

COMMENTS OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFT STRATEGIC VISION

Purpose

To provide a commentary to the 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee from the CITES Animals Committee on the draft Strategic Plan of the Convention that was prepared by a working group established by the 40th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Background

The matter was included as an item on the agenda for the 15th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (Antananarivo, July 1999), and was dealt with by an afternoon session of plenary under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chair of the Committee. The task of the Animals Committee was made considerably easier by the timing of its meeting, relative to that of its counterpart committee, the Plants Committee. The review of the draft Plan by the 9th meeting of the Plants Committee (Darwin, June 1999), enabled the 15th meeting of the Animals Committee to focus specifically on both the draft Strategic Plan and the views and comments of the Plants Committee. As a result, comments provided by the Animals Committee are generally more abbreviated, either endorsing, or offering minor amendments, to the views of the Plants Committee.

Issues

The Animals Committee supported the general thrust and direction of the draft Plan.

In addition to specific comments of each of the goals and objectives contained in the draft Plan (presented as italicised text in the draft document which appears as an accompanying annex), the following general comments were noted.

- The final draft should adopt uniform nomenclature that is consistent with that of the Convention text. The terms “wildlife” and “plants and animals” should be amended to “wild fauna and flora”.
- Either the Standing Committee (or the Working Group) should take care to ensure that certain words and/or phrases, that have a certain meaning when used in the English language, are translated accurately into the other working languages of the Convention, in order to avoid any ambiguity in meaning. This will avoid unproductive debate at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, when dealing with this matter. Examples are provided in the contained in the accompanying annex.
- Many non-English-speaking delegates to the 15th meeting of the Animals Committee expressed the view that many of the sentences were long and complex in their structure and hence difficult to understand. In order to promote a greater understanding (and hence uniform implementation) of the intent of the goals and objectives, sentences should either be simplified or re-structured by pointed or coded subparagraphs.
- The present draft does not contain sufficiently explicit language.
- Although the Section entitled “*Delivering the Strategic Plan through the Action Plan*” implies that the Convention will evaluate implementation of the Strategic Plan and, when appropriate, modify it accordingly, the present draft strategic plan does not contain sufficiently explicit language on the mechanism by which this would be achieved. It is recommended therefore that an additional goal be incorporated into the Plan that describes feedback mechanisms and procedures (eg performance indicators) by which implementation of the Strategic and Action Plans will be monitored and evaluated.

The work program of the Antananarivo meeting did not permit any discussion on the work plan of the Animals Committee that might be derived from the various objectives. It was noted that the task of preparing a Work Plan was the responsibility of the Secretariat. Participants who so wished were therefore invited to examine the document in more detail after the meeting and communicate their suggested actions for the Committee to the AC Chair by the end of July 1999. Comments and suggestions received by the Chair would be collated for subsequent submission to and discussion with the Secretariat.

Submitted for consideration by the 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee.

Chair
CITES Animals Committee

CITES
THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS¹

STRATEGIC VISION THROUGH 2005

No wild animal or plant species should become or remain subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade

[The sub-title and the following Purpose of the Strategic Plan should be expressed in a positive manner]

Purpose

TO ENSURE THAT NO SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA OR FLORA BECOMES OR REMAINS SUBJECT TO UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

[See foregoing comment]

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to improve the working of the Convention so that international trade in wild plants and animals is increasingly and consistently conducted at sustainable levels. Where uncertainty remains as to whether trade is sustainable, the precautionary principle will prevail as the ultimate safeguard. However a successful outcome of the implementation of the Strategic Plan will be reducing the requirement to bring the precautionary principle into play.

The Strategic Plan recognizes that sustainable harvest and trade in wild animals and plants can make a major contribution to securing the broader and not incompatible objectives of sustainable development and bio-diversity conservation. However, it also recognizes that the Convention must continue to ensure that proper trade mechanisms are put in place. Such mechanisms depend upon availability of and access to reliable scientific data and to information generated by effective monitoring systems to counter over-exploitation. However, information by itself is not enough. Such trade mechanisms also require strong national capacity backed by good co-operation at national, regional and global levels.

