

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

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Twenty-first meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 20-25 May 2005

STRATEGIC PLANNING

**COMPOSITION:** Members and alternate members of the Animals Committee; Chair: Thomas Althaus

**GENERAL**

Lessons learned so far:

- Many tasks given to the AC by CoPs/Parties through Resolutions or Decisions do not 'fit' the Strategic Plan and its Action Points.
- Several Action Points directed to the AC seem not very appropriate: AC should concentrate on scientific aspects of implementing the Convention.
- Wording of several Action Points needs to be made clearer and less ambiguous.
- Assignments for the AC should be clearly linked to objectives or Action Points in the new Strategic Plan to ensure continuity, timely implementation of the priorities in the Plan, and avoid that the AC is overloaded with tasks outside the Plan.
- In case Action Points are directed to different CITES bodies, the level of input required from the AC should be clarified as well as who is expected to take the 'lead'.
- Need to identify clear indicators of success and expected outputs in the new Action Point.
- See some specific suggestions in **bold** in the table.

Completion of this document and the Table:

Alvaro Velasco Barbieri, Representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean will be focal point for completing the table and collating comments from AC Representatives.

- Will have to consider reports of AC Chairman to CoP11 CoP12 and CoP13 to assess progress.
- Review regional reports from representatives and AC documents produced since 2000.
- Look at wording in document produced by PC on this matter (PC15 WG1 Doc. 1) of reported progress in relation to Action Points; consider wording and prioritization in document AC21 Doc. 6.3.

**ACTION POINTS IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2000-2005 DIRECTED TO THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE:  
PROGRESS SINCE 2000 AND PRIORITY FOR REMAINING PERIOD TILL 2007**

| Action Point   | Priority | Action by  | Progress  |
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| <b>GOAL 1: ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF EACH PARTY TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION</b>   |          |  |   |
| <b>Objective 1.1</b>   |          |  |   |
| To assist in the development of appropriate domestic legislation and policies that encourage the adoption and implementation of social and economic incentives allied to legal instruments that:   |          |  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote and regulate sustainable management of wild fauna and flora;</li> <li>- Promote and regulate responsible trade in wild fauna and flora;</li> <li>- Promote the effective enforcement of the Convention.</li> </ul>  |          |  |   |
| <b>Unclear – need to redefine objective, make it more targeted and redefine who this is directed to</b>  |          |  |   |
| 1.1.4 Ensure adequate review and adoption of policies and legislation (e.g. land tenure; access to natural resources; harvesting; transporting, handling and housing of live specimens; and effective seizures, fines and penalties) which may be having a significant impact on the conservation status of species or implementation of the Convention. | L        | Parties, Secretariat, Animals Committee  | Participation in economics and trade workshop, 2003<br><br>No major actions undertaken.<br>Role of AC unclear.  |
| 1.1.6 Develop further regulations to prevent unnecessary loss during catching, storage and transportation of live animals.   | M        | Parties, Secretariat, Animals Committee  | Ongoing input provided through Transport Working Group [eg development of guidelines; revision of Resolution]   |
| <b>Objective 1.4</b>   |          |  |   |
| To facilitate development and use of appropriate technologies and information management systems that enhance and expedite the collection, submission and exchange of accurate information.  |          |  |   |
| <b>Need to clarify this objective. If this includes communication of information between AC reps and their region, and amongst each other, this would be a high priority.</b>  |          |  |   |
| 1.4.1 On the basis of information from Parties, evaluate needs, capabilities and opportunities related to information technologies and management.   | H        | Secretariat, with three permanent Committees<br><br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Evaluation of information technology and management needs.  | Activities to improve regional communication; manual for representatives; ...   |
| 1.4.4 Develop a simple guide to the Review of Significant Trade.   | L        | Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees<br><br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Training material(s) on the review of significant trade available in the three languages of CITES in appropriate media. | Lead with the Secretariat. Suggestions: Guide should be very simple, clear and accessible; envisage more language versions than the three official ones; include with correspondence to Parties more information on what Parties should consider submitting as responses (checklist?); .. |
| 1.4.5 Develop and enhance databases that include   | L        | Secretariat, Animals and Plants  | AC has not taken specific actions;  |

