

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Administrative matters

Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme

REPORT OF UNEP

The Annex to this document has been prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme

REPORT OF UNEP

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It provides information on the most significant collaboration between UNEP and the Convention secretariat since the sixty first standing committee meeting held in Geneva in August 2011. It also furnishes information about administrative support provided by UNEP to the Convention secretariat and its programme of work and the substantive cooperation between the two bodies in that period.

II. Technical and scientific support provided to CITES

Multilateral environmental agreement information and knowledge management initiative

2. The multilateral environmental agreement information and knowledge management initiative facilitated and supported by UNEP develops harmonized multilateral environmental agreement information systems to assist parties to implement their obligations under the various conventions. It brings together global multilateral environmental agreements to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems in support of knowledge management activities. Its steering committee meets once a year and provides strategic direction, and its working group meets periodically during the year and is responsible for the technical implementation of projects.
3. CITES, together with UNEP DELC, serves as a co-chair to the MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative, which consists of representatives from 15 global and regional MEA Secretariats and is substantially supported by UNEP. In order to ensure full representation in the joint web-portal InforMEA (www.informe.org) developed by this Initiative, CITES decision and resolution information has been prepared and tagged by UNEP DELC pending the full implementation of the harvesting mechanism by CITES.
4. Furthermore, projects in the field of IT and Knowledge Management successfully conducted by CITES, such as the CITES Virtual College, electronic permitting and the integration of customs document into national and regional single windows on trade related information, have strongly influenced and inspired the direction of the MEA IKM Initiative. Some of these concepts have been included in funding proposals to potential donors for replication on a joint level.

Great Apes Survival Partnership

5. The Great Apes Survival partnership (GRASP) works to balance field projects undertaken in collaboration with the partnership – including member nations, conservation organizations, United Nations agencies, and private supporters – with

- a policy agenda that utilizes legislative, educational, and communication resources to affect change. Recent achievements include are summarized below:
6. GRASP is collaborating with CITES, Sweden, Grid-Arendal, Interpol, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organizations (WCO), the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) and a host of law enforcement monitoring agencies to conduct the first comprehensive survey of the illegal trade in great apes. Publication for the report is targeted for late 2012.
 7. GRASP partnered with the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation and Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire to initiate the Tai-Grebo-Sapo trans-boundary area. This project will establish a corridor between the remaining forest blocs and to establish a trans-boundary platform and promote chimpanzee conservation. A first meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Monrovia on July 9-11.
 8. GRASP also manages the Mayombe Trans-boundary Initiative that unites Angola, Congo and the DR Congo to maintain and restore the integrity of the Mayombe ecosystem. Working since 2010 in partnership with the Government of Norway and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), GRASP recently helped secure a tripartite agreement to ensure long-term management and funding for the region. Through the Spain-UNEP Partnership for Protected Areas in Support of LifeWeb, which engage the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the African Parks Network (APN), and IUCN on behalf of conservation efforts in Congo, DR Congo, Cameroon and Indonesia, GRASP has managed six projects.. Recent achievements include a REDD feasibility study for the Takamanda National Park (Cameroon), Ebola virus monitoring projects in Congo, and law enforcement support for wildlife protection in DR Congo.
 9. Further, and to launch the "Act Now for Orangutans" campaign, which appeared in eight languages, receiving worldwide media attention, and accessed by on-line audience of 1.8 million, it partnered with International Animal Rescue (IAR) and Spanish soccer star Carles Puyol.
 10. In addition, GRASP worked with PanEco, Grid-Arendal, the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP), Indonesia, Norway, Germany, and numerous experts to publish *Orangutans and the Economics of Sustainable Forest management in Sumatra* in 2011. This report – which analyzes economic scenarios that conserve orangutans and habitat—will be replicated for Borneo in 2013. Also, with support from Norway, Germany, and the UNEP offices in Southeast Asia (ROWA), GRASP has supported conservation workshops in Cameroon, Indonesia, and Tanzania.