To achieve this purpose, seven goals have been identified as the key components of the Strategic Plan. It is important to realize that the successful achievement of Goal 7, allied to Goal 5, will greatly enhance the achievement of Goals 1, 2, 3 and 4. Securing a strong financial basis must therefore be given a major effort, notwithstanding the importance of the other goals.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Enhance the capacity of each Party to implement the Convention.2. Strengthen the scientific basis of decision-making processes.3. Eliminate illegal international trade in wild animals and plants.4. Promote greater understanding of the Convention.5. Increase cooperation and conclude strategic alliances with international stakeholders.6. Progress toward full global membership.7. Provide the Convention with an improved and secure financial and administrative basis. |
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Introduction

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed on 3 March 1973. The Convention resulted from an expression of concern by the 1972 United

¹ *The official name of the treaty is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.*

Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Stockholm, Sweden concerning the rate at which the world's wild animals and plants were being threatened by unregulated international trade. Drafts of what became the Washington Convention or CITES were sent to governments by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in 1967, 1969 and 1971. The final draft, after review by governments, General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and others, was discussed at a Plenipotentiary Conference in Washington, D.C., United States of America. At its conclusion, twenty-one of the eighty countries represented at the Conference signed the Convention. Requiring ten countries to ratify, the Convention entered into force on 1 July 1975.

In the intervening twenty-five years, the number of countries that have acceded to the Convention has continued to increase. With more than 140 Parties, CITES is regarded widely as one of the most important legal international conservation instruments. During this period, the Conference of the Parties has shown itself to be capable of adapting to changing circumstances and, through Conference Resolutions, has demonstrated an ability to construct practical solutions to increasingly complex wildlife trade problems. For example, the Parties have adopted "ranching" and other control techniques such as annual quotas for managing the harvesting of some Appendix I-listed species at levels that do not threaten their conservation status. In 1994 the Conference of the Parties identified the information requirements necessary to extend the ranching concept for specific application to marine turtles.

More recently, proposals to amend the appendices to the Convention have become increasingly complex and sensitive. As a result, the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Kyoto, 1992) initiated a process to review the "Berne Criteria" that had been in place since 1976 and were proving to be too general and inadequate. This resulted in the adoption of new and more objective, scientifically-based criteria to guide amendments to Appendices I and II. In adopting the new criteria, the Parties recognized the increasing acceptance, by the international community, to apply the precautionary principle to the decision-making process. Accordingly, its application is embraced in considerations involving the transfer of species from Appendix I to Appendix II. When the new criteria were adopted in 1994, the Parties, as an expression of the need for a flexible approach to CITES implementation, agreed to incorporate a review process into the new criteria. This process has commenced, and will strengthen further the scientific basis of the decision-making process for amending the appendices to the Convention.

The 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Fort Lauderdale, 1994) commissioned a review of the Convention's effectiveness. The principal purpose of the review was to evaluate the extent to which the Convention had achieved its objectives, the progress made since CITES came into being and, most importantly, to identify deficiencies and requirements necessary to strengthen the Convention and help plan for the future. At its 10 meeting, the Conference agreed to an Action Plan for implementing certain findings and recommendations of the review. A central finding was the need for a Strategic Plan.

With this Strategic Plan, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention has mapped the Convention's direction as it enters the new millennium. The plan forms the basis for the Convention's participation in the wider international nature conservation arena as developed since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and includes issues such as:

- stewardship of natural resources and their use at sustainable levels;
- safeguarding of wildlife as integral to the global ecosystem on which all life depends;
- need for deeper understanding of the cultural and economic issues at play in producer and consumer countries; and
- wider involvement of civic society in the development of conservation policies and practices.

Strategic Plan

This Plan presents the Convention's Strategic vision as it enters the new millennium. It clearly focuses on a limited number of priority goals and objectives deemed critical to meeting the

Convention's purpose to ensure that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade. If actively pursued, this Plan will bring the Convention's purpose closer to reality by the year 2005.

