

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Strategic matters

CITES Strategic Vision

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *CITES STRATEGIC VISION 2008-2013*

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. This document should be read in conjunction with document SC61 Doc. 14.2 (*Planning for 2014-2016*) prepared by the Secretariat on whether consideration should be given to extend to 2016 the *CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013*. It should also be read in conjunction with document SC61 Doc. 24 (*National reports*), specifically in relation to the reporting required in the indicators for the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008 – 2013*, and other documents referenced in the paragraphs below.

Implementation of the *Strategic Vision*

3. In Resolution Conf. 14.2, the Standing Committee is instructed:

to review the progress in implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013, and in achievement of the Objectives, at each of its ordinary meetings during the term of the Vision, and to report at the 15th and 16th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

4. The Secretariat's Costed Programme of Work (CPW) is based on the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008 -2013* and its activities under the CPW are described in other discussion documents prepared for the present meeting (see documents SC61 Doc. 10.1 and SC61 Doc. 10.2). The present document highlights selected actions taken under each of the three Goals of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*.

Goal 1 - Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention

5. The Secretariat has sought to encourage and empower CITES Parties to engage in the review and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This process should, *inter alia*, help Parties to further their implementation of the Convention and to identify the need and means for developing appropriate and coherent policies, legislation and procedures for CITES and other relevant conventions (see document SC61 Doc. 23 on *National laws for implementation of the Convention*).
6. Significant progress has been made with the development of electronic permitting schemes and more progress is anticipated as additional Parties become involved in the process (see document SC61 Doc. 33 on *Electronic permitting*). This will facilitate the authorization, monitoring and recording of legal trade and should help to prevent or minimize illegal trade.
7. CITES has continued to participate actively in meetings of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) where topics such as the harmonization of species nomenclature and taxonomy as well as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity Ecosystem Services (IPBES) have been addressed (see document SC61 Doc. 15.6 on IPBES).

8. The Convention's participation in the Saint Petersburg International Tiger Forum held during November 2010 contributed to the enhancement of Parties' efforts to manage this shared wildlife resource and to undertake effective CITES-related law enforcement. The Forum also offered an opportunity to launch the new International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), comprising CITES, Interpol, the World Customs Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the World Bank. The Secretariat maintained its close ties with key law enforcement partners through its attendance at the Interpol General Assembly (November 2010) and WCO's Enforcement Committee (February 2011). It also plans to participate in the International Network on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Conference scheduled to be held in British Columbia, Canada, in June 2011.
9. The organization of four major regional workshops, supported by funds from the European Commission, showed the value of a new approach to capacity building which includes a self-assessment of needs, an electronic CITES course, problem-solving workshops and national follow-up activities (see document SC61 Doc. 19 on *Capacity building*). After several years of development, the CITES Virtual College was launched in June 2011. This 'living' capacity-building tool gives Parties easy access to a comprehensive set of existing and new materials presented in a modern, interactive format, and enables the provision of cost-effective capacity building.

Goal 2 - Secure the necessary financial resources and means for the operation and implementation of the Convention

10. An analysis of charging regimes implemented by CITES Parties is contained in the analysis of Parties' biennial reports on the implementation of CITES in 2005-2006 and 2007-2008, provided as an information document at the present meeting. Such charging regimes may provide some or all of the necessary financial resources and means for Parties to implement the Convention.
11. The Secretary-General has met with a number of major bilateral donors and financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as programmes like UNEP, specialised agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and intergovernmental organizations such as International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), in order to help mobilize additional financial resources and means for the Parties to the Convention. In addition, it is hoped that greater involvement by CITES authorities in the review and revision of the NBSAPs mentioned in paragraph 5 above will enable them to access related GEF funding for activities that support CITES as well as CBD. More details about Parties' access to finance, including GEF funding, is contained in document SC61 Doc. 16.

Goal 3 - Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive

12. The strategic positioning of the Convention with other organizations, instruments and processes is critical to its successful implementation, as reflected in Goal 3. The Secretariat therefore has actively engaged with the Environment Management Group (EMG, a United Nations system-wide coordination body) and the Biodiversity Liaison Group (a forum for the executive heads of the biodiversity-related conventions). The Convention's membership in the EMG offers it the opportunity to interact regularly not only with bodies and programmes within the UN Secretariat, but also with specialized agencies, the biodiversity-related conventions and other conventions dealing with ozone-depleting substances, wastes, chemicals, climate change and desertification. An EMG report entitled *Advancing the biodiversity agenda: a UN system-wide contribution*, to which the CITES Secretariat contributed, was launched at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD (COP-10, Nagoya, October 2010).
13. The Convention has developed an excellent working partnership with other conventions and UNEP through the Information and Knowledge Management programme and its web portal 'InforMEA'.
14. Beginning in September 2010 with the retreat for the heads of biodiversity-related conventions held in Switzerland, and the High-Level Event on Biodiversity held in New York and running through CBD COP-10, the Secretariat worked with other biodiversity-related conventions to increase engagement with CBD at the international policy level. This resulted in better reflection of other conventions in the decisions adopted at CBD COP-10 (e.g. Decision X/2 on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi targets, and Decision X/20 on *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives*).
15. As mentioned above, cooperation with financial mechanisms has been enhanced. In addition, awareness about the Convention has increased as a result of more varied, constant and focused outreach undertaken

by the Secretariat (e.g. a highly successful event to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Convention's entry into force, organized with funds provided by Switzerland).

