Many of the issues discussed in Vilm, as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group, were brought up in Committee and Plenary sessions during the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2004). This led the Conference of the Parties to adopt new Resolutions and Decisions and to revise existing Resolutions, namely:

- Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13) on Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife
- Resolution Conf. 13.2 on Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines
- Resolution Conf. 13.4 on Conservation of and trade in great apes
- Resolution Conf. 13.9 on Encouraging cooperation between Parties with *ex situ* breeding operations and those with *in situ* conservation programmes
- Resolution Conf. 13.10 on Trade in alien invasive species
- Resolution Conf. 13.11 on Bushmeat
- Decision 13.1 on Strategic Vision
- Decisions 13.2 to 13.5 on Synergy between CITES and CBD
- Decisions 13.6 and 13.7 on Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
- Decision 13.8 on Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- Decisions 13.74 and 13.75 on National wildlife trade policy reviews
- Decisions 13.76 and 13.77 on Further work on economic incentives
- Decision 13.78 on Relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation
- Decision 13.92 on Reporting requirements
- Decisions 13.101 to 13.103 on Bushmeat

- Decisions 13.104 and 13.105 on Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade.

As the purpose of this review is to assist the Standing Committee in identifying possible priority actions to improve synergies between the two Conventions in areas of common concern, matters that are already being addressed through the Resolutions and Decisions above have not been considered in the Secretariat's review.

All of the conclusions and recommendations of the Vilm report have merit, and these should be regarded as representing a wide and informed perspective on CITES-CBD interaction. Nevertheless, several areas are of particular importance in furthering collaboration and synergy between the two Conventions and are presented below for comment by the Parties.

Desired changes

The Vilm report identifies a number of desired changes in order to achieve better cooperation and synergy between the two Conventions. The most relevant changes include:

- strengthening sustainable development and benefits for local communities in the CITES context, and strengthening species conservation issues in the CBD context;
- improving communication both nationally and internationally;
- implementing more effectively the making of CITES non-detriment findings;
- developing integrated management for sustainable use and conservation of species;
- ensuring mutual support between the Conventions concerning access and benefit-sharing;
- ensuring that CITES implementation benefits from the experiences and knowledge from the CBD, and that CBD processes integrate more effectively CITES concerns, processes and experience; and
- ensuring that Parties to CBD and CITES, as well as Convention bodies, interpret their respective mandates in a manner which facilitates cooperation.

The following activities identified in the Vilm report are particularly relevant towards achieving the above changes:

a) General recommendations

- Documenting case examples of synergy between CITES and CBD, concerning national coordination, project implementation and other areas that mutually support the objectives of both Conventions.
- Encouraging the development of complementary CITES and CBD national legislation (through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans).

b) Sustainable use

- Strengthening sustainable development by (a) improving the making of non-detriment findings and (b) developing indicators for sustainability.

c) Access and benefit-sharing

- Providing CBD with CITES experiences on the design and implementation of licensing and permitting systems.
- Including access and benefit-sharing issues in CITES outreach and capacity-building activities and materials to ensure that decisions taken under CITES are compatible with the obligations of the Parties to CBD.

d) The ecosystem approach

- Improving communication between the two Conventions on areas of overlap with respect to ecosystem approaches.

e) Linking CBD to CITES approaches

- Enhancing attention to CITES-listed species in designing and implementing CBD programmes of work, with particular attention to the recovery of threatened species.
- Ensuring site-based CBD activities reinforce CITES management and trade controls, especially for promoting the recovery of Appendix-I species.
- Integrating CITES implementation in the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.
- Using CITES species as indicators under CBD processes.