

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



Fifty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Doha (Qatar), 12 March 2010

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

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

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United Nations Environment Programme report to the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora at its fifty-ninth meeting

Introduction

1. In accordance with paragraph 16 of the agreement of 20 June 1997 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), 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.

I. UNEP substantive support to CITES

A. Support for implementation of CITES

1. Technical and scientific support from the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

2. UNEP continues to provide technical and scientific support to the CITES secretariat, principally via the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). This work is implemented under contracts with the CITES secretariat and other donors. UNEP-WCMC maintains the CITES Trade Database, which comprises data on trade in CITES-listed wildlife compiled from the information submitted by parties in their annual reports. This unique resource is available online¹ and now contains over 9.3 million trade records. It is used regularly by the secretariat, national authorities, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to demonstrate trends and patterns of trade and to determine how well the Convention is being implemented. Advice is provided to the CITES secretariat on levels and trends in trade, scientific and technical matters (e.g., distribution of species and nomenclature) together with support on issues relating to reporting, information management and training.

3. Regular outputs from the database (e.g., tabulations and analyses) are provided to the CITES technical committees, to national authorities and to organizations supporting CITES implementation. The database, accessible to CITES management authorities via the CITES Forum, is updated daily. Detailed CITES trade reports are produced providing analyses of different aspects of the trade according to geographic regions and groups of species. With support from the European Union, a module was developed in 2009 for the near-real-time monitoring of the caviar trade.

4. UNEP-WCMC maintains the CITES species database (some 25,000 species) and its online interface. This database of all CITES-listed species, which is updated in part with support from the European Union, includes information on scientific and common names, distribution (by country), previous and current Appendix listing, reservations by CITES parties and quotas.

5. UNEP-WCMC worked with the secretariat to produce, on CD-ROM, a 2008 checklist of CITES species, together with annotated appendices and reservations, and ran side events on their use at the eighteenth meeting of the Plants Committee and twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee.

6. Building on a previous scoping study, UNEP-WCMC is developing an online content management system for the CITES Identification Manual in the style of Wiki software. This will

¹ <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/trade.shtml>

include the existing some 4,000 static pages and will enable future entries, viewable by the public, to be created online by any user authorized by the CITES secretariat.

7. UNEP-WCMC is developing an online database to manage the CITES significant trade review process. The database will allow progress to be monitored for each species or country identified for review through the 22 stages of the process. Relevant information will be linked to the appropriate stage, including phase, level of concern that has been identified, documentation, person responsible for the next step, deadlines and responses received. The system will also issue automatic deadline alerts to those people responsible for implementing specific actions. It will be integrated with the CITES species database to facilitate the entry of species names and country distribution. The CITES secretariat will control access to the online database. Non-confidential information will be viewable by the public.

8. UNEP and UNEP-WCMC participate in meetings of the CITES scientific and standing committees, providing input on various agenda items. UNEP-WCMC participates in various working groups, including those on CITES e-permitting; collaboration with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity; purpose-of-transaction codes; crocodylian specimens; and the trade database users' forum.

9. UNEP-WCMC provides support to a range of CITES parties in implementation. For example, it is developing the specifications for an online database for the CITES management authority of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The overall objective in building the database is to enable tourists to search online for wildlife souvenirs that may be encountered in the country that they intend to visit and provide information on any relevant legal controls and trade restrictions, prior to purchase.

10. UNEP-WCMC produced 18 posters for an exhibition on CITES for the Irish CITES scientific authority, which will be exhibited in the Knocksink Wood Education Centre, Fota Wildlife Park and, potentially, Dublin Airport.

11. The CITES secretariat is the key indicator partner for the "Status of species in trade" element of the indicators of sustainable use for the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. UNEP-WCMC is working with the secretariat to develop and finalize this indicator. The final indicator will be published in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook report, which is scheduled to be launched at the fourteenth meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in May 2010.