Goal 1: ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF EACH PARTY TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

The effectiveness of the Convention depends on a co-ordinated process of implementation that guarantees, in the long term, the achievement by all Parties of the Convention's purpose and objectives outlined in this Strategic Plan. The need for a co-ordinated process has grown as the Convention faces up to trade issues involving species that often fall beyond the direct reach of the management and scientific authorities. Also, it is recognized that for trade to be based on sustainable use, social and economic incentives are needed to bring local communities and local authorities into partnership with government under an appropriate legislative, policy and financial framework.

Therefore enhanced capacity at the national level means improving the following:

- agency capacity and co-operation;
- policy formulation;
- community, local authority and Government partnerships;
- direct benefit and revenue derivation;
- information on which decisions are based; and
- national legislation and law enforcement capability.

These improvements, in turn, should enable better management of wild animals and plants, and thus reduce the need to include species in CITES appendix listings. It is also important to consider the potential of regional co-ordination and collaboration for national capacity building efforts.

Objective 1.1

To assist in the development of appropriate national legislation and policies that encourage the adoption and implementation of social and economic incentives allied to legal instruments that promote and regulate sustainable management of and trade in wild animals and plants.

[Some degree of support for the amendments suggested by PC, however there was some confusion about the term "international legislation" recognising that CITES implementation, although reliant on international cooperation, is implemented at the national level. Nevertheless, Objective 1.1 is a complex sentence with several themes that is difficult to interpret in all languages.

Suggested alternative wording:

"To assist in the development of appropriate national wildlife conservation legislation and policies that encourage the adoption and implementation of social and economic incentives allied to legal instruments that:

- *improve regulation of international trade; and*
- *promote sustainable management of wild fauna and flora".]*

Objective 1.2

To strengthen the administrative, management and scientific capacity of Parties by improving the co-ordination of management and scientific authorities with other national agencies and organisations responsible for wild animals and plants.

[The words "and organisations" should be inserted to provide for greater coordination between government agencies and other entities such as universities and scientific organisations.]

Objective 1.3

To encourage Parties to strengthen their enforcement capacity and improve co-ordination among management authorities, other agencies (e.g. police, customs and quarantine), and the judiciary.

[There is some ambiguity, in Spanish, with using the term “coordination”. Suggest restructuring the sentence to separate two issues – strengthened enforcement and improved coordination among Management Authorities.

The words “quarantine services” should be replaced with “veterinary and phytosanitary services”.

The judiciary is not an enforcement entity and could be transferred to an action item that addresses the need to increase awareness of the Convention within the judiciary to award more severe penalties for serious infractions.

Objective 1.3 should be cross-referenced to Objective 3.1.

Suggested alternative wording for Objective 1.3:

To encourage Parties to improve coordination and enforcement capacity among management authorities and all other government agencies responsible for effective implementation of the Convention, such as customs, police, veterinary and phytosanitary services (ref. Objective 3.1).]

Objective 1.4

To facilitate development of appropriate technologies and information management systems to enhance the collection and exchange of information, including data bases in regard to species and trade, as well as information in regard to CITES decisions and procedures, etc.

[Sentence is too long and complex – and should be made more precise by subdividing the different objectives.

The last two clauses commencing with the word “including” could be deleted as they represent examples of types of information.

There is an urgent need to develop mechanisms that expedite to submission of information such as trade data, to the Secretariat. This may be implicit in the present language of Objective 1.4 but needs to be stated explicitly.

The expression “etc.” is too vague and should either be deleted or enumerated.

Suggested alternative wording for Objective 1.4:

To facilitate the development and use of appropriate technologies and information management systems that enhance and expedite the collection and submission of accurate information.]

Objective 1.5

To use the organizations specializing in supporting the Convention to assist the Secretariat and Parties in building national capacities and to facilitate improved access to and management of data bases.

[The Animals Committee does not support the alternative objective suggested by the Plants Committee. The term “specialising” is too restrictive and should be replaced with the word “capable”. Building national capacities encompasses a wide array of activities and should be linked more directly to improving access to and management of data bases. Accordingly, given the close (and confusing) relationship of this objective to the preceding Objective 1.4, it could be deleted and incorporated as a series of action items under Objective 1.4.]

