

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



Fifty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
The Hague (Netherlands), 2 June 2007

Strategic and administrative matters

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

This attached report has been submitted by UNEP.

UNEP REPORT TO THE 55TH MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE

I. Introduction

1. In line with paragraph 16 of the agreement between the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) of 20 June 1997, UNEP submits an annual report on its administration of and support to the CITES Secretariat, including an update on the implementation of the agreement and the administration of the Secretariat, for consideration at each meeting of the Standing Committee and meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
2. Several of the report items below update a previous report presented to the Standing Committee at its fifty-fourth meeting, in October 2006 (SC54 Doc 9.1).
3. 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.

II. UNEP substantive support to the Convention

A. Support for implementation of multilateral environmental agreements

4. As a follow-up to requests by various multilateral environmental agreements, a database of requests directed to UNEP from the governing bodies and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) has been developed. It is intended to serve as a tool to better respond to requests from MEAs and to any concerns raised by secretariats. Furthermore, UNEP has prioritized the requests to make effective use of its limited resources. In addition, specific requests made directly by countries to UNEP regarding the implementation of MEAs are considered on a case-by-case basis.

1. Issue-based modules for the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions

5. In response to decision 23/1 VI of the UNEP Governing Council, which calls for support for implementation of MEAs by their Parties, UNEP, with assistance from the Government of Belgium and in cooperation with IUCN the World Conservation Union and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), developed issue-based modules for the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.
6. Based on the hypothesis that the implementation of different MEAs often relates to issues of common concern and that more coherent implementation would be enhanced if all actors involved in implementation of the agreements received more structured information on such issues, four priority issues were identified by the secretariats of the five global biodiversity-related conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention) as issues of common concern to all five conventions. The four issues are biodiversity and climate change, inland waters, invasive alien species and sustainable use.
7. The issue-based modules assemble relevant articles, decisions and resolutions of conventions and agreements with respect to their governing bodies on those four issues. A selection of both global and regional agreements with regard to those four topics were analyzed and integrated to provide structured information in a logical framework. The modules are web-based (www.svs-uneplibmdb.net) and made available over the Internet to national decision makers and practitioners.
8. By clustering the obligations posed by different agreements, the modules facilitate communication at the national level and improve coherent implementation of commitments regarding issues of common concern. They also reinforce cross-sectoral understanding and cooperation on implementation, emphasizing the relevance of biodiversity to other sectors. The project is currently

being tested by pilot countries in Africa (Morocco, Senegal, Seychelles and Uganda) and in Europe (Belgium, Hungary, Norway and Russia).

9. The issue-based modules have received much support from multilateral environmental agreement secretariats as well as from Governments, and have been endorsed by the governing bodies of several MEAs (including CBD, CMS, the Ramsar Convention and the World Heritage Convention) as well as by African environment ministers during the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in May 2006, as a tool for the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions. These bodies have expressed support for the further development and maintenance of the modules.

2. Compliance with and enforcement of MEAs

10. UNEP, jointly with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), supported a capacity-building project for the development of frame harmonized legislation (i.e., holistic legislation grouping and harmonizing all legal matter relating to biological diversity) for the implementation of five global and one regional MEAs related to the management and protection of biological diversity in OECS member States. The biodiversity-related MEAs included both global agreements, namely, CBD, CITES, CMS and the World Heritage Convention, and one regional agreement, the Protocol to Amend the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Protocol). The final text awaits endorsement and adoption by the OECS Council of Ministers. It is, however, already being used by some member States in the development of national legislation for implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. UNEP and the OECS are working on a follow-up phase to this project implementing the harmonized legislation in selected OECS member states.

11. UNEP, jointly with the Government of Liberia and in cooperation with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), supported the elaboration of integrated harmonized legislation on implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. UNEP has provided assistance to Liberia in revising its legislation and regulations to incorporate that country's international commitments, including relevant provisions of MEAs and other international environmental law, into its national law. The draft legislation prepared by Green Advocates, and UNEP jointly with ELI has been revised, finalized and adopted by the Liberian and is being enforce since its adoption in October 2006.