2. Harmonization of national reporting

12. As part of a wider project on knowledge management among biodiversity-related agreements, UNEP, through its Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, and UNEP-WCMC have identified potential joint core reporting elements of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, including CITES, and have been examining the suitability of the approach to national reporting that the human rights treaty system has been using, whereby parties submit a single core report for all treaties and treaty-specific reports in addition to their national reports under the various individual treaties. This work builds on previous work with the biodiversity-related conventions on approaches to harmonizing national reporting. Those results were discussed at a workshop on knowledge management in support of improved agreement implementation held in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from 7 to 9 March 2008 and hosted by UNEP-WCMC, which brought together representatives of the secretariats of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, including CITES. As part of the outcome of the workshop, UNEP-WCMC was requested:

(a) To write a paper on preconditions for the harmonization of national reporting to help countries understand the rationale for and challenges to the harmonization of national reporting;

(b) To develop a concept paper on guidance for national information management.

13. The paper on preconditions was subsequently drafted and shared with secretariats involved in the workshop. A revised draft will be made available at the meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group of the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions. Regarding guidance for national information management, UNEP-WCMC is undertaking research to understand better the situation of parties to the biodiversity-related conventions, including CITES, and the concept paper will be drafted at a later stage.

14. The work undertaken in the identification of potential joint core reporting elements of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements was used by a project in Pacific island countries of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts of the Government of Australia and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, which developed a consolidated reporting template for the biodiversity-related conventions with support from UNEP. UNEP has provided support to the development of, and participated in, a workshop on harmonization of national reporting to the biodiversity-related conventions conducted by the Association of South-East Asian Nations Centre for Biodiversity, held in Hanoi from 15 to 17 April 2009.

3. Knowledge management for biodiversity-related conventions: an information portal and online reporting facilities

15. As part of a wider project on knowledge management among biodiversity-related agreements, UNEP, through its Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, and UNEP-WCMC, in cooperation with the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and the Indian Ocean South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding, have created an internet portal² that enables access to key information on those agreements, including their articles; resolutions and decisions of their governing bodies; strategic planning documents; lists of parties; and national focal point information.

16. Under the same project, UNEP worked with the secretariats of the above-mentioned conventions and agreements to develop an online reporting tool, including for CITES biennial reports. The tool includes not only an option that enables parties to produce their national report online but also a generator that allows for the simple creation of other online reporting tools or questionnaires.

4. Issue-based modular approach to policy-making

17. The joint UNEP and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) project on issue-based modules for coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions, known as "Tematea", structures the multitude of commitments and obligations under regional and global biodiversity-related agreements in a logical, issue-based framework. There are currently six modules on priority issues for biodiversity with a seventh module on island biodiversity under preparation. The six modules are: inland waters; biodiversity and climate change; invasive alien species; protected areas; sustainable use of biodiversity; and access and benefit-sharing. For each issue, the global biodiversity-related agreements are screened (in particular CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa) in addition to relevant regional biodiversity-related agreements. Although the module on sustainable use is most relevant to the implementation of CITES, relevant CITES decisions are to be found in each of the modules.

18. Capacity-building activities are under way to support the use of the modules to promote national cooperation and communication across sectors and improve national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. They are intended to help national experts to evaluate the status of their country's implementation of agreements and identify how it might be improved and supported, including through the development of improved coordination mechanisms or specific multifocal plans and project proposals. National workshops have been held in Cuba, Georgia, Norway, Peru and Seychelles.

19. The website, including the modules and results of the national capacity-building exercises, can be found online,³ where a downloadable version is also available for offline use.

5. Strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services

² <http://www.informea.org>

³ <http://www.tematea.org>

20. Scientific knowledge on the links between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being has increased significantly since the completion of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in 2005. There is, however, a need to strengthen the science-policy interface to ensure that existing and emerging scientific knowledge is translated into specific policy action at the appropriate levels. In response to this need, UNEP has been facilitating discussions between Governments and organizations to explore mechanisms to improve and to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Such mechanisms include the possible establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, which would provide a common framework for the biodiversity and ecosystem-related multilateral environmental agreements to ensure that scientifically-sound, uniform and consistent approaches are adopted to tackle issues being dealt with under multiple agreements.