Objective 1.6

To ensure that all parties have at least one designated Scientific Authority.

[The Animals committee supported the alternative language proposed by the Plants Committee with the following modifications.

Suggested alternative wording for Objective 1.6:

To ensure that all Parties have at least one designated independent Scientific Authority either with, or access to, expertise in flora and fauna, and inform the Secretariat accordingly.]

Objective 1.7

To increase the effectiveness of the Scientific Authorities of the Parties.

[The suggestion of the Plants Committee to incorporate this objective into Objective 1.3 is not supported as the two objectives address fundamentally different problems.]

Objective 1.8

To encourage Parties to develop and implement effective conservation plans for the recovery of species, leading to their ultimate deletion from the appendices.

[The Animals Committee supports the alternative language suggested by the Plants Committee.]

Objective 1.9

To encourage the proper funding for CITES implementation and enforcement by Parties, including the adoption of national mechanisms that have resource users make a greater contribution to such funding.

[The Animals Committee supports the recommendation of the Plants Committee to incorporate the intent of this objective into Goal 7 and expand Goal 7 to operate differentially at the levels of the Parties and the Secretariat.]

Objective 1.10

To fully use the potential of regional co-ordination and collaboration in capacity building efforts.

[Present language agreed to by the Animals Committee.]

Goal 2: STRENGTHEN THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

The work associated with effective implementation of the Convention entails not only the efficient conduct of business at meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its Committees, but also, and perhaps more importantly, the day-to-day implementation activities of Parties. While other factors may come into play in these arenas, they do not override the need for sound, science-based decisions in all areas of the Convention's application and at all levels of its implementation.

Increasingly, the Conference of the Parties is required to address and resolve difficult, complex trade and management issues involving species that are economically important resources. Within the context of the need for non-detriment findings, the Convention is grounded in sound biological principles. This view was reaffirmed by the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Fort Lauderdale, 1994) with the adoption of new criteria for amending Appendices I and II. In this regard, practical follow-up action to enhance the conservation and recovery of taxa included in Appendix I remains an important element of the Convention to be implemented effectively. Continued strengthening of the treaty's scientific basis is critical to the continued success of the Convention and its relevance as a major international instrument to ensure that wild animals and plants subject to international trade are used at levels that are sustainable by the wild populations.

Objective 2.1

To ensure that the Convention's appendices correctly reflect the conservation needs of species.

[The Animals Committee supports the alternative language suggested by the Plants Committee.]

Objective 2.2

To ensure that decisions to amend the Convention's appendices are founded on sound and relevant scientific information that addresses agreed biological and trade criteria for such amendments.

[The Animals Committee supports the existing language.]

Objective 2.3

To improve the scientific basis by which Scientific Authorities make non-detriment findings.

[The Animals Committee supports the existing language.]

Objective 2.4

To encourage, guide and assist Parties to implement effective procedures for the recovery, conservation and management of species in the Convention's appendices.

[The Animals Committee supports the alternative language suggested by the Plants Committee and the comment of the Plants Committee that introduces the concept that CITES listing of a taxon is not necessarily negative but can provide an incentive for improved management.]

Objective 2.5

To encourage further research, including research into innovative technologies relevant to CITES implementation and enforcement.

[The Animals Committee supports the alternative language suggested by the Plants Committee with an addition that cross references this objective to Goal 5.]

Objective 2.6

To encourage that the above objectives, and those under 2.4 and 2.5 in particular, are pursued where appropriate at the regional level.

[The Animals Committee supports the recommendation of the Plants Committee to delete this objective and incorporate the term "at the regional level" in Objectives 2.4 and 2.5.]

[General: During the discussions on the objectives identified by the working group to achieve Goal 2, several commentaries focused on the need to ensure that Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other subsidiary bodies whose primary objectives are the sustainable use and conservation of natural renewable resources. The Standing Committee should consider some of the foregoing array of objectives in the context of Goal 5.]