16. Existing collaboration with the FAO on commercially-exploited aquatic species is now being extended to forestry and wildlife (see document SC61 Doc. 15.5). A multi-year joint programme with the ITTO has resulted in improvements to scientific knowledge and analysis as well as related management of important CITES-listed tree species in target countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The joint ITTO-CITES programme is now ready to enter a second phase, should anticipated external funds become available.
17. As a result of a recent symposium on community-based natural resource management (Vienna, May 2011) and a joint meeting of the CBD Liaison Group and the CITES Central Africa Working Group on Bushmeat (Nairobi, June 2011), the Convention is poised to make a greater contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
18. Major achievements in fulfilment of Goal 3, as well as Goal 1, have been the establishment of ICCWC and the Secretariat's participation in the International Tiger Forum (see paragraph 8 above). More information on these activities is provided in document SC61 Doc. 30 on *Enforcement matters*.
19. Additional information on the implementation of Goal 3 is contained in document SC61 Doc. 15.1 on an overview of cooperation with other organizations.

Post-2010 biodiversity targets and the *Strategic Vision*

20. In Decision 15.10 on *Post-2010 biodiversity targets*, the Standing Committee is directed to "review the adopted post-2010 biodiversity targets and, if necessary, make adjustments to the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* as appropriate."
21. At CBD COP-10 held in Nagoya in November 2010, a number of decisions were adopted that are of relevance to all biodiversity-related conventions. These include:
 - a) Decision X/2, which contains a *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*, which the CBD Conference recognizes as "a useful flexible framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions". In paragraph 3 of the same Decision, the CBD Conference urges CBD Parties and other governments to develop national targets in line with the Strategic Plan and to update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), where appropriate.
 - b) In subparagraph 3 (f), the CBD Conference urges CBD Parties and other governments to "Support the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as effective instruments to promote the implementation of the Strategic Plan and mainstreaming of biodiversity at the national level, taking into account synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in a manner consistent with their respective mandates."
 - c) Furthermore, in paragraph 3 of Decision X/5 on *Implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan*, the CBD Conference invites CBD Parties and governments to "involve national focal points of all the biodiversity-related agreements, as appropriate, in the process of updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related enabling activities."
 - d) Finally, in paragraph 7. c) of the same Decision, it requests the CBD Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to "Collaborate with the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate the participation of national focal points of these agreements, as appropriate, in the updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related enabling activities."
22. Of the 20 Aichi Targets, which are provided in Annex 1 to the present document, the following are considered to be of relevance to CITES: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 17, 18, 19 and 20.
23. An example of how *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* could be amended in line with Decision 15.10 is shown in underlined and strikethrough changes in Annex 2, to assist the Committee in the consideration of this agenda item.

Recommendations

24. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee establish a Strategic Vision Revision Working Group to review the adopted post-2010 biodiversity targets and make recommendations for the 62nd meeting of the Committee for possible adjustments to the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*, and further submission at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES.
25. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to otherwise note the information provided above.

Strategic Goals and Aichi Targets on Biodiversity adopted at CBD COP 10

The Strategic Plan includes 20 headline targets for 2015 or 2020 (the "Aichi Biodiversity Targets"), organized under five strategic goals. The goals and targets comprise both: (i) aspirations for achievement at the global level; and (ii) a flexible framework for the establishment of national or regional targets. Parties are invited to set their own targets within this flexible framework, taking into account national needs and priorities, while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global targets. Not all countries necessarily need to develop a national target for each and every global target. For some countries, the global threshold set through certain targets may already have been achieved. Others targets may not be relevant in the country context.

Strategic goal A. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

Strategic goal B. Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Strategic goal C. Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

Strategic goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Strategic goal E. Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building

Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013[3]

General introduction

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was concluded on 3 March 1973. It entered into force after ratification by 10 States, on 1 July 1975.

Since then, the number of countries that have ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Convention has continued to increase. With 175 Parties, CITES is widely regarded as one of the most important international conservation instruments. During this period, the Conference of the Parties has shown itself to be capable of adapting to changing circumstances and, through the adoption of Resolutions and Decisions, has demonstrated an ability to construct practical solutions to increasingly complex wildlife trade and conservation problems.

At its ninth meeting (Fort Lauderdale, 1994), the Conference of the Parties commissioned a review of the Convention's effectiveness. The principal purposes of the review were to evaluate the extent to which the Convention had achieved its objectives and the progress made since CITES came into being and, most importantly, to identify deficiencies and requirements necessary to strengthen the Convention and help plan for the future. At its 10th meeting (Harare, 1997), the Conference agreed to an Action Plan for implementing certain findings and recommendations of the review. A central finding was the need for a strategic plan and, at its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), the Conference of the Parties adopted the *Strategic Vision through 2005*, and an *Action Plan*.

