

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

Cooperation with other organizations

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background in CITES

2. In Resolution Conf. 14.2 on the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*, the Secretariat is requested “to ensure that its programme of work for the period 2008 to 2013 supports the implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* in the Annex”. In the same Resolution, 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.”

3. Goals 2 and 3 in the *Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* are of special relevance to joint work and activities between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

Goal 2: Secure the necessary financial resources and means for the operation and implementation of the convention;

and

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.

4. With regard to securing financial resources, Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, calls upon Parties:

to explore opportunities for obtaining funding through the Global Environment Facility for relevant projects, including multilateral projects, which fulfil the eligibility criteria and guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Global Environment Facility.

5. In Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines*, Parties are urged to make use of the Principles and Guidelines when adopting non-detriment-making processes and making CITES non-detriment findings.
6. CITES Parties have also identified other areas for cooperation with CBD through Resolution 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) on *Permits and certificates*¹, Resolution Conf. 13.4 on *Conservation of and trade in great apes*²,

¹ “NOTING the need to develop simplified procedures that are compatible with the obligations of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity” (Preamble, last paragraph). Within this context, The Secretariat notes the final report of the Expert meeting on the modalities of operation of the access and benefit-sharing clearing-house, which was held in Montreal, Canada, from 11 to 14 April 2011. The report acknowledges that “the experts considered that Parties may wish to monitor the development of electronic permitting solutions under CITES, keeping in mind that CITES and the Nagoya Protocol are two very different systems and that the scope of the Nagoya Protocol is broader” (Paragraph 11).

Resolution Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14) on *Trade in alien invasive species*³, and Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*⁴.

7. A number of Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties also acknowledge the need for greater collaboration and synergy between CITES and CBD, particularly: Decision 14.38 (Rev. CoP15) on *National reports*, Decision 15.10 on *Post-2010 biodiversity targets*, Decision 15.11 on *Biodiversity Indicators Partnership*, Decisions 15.12-15.14 on *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*, Decision 15.19 on *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity* and Decision 15.20 on *Funding for projects related to species conservation and management*.
8. Cooperation between the CITES and CBD Secretariats is formalized in the Memorandum of Cooperation⁵ that they agreed in 1996. Collaboration between the two secretariats was further enhanced through a Workshop on Promoting CITES-CBD Cooperation and Synergy⁶, which was held at the International Academy for Nature Conservation of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, from 20 to 24 April 2004, in Vilm, Germany.

Background in CBD

9. Parties to CBD have similarly recognized that cooperation and synergy between the two conventions (and their secretariats) can help Parties meet their obligations under each respective convention. Indeed, a number of CBD Decisions identify the need for greater collaboration with CITES⁷ or the need to take CITES into account.
10. Furthermore, several Decisions adopted at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD, (Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010), offer CITES Parties and the CITES Secretariat the opportunity to enhance cooperation and synergy with CBD and to make use of international financial mechanisms, particularly the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

² "CALLS UPON the Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in relation to the conservation of great apes, in particular developing measures relating to in situ conservation and to make recommendations relevant to CITES to the Standing Committee for consideration".

³ "RECOMMENDS that the Parties ... consider the opportunities for synergy between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and explore appropriate cooperation and collaboration between the two Conventions on the issue of introductions of alien species that are potentially invasive"

⁴ "CALLS UPON relevant international organizations and the secretariats and Parties to international treaties to recognize the important role they can play in providing assistance, especially to range States, in regulating the trade in bushmeat and tackling the associated issues of poverty, habitat degradation, human population growth and utilization of natural resources, including the Convention on Biological Diversity,..."

⁵ Memorandum of co-operation between the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington, D.C., 1973) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nairobi, 1992) (<http://www.cites.org/common/disc/sec/CITES-CBD.pdf>)

⁶ <http://www.cites.org/common/cop/13/inf/vilm.pdf>

⁷ Decisions: X/2, *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*; X/5, *Implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan*; X/17, *Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020*; X/20, *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives*; X/38, *Invasive alien species*; IX/4, *In-depth review of ongoing work on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species*; VIII/1, *Island biodiversity*, VIII/2, *Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands*; VIII/3, *Global Taxonomy Initiative: in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative*, VIII/6, *Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness = overview of implementation of the programme of work and options to advance future work*; VIII/8, *Implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan*; VIII/16, *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives*; VIII/28, *Impact assessment: voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment*; VII/2, *The biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands*; VII/4, *Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems*; VII/10, *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*; VII/13, *Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (Article 8 (h))*; VII/16, *Article 8(j) and related provisions*; VII/19, *Access and benefit-sharing as related to genetic resources (Article 15)*; VII/26, *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives*; VII/27, *Mountain biological diversity*; VII/28, *Protected Areas (Articles 8 (A) to (E))*; VI/7, *Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments*; VI/8, *Global Taxonomy Initiative*; VI/9, *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*; VI/10, *Article 8(j) and related provisions*; VI/13, *Sustainable use*; VI/15, *Incentive measures*; VI/20, *Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives and conventions*; VI/22, *Forest biological diversity*; VI/23, *Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species*; V/3, *Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (implementation of decision IV/5)*; V/4, *Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for forest biological diversity*; V/8, *Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species*; V/10, *Global strategy for plant conservation*; V/23, *Consideration of options for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems*; III/21, *Relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance*.

