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**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional
arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy
platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
First session
Nairobi, 3–7 October 2011**

**Recommendations of the 61st Standing Committee of the
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of
Wild Fauna and Flora on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on the subject of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The annex is presented as prepared by the Convention secretariat and has not been formally edited.

Annex



RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 61ST CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ON IPBES

At its 61st meeting in Geneva in August, 2011 the CITES Standing Committee **endorsed** the following recommendations of the 25th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee and 19th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee to guide the engagement of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Secretariat and the Parties, in their engagement with IPBES.

- a) The Chairs of the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee and the Secretariat should participate in the IPBES plenary meetings, subject to the availability of financial resources, to ensure that CITES is properly represented; their terms of Reference should be determined by the Standing Committee.
- b) IPBES should support and establish a regular process for seeking the views and understanding the needs of biodiversity-related conventions and Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- c) IPBES should support access to reliable existing knowledge and generate knowledge on, and facilitate regular assessments of, the conservation and sustainable use of key species in ecosystems, including their economic valuation; IPBES should not duplicate the work of existing MEAs.
- d) IPBES should provide particular support to the Scientific Authorities to the Parties to CITES. This could involve:
 - i) Improving access to knowledge to enable the CITES bodies and Parties to fulfil their functions more effectively, especially in the making of non-detriment findings and in the review of significant trade.
 - ii) Documenting best practice in the use of science in biodiversity conservation and in ensuring the continued provision of ecosystem services.
 - iii) Providing capacity building support to CITES Scientific Authorities from developing countries, upon request, to help them fulfil their specific obligations under CITES. This would both build capacity to carry out applied science and assist in meeting obligations under the Convention.
 - iv) In addressing the science-policy interface from both sides, IPBES should ensure that decision makers and policy makers, such as CITES Management Authorities, benefit from capacity building support on how to obtain, interpret and use scientific advice in the taking of decisions and the adoption of policy measures.

And the Standing Committee **noted** that Management Authorities of Parties are encouraged to coordinate and enhance information exchange with their competent national authorities for IPBES.

CITES Secretariat, October, 2011

CITES and IPBES - Background

Decisions 15.12 and 15.13 of the 15th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties in Doha, March, 2010 directed the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat to provide input into the process of the development of IPBES in order that the Standing Committee can report to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as required by Decision 15.14, as follows:

15.12 *Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat*

Without taking a position about the necessity for, or nature of, such a Platform, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, participate in discussions concerning a possible IPBES, to provide all necessary input into the process of IPBES and to ensure that the role of CITES receives due recognition. The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee to seek additional guidance.

15.13 *Directed to the Secretariat*

The Secretariat shall work with the United Nations Environment Programme to identify possible sources of external funding to support the participation called for in Decision 15.12

15.14 *Directed to the Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee shall report at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the IPBES

CITES Secretariat, October, 2011
