

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

Fiftieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 March 2004

Reports

REPORT OF UNEP

The attached report has been submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme.

UNEP REPORT TO THE 50th MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

1. In line with paragraph 16 of the Agreement between the CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP of 20 June 1997, UNEP submits an annual report on its provision of - and support to - the secretariat, including implementation of the Agreement and the administration of the secretariat for consideration at each meeting of the Standing Committee and meetings of the Conferences of the Parties.

A. UNEP SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT TO THE CONVENTION

2. UNEP continues to deploy its technical and scientific expertise to facilitate the effective implementation of **CITES** and the other UNEP-administered global and regional environmental conventions.

Harmonisation of National Reporting

3. UNEP is supporting pilot projects in four countries (Ghana, Indonesia, Panama, Seychelles) for the harmonization of national reporting and information management for biodiversity-related treaties, inter alia, CBD, CMS, **CITES**, Ramsar, WHC.
4. All of these pilot projects have been finalised. These pilot projects were implemented in collaboration with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre after agreements with the Secretariats of all the relevant Conventions. Resources were provided mainly by UNEP. The pilot projects have produced the following:
 - Description of the reporting mechanisms that exist and the information management systems used for the preparation of each report;
 - Description of the linkages between the reporting mechanisms for the biodiversity-related conventions (and in some cases SOE reporting mechanisms);
 - Gaps in information and data existing in the country;
 - Recommendations, including the necessary actions to be taken by the Government, on how to streamline the national reporting under biodiversity-related conventions and, in some cases, including the linkages with SOE reporting mechanisms, could be ensured or improved;
 - Recommendations on how the information management system for the reporting can be improved, including possible information support from outside the country.
5. Based on the outcome of the pilot projects UNEP-WCMC will produce the following outputs by the end of February 2004:
 - Preliminary consolidated reporting format for the global biodiversity-related conventions.
 - A set of guidelines on establishment of a co-ordinated national reporting mechanism for the biodiversity-related conventions.
6. It is envisaged that the international level recommendations will be considered by the secretariats and eventually by the Cops of the biodiversity related conventions.
7. A paper on available results was prepared and submitted to the Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2003 with a view to further refining the paper. **Members of the CITES Standing Committee may wish to express views, including the financial support necessary to follow-up the project by applying the results more widely.**

Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)

8. In September 2001, the Executive Director launched the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP), responding to critical threats facing the four main types of great apes in Equatorial Africa and South East Asia; bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans; and the mainly forest ecosystems on which they

depend for survival. Through high level technical visits, field projects and National Great Ape Survival Plan (NGASP) policy making workshops in African and South East Asian great ape “range states”, as well as political lobbying and awareness raising in donor countries, GRASP has made a strong case for the value it adds to great ape conservation efforts. Since November 2003 GRASP has had a joint UNEP-UNESCO Secretariat

9. The added value of GRASP, a WSSD Type II Partnership, was clearly demonstrated during the GRASP intergovernmental preparatory meeting held in Paris from 26-28th November 2003. Here for the first time ever, representatives from 17 of the 23 great ape range states (including several suffering from the effects of civil war), donor governments, UN agencies and intergovernmental bodies, international NGOs and other GRASP partners met for the first time to discuss the way forward to ensuring the survival of the great apes. **CITES** participated in the meeting and gave a well-received presentation on enforcement.
10. Participants at the Paris meeting agreed upon a global great ape conservation strategy, a five-year workplan and set of rules to govern the GRASP partnership’s activities, paving the way for an intergovernmental ministerial meeting on great apes and GRASP scheduled for 2005. Media interest in the event and publicity of the plight facing the great apes was enormous, with the most worldwide coverage ever for a UNEP event. A Scientific Advisory Panel was created in cooperation with IUCN. The range states are now fully integrated into the GRASP partnership at the global level. The establishment of an interim Executive Committee, with Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Indonesia representing the range states, WCS and the Orangutan Foundation representing the NGOs, the UK representing the donor nations and CITES representing the MEAs, will lead preparations for the 2005 intergovernmental meeting.
11. When GRASP began in September 2001 it had a dozen partners, including the three biodiversity-related conventions (CMS and CBD) and nine NGOs. Two and a half years later this has grown to a total of 26 partners, including UNESCO and virtually all the main NGOs with major programmes in Africa or Asia dealing with great ape conservation. Donor resources of over \$1.65 million have been raised to date in return for UNEP’s initial investment of \$150,000.