21. To discuss these issues in detail, the first intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on the proposed platform was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 10 to 12 November 2008, followed by the second meeting, held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009. Participants at the meetings exchanged views on the need to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, possible areas of work and the governance structure of the proposed platform. The main outcome of the second meeting was a Chair's summary, supported strongly by participants, in which the Chair called for a third and final negotiation meeting to decide whether to establish the proposed platform. The report of the second meeting⁴ will be presented to the UNEP Governing Council at its eleventh special session for further guidance on the matter.

22. UNEP has appreciated the CITES secretariat's constructive participation in informal discussions held on the process and looks forward to its continued participation, including as a potential vehicle for coordinating input from CITES bodies. UNEP has also suggested to the CITES secretariat that it might be in a position to encourage participation by private sector parties active in CITES trade.

6. Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements

23. UNEP provided financial assistance to the Task Force of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora to enable it to organize the tenth meeting of its Governing Council, to be held in October 2010 in the United Republic of Tanzania. In addition, UNEP provided legal services and advice for an intergovernmental negotiation meeting of 10 African range States, held in Paris from 22 to 24 October 2007, at which a new agreement on the conservation of gorillas and their habitats under the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals was negotiated and concluded. Gorilla taxa were listed in Appendix I of the Convention by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting to facilitate the development of the new regional gorilla agreement, which was developed in accordance with article IV of the Convention as a conservation tool. The Agreement entered into force on 1 June 2008 and has six parties to date: Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Nigeria and Rwanda.

7. Green Customs Initiative

24. The Green Customs Initiative is a partnership of secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements with trade-related provisions, including CITES, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, together with a number of international organizations, including UNEP, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the secretariat of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

25. The initiative aims to strengthen compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements with trade-related components. It offers an integrated approach to providing information, training and awareness-raising to Customs officials and other border

4 UNEP/IPBES/2/4/Rev.1

protection officers to enhance their capacity to monitor trade in commodities of environmental concern such as endangered species of fauna and flora, living modified organisms, ozone-depleting substances, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. Integrated training courses delivered by the partnership build the capacity of Customs officials on several multilateral environmental agreements simultaneously, which constitutes a more cost-effective and efficient mechanism than separate training courses on each. Since its inception in 2001, numerous national and regional training workshops have been conducted and coordinated under the Initiative, joint information materials have been developed, including the *Green Customs Guide to Multilateral Environmental Agreements*, and a website⁵ has been established and maintained. In addition to being a founding member of the Green Customs Initiative, UNEP also serves as its secretariat.

8. Assessing wildlife trade policies

26. In 2006, UNEP launched a two-year project focused on enhancing the capacities of developing countries to assess, design and implement effective national wildlife trade policies. The project was undertaken in partnership with the CITES secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development under the auspices of the Capacity-Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, with funding provided by the European Union and the Geneva International Academic Network. At the core of the project was the implementation of pilot projects in four developing countries (Madagascar, Nicaragua, Uganda and Viet Nam). Representatives from the four pilot countries presented the project outcomes at a side event during the twenty-third meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (Geneva, April 2008). Drawing on lessons learned from these country projects, a toolkit for conducting wildlife trade policy assessment methodologies was developed. As a follow-up to these country projects, Kuwait organized a regional workshop for Arabic-speaking countries on wildlife trade policies in March 2009. The workshop, which included approximately 50 participants from 19 Arabic-speaking countries, was supported by UNEP, the CITES secretariat, the League of Arab States and the International Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture. The workshop participants called for, among other things, support from UNEP and the other partners to carry out regional and subregional wildlife trade policy reviews.

