

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

WORLD BANK STATEMENT

The attached document has been submitted by the Secretariat at the request of the World Bank*.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*



**World Bank Statement at the Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP 15)**

Doha, Qatar, 13-25th March, 2010

Agenda item 11: “Cooperation with Financial Institutions”

The World Bank wishes to note its appreciation to the Secretariat of CITES and to all Member States for the opportunity to make a statement at this critically important session. The cooperation that we offer to CITES member states to help them fulfill their objectives under CITES covers a range of different instruments and efforts. The Bank has been assisting developing countries with issues related to natural resource management and enforcement through good governance, environmental sustainability, and anti-corruption efforts. Our President, Robert Zoellick, has made the effort to support critical elements of CITES. This is especially evident in his launch and continuing support of the Global Tiger Initiative.

A key lesson we have learned in our extensive investments in biodiversity projects is that difficult global public goods challenges are posed by the international nature of serious natural resource crime. These challenges are evident in cross-border trade and networks that provide finance, conduct smuggling, provide access to markets, and underpin the corruption of police and other officials. Countering these crimes requires concerted efforts to collaborate, resolve jurisdictional ambiguities, distribute information and intelligence and share costs.

These challenges impact many Bank client countries that need support developing effective policies, legislation and law enforcement programs. While agencies like INTERPOL, UNODC, CITES, and WCO have mobilized efforts in this arena, the fact is that our clients have few sources of balanced advice and support for capacity building and policy guidance. Therefore, while the World Bank is not an enforcement agency, the Bank has an important potential role to help fill gaps in supporting law enforcement capacity building; cross border operational coordination and collaboration; advocacy and analysis for improved natural resource management, and crime prevention. We would like to mention a small sample of the types of activities in which we are involved that we believe assist in the fulfillment of CITES and where the Bank has made an important contribution through **1) Biodiversity Investments, ii) Wildlife Crime and Money Laundering, iii) Awareness Raising and Capacity Building, iv) Forest Enforcement and v) Fisheries Enforcement.**

i) Biodiversity Investment and Protection

More than \$6 billion dollars has been invested in biodiversity protected areas in developing countries over the last 10 years. Here are some examples of a range of initiatives and funds that provide essential support for the future protection of species habitat. These include the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Save our Species.

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility is designed to set the stage for a large-scale system of incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. There are more than 1.2 billion people who depend to varying degrees on forests for their livelihoods. The FCPF builds the capacity of developing countries in tropical and subtropical regions to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation and to tap into the positive incentive for REDD.

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund provides grants for nongovernmental and private sector organizations to help protect biodiversity hotspots. In FY 2009, the Fund awarded grants totaling \$12.9 million and raised its global portfolio to nearly \$114 million for innovative efforts to conserve critical ecosystems. In 2009, the number of civil society groups supported by CEPF grew to more than 1,500.

Save our Species

Save our Species is a program created by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank (WB) and IUCN. This initiative seeks to leverage private sector and multi-stakeholder engagement for dramatically expanded funding for threatened species.

ii) Addressing Wildlife Crime and Money Laundering

The World Bank is participating in the launching of a partnership with UNODC, WCO, INTERPOL and CITES Secretariat to assist CITES member states to build capacity in addressing wildlife crime by working with World Bank's experts on anti-money laundering activities. The World Bank has proposed: an experts meeting on "Following the Money in Wildlife Crime" which would publish a short paper to identify "red flags" for suspicious financial transactions in illegal wildlife trade that can be used by Financial Intelligence Units and financial institutions in existing anti-money laundering regimes. Together with national authorities and other donors, the Bank has also proposed to develop anti-money laundering training materials which can be used in capacity building efforts in countries with environmental crime issues.

iii) Awareness Raising and Capacity Building

Global Tiger Initiative (GTI)

The Global Tiger Initiative is one of the Bank's important contributions to the Year of Biodiversity. The initiative is personally led by President Zoellick and it aims to help define, support and monitor a global program of accelerated actions by tiger range states, with support from the international community, to eliminate the threat of extinction facing the wild tiger. The agreed goal is to double tiger numbers by 2022. Working with CITES, Interpol, WCO and UNODC, GTI hopes to focus greater attention in stopping the large illegal trade in tiger parts as well as in other wild life.

iv) Forest Enforcement

The Forest Law Enforcement and Governance

The Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) initiatives have created new space for official recognition of illegal logging and have created high-level political commitment to address illegal logging and other forest crime. Poor forest governance can cost governments and forest owners as much as USD15 billion in illegal logging. FLEG also aims to galvanize action at the sub-regional and country level through technical assistance and support for empirical research and analysis to contribute to a better understanding of forest law enforcement.

The World Bank has supported a legal review of all timber concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo which reduced the overall area of concession holdings from over 25 million hectares in 2005 to about 10 million hectares in 2009. The World Bank is now funding two major projects totaling almost \$80 million to help the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism to improve protected area management and forest concession management, and address forest and wildlife crime.

Program on Forests

The Program on Forests (PROFOR) is a multi-donor partnership which aims to enhance sustainable forest management through improved knowledge and approaches. It promotes "good forest governance" including enforcement of forest laws and policies by supporting analysis to fill knowledge gaps and assessing possible tools to facilitate enforcement.

v) Fisheries Enforcement

The Global Program on Fisheries

The Global Program on Fisheries (PROFISH) is a global program on sustainable fisheries which aims at meeting the challenge of the growing crisis in the world's marine fisheries and the impact of the crisis on poor people in coastal communities. PROFISH contributes to UN consultations on key ocean issues and international dialogues on combating illegal fishing practices. A workshop held in collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2009 provided a typology of corruption in fisheries and identified means of addressing the challenges.

West Africa Regional Fisheries Program

At the end of 2009, the World Bank approved the first phase of West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP) which aims to sustainably increase the wealth generated by the use of the marine fish resources off the coast of West Africa and to increase the proportion of that wealth that stays within the region. The first phase includes the countries of Cape Verde, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, for a total of US\$55 million in IDA credits and GEF grants. The WARFP provides funds to (i) strengthen the governance of the marine fisheries, (ii) reduce illegal fishing and (iii) increase the contribution of the fish resources to local economies.

Conclusion

Natural resources law enforcement must be founded upon strong systems of natural resources management based on good science, community participation, and resilient institutions. Building these requires time, resources and commitment from the highest levels of government and the international community. To identify ways of bringing our resources and expertise to bear on international wildlife crime, we have begun to work together across the Bank to explore options for working with a range of partners. The need for collaboration and partnership has never been greater and the World Bank is committed to playing a larger role in the future.