Support provided to CITES by UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre

11. The technical and scientific support provided to the CITES Secretariat by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) 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 online and now contains over 12 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. The CITES Trade Data Dashboards, launched in July 2010 for the 35th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention will be updated in

July 2012. The dashboards provide an interactive way of viewing the trade data submitted by Parties.

12. 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, capacity building and training – such as the material in support of training workshops for Central and West Asia and for the Pacific Islands. With the support of the CITES Secretariat, discussions are underway with several regions on developing capacity to undertake national and regional trade analyses.
13. To provide an overview of recent trade trends, UNEP-WCMC under contract to the CITES Secretariat, prepared an analysis of trade in Appendix II-listed species over the years 1996-2010. The report developed a new methodology to estimate the value of key animal-based commodities in international trade and revealed there were decreases in the trade in wild-sourced specimens accompanied by increases in captive-produced or ranched specimens for many taxa. A brochure highlighting the key findings will be distributed at Standing Committee 62.
14. UNEP-WCMC is working with the Secretariat to develop an integrated species information platform to enhance the provision of CITES species information services. The platform will support future CITES developments including electronic permitting; improved data exchange mechanisms, trade visualisation tools and future links with other species-related treaties and relevant external databases. The first phases of development will incorporate the Species Database and in later phases, the CITES Trade Database. The initial stages of this development will enable the 2013 Checklist of CITES Species to be generated electronically.
15. The automated checklist will include an index of CITES species, as well as a history of CITES listings. The automated checklist will be customisable, so that national or taxonomic subsets can also be generated. Fundraising is underway for future phases to incorporate the CITES Trade Database, add web services to enable Parties to update their national databases directly from the platform and to integrate other CITES data holdings such as the Significant Trade Database, the Wiki-ID manual the Significant Trade database and the Caviar Database etc.
16. Contributions regarding e-permitting have been a feature of UNEP-WCMC's support to CITES this year. These include participation in the CITES e-permitting Working Group through meetings in Prague in April 2012, and regional meetings regarding electronic permitting in Brazil, China and Nicaragua. In addition, with support from the European Commission, UNEP-WCMC maintains the Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) system, which facilitates the electronic exchange and verification of permit details among CITES Authorities. UNEP-WCMC is collaborating with the CITES Secretariat to promote and expand EPIX for use by all CITES Parties; this will allow for real-time exchange of permit data and make progress towards electronic permitting.
17. Other working groups to which UNEP-WCMC has contributed technical comments include: the Working Group on Taxonomic Serial Numbers; the Working Group on the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, the Working Group on Captive Breeding and Ranching, the Working Group on Identification of Corals in Trade and the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements in relation to national

reporting. For the latter, UNEP-WCMC has provided information to the Chair of the Working Group and the Secretariat on the development of an On-line Reporting System (ORS) that could be used for CITES biennial reports and to encourage synergy with reporting process for other biodiversity conventions. The ORS was developed by UNEP-WCMC for the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) where it was used to capture report data prior to COP10; it has also been used by Parties to the African-Eurasia Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in their most recent reporting cycle and is under consideration for use by Parties to Ramsar.