9. Use of economic instruments

27. UNEP, in close consultation with the CITES secretariat, has been active in promoting and examining the use of economic instruments in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions. In April 2009, UNEP published a user-friendly training resource manual on the use of economic instruments for environmental and natural resource management.⁶ The aim of the manual is to assist in environmental decision-making and capacity-building, particularly at the national and regional levels.

10. Marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity

28. Collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity has been strengthened through UNEP support to the in-depth review of the Convention's programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity.⁷ The review, which will be undertaken at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, will focus on the status and trends of, and threats to, marine and coastal biological diversity; progress made in the implementation of the programme of work at global, regional and national levels; barriers to its implementation; priorities to tackle the barriers, in particular capacity-building; the programme's contributions to parties in implementing the Convention; its contributions to reducing the rate of biodiversity loss (progress towards the 2010 target); and its current and future effectiveness in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

29. In the South Pacific, UNEP has provided support to the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific to undertake pilot projects in its member countries (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru) to deal with the problem of by-catch of marine mammals during fishing

5 <http://www.greencustoms.org>

6 <http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/EI%20manual%202009/Training%20Resource%20Manual.pdf>

7 Decision VII/31 on the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, annex

activities. The work focuses, in particular, on identifying viable national mitigation strategies, within the framework of the Plan of Action for the Conservation of the Marine Mammals in the South-East Pacific, to tackle the impacts of fishing activities on marine mammals. The strategies are intended to stimulate partnerships between government institutions, the private sector and civil society to implement a coherent response to the problem.

30. In the Western Indian Ocean, the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention) has continued to work on the integration of ecosystem-based management into national development planning in the Eastern Africa region with support from UNEP. In partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Israel, the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and UNEP, the secretariat of the Nairobi Convention organized a regional training workshop to provide government officials and managers with the necessary tools and skills to develop and implement ecosystem approaches to the management of activities in the marine and coastal environment.

31. In the North-East Atlantic, UNEP has provided support to enable the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic to produce a series of fact sheets and leaflets to raise awareness of relevant and emerging marine environmental issues of regional and global importance. Topics include marine litter, marine spatial planning, cooperation with regional fisheries bodies, marine science practice (including areas beyond national jurisdiction), ocean chemistry, selection of threatened species and habitats and establishing monitoring priorities.

32. UNEP maintains a strong partnership with a number of leading marine scientific research organizations and institutions, including as a partner in the European Commission-funded interdisciplinary deep-sea science research projects Hotspot Ecosystem Research on the Margins of European Seas (Hermes) and Hotspot Ecosystem Research and Man's Impact on European Seas (Hermione). UNEP disseminates the projects' discoveries and results through its Regional Seas Programme to coastal States, including developing countries and small island developing States. In April 2009, UNEP and Hermes published a report entitled "The Hermes story: shedding light into the deep sea",⁸ which highlights the need for concerted action to protect the deep sea against the increasing pressures, threats and impacts from human activities and climate change, and provides inspiration for the development of similar deep-sea research projects in other regions. UNEP has also collaborated with Hermes on a report that supports and guides countries' emerging activities and interests in the conservation, protection and sustainable management of deep-water biodiversity and ecosystems within and beyond national jurisdiction and another that is intended to guide countries and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations in the development and implementation of sound, integrated, ecosystem-based management policies, measures and approaches for the exploration and sustainable use of deep-sea areas and resources within and beyond national jurisdiction.

33. UNEP contributed in 2009 to the Secretary-General's report on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity.

34. UNEP continues its long-standing support of the International Coral Reef Initiative, including the Initiative's operational networks: the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and the International Coral Reef Action Network. UNEP has participated in the Initiative's Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation programme, which has developed special investigative, forensic and rapid ecological underwater assessment techniques, standards and protocols for the collection of data and evidence of (accidental or deliberate) human impact on coral reefs. It has also worked on a number of activities in the context of the International Year of the Reef 2008, including coral reef awareness-raising activities in the Andaman Islands and the Gulf of Mannar in India, the development of educational materials for schools in the Philippines and South Africa, information for policymakers on the economic value of coral reefs in the wider Caribbean, and posters and presentations for coral reef side-events at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and meetings of the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic in 2008.