11. It is important to note that Decision X/2, *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*, in its preamble, recognizes that the “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 represents a useful flexible framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions”. Moreover, paragraph 3(f) of that Decision urges Parties 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.

Furthermore, paragraph 16 (a) of the same Decision invites:

Parties and other Governments at the forthcoming meetings of the decision-making bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions, and other relevant agreements to consider appropriate contributions to the collaborative implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets.

A number of the Aichi targets in the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity: 2011-2020* are linked explicitly or implicitly to the Convention’s efforts to ensure that trade in wildlife be legal, sustainable and traceable (Goal A, Targets 1, 2, 3 and 4; Goal B, Targets 6, 7 and 9; Goal C, Target 12; and Goal E, Targets 17, 18, 19 and 20)

12. With regard to use of international financial mechanisms, Decision X/24, *Review of guidance to the financial mechanism*, states that financial resources should be allocated to priority actions identified in the national plans and strategies of developing countries and countries with economies in transition [Section B, Annex, paragraph 4.1(c)]. Equally important is paragraph 4.2 (a) which states that resources should be allocated to the “identification and monitoring of wild and domesticated biodiversity components, in particular those under threat, and implementation of measures for their conservation and sustainable use.” Furthermore, paragraph 4.12 on *Access to and transfer of technology* may facilitate projects related to the exchange of know-how on technologies related to CITES e-permitting.
13. In Decision X/5, *Implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan*, there is a direct request to the GEF to “provide adequate and timely financial support for the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related enabling activities” (paragraph 4). The Secretariat notes that the GEF has already set aside USD 500,000 for this purpose for each eligible country.
14. Finally, recognition of the need for a holistic and inclusive approach to biodiversity conservation is reflected in Decision X/20, *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives*. Indeed, in the preamble there are multiple references on the need for collaborative work with the biodiversity-related conventions (paragraphs 1, 3-5 and 7-10). Furthermore, specific instructions to the Executive Secretary regarding collaboration with the biodiversity-related conventions are given in paragraphs 11-14. In fact, paragraph 12 makes direct reference to CBD working collaboratively with CITES “to develop working arrangements that promote the coherent and mutually supportive implementation of the two conventions”. This participatory approach is also found in Decision X/5, *Implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan*, [the seventh paragraph of the preamble and paragraphs 1(a), 3, 7(c) of the operative part]. A specific reference to cooperation with CITES on bio-trade and other trade-related matter is contained in paragraph 19 of Decision X/20. In addition, reference to international trade is also found in the Annex to Decision X/17, *Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020*. Specifically, Target 11 is “No species of wild flora endangered by international trade” and Target 12 is “All wild harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably”.

Mechanisms used to facilitate collaboration among secretariats

15. The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions [also known as the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)] was established by CBD Decision VII/26, *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives*⁸. Initially, the BLG comprised the executive heads of CBD, CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the World Heritage Convention and the Ramsar

⁸ Requests in this context, the Executive Secretary, to invite the secretariats of the other four biodiversity conventions (CITES, Ramsar, CMS and World Heritage Convention) to form a liaison group to enhance coherence and cooperation in their implementation, and to report on progress made to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Convention on Wetlands. At the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD, the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (ITPGR) was invited to join the Group.

16. A number of joint activities have been undertaken by the BLG, including the development of an interactive CD-ROM on the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (AAPG) for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity⁹. The CD-ROM explains the AAPG and their relevance in the context of each of the biodiversity-related conventions. In addition to providing information on the application of the AAPG, the CD-ROM contains the full text of the principles and guidelines, relevant decisions, recommendations and resolutions, background documents, as well as other materials, including links to relevant websites. This joint collaboration between the biodiversity-related conventions was led by the CITES Secretariat.
17. The BLG has also been a useful mechanism to assist the CITES Secretariat in fulfilling Resolutions related to cooperation with CBD, particularly Resolution Conf. 14.2. In this regard, at a high-level retreat, held in September 2010, the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions agreed on a strategic approach to issues of mutual interest being addressed at CBD CoP-10, most notably the Strategic Plan and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans¹⁰.
18. Some of the specific conclusions and recommendations adopted at that retreat were that:
 - a) the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity could serve as useful framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions;
 - b) revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans should cover the full range of activities needed to implement all the biodiversity-related conventions;
 - c) capacity-building activities in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity should be coordinated among the biodiversity-related conventions; and
 - d) the convention secretariats would work together in support of the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity¹¹.
19. At a meeting of the BLG (Geneva, 2010), hosted and co-chaired by the CITES Secretariat, the biodiversity-related secretariats discussed the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its relevance to multilateral environmental agreements, especially in connection with sustainable development and biodiversity. Furthermore, in accordance with CBD Decision X/8, participants agreed to establish activities supporting the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020.
20. Other mechanisms which facilitate collaboration between the CBD and CITES Secretariats are the Environment Management Group (a UN system-wide coordination body) and its Issue Management Group on Biodiversity.