18. For the Review of Significant Trade, UNEP-WCMC undertook a review of 98 species/country combinations and presented the results to the 26th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee in Geneva in April 2012. UNEP-WCMC also contributed to two additional reports presented at the Animals Committee by the European Commission on nomenclature and coral taxonomy, as well as a report on elephant trade and conservation for Standing Committee 62. With support from the Scientific Review Group of the European Commission UNEP-WCMC is also assisting with the review of two taxa under the CITES Periodic Review process.
19. To provide advice on the reporting of trade in artificially propagated specimens of Appendix II-listed plants, UNEP-WCMC recently undertook a project for the CITES Secretariat, to collate and combine information on Parties' reporting practices with a review of recent trade data and of the literature regarding illegal trade.
20. UNEP-WCMC, working with the Finnish Ministry of Environment, has prepared a study on Promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. This work analyses the potential of synergies between the six global biodiversity-related conventions (CBD, CITES, CMS, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, Ramsar Convention and World Heritage Convention), with a focus on the areas of science-policy interface, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, national reporting, and capacity-building. The study builds on the results of the Nordic Symposium: Synergies in the biodiversity cluster, held in April 2010 in Helsinki, Finland. It was launched at the 4th meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the CBD in May 2012.
21. To bring together information on ape and gibbon species listed in CITES Appendix I, UNEP-WCMC, the Max Planck Institute, and the IUCN SSC Section on Great Apes, with generous funding from the Arcus Foundation and the World We Want Foundation, have collaborated to develop the A.P.E.S. Portal and Dashboard. These tools bring together a wealth of information and analyses to aid decision-makers in identifying areas for conservation action.
22. The A.P.E.S. Portal provides access to information on individual species bringing together various graphing and prediction tools along with a database of survey and habitat suitability data including 169 regional datasets for African apes and orangutans; 200 contextual datasets and over 680 publications on apes. The A.P.E.S. Dashboard is an analytical tool that allows users to explore the relative pressures impacting species living in important ape sites. This information can be combined with other indicators such as habitat condition, protection levels and the ability of a site to support non-ape species and selected ecosystem services. The A.P.E.S. Dashboard aims to support preliminary, broad-scale comparisons enabling

identification of subsets of important ape sites that can be refined through further analyses, study and data collection. The A.P.E.S. Dashboard helps to answer questions such as:

- Where are the most/least threatened important ape sites?
- What is the protection status of important ape sites?
- Which important ape sites are most significant for other species and ecosystem services?

III. Update on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Update on progress in the IPBES process

23. Two sessions of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES have been held (Nairobi, October 2011, and Panama City, April 2012). The first session addressed a series of process-related aspects of IPBES operationalization, such as institutional structures and processes, rules of procedure, membership, and procedures for prioritizing requests to the Platform, and the second session made further progress on determining the functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Platform, and rules of procedure, and resulted in a resolution of the meeting establishing IPBES as an independent intergovernmental body.

24. The Panama City meeting also agreed that the seat of the IPBES Secretariat will be located in Bonn, Germany, and agreed an intersessional work programme to prepare for the first meeting of the IPBES Plenary, which is expected to be held in January 2013.

25. A joint statement of the biodiversity-related conventions was made to the second session of the plenary, and is included in the full report of the meetings which is available at www.ipbes.net/previous-ipbes-meetings/second-session-of-plenary.

26. The Panama meeting determined that the Plenary will be the Platform's decision-making body, with a Bureau overseeing administrative functions and a Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) to carry out the scientific and technical functions. Initial membership of the MEP will be five members from each of the five United Nations regions, with the Chairs of the biodiversity-related MEA scientific subsidiary bodies (including from CITES) invited as observers.

Intersessional processes prior to the 1st plenary of IPBES (anticipated for January 2013)

27. A number of elements of the intersessional processes agreed by the Panama meeting in April 2012 are relevant to MEAs including CITES. UNEP, as the interim IPBES Secretariat has recently (21 June 2012) invited input from CITES as well as other MEAs on these points, in particular on:

- i) The assessment catalogue that is being developed, to ensure that this includes relevant information from previous and ongoing assessment activities undertaken by and in support of MEAs including CITES;
- ii) The draft document on elements of a conceptual framework that might be adopted to guide the activities of IPBES;
- iii) Identifying capacity building needs through reviewing comments to a draft information document being prepared on the capacity building needs

identified in national reporting to MEAs including CITES. This document under development aims to summarize the capacity needs identified by countries in the latest round of national reports to various MEAs including CITES; and

- iv) Suggestions on the process for receiving and prioritizing requests from governments and MEAs including CITES.