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| information related to species in trade, CITES Decisions and procedures.  |     | Committees<br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Provision of information to databases and awareness of databases and availability; hits and use of databases.   | AC provides information or advice as and when required; consultative role.  |
| <b>Objective 1.7</b><br>To improve the coordination between CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, and increase the effectiveness of the latter.<br><b>Coordination between AC members and their region, and between AC members and other CITES bodies should be added here</b> |     |  |   |
| 1.7.1 Develop a manual specifying the obligations and procedures of the Scientific Authorities in order to encourage the development of specific training courses for them.   | L   | Secretariat with Animals and Plants Committees<br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Assistance provided to the Secretariat.   | Lead with the Secretariat.<br>AC has not taken particular actions; AC provides information or advice as and when required; consultative role.   |
| 1.7.2 Develop regional directories that list the botanists and zoologists in each region who are experts in CITES-listed species.   | L/M | Plants Committee, Animals Committee<br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Current regional directories on CITES website.   | AC members have not taken action so far.<br>Priority depends on the region, and representatives should decide if they want to develop a regional directory in addition to existing address lists (principally of Scientific Authorities on the CITES website) |
| <b>Objective 2.1</b><br>To ensure that the Convention's Appendices correctly reflect the conservation and management needs of species.  |     |  |   |
| <b>GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES</b>   |     |  |   |
| 2.1.2 Regularly review the Appendices to ensure that listed taxa satisfy the relevant criteria.   | H   | Animals and Plants Committees<br><b>Indicators:</b><br>Relevant criteria for listing species in the Appendices.<br>Methodology for reviewing species in the Appendices to ensure listed species satisfy the relevant criteria.<br>Recommendations regarding the Appendix listing (transfer, maintenance, or deletion). | Ongoing activity<br>Developed new listing Criteria<br>Development of new guidelines for conducting periodic reviews<br>Reviewed xxx species, resulting in yyy CoP proposals   |
| 2.1.3 Continue the Review of Significant Trade as initiated by the Parties in Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) <sup>1</sup> .  | H   | Animals and Plants Committees<br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Species and countries involved in significant trade review.  | Ongoing<br>Revised Resolution<br>Reviewed xxx species, resulting in actions regarding yyy range States  |
| 2.1.4 Evaluate trade and biological information on currently unlisted species subject to significant  | M   | Animals and Plants Committees<br><b>Indicator:</b>   | Ongoing<br>Revised trade and conservation issues of sea cucumbers, sea  |

<sup>1</sup> Replaced by Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13).

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| international trade to determine whether they would qualify for and benefit from CITES listing.  |   | Studies on biology and trade of internationally traded non-CITES species.  | horses, sharks, and tortoises and freshwater turtles with the following results:...   |
| <b>Objective 2.2</b>   |   |  |   |
| To ensure that decisions to amend the Convention's Appendices are founded on sound and relevant scientific information and meet agreed biological and trade criteria for such amendments.  |   |  |   |
| 2.2.2 Encourage Parties to consult with the Animals and Plants Committees as appropriate to assist in the preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices.  | M | Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees<br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Proposals for amending the Appendices are brought before the Committee. | AC has not taken particular actions, but provided comments as required.<br><br>AC commented on xx proposals, which were decided upon at CoP as follows:...                    |
| 2.2.3 For identified commodities, develop standardized units of measure for permits, trade analysis and reporting.   | M | Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees   | AC has undertaken a number of activities concerning seahorses (size limits), shark products (customs codes), corals (taxa that need to be reported species-specifically), ... |
| <b>Objective 2.3</b>   |   |  |   |
| To improve the scientific basis on which Scientific Authorities make non-detriment findings.   |   |  |   |
| 2.3.1 Develop practical guidance for making non-detriment findings, including a manual and checklist, and samples of non-detriment findings and case studies.  |   | Secretariat with Animals and Plants Committees<br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Manual, checklist, samples, and case studies available.             |   |
| 2.3.2 Facilitate national and regional training for Scientific Authorities in the issuance of scientifically based non-detriment findings; include the use of the aforementioned guidance on non-detriment findings.                               |   | Secretariat with Animals and Plants Committees<br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Improved scientific basis in non-detriment findings.                |   |
| 2.3.5 Provide opportunities for Scientific Authorities to exchange information and data (e.g. sharing of non-detriment findings; sharing of data, management plans and case studies; postings to a website; and communication through a listserv). |   | Parties, Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees<br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Increased access to information.                               |   |
| <b>Objective 2.4</b>   |   |  |   |
| To develop innovative technologies and encourage relevant research, including research into CITES implementation and enforcement, and to pursue these objectives, where appropriate, at the regional level.  |   |  |   |
| 2.4.1 In collaboration with enforcement agencies, identify the needs for and potential benefits of innovative technologies.  |   | Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees, Parties  |   |

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| 2.4.2 In collaboration with Parties, international agencies, and relevant research entities, identify the available technologies (e.g. digital technology, microchips, barcodes, holograms, DNA testing) relevant to assisting the better implementation of the Convention. |  | Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees   |  |
| 2.4.4 Develop with relevant institutions collaborative research projects for testing the appropriateness of new and forthcoming technologies.   |  | Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees   |  |
| 2.4.5 Assess progress on a regional basis.  |  | Standing, Animals and Plants Committees  |  |
| <b>GOAL 4: PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONVENTION</b>  |  |  |  |
| <p><b>Objective 4.3</b></p> <p>To promote greater awareness among and cooperation with the scientific community.</p>  |  |  |  |
| 4.3.2 Participate actively at scientific meetings and conferences, and encourage participation in CITES issues by the scientific community.   |  | Secretariat, Scientific Authorities, Animals, and Plants Committees<br><br><b>Indicator:</b><br>Increased awareness and involvement in CITES issues by the scientific community. |  |