Goal 3: ELIMINATE ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS

The illegal trade in wild animals and plants is a major factor in the depletion of the world's natural resources in exchange for commercial gain. It undermines the conservation efforts of developing countries, affects the income of rural populations and has driven several species to the brink of extinction. Experience has shown that CITES enforcement would greatly benefit from a higher degree of co-ordination among the authorities and enforcement agencies within Parties. ***[insert see below]***. Enforcement of the Convention is primarily a matter of national competence, but bilateral, regional and global co-operation is elementary in the combat against illegal international trade. As for a number of other CITES goals, the need for regional co-operation to combat wildlife crime is

particularly obvious. The involvement of the WCO and ICPO-Interpol in enforcement questions is further clearly essential.

[Animals Committee recommends the insertion of the following sentence that recognises the importance of educating the judiciary to impose penalties that are commensurate with the offence. “Similarly the severity of penalties imposed by the judiciary for wildlife trafficking offences are often insufficient to act as effective deterrents”.]

Objective 3.1

To promote a high degree of co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration among national and international law enforcement agencies.

[The following alternative wording is recommended by the Animals Committee:

To promote a high degree of co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration among international law enforcement agencies that is supported by a greater understanding by the judiciary.]

Objective 3.2

To stimulate bilateral, regional and global efforts to combat illegal international trade in wild animals and plants.

[The following alternative wording is recommended by the Animals Committee:

To stimulate and participate in bilateral, regional and global efforts to combat illegal international trade in wild fauna and flora.]

Objective 3.3

To encourage the development of effective regional co-operative efforts, particularly among countries with common borders.

[Refer to comments on Objective 3.4.]

Objective 3.4

To encourage mutual technical assistance in enforcement matters.

[Objectives 3.3 and 3.4 could be amalgamated as follows:

To facilitate the development of effective regional cooperative efforts, particularly among countries with common borders that encourage mutual technical assistance in enforcement matters, including training.]

[Objective 3.5 (New)

To implement appropriate education and awareness programs to encourage greater local community participation in combating illegal trade and promote greater voluntary compliance by user groups (cross referenced to Objective 4.2).

The rationale for including the foregoing new objective lies in focusing on activities that are designed to make it more attractive to operate legally – thus minimising the long-term requirement for enforcement. The increasing trend by many governments and international fora to support and implement full participatory programs involving local communities should be recognised and accommodated for by the CITES Strategic Plan.

The Animals Committee does not support the two new objectives proposed by the Plants Committee as these are more appropriate as action items.]

Goal 4: TO PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONVENTION

To ensure better implementation of CITES, public support and participation must be enhanced through continuous educational processes that recognize not only the existence of the Convention but also its beneficial contribution to conservation through sustainable trade management.

Efforts are necessary, both at a national and international level, to provide accurate information about the aims and function of the Convention. Educational materials, written in simple language appropriate to local usage, would highlight the Convention's positive achievements to the conservation of animals and plants.

Involvement of local communities, NGO's, relevant trade associations, the scientific community and civic society is essential to reduce the still widespread misunderstanding of the Convention, and the misinformation that, when circulated, can undermine effective implementation of the Convention.

[Use of the terms "misinformation" and "undermine effective implementation" in the final paragraph were confusing particularly when translated into the other working languages of the Convention. The sense of the final paragraph should perhaps be presented in a positive manner.]

Objective 4.1

To strengthen partnership with national and international NGO's .

[The Animals Committee supports the alternative language suggested by the Plants Committee.]

Objective 4.2

To strengthen alliance with relevant local communities, consumer groups, traders and trade associations.

[The Animals Committee supports the alternative language suggested by the Plants Committee.]

Objective 4.3

To promote greater awareness by and co-operation with the scientific community.

[The Animals Committee supports the alternative language suggested by the Plants Committee.]

Objective 4.4

To stimulate production and dissemination of informative materials to a broad public at a local, national, and regional level by using culturally relevant examples.

[No comment]

[The new objective proposed by the Plants Committee is more properly a tool (and therefore an action item) to achieve Objective 4.2 as it has been amended by the Plants Committee.]