12. *Next steps for Grasp*

Further progress will depend critically on raising new and additional resources – from country donors, from foundations and the private sector, and from existing mechanisms, including the GEF, the EC and national grant schemes. A bare minimum of \$25 million has been GRASP’s target from the outset to make the vital difference between extinction and survival for several critically endangered populations. A much larger amount is needed to ensure the long-term conservation of viable populations of wild great apes and their habitat. GRASP plans to hold major fundraising events in Europe, USA and Japan over the course of 2004.

13. *Other Partnership activities will include:*

- preparations for the intergovernmental ministerial meeting on great apes and GRASP scheduled for 2005;
- establishment of a bilingual mobile global great ape travelling exhibition Initial and follow up missions to the remaining great ape range states. Support to further National Great Ape Survival Plan (NGASP) workshops;
- work with CITES, as the GRASP focal point for international trade issues, relating both to both bushmeat and trade in live species; and Meetings with extractive industry representatives (timber, mining, oil) to discuss sustainable practices.
- a World Atlas of Great Apes compiled by UNEP-WCMC.

Expert Workshop Promoting Cites-CBD Cooperation and Synergy

14. Along with TRAFFIC, UNEP is organizing an expert workshop to promote **CITES and CBD cooperation and synergy** on 21-24 APRIL 2003 at Vilm, Germany. The workshop will discuss the role and potential of the CBD and **CITES** in contributing to the WSSD Plan of Implementation and Millennium Development Goals; Co-ordinated implementation of the Conventions at the international level - opportunities and challenges; identification of issues emerging and potential mechanisms for increasing synergy at the international level and; Co-ordinated implementation of the Conventions at the national level - opportunities and challenges. The Working Groups will look at issues such as "Maintaining use and trade within sustainable levels - increasing synergy to get the science and monitoring right at the national and international levels" and "Maintaining use and trade within sustainable levels - increasing synergy to get the policy and regulatory frameworks right at the national and international levels".

Customs Officers' Training

15. Under the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, UNEP DTIE's OzonAction Programme has launched a world wide national customs training to monitor and control Ozone Depleting Substances. The partnership with regional customs training institutions has been established to deliver more than 40 customs training programmes in as many countries. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention is already planning to hold training workshops at its regional centers, jointly with the Secretariats of **CITES** and the Montreal Protocol, Interpol, the International Maritime Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and UNEP. Similarly, other Secretariats are also exploring the possibilities of joint training.

Coral Reefs

16. UNEP relocated its Coral Reef Unit (CRU) to UNEP-WCMC in Cambridge, UK in May 2003. Staffed by the Head of the Unit Dr. Stefan Hain and a part time assistant, the CRU leads for UNEP (and the UN) on global coral reef policies. UNEP is looking forward to close cooperation with **CITES and CITES Contracting Parties** in the implementation and further development of their Strategic Plan, in particular as regards the protection, conservation and sustainable use of corals reefs and associated ecosystems (e.g. marine mammals, marine turtles, fish etc.).
17. A brochure entitled 'Conventions and Coral Reefs produced by CRU in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), was launched in June 2003. It provides an overview of relevant conventions (**including CITES**), their mandate, area of work and how they relate to coral reefs, with a view to further collaboration, coordination of activities and new partnerships. Copies are available from the UNEP Delegation and can be downloaded from www.unep.org/coral.