12. In addition, UNEP in collaboration with the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) developed indicators for compliance with and enforcement of the Ramsar Convention, CBD, CMS, CITES and the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Actions Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora. Pilot projects to test the indicators were undertaken in four countries (Brazil, Costa Rica, Kenya and South Africa). The objective of the projects was to measure the effectiveness of national implementation of MEAs though the identification, design and use of environmental compliance and enforcement indicators. Through a multi-stakeholder consultative process, the INECE team worked with in-country experts on the indicators and generated reports, recommendations and findings. A second phase of the project has been proposed in order to assess the effectiveness of the indicators on the ground and is still under discussion.

13. In order to improve the capacity of various countries to develop multilateral environmental agreement national legislation, negotiate and implement MEAs in a coherent manner, UNEP organized and conducted 4 capacity-building training workshops at both the national and subregional levels. The workshops were conducted in, Marshall Island (April 2006), the Federated States of Micronesia (April 2006), Fiji (August 2006), and St. Lucia (October 2005 and January 2007). Furthermore, with support from UNEP and in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme and IUCN country offices, the Government of Pakistan organized and conducted national capacity building workshops on the national implementation of MEAs in Islamabad, Pakistan, in September 2005.

14. In October 2005, the CITES Secretariat, jointly and in collaboration with UNEP, organized and conducted a regional workshop for eastern and southern African countries on national implementation of CITES, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians and other stakeholders to comply with and enforce multilateral environmental agreements. In addition, in April 2006, UNEP, in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention and the Ministry for the Environment and the Protection of Nature of Gabon, co-organized a workshop for Gabonese parliamentarians and for commissioners of parliaments of the member States of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa in Libreville, Gabon. Under the leadership of the Gabonese Vice-Premier Minister, the workshop signalled the start of a process aimed at closer cooperation between the Gabonese administration and both chambers of Parliament for all questions related to multilateral environmental agreements. Participants gained first-hand insight into the implementation in Gabon of the Ramsar Convention, CITES, the United Nations Convention on

Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and CBD through presentations by the national focal points for those agreements. In addition, they were briefed by a representative of UNEP on the coordination of environmental issues in the United Nations system and recent attempts to strengthen system-wide coherence. In April 2007, on request by the German government, UNEP in cooperation with the Academy for Nature Conservation, the Secretariat of the CBD and the German government, built and strengthened the capacity of MEAs negotiators in preparation for CBD COP9 through organization of a regional workshop for Eastern, South East and CIS European countries. A similar training workshop is planned to be held in Yemen at national level after the CITES COP14 in preparation of the COP15.

15. In June 2006, UNEP organized a high-level meeting on envisioning the next steps for compliance with and enforcement of MEAs in Geneva. This meeting was a follow-up to a similar meeting held in January 2006 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and part of the “Colombo Process on Compliance and Enforcement”. The meetings were attended by representatives from multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, among them a representative from the CITES Secretariat, representatives from Governments (all of whom attended in their personal capacities) and independent experts. Aspects of compliance and enforcement and the search for innovative approaches that could enhance institutional structures for better implementation of MEAs were discussed. The participants recommended action on the recognition of benefits derived from enhancing synergies and interlinkages in the implementation of MEAs and on the development and use of instruments to improve the implementation and mainstreaming of Millennium Development Goal number seven (ensuring environmental sustainability), in other emerging policies on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. The outcomes of the 2 High Levels Meetings on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs were presented at the last UNEP Governing Council in February 2006 in Nairobi (UNEP/GC/24/INF/23). UNEP will pursue its work to promote compliance with and implementation and enforcement of MEAs and is currently looking at ways to implement key findings of the process.

16. To assist countries in addressing challenges brought about by the implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, UNEP has produced the Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. This new and comprehensive manual was recently launched in Geneva at the commemoration of World Environment Day in June 2006. The manual is intended for use by a wide audience, including treaty negotiators, law makers, lawyers, police and customs officers. Additionally, it is a resource that will be useful in teaching and researching. It is structured as an annotated commentary on the UNEP Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements¹ and uses clear, simple language. It includes explanatory text, case studies, checklists, references to additional resources and annexes with supplementary information.