Goal 5: INCREASE CO-OPERATION AND CONCLUDE STRATEGIC ALLIANCES WITH INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

The Convention states that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) shall provide a Secretariat. Therefore, the maintenance of an optimal working relationship with UNEP is critical for the proper administration of the Convention. Additionally, the Governing Council of UNEP at its 20th session (Nairobi, 1999) has noted the importance of promoting interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions and international processes in an effort to better focus international policy-making. It calls upon Parties to give due consideration to ways and means to strengthen

coherent interlinkages among relevant conventions. Numerous linkages also exist between the aims of CITES and those of other multilateral environmental agreements. Specifically the missions of CBD and CITES are closely related, thus necessitating a high degree of co-operation and synergy. Co-operation and co-ordination with species management conventions and agreements such as ICCAT and IWC are equally important.

CITES implementation and enforcement depends to a large degree on efficient border, trade and sales controls. The involvement of WCO and Interpol in this respect is crucial. A number of international organisations such as IUCN and WCMC have a wealth of scientific and technical information at their disposal and continue to increase this knowledge through research programmes, as well as the update and maintenance of extensive databases. Again close co-operation with those organisations is essential for an efficient distribution of responsibilities. Finally as CITES mainly achieves its conservation objectives through trade measures, it is important to ensure the recognition, acceptance and compatibility of such measures with WTO and GATT.

[The Animals Committee questioned why only two examples of species management entities (ICCAT and IWC) are presented without even referencing FAO. Rather than present an exhaustive list of these conventions, agreements and species management entities, some participants expressed the view that it would be preferable to delete the example, “such as ICCAT IWC”, provided at the end of the first paragraph. Other participants expressed the strong preference to retain the examples cited – particularly including reference to the IWC. The Committee was unable to reach consensus on this matter which may need to be considered further by the Standing Committee.]

Objective 5.1

To ensure an optimal working relationship with UNEP, as well as close co-ordination and synergy with the CBD and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

[No comment]

Objective 5.2

To ensure close co-operation and co-ordination with other related Conventions, Agreements and associations (e.g. IWC, ITTO, IATA.)

[Animals Committee was unable to reach agreement on the language proposed by the working group of the Standing Committee that cited specific examples in parentheses – see commentary on the same subject in relation to the introductory notes above. The Standing Committee may need to consider this matter further.]

Objective 5.3

To ensure the co-ordination of scientific and technical programmes, and the efficient distribution of responsibilities with relevant technical partners (e.g. IUCN, WCMC, and TRAFFIC.)

[The existing language is unclear and does not recognise independence of non-CITES scientific and technical programs. The following alternative language is proposed:

“To ensure greater co-ordination of scientific and technical programs, and, where appropriate, more efficient distribution of responsibilities with relevant technical partners (e.g. IUCN, WCMC, TRAFFIC and others).”]

Objective 5.4

To ensure the continued recognition, acceptance and compatibility of CITES measures with provisions of GATT and WTO.

[This aspect of the draft strategic plan elicited considerable discussion by Animals Committee. Most interventions expressed the view that CITES is a separate entity and should therefore not be presented as an instrument that is subordinate to the GATT/WTO. In this regard, particular concern was expressed over the use of the term "compatibility". Several interventions recommended deletion of this objective. However others expressed the view that the existence of the GATT/WTO should not be ignored nor should its potential influence/impact on the CITES decision-making processes be underestimated. This matter should be discussed by the Standing Committee.]

The following alternative language for Objective 5.4 is offered:

To achieve enhanced recognition and acceptance of CITES measures by the GATT/WTO by ensuring greater harmonisation of the decision-making processes between the two bodies.]

Goal 6: PROGRESS TOWARD FULL GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP

In order for the Convention to achieve its mission, as many countries as possible that are engaged in trade of wild animals and plants should become Parties. Although membership has grown steadily to more than 140 Parties, there are still countries that have not yet become CITES Party members.

The 1983 Gaborone amendment to Article XXI of the Convention envisions accession to the Convention of regional economic integration organizations to which Parties have transferred competence in areas of CITES implementation. To bring such organizations within the Convention, ratification of the amendment should progress and eligible organizations encouraged to join.