Activities undertaken by secretariats and others to implement relevant resolutions and decisions

CITES and international financial mechanisms

21. With regard to cooperation between CITES and international financial mechanisms, and in the context of CBD Decisions adopted at CoP-10, the CITES Secretariat distributed a draft guide¹² to assist CITES Parties in contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
22. The CITES Secretariat has also made efforts to highlight these developments through its participation in the Regional Workshop for Southern Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: Incorporating work on valuation and incentive measures, which was held in Kasane, Botswana, from 14 to 20 March 2011, and in the Regional Workshop for North Africa and the Middle East on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, which was held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 2 to 7 May 2011. The

⁹ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/programmes/socio-eco/use/aagp/AAGP.zip>

¹⁰ See: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/SG/2010/20101028_sg_statement_nagoya.shtml.

¹¹ Summary of the Retreat: First High Level Retreat Among Secretariats of Biodiversity-Related Conventions, 1 September 2010. (<http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/doc/report-hlr-2010-09-01-en.pdf>).

¹² See Notification to the Parties No. 2011/026 of 4 May 2011 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf> [available in English only])

Secretariat also participated in the Regional Workshop for the Pan-European Region on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 30 June to 1 July 2011.

23. Other activities related to possible use of GEF funding to support CITES activities include informal and preliminary discussions with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development [*Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo* (CCAD)] and with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) on the submission of projects to the GEF on regional CITES e-permitting systems.

Invasive alien species

24. Cooperation between CBD and CITES on invasive alien species has continued, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14), through the CITES Secretariat's participation in the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (established by a decision of the CBD Conference). The Secretariat attended the second meeting of the LG/IAS, which was hosted in Geneva by the World Trade Organization from 14 to 15 February 2011. The Secretariat also participated in the CBD's *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group meeting on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 18 February 2011.

Bushmeat

25. In the first example of such collaboration, the CITES and CBD Secretariats co-organized a Joint Meeting of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group (Nairobi, June 2011). Recommendations of particular interest to CITES include:
- a) Implementation of community wildlife management, and other improved wildlife management approaches, such as game ranching, and hunting tourism;
 - b) Increasing the raising of 'mini-livestock' (wild animals such as cane rats raised in small farms); and
 - c) Supporting the sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products, such as bee-keeping.

The report of meeting will be distributed as an information document at the present meeting.

Sustainable use of biodiversity

26. CITES Parties have acknowledged the importance of CBD decisions related to the sustainable use of biodiversity through Resolution Conf. 15.2, Resolution Conf. 14.2, Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14), and Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13). The concept of sustainable use is also woven into a number of other Resolutions and Decisions.
27. Joint activities by CITES and CBD in support of the sustainable use of biodiversity include the development of the CD-ROM on the AAPG (see paragraph 16) and anticipated participation by the CITES Secretariat in the CBD *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Agriculture and Forestry. More recently, both the CITES and CBD Secretariats participated in the Symposium on the relevance of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) to the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species in exporting countries, organized by the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the European Commission in Vienna, Austria, from 17 to 20 May 2011.

Biodiversity indicators

28. In CBD's Decision X/2, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)¹³ is identified as a possible partner in the development of mechanisms for research, monitoring and assessment of biodiversity. Decision X/7, *Examination of the outcome-oriented goals and targets (and associated indicators) and consideration of their possible adjustment for the period beyond 2010*, also recognizes the need to build on and continue the work of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership in delivering global indicators for the post-2010 period.

¹³ <http://www.bipindicators.net/>

29. Decision X/7, paragraph 7, requests the GEF to provide support to respond to the capacity needs of eligible Parties in developing national targets and monitoring frameworks and to enable the BIP to pursue the further development of global headline indicators.
30. The Secretariat has agreed that it (and other biodiversity-related conventions) will be represented on CBD's *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. At the time of writing (June 2011), the CITES Secretariat had provided comments on discussion documents for the first meeting of the Group and an associated International Expert Workshop on biodiversity indicators (High Wycombe, United Kingdom, June 2011).

Information and knowledge management

31. The Secretariat's continuing work on the harmonization of knowledge management and reporting is described in document SC61 Doc. 24 (*National reports*).

Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions

32. Following a suggestion made by the CITES Secretariat at the fourth meeting of the BLG (Bonn, October 2005), the BLG agreed to propose a meeting of the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions' (CSAB). The purpose was for the chairs of these bodies and representatives of the convention secretariats to enhance cooperation, share information about their conventions' activities and processes, and collectively support progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target. At the fourth and most recent meeting of the CSAB (Gland, February 2011), the CITES Secretariat participated in discussions related to the following agenda items:
 - a) Harmonization of Species Nomenclature and Taxonomy with Other Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
 - b) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); and
 - c) Towards a Multi-Convention Collaboration on Ecosystem Restoration.

Recommendation

33. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of this document.