17. Moreover, the manual reflects the premise of the guidelines that each multilateral environmental agreement is unique and that the implementation situation of each Party is different. A PDF version of the manual is currently available on the UNEP website (http://www.unep.org/dec/docs/UNEP_Manual.pdf) completed by an interactive online version which enhances the availability, ease-of-use, and functionality of the Manual by allowing users to access various parts of the manual in a nonlinear fashion, search through its various components using any term that matches their interests and navigate the document in a manner more closely suited to their actual needs and circumstances (<http://www.unep.org/dec/onlinemanual>). Moreover, an interactive CD-ROM of the UNEP Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs provides users with dynamic ways to access the content most relevant to their interests.

18. The CITES Secretariat participated actively in cooperation with UNEP/DELG in the elaboration of the manual through its participation in a series of regional workshops conducted to build and strengthen the capacity of Governments for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, disseminate the Guidelines and review as well as test the then draft manual. It also commented on the manual at various stages of its development and provided CITES-related case studies that were incorporated in the manual.

19. UNEP engaged further in a number of capacity-building activities addressing specific groups of stakeholders such as parliamentarians, judicial officials and customs officials for specific or general aspects of multilateral environmental agreement implementation and the clustering of specific thematic issues like the enforcement of trade-related MEAs or biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. UNEP undertakes all such action in close collaboration with the relevant MEA secretariats and other intergovernmental bodies and organizations.

¹ UNEP Governing Council decision SSVII/4 (2002).

20. The Green Customs Initiative, for example, is a partnership including CITES and other trade-related multilateral environmental agreements, UNEP, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the World Customs Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention) and recently the Convention for Biological Diversity. The purpose of integrated training delivered by this partnership is to increase the capacity of customs officials on several MEAs at the same time, which can be more cost effective and efficient than separate training on each individual agreement.

21. Since June 2005, four regional workshops to build and enhance the capacity of customs officials on the implementation of trade-related MEAs (CITES, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Chemical Weapons Convention) have been held. These include:

- (a) West Asia (in Damascus, Syria, May 2005);
- (b) Caribbean (in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, September 2005);
- (c) Caucasus (in Tblisi, Georgia, October 2005);
- (d) South Asia (in Thimphu, Bhutan, October–November 2005);
- (e) East Africa (in Arusha, Tanzania, November 2005).

22. The first national Green Customs workshop was held in Mauritius, in February 2006 and will be followed up with a regional “Train the Trainers Workshop” in July 2007. Additional national as well as “Train the Trainers Workshop” are planned for 2007 in East and West Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. The workshops have built and aim to further enhance the capacity of customs officers and also provided a forum for the review and testing of a green customs training guide on the implementation of trade-related MEAs and laid the ground for future steps in the Green Customs Initiative. The Guide has been approved and launched during the Green Customs Partners’ Meeting in March 2007.

3. Harmonization of national reporting

23. To promote the further exploration of the issue of harmonization of national reporting among multilateral environmental agreements, UNEP convened a workshop in Cambridge in June 2006. The workshop was attended by representatives of the five global biodiversity-related conventions, namely CITES, CBD, CMS, the Ramsar Convention and the World Heritage Convention, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and a number of other international organizations with experience in this area. The objectives of the workshop were twofold:

- (a) To discuss the current situation regarding harmonization of national reporting;
- (b) To consider options for the future and to provide specific feedback on how the proposed UNEP project can contribute to progress in the area.

24. A number of challenges were identified, including the various reporting cycles of conventions; the specific nature of some of the information needed by conventions and the range of national agencies involved in reporting. A number of potentially promising approaches were also highlighted, namely, joint reporting portals (e.g., the reporting portal of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests); the “modular approach”; the “core report” concept (as used by the human rights treaties) and joint thematic reporting formats (such as the proposed CBD–Ramsar reporting framework on inland water ecosystems). In addition, the workshop participants acknowledged that Parties faced an increasing reporting burden and reiterated the need to take tangible steps to reduce it.