Objective 6.1

To secure at least 20 more Parties to the Convention by 2005 with a special focus on range countries of species subject to significant trade and important consumer countries of wild plants and animals, as well as countries located in regions with relatively low representation.

[No comment]

Objective 6.2

To encourage ratification of the 1983 Amendment to Article XXI of the Convention and the subsequent accession by eligible regional economic integration organizations.

[No comment]

Goal 7: PROVIDE THE CONVENTION WITH AN IMPROVED AND SECURE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BASIS

Successful implementation and enforcement of the Convention requires an appropriate level of funding, as well as a strong and professional Convention Secretariat. In addition to adequate support at the national level, there is continuing financial need to meet the requirements of operational effectiveness of the Convention, as well as the platform for international co-ordination and co-operation it is required to provide. Present funding barely covers the Convention's primary expenditures. Programme expenditure on capacity building, scientific research and other projects in support of the aims of the Convention largely depend on voluntary contributions by donors. This financial support is welcome, but if CITES is to continue to play a major role in species conservation, a more stable flow of financial resources is required.

Objective 7.1

To resolve the problems caused by late and inadequate contributions to the CITES Trust Fund.

[No comment]

Objective 7.2

To ensure that the decisions of the Conference of the Parties take full account of financial implications for the CITES Trust Fund.

[No comment]

Objective 7.3

To seek funding of the Convention's priorities from GEF.

[The Animals Committee supports the alternative language suggested by the Plants Committee.]

Objective 7.4

To encourage additional voluntary contributions and to seek new ways of securing financial assistance from the donor community.

[No comment]

Objective 7.5

To encourage the exploration of new funding mechanisms that include financing programs with income generated from resource users.

[The Animals Committee suggests the following language that broadens the scope of this objective to apply also to resource users in range States:

“To encourage the exploration of new funding mechanisms that include financing species population studies and in situ species’ recovery programs with income generated from resource users in both importing and exporting countries”.]

Objective 7.6

To increase the level of realistic planning and forecasting, and to improve financial and implementation reporting.

[No comment]

Objective 7.7

To review and simplify, where possible, existing measures, procedures, mechanisms, and recommendations for the implementation of the Convention.

[No comment]

Objective 7.8

To ensure that the three working languages are treated equally in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and permanent committees.

[The Animals Committee supports the alternative language suggested by the Plants Committee.]

[The Animals Committee supports the philosophy of new Objective 7.9 that is proposed by the Plant Committee, but suggests that it may be more appropriate to link it with Objective 7.5 which is similar in intent – see alternative wording that is proposed for Objective 7.5.]

Delivering the Strategic Plan Through the Action Plan

This Strategic Plan presents a cogent overview of the specific aims of the Convention through 2005. It outlines 7 specific goals to meet the Convention's mission, and identifies 38 specific objectives to be achieved to meet those goals. Once adopted, this broad framework is designed to provide a unified focus to the Parties in their implementation of the Convention, and as guidance to the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat.

To effectively implement the Strategic Plan, a detailed Action Plan must be developed, outlining action items needed to achieve each objective and identifying responsible entities for their implementation. As part of the Strategic Planning process, the Secretariat has been tasked with development of a draft Action Plan to be considered as a companion document to this Strategic Plan. That document will present a matrix of action items by responsible entity and year to indicate what must be done to achieve each objective. The Action Plan will also serve as a basis for evaluating progress toward, and reporting results in achieving Strategic Plan goals.

Ultimate achievement of the goals of the Convention will depend upon the successful delivery of the Strategic Plan through Action Plans. It should be recognized that for the Strategic Planning process to successfully contribute to the achievement of the Convention, that process must be able to respond to the ever changing world. The Strategic Plan is not a static document. Therefore, the Convention must continue to evaluate progress and modify the Strategic Plan over time to adjust to change.

Glossary of Terms

CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
ICPO-Interpol	International Criminal Police Organization: Interpol
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IWC	International Whaling Commission
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WCO	World Customs Organization