

EU contribution to agenda item 8

Discussion Paper

Key elements of the recommendations of the Vilm report on 'Synergy between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)' as basis for negotiations between the secretariats of both conventions to revise the work plan for implementation of joint activities attached to the memorandum of co-operation between the two conventions

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 and international co-ordination, project implementation and other areas that mutually support the objectives of both Conventions.
- Encouraging the development of complementary CITES and CBD national legislation and its implementation (through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in consultation with relevant stakeholders through the use of GEF funding also for projects that contribute to achieving CITES objectives and by increasing co-ordination among national focal points).
- Developing national and international fora or networks to exchange ideas on best practice and identifying areas for achieving greater synergy making the best use of existing tools/activities such as the CBD Clearing House Mechanism and UNEP's work on synergies and on harmonisation of reporting requirements.
- Revise the CBD/CITES Memorandum of Co-operation and Joint Work Plan to reflect an up to date set of priorities
- Regular representation of the 2 secretariats at the meeting of the other Convention
- Biodiversity related MEAs liaison Group to be used effectively to implement the MoU and the Work Plan.

b) Sustainable use

- Strengthening sustainable development by (a) improving the making of non-detriment findings using the CBD Principles on Sustainable Use and (b) developing for both CITES and the CBD relevant 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 the ecosystem approach. CITES should consider the role of the 'ecosystem approach' developed under the CBD in the implementation of CITES Art. IV ("Regulation of Trade in Specimens of Species Included in Appendix II").

e) Linking CBD thematic site-based and CITES species based conservation 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.
- CITES should act as the lead coordinating agency at a global level for the promotion and implementation of Target 11 of the CBD Global Strategy on Plant Conservation.. Target 11 states: *No species of wild flora endangered by international trade*. It is clearly consistent with the main purpose of the CITES Strategic Plan: "To ensure that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade". This issue has been considered by the CITES Plant Committee in accordance with decision 13.8 and the Plant Committee should continue linking its activities to the CBD GSPC.

f) Establish a process for collaboration in the identification and support for species oriented **taxonomic research** tools and mechanisms such as the Global Taxonomy Initiative and the CITES Nomenclature Committee and its outputs.

g) CITES and the CBD 2010 target

CITES should endorse the 2010 target in the forthcoming revision of its Strategic Plan.

In relation to the 2010 target, Goal 4 of the CBD provisional framework is to "Promote sustainable use and consumption". This includes: Target 4.3. = No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade.

The part of Target 4.3 in the CBD provisional framework concerning flora was already addressed in the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation that recommended that CITES act as the lead coordinating entity in this regard. CITES and CBD should explore possibilities to establish similar processes for wild fauna (eg work could be undertaken in CITES Animal Committee to help delivering this target).