25. The importance of identifying essential information required of parties was stressed, as was the need to avoid over-complicated reporting formats or unnecessary requests for redundant information. Reports, it was stressed, need to provide the intended information, which is best obtained by simple reporting formats with clear guidelines on what information is required. The workshop participants noted that the development of online reporting might encourage a more constant pattern of reporting, but also that a deadline for reports further in advance of meetings of the conferences of the parties (e.g., prior to the preceding meeting of the relevant subsidiary body) could provide a more complete picture of the current implementation of, and future priorities for, conventions.

26. With regards to CITES, it was indicated that there exist different categories of reports: annual reports; biennial reports; and special reports. The former were found to be very specific in nature, and the quantitative trade data they contained were made available electronically through the CITES trade database. Biennial reports have three main objectives: monitoring the implementation and effectiveness

of a convention; identifying significant achievements, developments, gaps and problems; and providing a basis for substantive and procedural decision-making by conferences of the parties and subsidiary bodies. It was also noted that special reports arose from reporting requirements in specific resolutions, decisions or notifications, and could be species-specific or general in nature. Although little attention had been paid to biennial reports in the past, it was acknowledged that their content was suitable for harmonization, and that there was an opportunity to coordinate their further development with other conventions. It was noted that the reporting obligations of parties for the various special reports were similar, but not entirely standardized, and hence that there was room for some harmonization within CITES in this area.

4. Knowledge management for multilateral environmental agreements and outreach

27. In June 2006, the CITES Secretariat in cooperation with UNEP convened a meeting in Cambridge in the United Kingdom on knowledge management for biodiversity-related conventions. Participants identified several categories of information and data that could be made interoperable among the participating conventions. Participants also selected one project to pursue immediately and one project to pursue in the coming year.

28. With regard to a proposed UNEP project that would be implemented by UNEP-WCMC in close collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, key types of information that biodiversity conventions generate and that could be made interoperable were considered and discussed. Criteria against which these types of information would be evaluated as candidates for the project were developed. Based on their evaluation of the projects, participants selected four categories that they judged to be feasible, given the existing budget and timeframe, and that offered strategic relevance to Secretariats. These were: developing an interoperable system of focal point contact information; developing an interoperable system of Party information; developing a system that hyperlinks related elements of the strategic plans of each convention; and interlinking articles, decisions and resolutions of the conventions' governing bodies. The project team will develop a further proposal for phase II of the project that will build on these initial information categories, addressing further information categories that could be made interoperable.

29. UNEP continues to support the press outreach activities of the CITES Secretariat. In addition to managing press relations at the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, UNEP has also assisted with responding to press queries during the course of the year as events and circumstances have required. In 2005, UNEP also produced a poster in collaboration with the secretariat to promote the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention's entry into force.

5. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

30. In addition to its involvement in a number of cross-linking activities mentioned elsewhere in this report, UNEP-WCMC provides a number of scientific and technical support services to the CITES Secretariat, CITES Parties and the European Commission to facilitate the implementation of the Convention.

(a) Information management

31. UNEP-WCMC manages the CITES Trade Database on behalf of the CITES Secretariat. Parties to CITES provide annual reports to the CITES Secretariat, including details of all export and import licenses issued during the previous year. The database currently holds close to eight million records and can be queried online (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/citestrade/index.cfm>). This information resource grows at a rate of approximately 750,000 records per year. This information is entered into the CITES Trade Database (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/citestrade/index.cfm>) and analyses are produced at the request of the Secretariat.

32. UNEP-WCMC, with the support of CITES Parties, maintains and updates the database of CITES-listed species, which contains, among other things, information on nomenclature, distribution, CITES listings and CITES quotas. At the request of the CITES Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC has produced the Checklist of CITES Species and the Annotated Appendices to CITES, which were last published in 2005. An up-to-date version of these documents is expected to be produced soon, reflecting the amendments the decisions of the Conference of the Parties made at their 14th meeting with regards to amendments to the CITES Appendices.

33. UNEP-WCMC has assisted the CITES Secretariat in the preparation of the standard CITES Biennial Report format, used for the first time by the Parties to CITES to produce their most recent Biennial National Reports. UNEP-WCMC also assisted the Secretariat in the preparation of an analysis and synthesis of the information provided by contracting Parties concerning the biennium 2003-2004.

