

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

Forty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Gigiri (Kenya), 8 April 2000

Any other business

UNEP REPORT

Introduction

1. In line with paragraph 16 of the Agreement between the CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP of 20 June 1997, UNEP shall submit an annual report on its provision of and support to the secretariat, including the implementation of its agreement and the administration of the secretariat for consideration at each meeting of the Standing Committee and meetings of the Conferences of the Parties.

Provision of substantive support to the Convention

2. UNEP continues to deploy its technical and scientific expertise to facilitate the effective implementation of the UNEP-administered global and regional environmental conventions.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements:

3. CITES was one of 10 global MEAs which were singled out for the analysis of MEAs as a policy response in UNEP's second Global Environment Outlook report, *GEO-2000*. The report **examines MEAs** in terms of their implementation, compliance, effectiveness and reporting in Chapter 3, in both the Global and Regional Synthesis section and in each of the seven regional sections. For more details, please see the GEO-2000 report (<http://www.unep.org/geo2000/>).
4. Further, a **GEO Technical Report** on mechanisms to assess the implementation impact and effectiveness of major MEAs (including CITES) is currently under preparation. The study will also assess the adequacy and potential of existing and new data and assessment systems and technologies to support MEAs evaluation.
5. UNEP convened a **workshop on enforcement and compliance** with MEAs in Geneva from 12 to 14 July 1999. The workshop focused on illegal trade, environmental crime and violations of the provisions of CITES, and other MEAs (Basel Convention and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer). Experts from developed and developing countries including countries with economies in transition, drawn from law enforcement, customs, prosecution and police participated in the workshop. Officers from UNEP, CITES secretariat, as Interpol and World Customs Organization (WCO) supported the three working groups discussing specific illegal trade and traffic issues pertaining to each of the three conventions.
6. Within the CITES working group, experts examined the development, causes and extent of illegal trade and attempts to control such criminal activities. Measures which have been effective in combating illegal trade were examined and also assessed the effectiveness of interagency cooperation both nationally and internationally. Among the recommendations made to improve enforcement of and compliance at national and international level was the need to **develop guidelines** for co-operation on compliance, enforcement and environmental crime. Another recommendation encouraged the development and implementation of **regional agreements**, such as, the Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora. UNEP was requested to undertake leadership in the area of **environmental crime** for better and effective co-ordination and cooperation between and among others, the national enforcement authorities.
7. One of the major outcomes of this workshop has been the **establishment in UNEP of an Enforcement of MEAs Unit** to take lead in the follow up matters related to the recommendations of the workshop.

8. During this workshop, UNEP as requested, has established a **database of names and full addresses of national enforcement focal points/persons** on the enforcement and compliance with MEAs including CITES. The list (last updated on 18 January 2000) will be updated regularly and distributed to governments and convention secretariats such as CITES to allow their co-operation in the field of enforcement of MEAs.
9. The Working Group of Experts on Compliance and Enforcement held its first preparatory session to develop **guidelines on enforcement and compliance** with MEAs in Geneva from 13 to 15 December 1999. The CITES Secretariat is also a participant in the Working Group. The outcome of the Working Group is being shared widely with the experts and governments to solicit their views and comments which will be compiled and synthesized by UNEP and a revised document issued for further review and discussion during the next meeting scheduled for May 2000.

Protected Areas

10. UNEP/WCMC/IUCN, in consultation with FAO and UNESCO, are in a preparatory process to work out a **methodology and workplan to revise the UN List of Protected Areas** to satisfy the needs of relevant biodiversity related conventions (including CITES), and to promote synergy on information sharing and reporting.

Lusaka Agreement

11. The Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka Agreement), held its **second Governing Council of the Parties to the Agreement** during March 1999 at the Kenya Wildlife Service, Nairobi, Kenya. This second Council meeting calls for closer co-operation of the Lusaka Agreement with CITES. Noting that the Lusaka Agreement is the only regional wildlife law enforcement instrument presently existing, the interim secretariat was requested to draw CITES attention to Resolution Conference 9.8 (Rev.) of CITES which directs CITES to utilize funds to assist in the development and implementation of the regional law-enforcement agreements. No firm assistance has yet been provided due to lack of adequate resources. The interim secretariat is in constant consultation with CITES on how this decision could effectively be implemented.
12. The Bureau of the second Council (members: Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania), met in Nairobi, Kenya on 15 May 1999 to **appoint seconded field officers** of the Task Force. Consequently, the Bureau appointed a Director, an Intelligence Officer and some field officers. With these appointments, the **Task Force began its activities** officially on 1 June 1999 at KWS. To expedite the establishment of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, **UNEP contributed US\$ 35,000 to support the purchase of the essential equipment** required for its activities and operations.
13. The third Council meeting will be held at the seat of the Task Force headquarters, Kenya Wildlife Service sometime in July 2000.