8 <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean/pdf/TheHERMESstory.pdf>

35. UNEP continues to support the ecological, social and economic monitoring of coral reefs around the world carried out by Reef Check and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. As part of its continued collaboration with the latter, the UNEP Coral Reef Unit provided support in the elaboration of the report entitled "Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2008",⁹ which provides an up-to-date assessment of the health of coral reef ecosystems in most coral reef range states, and is working on a joint publication entitled "Effective catchment management and coral reef conservation: best practice case studies".

(a) Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution

36. The secretariat of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution organized jointly with the European Commission-funded project on environmental collaboration for the Black Sea¹⁰ a workshop on marine protected areas held in Odessa, Ukraine, in September 2008. A guideline for the development of marine protected areas in the Black Sea was drafted and formally adopted at a meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention in December 2009. Zernov's field in the Black Sea (Ukrainian waters), the world's largest area of Phyllophora, was recently designated a marine protected area.

37. Habitat mapping for fish species listed in annex IV to the Protocol on Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation is under way together with the harmonization of methodologies for stock assessments, which have been agreed for anchovy and are in finalization for sprat and turbot.

(b) Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

38. Under the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, the specially protected areas and wildlife subprogramme includes conservation activities for threatened and endangered species of the wider Caribbean as listed in the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and included in its species database. During 2008, significant progress was made in the development of guidelines and technical tools to tackle management issues related to marine protected areas and marine mammals. Guidelines and criteria for the evaluation of protected areas to be listed under the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and an action plan for the conservation of marine mammals in the wider Caribbean were adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and national sea turtle recovery action plans were finalized for Costa Rica, Grenada and Panama. Alien and invasive species are an emerging threat to biodiversity in the region and the Programme collaborates with key partners, including the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International, the Global Invasive Species Programme, Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to mitigate this threat through capacity-building activities.

39. Through its Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, the Programme has provided support to sustainable management initiatives for queen conch and spiny lobster. Capacity-building activities have been implemented, in collaboration with the FAO Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, on the management of conch and lobster fisheries and support has been provided to the development of management plans for conch in Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Programme has provided small grants for sustainable fisheries and alternative livelihoods in various countries.

40. Having recognized the role of marine protected areas as a tool to conserve biodiversity, enhance fisheries and achieve other management goals, the Programme has continued to take the lead in the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum partnership with the aim of strengthening capacity for marine protected areas management in the wider Caribbean by bringing together managers, researchers, administrators, educators, scientists and the private sector in an inclusive network to exchange ideas and lessons learned. Activities include the convening of the seventh training-of-trainers course for English-speaking countries. Local follow-up training activities are under way.

9 www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/statusreport.aspx?refid=27173

10 <http://ecbsea.org/en/>

41. Coral reef monitoring and assessments have been conducted by subregional nodes in the wider Caribbean region and a tool for economic valuation of coral reefs has been developed in collaboration with the World Resources Institute. The International Year of the Reef was promoted extensively in 2008.

42. The Mesoamerican Reef Alliance project, a Caribbean Environment Programme partnership developed in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Action Network, was a collaborative effort aimed at confronting the decline of coral reef ecosystems and improving the economic and environmental sustainability of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef through capacity-building activities, the development of better practices and building of partnerships with the private sector. The Alliance was a multipronged programme, which addressed three areas that affect reef health: watershed management, fisheries and marine tourism and encouraged the exchange of knowledge between organizations in the region to achieve the project's goals. Outputs from the project have been disseminated and are being used as the basis for the development of additional activities in sustainable marine recreation in collaboration with the Coral Reef Alliance.