34. UNEP-WCMC maintains a variety of electronic tools on the Centre's website and on the website of the CITES Secretariat to provide to implementing offices of the contracting Parties, and to the general public, ready access to information on protected species and trade in them. UNEP-WCMC provides support to the member States of the European Union and other Parties to CITES in the development of national information systems used to support the management of permits and trade applications. UNEP-WCMC has regular communication with national authorities implementing CITES in an effort to support the submission of accurate and on-time annual reports.

35. As has been the case in previous Meetings of the Parties, UNEP-WCMC will provide Rapporteur support to the Secretariat during the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

(b) Policy support

36. UNEP-WCMC has assisted in the formulation of CITES policy through the preparation of documents and analyses for discussion by the CITES technical Committees (i.e., the Animals, Plants and Nomenclature and Standing Committees). UNEP-WCMC assisted in the development of a process to undertake a periodic review of the CITES appendices and produced an analysis of trade data and a discussion document for the twenty-second meeting of the Animals Committee, held in July 2006. UNEP-WCMC also produced an analysis of changes to the CITES appendices that would be required should an updated standard reference for mammals be adopted by the Conference of the Parties. This was discussed at the meeting on fauna of the Nomenclature Committee held in July 2006 in Lima, Peru. In addition, UNEP-WCMC produced a report on trade in Appendix I species, to be discussed at the fifty-fourth session of the Standing Committee, in October 2006. Further, UNEP-WCMC assisted Parties in the development of draft proposals to amend the CITES appendices for discussion at the sixteenth meeting of the CITES Plants Committee, in July 2006. UNEP-WCMC has continued to support and participate in initiatives undertaken by the European Commission in the area of caviar trade and enforcement of CITES.

6. Millennium Development Goals and multilateral environmental agreements

37. In July 2005, UNEP convened a workshop entitled High-Level Brainstorming Workshop for Multilateral Environmental Agreements on Mainstreaming Environment Beyond MDG 7 in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the meeting was to explore modalities for improving implementation of multilateral environmental agreements by mainstreaming using economic instruments as a tool. As a follow-up, and in collaboration with the London School of Economics, in October 2005, UNEP convened a meeting to discuss modalities for responding to findings with environmental implications through reports and processes addressing the link between poverty reduction and environment. The reports included, among others, The "United Nations Millennium Project, Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals"; the report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, including its synthesis reports, "Ecosystems and Human Well-being" and "Biodiversity and Human Well-being"; and the report by the United Nations Development Programme, "Environmental Sustainability in 100 Millennium Development Goal Country Reports."

38. The meeting participants also discussed mainstreaming environment into development processes to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Both meetings were attended by representatives from various multilateral environmental agreements, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Millennium Project and internationally recognized experts in the field of environment and development. The outcomes of the meetings include recommendations on short-, medium- and longer-term activities to help ensure that the objectives of the environment and development communities mutually support each other on the ground as well as at the international level.

III. Trade, industry and economics

A. Economic instruments

39. UNEP has also been active in examining the use of economic instruments to foster implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. Today, thousands of species around the globe are threatened as a result of human activities such as habitat destruction, over-harvesting of natural resources, and unsustainable international trade. There is an increasing consensus that national policy-makers, industry regulators, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders should be provided with information regarding the current and potential future use of economic instruments, including property rights, market creation and enhancement, charges, fiscal instruments and liability systems to support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

40. In the context of implementing biodiversity-related conventions, the use of economic incentives has increased significantly over the past years. The Strategic Vision agreed at the thirteenth meeting of

the Conference of the Parties to CITES emphasizes that in order “for trade to be carried out in a responsible manner and based on sustainable use, social and economic incentives are needed” This development indicates a growing understanding that incentive measures can generate financial resources for preserving wild species of fauna and flora.

41. UNEP has worked very closely with the CITES Secretariat on these issues and the Secretariat has been involved actively in the UNEP Expert Group on Economic Instruments. Last year UNEP, in collaboration with three convention secretariats including the CITES Secretariat, published a study entitled *Economic Instruments in Biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements*. It investigates the current and future potential role of economic instruments in the context of three biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements: CBD, CITES and the Ramsar Convention.

