

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 August 2003

Strategic planning

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC VISION THROUGH 2005

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), the Conference of the Parties adopted a Strategic Vision through 2005 that includes an Action Plan with action points directed to various CITES entities, including the Animals Committee. The action points directed to the Animals Committee in the Action Plan are presented in the Annex to this document.
3. Based on a review of the goals and objectives of the Strategic Vision the Animals Committee agreed at its 16th meeting (Shepherdstown, December 2000) to initiate or support the following activities:
 - a) facilitating communication and exchange of information between Scientific Authorities, e.g. sharing of non-detriment findings, existing databases, checklists, postings to websites, identification manuals innovative technologies, etc.;
 - b) developing a database of sample CITES permits, so that when a Party receives an import/(re)export permit they can check it against the sample permits held on the database;
 - c) developing a directory of species experts and contact details (recognizing that the Convention on Biological Diversity has already compiled a similar list);
 - d) strengthening the relationship between CITES Management and Scientific Authorities through the production of training manuals; capacity-building workshops and regional directories to facilitate communication between Scientific Authorities within the regions;
 - e) identifying objectives that other partners might be able to help with in terms of resources and expertise, e.g. regional representatives could help with the translation of key documents and make them more widely available in local languages;
 - f) emphasizing the importance of annual reports and trade data for resource monitoring and management and the implementation of Article IV;
 - g) promoting greater understanding of the Convention within the scientific community at scientific meetings and conferences, as well as in the field.

Issues for consideration

4. The Animals Committee is invited to consider whether the activities listed in paragraph 3 above are still valid for the remainder of the five-year period of the Strategic Vision, and if so, to take them into account when establishing its priorities for 2003-2004 (see document AC19 Doc. 6.3).

Action points		Action by
GOAL 1: ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF EACH PARTY TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION		
Objective 1.1		
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"> – Promote and regulate sustainable management of wild fauna and flora; – Promote and regulate responsible trade in wild fauna and flora; – Promote the effective enforcement of the Convention. 		
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.	Parties, Secretariat, Animals Committee
1.1.6	Develop further regulations to prevent unnecessary loss during catching, storage and transportation of live animals.	Parties, Secretariat, Animals Committee
Objective 1.4		
To facilitate development and use of appropriate technologies and information management systems that enhance and expedite the collection, submission and exchange of accurate information.		
1.4.1	On the basis of information from Parties, evaluate needs, capabilities and opportunities as related to information technologies and management.	Secretariat, with three permanent Committees
1.4.4	Develop a simple guide to the review of significant trade.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
1.4.5	Develop and enhance databases that include information related to species in trade, CITES Decisions and procedures.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
Objective 1.7		
To improve the coordination between CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, and increase the effectiveness of the latter.		
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.	Secretariat with Animals and Plants Committees
1.7.2	Develop regional directories that list the botanists and zoologists in each region who are experts in CITES-listed species.	Animals Committee, Plants Committee
GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES		
Objective 2.1		
To ensure that the Convention's Appendices correctly reflect the conservation and management needs of species.		
2.1.2	Regularly review the Appendices to ensure that listed taxa satisfy the relevant criteria.	Animals and Plants Committees
2.1.3	Continue the review of significant trade as initiated by the Parties in Resolution Conf. 8.9.	Animals and Plants Committees

Action points		Action by
2.1.4	Evaluate trade and biological information on currently unlisted species subject to significant international trade to determine whether they would qualify for and benefit from CITES listing.	Animals and Plants Committees
Objective 2.2		
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.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
2.2.3	For identified commodities, develop standardized units of measure for permits, trade analysis and reporting.	Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
Objective 2.3		
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
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
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 web site; and communication through a listserver).	Parties, Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees
Objective 2.4		
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
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 tests) 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
GOAL 4: PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONVENTION		
Objective 4.3		
To promote greater awareness among and cooperation with the scientific community.		
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