IV. UNEP's administrative and financial management support to the CITES Secretariat (Also see Annex 1)

Support provided to CITES from the Programme Support Costs

CITES is entitled to 67% of the Programme Support Costs (PSCs) that they generate. For 2011 this amounted to US\$563,859. Expenditures incurred against the 2011 PSCs totalled US\$ 590,388 and were used to cover the costs of the following administrative staff directly assigned to the CITES Secretariat: the Administrative and Financial Management Officer (P4), the Administrative Assistant (G6), the Finance Assistant (G6), 50% of the cost of the Information Network Officer (P3) and certain operational costs. The remaining 33% of the PSC is for use by UNEP to cover their central administrative functions that supports the CITES Secretariat.

The UN Secretariat, including UNEP, will transition from United Nations System Accounting Standards (UNSAS) to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) commencing 1 January 2014. Thereafter audited financial statements will be required for the year ending 31 December 2014 and for each subsequent year. Although IPSAS have far more stringent conditions on consolidation than UNSAS, we have obtained the opinion from UN HQ, supported by the MOU signed by the Chairman, CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP in 2011 that under IPSAS we can continue to consolidate CITES within the financial statement of UNEP.

The African Elephant Fund (AEF)

- 28. The African Elephant Fund (AEF) was established under UNEP as a Multi-Donor Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the African elephant action plan (adopted by African elephant range States in March 2010). The Fund was approved at the 26th meeting of the UNEP Governing Council in February 2011 and took effect from 1 February 2011.
- 29. A Steering Committee has been established under the Fund with membership comprising eight range States representing the four subregions of Africa (currently Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and the Sudan) and three donor States which qualified as members by committing funds to the AEF in the amount of USD 50,000 or more (France: USD 63,000; Germany: USD 108,000; and the Netherlands: USD 66,000). The UK is also contributing US\$ 50,000.
- 30. UNEP took note of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure from the Steering Committee adopted at the first meeting of the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee held on 12 to 14 December 2011 in South Africa, and has informed its Chair on the need to introduce some amendments to these documents in order to reflect, inter alia, the need to observe relevant provisions of the UNEP financial rules.

31. While the role of UNEP as the manager of the African Elephant Fund has been accepted, UNEP has informed the Chair about the need for clarification regarding the additional role of UNEP as Secretariat of its Steering Committee.
32. In the meantime the Chair has distributed to the beneficiaries of funding identified at the first meeting of the Standing Committee a UNEP template for Small Grant Agreements. As soon as these templates are returned to UNEP with the necessary information from each beneficiary, including the project proposals, amended where necessary in the light of the decisions made by the first meeting of the Steering Committee, UNEP will be in a position to sign the Small Grant Agreements and disburse the funds as necessary.

Annex I (UNEP's Report on PSC use to the CITES Standing Committee)

Fund	Description	2010	2011	Grand Total
QTL	Exchange loss	549	(371)	178
QTL	Disbursements	4,454,550	3,353,796	7,808,346
QTL	PSC	298,946	196,337	495,283
		4,754,045	3,549,762	8,303,807
Fund	Description	2010	2011	Grand Total
CTL	Exchange loss	(10,401)	10,585	184
CTL	Disbursements	4,463,125	4,963,410	9,426,536
CTL	PSC	580,206	645,243	1,225,450
		5,032,930	5,619,239	10,652,169
Total				
Code	Descriptions	2010	2011	Grand Total
1850	Exchange loss	(9,852)	10,214	362
6310	Disbursements	8,917,675	8,317,207	17,234,882
6320	PSC	879,152	841,580	1,720,732
		9,786,975	9,169,001	18,955,977
	PSC	879,152	841,580	1,720,732
	67%	589,032	563,859	1,152,891
	67 % Allocations	589,032	563,859	1,152,891
	Staff costs	603,911	565,208	1,169,119
	Others costs	11,421	25,129	36,550
	Total Costs	615,332	590,338	1,205,670
Over expenditures against 67% allocation		(26,300)	(26,479)	(52,779)

S/M Title	Staff name	GRD
Administrative & Fund Mgt. Officer	Alicia Abalos	P-4
Finance Assistant	Noemi Reyes	G-6
Administrative Assistant	Philippe Brarda	G-6
Information Network Officer	50% in 2010-2011	P-3