42. The main types of economic instruments relevant to protecting biodiversity and the principal provisions and negotiations on economic instruments in the three MEAs are identified. Using numerous examples, the study suggests a range of thematic areas where the use of economic instruments could be further developed, including *in-situ* conservation, sustainable or wise use, and ecosystem services. It also discusses some of the conditions for successful implementation of such instruments, such as integration of local communities, capacity building and valuation of environmental resources and services. In doing so, the study identifies opportunities to realize synergies between the three conventions at the local, national and international level.

B. Wildlife trade policy reviews

43. The importance of conducting reviews of national wildlife trade policies was noted by CITES Parties at the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Both decision 12.22 and decision 13.74, among other things, called for the CITES Secretariat to conduct, in cooperation with the Parties, a review of national policies regarding the use of and trade in CITES-listed species, to compile and synthesize the information provided by the Parties, and to produce a report analysing the impacts of such policies in terms of socio-economic and conservation benefits and costs.

44. In collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies at the University of Geneva, UNEP has submitted a funding application for a project to enhance national capacities to assess, design and implement sustainable national wildlife trade policies, in support of the implementation of CITES and decisions 12.22 and 13.74.

45. The proposed project will support four developing countries and countries with economies in transition in an effort to assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of wildlife trade policies and to provide national policymakers with information and methodologies to aid in the design of policies which benefit the environment, the community, and the implementation of CITES. These country projects will be entirely country driven, and will be led by national institutions in close cooperation with relevant national Government ministries. There will also be a strong emphasis on active participation by relevant stakeholders. An international steering committee will guide project implementation at the international level and the project partners, including UNEP, will support the national institutions and Government ministries through training and ongoing technical advice.

46. The first step in the project will be the development, at the international level, of a general framework and toolkit of wildlife trade policy assessment methodologies. These methodologies will then be refined and customized by the national institutions to reflect their countries' particular circumstances. The national institutions, with the support of the international project partners, will then assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of their national wildlife trade policies. Based on the outcomes of these integrated assessments, integrated national responses, including regulations, economic instruments and voluntary measures, will be developed. Results gathered during the integrated assessments will be set out in a country project report and later compiled into a final synthesis report. The results of the project will be disseminated at an international meeting at the end of 2007.

C. Promoting mutually supportive trade and environment policies

47. UNEP is also currently finalizing a paper for publication on trade-related measures and multilateral environmental agreements". The aim of the paper is to support ongoing discussions on trade-related measures in MEAs taking place in different multilateral forums, such as the World Trade Organization's Committee on Trade and Environment. The paper provides an analysis of trade-related measures used in six MEAs (CITES, the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of CBD and the Stockholm Convention), and the functions these measures play within the multilateral environmental agreements. The paper concludes by comparing and contrasting the use of trade-related measures in these MEAs in the light of their specific objectives. UNEP has worked closely with the CITES Secretariat in the development of this paper.

IV. Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka Agreement)

48. UNEP continued to build and enhance the capacity of Parties to the Lusaka Agreement to effectively combat illegal trade in wild fauna and flora under the agreement. In this regard, with support from UNEP, the Parties undertook an evaluation and an assessment of the implementation of and the impact thus far created by the agreement during its first decade of existence (1994-2004) and made recommendations for its improvement. As the result of the evaluation and the key recommendations made for its improvement. The evaluation report and the recommendations made were considered and adopted at a meeting of the Governing Council of the Parties to the Lusaka Agreement, which was supported by UNEP and took place in January 2005. Based on a decision of the Governing Council, the Parties in collaboration with UNEP and other partners developed a long-term strategic plan of action for the implementation of the agreement on a short-, medium- and long-term basis. The strategic plan was reviewed in a regional workshop organized for the purpose in July 2005. It was adopted for implementation on a preliminary basis by the Bureau of the Governing Council at a meeting held in September 2005, pending formal approval by the Governing Council at its meeting in October 2006. Furthermore, with the support of UNEP, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) acquired in November 2005 ivory and other species detectors for curbing illegal trade in wild fauna and flora and organized and conducted for that purpose a training course on the effective use of the equipment and targets.

