

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 April 2008

COOPERATION WITH ADVISORY BODIES OF OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The *Strategic Vision through 2005* and its *Action Plan* as well as the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* place strong emphasis on ensuring that CITES cooperates with other multilateral instruments and processes. The present document reports on the activities of the Secretariat and the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees, in relation to three such instruments and processes.

Meeting of the chairmen of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions.

3. Following a suggestion made by the CITES Secretariat at the fourth meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) (Bonn, October 2005), the BLG agreed to propose a meeting of the chairmen of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB). The purpose was for the chairmen of these bodies together with representatives of the secretariats to enhance cooperation, share information about their conventions' activities and processes and collectively support progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target.
4. Convened by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the first meeting of the CSAB took place on 1 July 2007. CITES was represented by the chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees and a representative of the Secretariat. The report of the meeting can be found at the following URL: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/csab/csab-01/official/csab-01-03-en.doc> (English only).
5. The meeting was introductory in nature, but a number of features are of particular pertinence to the Animals and Plants Committees. It was agreed that it may be valuable for conventions to adopt, endorse or use guidelines developed by other conventions. Such actions would provide mutual support for activities directed toward the 2010 biodiversity target. Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) concerning the CBD's *Addis Ababa principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity* might form an example in the CITES context. The focus at the meeting was on the adoption of CBD guidelines by other conventions, but it was agreed that guidelines from other conventions (and other organizations) could also be more widely adopted and that, for the next meeting the convention secretariats would prepare a summary of guidelines which might be adopted, endorsed or used by the governing bodies the conventions.
6. The next meeting of the CSAB is scheduled to take place in May 2008 in the margins of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD. This meeting might provide an opportunity to discuss ways of harmonizing the taxonomy and nomenclature of species included in their respective provisions of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements as proposed in Decision 14.18. The

Secretariat will liaise closely with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees over this possibility.

2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

7. The 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) was also mentioned during the meeting. This is an initiative led by UNEP-WCMC with USD 3.6 million of funding from the Global Environment Facility to streamline biodiversity indicators for the 2010 biodiversity target. Further details can be found on the BIP website: <http://www.twentyten.net> (English only). The Partnership is composed of more than 40 partners from around the world, including UN agencies (such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNEP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), multilateral environmental agreements (such as CITES, CBD and Ramsar), intergovernmental organizations (such as IUCN-The World Conservation Union), scientific research institutions and non-governmental organizations (such as BirdLife International and WWF International). The first meeting of the Partnership was held in September 2007 and the CITES Secretariat was asked to be the key indicator partner for the 'Status of species in trade' element of the indicators of sustainable use. The Secretariat intends to work in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC to achieve this objective. The indicators are scheduled to be developed by the end of 2009 and the Secretariat will keep the Committees advised of progress. During the development phase it would be very helpful if interested Committee members and observers, particularly from Scientific Authorities, would be able to offer comments and advice on the development of the indicators.

International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity

8. The International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB) was also discussed at the first meeting of the chairmen of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions. This idea was first suggested at the Paris Conference on Biodiversity, Science and Governance, held in January 2005 where a consultation to assess the need, scope and possible form of a mechanism of this kind was proposed. Further details can be found at <http://www.imoseb.net>. The *Institut français de la biodiversité* was established as the Executive Secretariat for the IMoSEB and an International Steering Committee was formed comprising representatives of governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the CITES Secretariat. The International Steering Committee met in February 2006 (Paris, France) and agreed on the *modus operandi* for the consultation and a series of regional meetings. These were based on a draft proposal 'International Steering Committee Members' Responses: 'Needs and Options' Document', prepared by the Executive Secretariat. These regional consultative meetings were held in 2007: North America (January, Montreal), Africa (March, Yaoundé), Europe (April, Geneva), Asia (September, Beijing), (October, Bariloche/La Serena) and Oceania (October, Alotau). The conclusions of these consultations were presented at a second meeting of the International Steering Committee, held in Montpellier, France, in November 2007. The International Steering Committee reconfirmed the need for action and recommended that further and urgent consideration be given to the establishment of a means and enhancement of existing institutions, to provide an objective source of information about biodiversity change and its impacts on ecosystem services and human well-being. The Committee invited the Executive Director of UNEP to convene an intergovernmental meeting to consider establishing an international interface between science and policy to address these objectives.

Conclusion

9. The Committees are invited to note the contents of this document and to identify volunteers amongst the Committee members and observers, particularly from Scientific Authorities, to offer guidance on the development of indicators for the sustainable use of species in trade as mentioned in paragraph 7 above.