Tiger Conservation

18. UNEP remains strongly supportive of international efforts to conserve tigers, which are still severely threatened by illegal international trade as well as habitat loss. UNEP has established a focal point and liaison officer at UNEP's regional office in Bangkok for regional activities of the GTF. Through its Focal Point have UNEP supported GTF and contributed to the dissemination of information concerning Tigers conservation status in South East Asia
19. In view of the fact that three major conventions on conservation is taking place in South-east Asia in the year 2004, viz. (a) 7th CoP of Biological Diversity at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in February 2004, (b) **CITES Conference of Parties at Bangkok in October 2004**, and (c) General Assembly of IUCN-World Conservation Congress at Bangkok in November 2004, UNEP have planned support and cooperation to mobilize the opinion of the remaining tiger range countries to consider becoming members of GTF, especially Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Capacity Building

20. UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) organized with CAMRE, ISESCO, AAAID and ACSAD a workshop on the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions (CBD, **CITES** and CMS). The workshop was held in Damascus, Syria from 17-19 January and was attended by 33 participants from 12 Arab Countries. A proposal for capacity building on biodiversity-related conventions was also prepared however, no funds were found for its implementation. ROWA will co-organize the Second Symposium on the Protection of Biodiversity and its Habitats in the GCC countries, in Bahrain on 22-24 March 2004.

Organization of the 10th Meeting of the MEA Secretariats

21. The tenth Meeting of the MEA Secretariats (MEAs) will be held on 8th and 9th March 2004 in Nairobi. Overall, the meeting will seek to develop recommendations on improving synergies with the MEAs and the manner of UNEP support – both administrative and programmatic – to them. The meeting will endeavour to:
- encourage and build a partnership approach with the MEAs;
 - provide effective and efficient administrative support to the UNEP-Administered MEAs;
 - build and provide support for the implementation of the MEAs at the regional, sub-regional and national level;
 - to build political and financial support for the implementation of the MEAs in donor countries;
 - to enhance awareness and appreciation of the work of MEAs among the media;
 - To encourage interlinkages and synergies in the implementation of the MEAs; and to facilitate joint work programmes with the MEAs.

Information Support to Conventions by DEC/IUC

22. UNEP's Information Unit for Conventions, which is co-located with the CITES secretariat, supports the secretariat's press outreach activities. Under the guidance of the Secretary-General it produces press releases and press kits to inform journalists about meetings of the COP and Standing Committee and about **CITES topics of potential press interest**.
23. This has included detailed press kits guiding journalists through the complex agendas and documentation of COP11 and COP12. In addition, over a dozen other press releases have been produced on COP-related issues, the Standing Committee, the Plants Committee, tigers, ETIS, gorillas, Caspian Sea sturgeon, illegal trade, etc. The IUC also works closely with the secretariat to service journalists. Attending **CITES** meetings, organizing press conferences in Geneva and elsewhere, also distribute **CITES press releases** to its international press lists, develop press strategies, and arrange media training for senior staff.

The Lusaka Agreement on Co-Operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka Agreement)

24. The Parties to the Lusaka Agreement held their 6th Meeting of the Parties from 21-22 July 2003 and a number of decisions were taken. These included:
- i) Development and Harmonization of Wildlife Law and Regulations;
 - ii) Institutional Capacity Building and Strengthening;
 - iii) Budget and Programme of Work for Lusaka Agreement Task Force 2003-2004;
 - iv) National Bureaus and Nomination of Field Officers;
 - v) Cooperation with Partners, and
 - vi) Evaluation and Review of the Lusaka Agreement.
25. UNEP supported the Lusaka Agreement Task Force to:
- a. Organize a regional training workshop for 'train the trainers';
 - b. Develop a training manual on law enforcement operations to be used for future national training programmes. The course was held on 1-12 December 2003 and attended by 30 law enforcement officers from the countries in the African region.