49. UNEP supported and worked in cooperation with LATF in conducting the eighth meeting of the Lusaka Agreement Governing Council in October 2006 held in Nairobi. The meeting reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the agreement as well as progress made in the execution of past Governing Council decisions. One item of particular note was the review and formal approval of the LATF Strategic Plan (2005–2015).

50. UNEP supported the evaluation of the Lusaka Task Force activities since the agreement entered into force in cooperation with the Task Force and the Parties to the Agreement. The evaluation report was printed and distributed after the eight meeting of the Parties in November 2006 as "A decade of a regional Wildlife Law Enforcement, The case of the Lusaka Agreement" and available on the UNEP website (<http://www.unep.org/DEC/docs/lusaka%20Book.pdf>).

51. Finally, UNEP in cooperation with the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement initiated a project to promote the Lusaka Agreement through the development, direction and distribution of documentary film relating to the Lusaka Agreement Task Force activities on the ground.

V. Joint Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) and CITES Secretariat activities

52. In response to resolution Conf 13.4 on the Conservation of and trade in great apes, UNEP, through the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Partnership, continues to implement a number of activities jointly with the CITES Secretariat.

53. Following on from a similar mission to Indonesia in May 2006, a joint technical mission to Thailand and Cambodia was undertaken from 23 – 27 April 2007 by the UNEP GRASP team and the CITES Secretariat, as these countries have been destinations for significant illegal trade in orangutans.

54. In each country, the team visited facilities that had previously been identified as having been in possession of large numbers orangutans that had apparently been illegally imported in these two countries. It also met with officials from agencies responsible for enforcement of the Convention and national law.

55. The primary aim of the missions was to study how each country had responded to such instances of illegal trade in orangutans, so as to learn lessons that might benefit the larger international community and also to obtain an insight into the dynamics of the illegal trade in orangutans.

56. The report of the team, including its recommendations, will be considered at CoP 14 and will be published on the CITES and UNEP/GRASP websites.

57. With the assistance of GRASP, a CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force meeting was held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi from 31 October to 2 November 2006. The task force was established in response to the recommendation of the CITES standing Committee at its fifty-third meeting (2005).. This recommendation was further welcomed by the participants at the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the first GRASP Council meeting, held in Kinshasa in 2005. The meeting provided an opportunity for the collection and exchange of intelligence and information regarding illicit trade in great apes. The meeting was attended by wildlife law enforcement officials from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda. Representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Wildlife Enforcement Network, Interpol, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the World Customs Organization also attended.

58. The GRASP Executive Committee, of which the CITES Secretariat is a member, met in Nairobi, from 2-3 May, 2007. The Committee approved a number of new GRASP initiatives, including exploring options for carbon financing of great ape habitat, addressing issues relating to biofuels and tropical forests, fortifying the “green front line” of conservation and establishing a UN Global Fund for Great Ape Conservation.

VI. UNON administrative and financial management support to CITES

A. CITES administrative issues

59. UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) continue to work closely with the CITES Secretariat by providing support and guidance on administrative and financial issues.

60. In line with UNEP Governing Council decision 23/4, UNON has continued during 2007 its effort to improve the flow of financial information to ensure that the UNEP-administered convention secretariats have up-to-date and accurate information. The installation of the United Nations Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) in UNEP-administered convention secretariat facilities has been completed.

B. Funding provided to CITES from 13 per cent programme support cost

61. Funding was provided in 2006 and will continue to be provided from the 13 per cent programme support cost charged by UNEP. This is done through direct support by funding the staff for the CITES administration in Geneva, for information technology support and other expenses, such as, sundry, security at the duty station.

62. The UNEP Executive Director has agreed that funds received as programme support levied on voluntary contributions in support of CITES activities will be allocated for the funding of CITES projects. The Executive Director of UNEP has continued to fund 50 percent of the cost of the post of Information Network Officer through the income generated by the 13 per cent levy.

63. With effect from 1 October 2006, the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions agreed to host the offices for the MIKE project in Nairobi. The administrative support is provided to the MIKE project team in Nairobi to implement the activities.

29 March 2007