43. The Caribbean Environment Programme has provided support as a member of the steering committee to the recently approved Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and developed to assist the Caribbean countries in improving management of their shared living marine resources, most of which are considered to be fully or over-exploited, through an ecosystem approach. Pilot projects on specific transboundary fisheries (spiny lobster and reef fisheries) will test governance models at the local, national and subregional levels and provide additional knowledge on means of applying ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management and

determining fisheries' social and economic importance and sensitivities. The Programme has taken a lead in the development of the reef fisheries and biodiversity pilot project and will be implementing the same.

(c) Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution

44. During 2007–2009, significant progress was made by the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas in its work on species and habitats, including the preparation of guidelines and technical tools in addition to cartography of priority habitats to properly tackle marine and coastal biodiversity conservation in the region.

45. A regional programme of work for the coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean Region was prepared. Four new proposals of sites to be included in the list of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance were endorsed by the Regional Activity Centre. A project to support 12 Mediterranean countries on marine protected areas development in Mediterranean areas under national jurisdiction was finalized and funding for the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas was agreed upon by the European Commission, the Spanish Cooperation Agency for Development and the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial.

46. A joint management action of the European Commission with the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan entitled "Identification of possible SPAMIs in the Mediterranean areas beyond national jurisdiction" is being implemented by the Regional Activity Centre. A general overview and analysis of the existing information on marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean open seas, including deep seas, and the definition of operational criteria for the site selection process, are under way. The process is assisted by a steering committee comprising representatives of Mediterranean regional institutions and organizations. A set of feasible Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance to be proposed for consideration and further definition to the parties to the Convention was the main deliverable in 2009. High seas governance issues are being tackled in collaboration with an IUCN-facilitated independent group of reflection on the matter.

47. Proposals for the amendment of species annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean aim to increase the number of protected and managed species with special regard to marine vegetation, marine birds and cartilaginous fish.

48. Extensive work to tackle by-catch and incidental catches of threatened species has been undertaken in cooperation with regional fisheries institutions. Outputs include guidelines

and recommendations for reducing by-catch and strengthening laws and regulations for the conservation and management of species such as cartilaginous fish, seabirds and monk seals.

49. With regard to alien species in the Mediterranean, the Regional Activity Centre continues to work with the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea in the implementation of a full-size partnership project between GEF, the United Nations Development Programme and the IMO Global Ballast Water Management Programme on activities related to the management of non-indigenous species in the region.

50. Since the effects of climate change on the marine environment are much less well understood than those on the terrestrial environment, the Regional Activity Centre has begun an appraisal of information available on climate change impacts on the Mediterranean Sea. The initiative aims, among other things, to complement activities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change efforts and to catalyse similar processes for other regional seas.

51. National overviews on the impact of climate change on and the vulnerability of marine and coastal biological diversity in the Mediterranean region were prepared, assisted by a working group comprising international experts and parties' national experts. They provided a detailed insight on the subject through an inclusive process that involved the ministries concerned with biodiversity of all the riparian countries. The results were discussed at subregional meetings held from October to November 2008 in Split, Croatia, in Tunis and in Barcelona, Spain, and at a final regional meeting held in Vibo Valentia, Italy, in December 2008. The outputs of those meetings called for the update of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region with regard to climate-change-related issues.

(d) Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

52. In 2009, the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic published an illustrative document on the system of ecological quality objectives for the North Sea and guidance for the implementation of the objectives on plastic particles in seabirds' stomachs and fish communities. In 2007–2008, the deep-water habitat known as "coral gardens" was added to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats.¹¹ Evidence of the Convention's marine protected area network's progress is reflected in its third and fourth annual reports. Of particular note are prospective marine protected areas in locations beyond national jurisdiction for which conservation objectives have been agreed. The proposed marine protected area for the Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone is the most advanced of those and possible management measures for the area are under consideration. In 2008, the Contracting Parties to the Convention adopted a code of conduct for responsible marine scientific research in the deep seas and high seas of its maritime area. Further consultation is planned with those Contracting Parties that have outstanding extended continental shelf claims in the areas of the proposed sites. There are parallel developments by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission sanctioning fisheries closures in its regulatory area.

