

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Strategic matters

WILDLIFE TRADE POLICY REVIEWS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 16.26 and 16.27 on *Wildlife trade policy reviews*. The Decisions read as follows:

Directed to the Parties

16.26 *As envisaged under Resolution Conf. 15.2 on Wildlife trade policy reviews, Parties that undertake wildlife trade policy reviews on a voluntary basis are requested to provide the Secretariat with relevant details of their reviews and lessons learnt, so that these may be shared with other Parties.*

Directed to the Secretariat

16.27 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *compile and make available on the CITES website information provided voluntarily by Parties on wildlife policies or wildlife trade policies they have adopted, and wildlife trade policy reviews they have undertaken;*
 - b) *subject to external funding, assist interested Parties in undertaking wildlife trade policy reviews and provide necessary technical cooperation to those Parties;*
 - c) *subject to external funding, organize a regional or subregional workshop in another region which builds upon the Regional Workshop for Arabic-Speaking Countries on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews (Kuwait City, March 2009); and*
 - d) *report at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee and at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the work above and other progress made with regard to implementation of Resolution Conf. 15.2.*
3. On 30 July 2015, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties [No. 2015/042](#) on *Information to be submitted for the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee*. In paragraph f) of the Notification, Parties were requested to provide, by 30 September 2015, the information requested in Decision 16.26 of the Conference of the Parties. As of writing, no responses had been received by the Secretariat.
 4. To date, the Secretariat has not identified any external funding that would support the implementation of paragraphs b), c) and d) of Decision 16.27 of the Conference of the Parties.

Wildlife trade policies and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

5. Since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, 2010), many

CITES Parties have been working to incorporate CITES-related commitments and activities into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). If a Party has a separate wildlife or wildlife trade policy, this is likely to be referenced in and aligned with the NBSAP. If no separate policy exists, then relevant policy components are likely to be incorporated into the development and implementation of the NBSAP itself.

6. The incorporation of wildlife and wildlife trade policies into Parties' NBSAPs affords Parties an opportunity to ensure policy coherence and to access relevant Global Environment Facility funding for the implementation of those policies.
7. In connection with ongoing efforts to achieve greater overarching policy coherence, as mentioned in paragraph 6 above, Parties might take into account various plans which are being used to focus upon and address particular issues of concern (e.g. National Ivory Action Plans, species-specific action plans on Asian big cats, great apes, sharks, Madagascar ebonies, rosewoods and palisanders, etc.).

Wildlife trade policies and the science-policy interface

8. In Resolution Conf. 15.2 on *Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews*, Parties are urged to:

promote mutual understanding and support across the science-policy interface and ensure that biological and social scientists and policymakers work in a cross-disciplinary manner;

9. Pursuant to the 2014-2018 work plan of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), work is underway to complete a number of deliverables. These include: Deliverable 3(b)(iii) – Thematic assessment on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools; Deliverable 3(c) – Policy support tools and methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services; and Deliverable 3(d) – Policy support tools and methodologies regarding the diverse conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people, including ecosystem services. The final IPBES deliverables on these subjects may be a useful reference tools for Parties' future work on wildlife trade policies and their review.
10. Information on the cooperation between CITES and IPBES is provided in document SC66 Doc. 16.4.
11. Any Party submissions related to Decisions 16.26 and 16.27, which might be received later by the Secretariat, will be included in its oral report at the present meeting.

Wildlife trade policies and the SDGs

12. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, provide a broader context in which the development, implementation, review and revision of wildlife trade policies occurs. For example, Target 17.14 under SDG 17 is to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development. More details on the SDGs are provided in document SC66 Doc. 13. At the national level, a number of countries have been working to develop sustainable development plans or strategies.
13. In this connection, Goal 3 of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020* is to “contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and to achieving relevant globally-agreed goals and targets by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive”. Moreover, Objective 3.4 specifically provides that the “contribution of CITES to the... sustainable development goals set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development...and the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels”.

Wildlife trade policies and the CITES website

14. It has, unfortunately, not been possible within the limited human resources of the Secretariat to actively manage a web forum on wildlife trade policy reviews. The Secretariat is therefore considering ways in which the existing website section on such reviews could be enhanced and made more useful for Parties, for example, in terms of providing examples, materials, tools and experience related to wildlife and wildlife trade policies. There might also be scope for linking wildlife trade policy reviews, which serve as tools for Parties to self-assess the effectiveness of policy content and implementation, to similar exercises such as

the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and the review and amendment of legislation.

Recommendation

15. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to indicate whether there are specific examples, materials, tools, and experience that could be of particular use to them in relation to wildlife and wildlife trade policies and to otherwise note this document.