26. A consultant has been hired for a duration of four months, to undertake the review and evaluation of the work of the Lusaka Agreement since its adoption in September 1994. The review is aimed at determining options for the effective implementation or revision of the Lusaka Agreement including the financial implications of actions related to the implementation of the Agreement. The Review will also critically analyze and assess the achievements and problems or challenges facing the implementation of the Agreement, both at national level with National Bureaus, at regional level with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), at international level in relation with relevant organizations

UNEP guidelines on enforcement and compliance with MEAs

27. The draft guidelines were adopted unanimously and were presented to the Seventh Special Session of UNEP Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) held at Cartagena, Colombia from 13-15 February 2002 for its consideration and adoption. The Special Session requested the Executive Director "to take steps for advancing capacity-building and strengthening of developing countries . . . in accordance with the guidelines."
28. Pursuant to the mandate of the Governing Council, UNEP researched and developed a draft manual that expanded upon the guidelines with explanatory text and illustrative examples. This draft manual is now in the process of undergoing external review through a series of regional capacity-building workshops on compliance with and enforcement of MEAs. Following each workshop, UNEP is revising the Manual – as appropriate – to incorporate new examples as well as other comments and suggestions.
29. Workshops have been held for the Asia Pacific Region (in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 14-19 September 2003), the English-speaking Caribbean Region (in Kingston, Jamaica on 20-23 October 2003), and the South East European Region (in Belgrade, Serbia & Montenegro on 26-29 January 2004). Future workshops are scheduled for Anglophone Africa (in Nairobi, Kenya on 1-4 March 2004) and Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (in Kiev, Ukraine on 22-25 March 2004); with workshops for Spanish Speaking Latin America and Francophone Africa slated for late 2004.
30. **CITES experts have participated as resource persons in all three workshops held so far. These include national experts, a regional expert, and a member of the CITES Secretariat.**

B: UNON ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THE CONVENTION

CITES administrative issues

31. UNEP/UNON have continued to work closely with the CITES Secretariat in the provision of administrative services to the Secretariat. The following actions have been taken:

Personnel Issues

32. In 2003, the following vacancies were advertised and the recruitment has been finalised:
- i. Head, Scientific Support Unit – P-5: the Executive Director approved the appointment of Mr. David Morgan with the effective date of 1 March 2004;
 - ii. Senior Scientific Officer – P-4: the Executive Director approved the appointment of Ms Milena Sosa Schmidt at the P-3 level with the effective date of 4 January 2004.
33. In addition the recruitment process has been initiated against the P-3 post of Information Network Officer. This is a temporary post established by the Executive Director which will be funded 50 per cent from the 13% Programme Support Costs levied on earmarked contributions and 50 per from the CITES Trust Fund. This post should be approved by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting and included under the staffing table of the CITES Trust Fund.
34. Two translators' posts have been reclassified from P-3 to P-4 level.
35. In addition to staff posts, funding was also provided in 2003 and will continue to be provided from the 13% Programme support cost levied to CITES trust Fund, to support IT services for CITES.

Accounting and Financial Management Services

36. There continues to be good co-operation and consultation between the Secretariat's administrative staff and their counterparts in UNON in this area. The Secretariat and/or UNON prepare all financial reports in consultation with each other.

OIOS Report on the Relationship between UNEP and its administered MEAs & Review of the Agreement between the CITES Standing Committee and UNEP

37. The OIOS report has been finalised and submitted to the Executive Director for his review. It is hoped that the Executive Director's approach can be reported in more detail at the Standing Committee meeting in March, which will immediately follow the 10th in the series of Meetings of MEA secretariats convened by UNEP: this will be a major item on the agenda, and the Executive Director will be participating in the meeting himself, along with representatives of all the UNEP-administered MEAs, including CITES. UNEP's response to the proposed changes in the agreement with the CITES Standing Committee will depend on the outcome of the OIOS review process.