53. As part of the process to produce the quality status report 2010, the Commission has finalized a series of assessments of human activities, including on the environmental impact of dumping operations at sea, dumped conventional and chemical munitions, sand and gravel extraction, coastal defence, submarine cables, mariculture, marine litter, land reclamation, marine tourism and artificial reefs. Specific guidelines have been adopted for the management of dredged material. Further work is under way to finalize an overview of the impacts of anthropogenic underwater sound in the marine environment. The Commission's joint guidance with the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission for ballast water exchange has been agreed upon in advance of the Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water coming into force. The Commission has published an overview report of national marine spatial planning and control systems relevant to the Convention's maritime area and has cooperated closely with the European Community on their marine spatial planning road map and associated workshops. Lastly, the Commission continues to tackle marine litter and is further developing monitoring guidelines, fishing for litter guidance and statistical analyses for the period 2001–2008.

11 <http://www.ospar.org/eng/>

11. Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

54. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building aims at a more coherent, coordinated and effective delivery of environmental capacity-building and technical support at all levels and by all actors, including UNEP, in response to well-defined country priorities and needs. It is intended to complement and enhance the more traditional activity areas of UNEP intervention such as assessment, environmental policy and law, environmental institution-building and promotion of cleaner production systems.

12. Great Apes Survival Partnership

55. The Great Apes Survival Partnership¹² continues to collaborate closely with CITES and other multilateral environmental agreements. It has successfully helped to raise funds for a transboundary great ape cooperation programme that showcases the benefits that great ape conservation can bring to peace and stability. An interesting component of this work is an endeavour to link elephant and chimpanzee surveys and monitoring to reduce costs and share data – the Partnership and the CITES programme on monitoring the illegal killing of elephants jointly submitted a proposal to the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States of America, which has been approved

56. At the African elephants range States meeting held in February 2009 in Nairobi, the Partnership was asked to outline the challenges of running a type II partnership and how it could be applied to a global partnership for elephants. Elephants' role as keystone species, which helps to attract carbon finance and other payments for ecosystem services, such as water for the enhancement and sustainable management of their habitat, was highlighted by the Partnership.

57. The Partnership, together with the Convention on Migratory Species and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, declared 2009 the Year of the Gorilla.¹³ The underlying goal is to support the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats. Besides featuring scientific information, educating and raising awareness, the campaign provides the scope to raise funds

for conservation projects and aims to attract significant public and political support for great ape conservation. A number of activities in the field with partners and members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums are under way.

58. The Partnership and Ramsar documentary film entitled "Petit Loango Wetland; Oil and Gorillas?" on Petit Loango National Park in Gabon, where gorillas and other wildlife are threatened by mineral exploration, was nominated as a finalist for the 2009 ROSCAR wildlife film award at the Durban Wild Talk Africa Film Festival. A preview of the film is available on the Partnership website.¹⁴

13. Collaboration between the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES secretariats

59. During the first half of 2008, the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES secretariats worked on finalizing a new joint programme of work, which was adopted by the CITES Standing Committee in July 2008 and by the Convention on Migratory Species Standing Committee at its thirty-fourth meeting, on 30 November 2008. Among the proposed activities, progress has been made towards the compilation of a concordance list of species in the appendices of the two conventions. Discussions on the harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy referencing are continuing. In this regard, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted at its ninth meeting new taxonomic references for terrestrial animals that correspond to those used by CITES.

