


CITES – Global Analysis

Concept note v5

<p>Objective:</p>	<p>To produce an overview of international trade in wildlife protected by CITES, as a tool to facilitate the regular assessment of the regional and global trends in trade, and of the implementation of the Convention by the Parties to CITES.</p>	
<p>Background:</p>	<p>The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was established in 1973 to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Each Party to the Convention must report to the CITES Secretariat, biennially, on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the Convention. Parties also report annually all the imports, exports, re-exports and introductions from the sea of species included in the CITES Appendices. These reports are the only available means of monitoring the implementation of the Convention and the level of international trade in specimens of species protected by CITES, as recognised by the Conference of the Parties to CITES at its 11th Meeting (Conf. 11.17).</p> <p>The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre developed and maintains a database on behalf of the CITES Secretariat, which contains more than five and a half million records of international wildlife trade reported by the Parties to the Convention since 1975. Much effort and time is invested by the Parties to CITES in the production of their national annual and biennial reports. However, surprisingly few take advantage of the wealth of information contained within these resources. Moreover, to date there is no means through which the Parties to the Convention and other members of society with an interest in wildlife trade can gain an overview of the regional trends of this trade, and the state of implementation of CITES worldwide.</p>	
<p>Scope and structure:</p>	<p>On the basis of the Party Reports submitted to the CITES Secretariat, and contextual information on the conservation status of species in trade, the CITES International Wildlife Trade Review will provide an analytical overview of the implementation of CITES and the trends of international trade in species of fauna and flora protected by the Convention, to the year of best available data at the time of publication.</p> <p>The Review will thus provide a vehicle through which the Convention can monitor and review implementation on aspects thus far not systematically reviewed. The Review is intended to consist of yearly updates of trends in the levels of trade, and an overall overview of the implementation of the Convention, to be released in time for each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>Thus, yearly issues will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trends of trade in (focused on higher taxa) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Appendix I species + Appendix II species + Appendix III species <p>this will include, for instance, trends in trade from the wild <i>vis a vis</i> trade from other sources, levels of trade in relation to known conservation status of the taxa, trends in unspecific reporting (reporting at higher taxa level), and taxa not traded in the previous 5 or 10 years.</p>	

	<p>In addition to the yearly update on trade trends, the general overview will also comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National and regional effects on trade from the imposition and lifting of trade restrictions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Shifts of trade across borders and across taxa + Quota compliance + Compliance with export restrictions/bans ▪ Analysis of biennial reports ▪ Implementation of resolutions and decisions concerning CITES Species
<p>Audience:</p>	<p>The CITES International Wildlife Trade Review is principally aimed at the National Authorities implementing CITES, to provide them with feedback on the regional and global picture emerging from national reports, and to further facilitate informed decision making. Due to the relevance of the information and the analyses contained in the Review, the publication is expected to appeal also to a wider audience, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation organisations: non-governmental bodies at national and international levels; ▪ Private sector, in particular wildlife traders; ▪ Parties and Secretariats to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements; and ▪ Civil Society: universities, general public.
<p>Format and outputs:</p>	<p>The Review will not be a single publication. Rather, it will be an ongoing analysis, which will be printed for distribution each year in which a Conference of the Parties to the Convention takes place. Electronic updates will also be produced and released in the years between each Conference of the Parties (e.g. via CD-ROM). The electronic version of the Review will also provide a number of electronic tools to enable and encourage users to analyse the available data in more detail.</p>