At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 13.1, which extended the validity of the Strategic Vision and Action Plan until the end of 2007. It also established a procedure for developing a new Strategic Vision through 2013, particularly to contribute to the achievement of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The present document is the result of this process.

At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 15.10 directing the Standing Committee to "review the adopted post-2010 biodiversity targets and, if necessary, make adjustments to the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013 as appropriate."

[At its 62nd meeting (Geneva, 2012) the Standing Committee reviewed the adopted post-2010 biodiversity targets and made adjustments to the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013.]

[If the validity of the Vision is extended to 2016, make reference to the decision of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties here]

With this new Strategic Vision, the Conference of the Parties to CITES outlines the Convention's direction in the new millennium and takes into account, within the context of its mandate issues such as:

- contributing to the UN Millennium Development Goals relevant to CITES;
- contributing to the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- contributing to the conservation of wildlife as an integral part of the global ecosystem on which all life depends;
- cultural, social and economic factors at play in producer and consumer countries;
- promoting transparency and wider involvement of civil society in the development of conservation policies and practices; and
- ensuring that a coherent and internationally agreed approach based on scientific evidence is taken to address any species of wild fauna and flora subject to unsustainable international trade.

Purpose

The twofold purpose of the Strategic Vision is:

- to improve the working of the Convention, so that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels; and
- to ensure that CITES policy developments are mutually supportive of international environmental priorities and take into account new international initiatives, consistent with the terms of the Convention.

Structure

In order to achieve this purpose, three broad goals, of equal priority, have been identified as the key components of the Strategic Vision:

- Goal 1: Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.
- Goal 2: Secure the necessary financial resources and means for the operation and implementation of the Convention.
- Goal 3: Contribute to globally agreed goals and targets by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.

The goals aim at consolidating the existing strengths of CITES, ensuring the implementation of the mandate of the Convention, and further improving the relationship with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and related conventions, agreements and associations.

Within the framework provided by each of these goals, this Strategic Vision identifies a number of objectives to be achieved. Corresponding indicators of progress are to be developed by the Standing Committee and reviewed by the Conference of the Parties.

This document provides a framework for the future development of the existing body of Resolutions and Decisions. While it should provide guidance on how the goals and objectives are to be achieved, the Conference of the Parties, the Committees or the Secretariat as appropriate will take required action. The document also serves the Parties as a tool for the prioritization of activities, and decisions on how best to fund them, in light of the need for the rational application of costs and the efficient and transparent use of resources.

It should be noted that all references to 'trade' in the Strategic Vision refer to trade as defined in Article I of the Convention.

CITES vision statement

Conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss.

THE STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL 1 ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH AND IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION

Introduction

The effectiveness of the Convention depends upon its full implementation by all Parties, whether they are consumers or producers of wild animals and plants. Full implementation relies, in turn, upon each Party's:

- commitment to the Convention and its principles;
- scientific expertise and analyses;

- capacity building; and
- enforcement.

Commitment to the Convention and its principles

The proper functioning of the Convention depends to a great extent on the commitment of Parties to comply with and implement the Convention and its principles.

- Objective 1.1** Parties comply with their obligations under the Convention through appropriate policies, legislation and procedures.
- Objective 1.2** Parties have in place administrative procedures that are transparent, practical, coherent and user-friendly, and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Objective 1.3** Implementation of the Convention at the national level is consistent with decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
- Objective 1.4** The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation needs of species.
- Objective 1.5** Best available scientific information is the basis for non-detriment findings.
- Objective 1.6** Parties cooperate in managing shared wildlife resources.
- Objective 1.7** Parties are enforcing the Convention to reduce illegal wildlife trade.
- Objective 1.8** Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity-building programmes in place.

GOAL 2 SECURE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MEANS FOR THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

- Objective 2.1** Financial resources are sufficient to ensure operation of the Convention.
- Objective 2.2** Sufficient resources are secured at the national/international levels to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.
- Objective 2.3** Sufficient resources are secured at the national/international levels to implement capacity-building programmes.

GOAL 3 CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL AGREED GOALS AND TARGETS BY ENSURING THAT CITES AND OTHER MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENTS AND PROCESSES ARE COHERENT AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

- Objective 3.1** Cooperation between CITES and international financial mechanisms and other related institutions is enhanced in order to support CITES-related conservation and sustainable development projects, without diminishing funding for currently prioritized activities.
- Objective 3.2** Awareness of the role and purpose of CITES is increased globally.
- Objective 3.3** Cooperation with relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations is enhanced.
- Objective 3.4** The contribution of CITES to the relevant Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals set at WSSD and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets [the relevant outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development] is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.
- Objective 3.5** Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, as appropriate, in order to achieve a coherent

and collaborative approach to species which can be endangered by unsustainable trade, including those which are commercially exploited.