60. Close cooperation is being developed with regard to the conservation of African elephants. A meeting on West African elephant conservation took place in June 2008 to discuss the implementation of the West African Elephant Memorandum of Understanding with the relevant focal points of the CITES programme on monitoring the illegal killing of elephants during a meeting for the African region. The first meeting of the signatories to the West African

12 <http://www.unep.org/grasp/>

13 <http://www.yog2009.org/>

14 <http://www.unep.org/grasp>

Elephant Memorandum of Understanding took place alongside a meeting on the programme on monitoring the illegal killing of elephants, held in Accra between 30 March and 3 April 2009, during which a joint meeting was conducted. At this joint meeting, attended by representatives from all 13 West African countries concerned, 12 transboundary joint projects were identified and are now at the fund-raising stage.¹⁵ These projects, developed through cooperation between the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES, have already demonstrated the significant role of elephant conservation actions in maintaining and reinforcing good relationships between neighbouring countries by promoting the sustainable management of elephant habitats, which should be of immediate benefit to the local human population living alongside them.

II. United Nations Office at Nairobi administrative and financial management support to CITES

A. Delegation of authority

61. In 2009 the UNEP management team decided to develop a procedure for the delegation of authority for all multilateral environmental agreement secretariats to enable them to undertake and implement activities without referring to UNEP headquarters on various administrative matters. The delegation of authority is a generic framework within which each secretariat can develop its own specificities in close consultation with UNEP. It will supersede any existing delegation between the Executive Director of UNEP and the respective executive heads of the secretariats, and any other prior arrangements. It will be accompanied by an accountability framework signed by the executive heads to ensure that they understand and accept accountability for the powers delegated to them in line with relevant United Nations rules and procedures.

62. Further to the discussions at the fifty-eighth meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, in July 2009, UNEP developed a draft delegation of authority between the Executive Director and the Secretary General of CITES, as outlined to the CITES Standing Committee. Its objective is to ensure the provision of high-quality secretariat services to CITES and to clarify its Secretary General's authority, responsibility and accountability. It is accompanied by an accountability framework in line with United Nations performance measurements.

63. The provisions of the delegation of authority comprise management of the implementation of the programme of work approved by the Conference of the Parties to CITES; management of the implementation of the budget approved by the Conference and all other CITES budgets, including those financed from trust fund resources and the CITES allotment from the UNEP special account for programme support costs; and management of the human resources assigned to CITES.

64. The draft delegation of authority was sent to the Chair of the CITES Standing Committee on 15 February 2010 for input and subsequent finalization by UNEP.

B. Recruitment of the new Secretary General of the CITES secretariat

65. In the light of the retirement of the incumbent Secretary General of the CITES secretariat in May 2010, UNEP worked closely with the Chair of the CITES Standing Committee to recruit a successor. Following input by the CITES Standing Committee to the vacancy announcement, the position was advertised on 14 October 2009 with a deadline of 13 December 2009. The vacancy attracted 186 applications from internal and external candidates. UNEP and the Chair of the CITES Standing Committee worked closely together throughout the screening and interview process.

66. UNEP conducted a desk review of candidates at the 15-day, 30-day and 60-day marks. Based on the desk review, 11 candidates were shortlisted for telephone interviews. Those interviews were conducted by a panel of senior UNEP staff members. Four candidates were recommended for face-to-face interviews at UNEP headquarters. The interview panel comprised the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, the Chair of the CITES Standing Committee, one UNEP director and one external panellist. Based on the panel's conclusions, the Executive Director submitted his recommendations, fully reflecting the panel's own

15 http://www.cms.int/species/elephants/Mou_MIKE_1_docs.htm

recommendations, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in line with the requirements for recruitment to D-2 posts in the Secretariat. Also in line with the requirements, the Executive Director's recommendations were reviewed at Headquarters by the Senior Review Group with the aim of reviewing the integrity of the process and compliance with United Nations selection procedures. The Senior Review Group submitted its assessment to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who is to make the final selection. The Executive Director will be informed of that selection.

C. Funding provided to CITES from 13 per cent programme support costs

67. During 2008–2009, the posts of three administrative staff directly assigned to the CITES secretariat were funded from programme support costs. In addition, 50 per cent of the salary of the information network officer was funded from programme support costs.