Promoting interlinkages of environmental issues addressed in regional/global MEA's

14. UNEP's Governing Council, at its twentieth session, took a decision on the promotion of **inter-linkages among global environmental issues and human needs** (Decision 20/28). Pursuant to this decision, UNEP convened three meetings on "inter-linkages":
 - a) UNEP convened the 2nd **meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans** in The Hague, from 5-8 July 1999. One of the main objectives of this meeting was to strengthen the linkages between regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans with global conventions and agreements. Amongst numerous recommendations, The meeting recommended that collaboration between CITES and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action plans should be strengthened, especially for those conventions and action plans which manage specially protected areas and wildlife protocols. UNEP and CITES were requested to collaborate on the preparation of a proposal to this effect. In this context, the Caribbean Regional Seas Coordinating Unit offered to house the regional office of the CITES Secretariat in Jamaica Kingston.
 - b) The **Consultative Meeting on Collaboration Among Multilateral Environmental Conventions**, from 25-26 October 1999: This meeting brought together the representatives of Secretariats of selected global and regional MEAs and the chairs of the subsidiary scientific and technical bodies of those MEAs to brainstorm on possible areas of collaboration and issues of common interest. The

meeting also discussed the modalities for collaboration. The main conclusions of the meeting were that consultative dialogue was necessary for enhancing collaboration and identifying issues of common interest and that the process started by this meeting could be moved forward as a platform for consultations, especially at an informal level. At the same time, it should be ensured that the process adds value to the on-going collaboration and cooperation between and among several conventions. Collaboration would be required at different levels of institutional structure of conventions and implementation of conventions. The need for coordination at the national level was emphasized. Some examples of areas of common interest identified include: trade; legal principles and nomenclatures; capacity building and training; application of indigenous knowledge; harmonizing national reporting.

Progress is being made on the issue of harmonization of national reporting to MEAs. Following a study and a workshop conducted by WCMC on behalf of UNEP biodiversity-related conventions, the fifth meeting of SBSTTA has made a strong recommendation to CBD COP-5 entitled "Establishment of guidelines for the second national reports, including incentive measures" (SUBSTTA-5 Recommendation V/13 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/14).

- c) Meeting to **Assess the Need for a Second Inter-Linkages** Assessment, on 26th October 1999: This meeting also involved the secretariats and the scientific and technical subsidiary bodies of MEAs. The meeting discussed whether there was a scientific/policy justification to prepare a second inter-linkages assessment report as a follow-up to the first inter-linkages report entitled, "Protecting Our Planet, Securing Our Future: Linkages between Global Environmental Issues and Human Needs" (published by NASA, UNEP and the World Bank in 1998). The general conclusion of the meeting was that a second inter-linkages assessment would be useful if scoped correctly, i.e., it would need to be focussed, lead to practical outcomes and complement other ongoing assessment activities. There was strong support among the participants for: (i) regional assessment with both a development and an ecosystem-biome focus; and (ii) the development of methodological tools to assist in the implementation of appropriate activities. There was a general support for focusing on Africa, given the current UN focus on Africa, the continent's vulnerability to the impacts of environmental degradation, and numerous regional challenges e.g., water resource management. Africa is a continent with significant development challenges, contains a wide range of important managed and natural ecological systems that are under threat (hence key issues associated with land degradation, biodiversity, endangered species, wetlands, etc.), and is the continent most vulnerable to the impact of climate change.
15. It was also concluded that the second inter-linkages assessment could be carried out as a discrete component of the Millennium Assessment of Global Ecosystems involving the major UN and other international bodies and conventions.
16. Technical and scientific assessments in the area of biodiversity are crucial and critical for establishing the status and trends of biodiversity and identification of emerging issues as well as reviewing the programmes of work and the impact of measures taken (or to be taken under various MEAs and/or organizations.)
17. More information on linkages and support to conventions can be found in documents UNEP/GC.20/17 and UNEP/GC.20.16

Procedures on relations between UNEP and UNEP-administered Conventions

18. In order to facilitate programmatic implementation, cooperation and expeditious attention to administrative matters, UNEP will develop a streamlined **process for consultation and cooperation between UNEP and UNEP-administered conventions** and ensure that procedures are clarified and systematized. The DEC will undertake due consultations in order to develop a document that will address the various issues of relevance.

Biomarkers for monitoring illegal trade

19. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF, for which UNEP provides the secretariat, has been exploring the use of "**biomarkers**" to monitor illegal trade in endangered species across borders. The potential for testing the use of biomarkers to support the objectives of CITES needs to be further explored with the possibility of testing the use of biomarkers at key sites.

Information support

20. UNEP continues to carry out press work for CITES, e.g. **press releases** on their Tiger Missions, organizing press briefings in Lisbon last September and (by remote control via a UNIC) in New Delhi. A **press kit and press mailing** for COP 11 plus COP press relations. The reorganization and strengthening of the **CITES library** is also under way with UNEP's support.
21. UNEP, in cooperation with IUCN, is developing ECOLEX – a **Web-based information service** on environmental law. Over 480 environmental treaties, including CITES, CBD, CMS, Ramsar and the Lusaka Agreement, are now available on-line at <http://www.ecolex.org>. The future development of ECOLEX will be focussed on increasing access to national legislation, soft law and literature. IUCN's fauna database will also be available on-line. Plans are underway to include FAO in the ECOLEX consortium.

Implementation of Natural Resource Conventions

22. UNEP has initiated consultations with UNITAR, the Third World Network and the Thai government to convene a South East Asian **Workshop on implementation of Natural Resource Conventions**, in particular, CBD, CITES, CMS and Ramsar Convention in the first half of 2000.

Tourism

23. UNEP's tour operator initiative is under development to address **the increased trading in endangered species** associated with the development of the tourism industry in many countries.

Trade and Environment

24. UNEP provides the **forum for discussions between MEA's and WTO**. CITES continues to be part of this process.

Customs Officers Training

25. Under the Montreal Protocol customs training activities have been designed by the UNEP Ozone Action Programme. UNEP envisages the possibility **of extending such training courses to CITES customs officers**.