

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November – 1 December 2017

Strategic matters

REVIEW AND REPLACEMENT OF THE
CITES STRATEGIC VISION: 2008-2020

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. CITES Parties first adopted a *Strategic Vision through 2005* and an accompanying Action Plan at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gigiri, 2000), through Decision 11.1. It was extended until 2007 and at the 13th meeting at the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2004), through Decision 13.1. The Conference of the Parties, at its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), adopted a new *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* through Resolution Conf. 14.2. This Resolution was replaced at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2013) by Resolution Conf. 16.3 which extended it to 2020 and added some amendments to reference the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
3. The *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020* was further amended at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Johannesburg, 2016) to make reference to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The current version of the Vision is found in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 16. 3 (Rev. CoP17).
4. Conscious of the fact that the present CITES Strategic Vision expires after its 18th meeting in 2019, the Conference of the Parties agreed a series of Decisions on the subject:

Decision 17.18 directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) *establish a Strategic Plan Working Group, with representation from all regions and from the Animals and Plants Committees, to develop, with the assistance and cooperation of the Secretariat, a proposal for a strategic vision for the period after 2020 and any associated action plan and indicators to measure progress;*
- b) *through the working group, review progress in implementing the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 against the adopted indicators, taking account of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, and of any emerging replacement for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets; and*
- c) *submit a proposal for a CITES strategic vision for the period after 2020 and any associated action plan and indicators, in time for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Decision 17.19 directed to Parties

Parties are requested to evaluate their efforts in relation to the implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020 and the associated Action Plan and to submit the outcome thereof to the Standing Committee's Strategic Plan Working Group through their regional representatives on that working group.

Decision 17.20 directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, in advance of the 18th Conference of the Parties, and subject to the availability of external funds, prepare an analysis, including, if possible, a regional breakdown, of progress towards the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 based upon the reports of Parties under Article VIII paragraph 7 (a) and (b), and other information as appropriate.

Decision 17.21 directed to the Secretariat

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall publish the outcomes resulting from implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision and its indicators including through a graphic presentation on the CITES website.

Development of a new CITES Strategic Plan

5. At the time of writing, the Secretariat had not received any external funds to undertake the tasks in Decisions 17.20 and 17.21, but nevertheless hopes to be able to provide a short analysis of progress made in the implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020* to the Standing Committee's working group, or a more detailed study, if funds are located.
6. During a joint session at their 29th and 23rd meetings respectively, the Animals and Plants Committees agreed to request their Chairs (or their Vice-Chairs, if the Chairs are not available) to participate in the Standing Committee working group when it is established.
7. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee, through its working group, develop a CITES Strategic Plan that has a duration of 10 years, namely 2021-2030, to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets. The Secretariat further recommends that the Plan be short, sharp and focused in line with the culture of CITES.
8. In the annex to the present document, the Secretariat sets out a draft skeleton for the Plan, which could be used as a basis for the work of the working group. Concerning the themes for the goals and objectives, the Secretariat suggests that they focus in particular on the following: implementation and financing of the Convention, partnerships with others who can assist in delivering its Plan and the use of technological solutions, such as e-permitting and traceability and modern forensic tools, that help achieve the Plan in a more efficient and effective way.
9. With respect to linkages to bigger processes, the Secretariat suggests that, whilst not neglecting other emerging international processes, the main focus should be on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets. As these have been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by consensus of all 193 Member States, which includes all States party to CITES, the 2030 Agenda has the largest support and the broadest scope of any of the international processes.
10. Aligning the CITES Strategic Plan to the Sustainable Development Goals will have many advantages. It will show how the effective implementation of CITES contributes towards achieving global goals and targets, such as Goal 15 on 'Life on Land', including Target 15.7 on ending 'poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna'¹. It will also facilitate identifying areas of potential cooperation among Parties and with multiple stakeholders in implementing CITES and open up avenues for additional funding as the implementation of the Convention is seen to align with these broader globally agreed goals and targets.
11. The Secretariat considers that the indicators to measure progress against the Plan are essential, but that these should be specific, measurable, assignable, relevant and time-bound. They should also, wherever possible, use metrics that are already being collected under other obligations, thus not putting significant extra reporting burdens on Parties, the Secretariat or any of the CITES subsidiary bodies. Examples of

¹ https://cites.org/eng/CITES_CoP17_Ministerial_Lekgotla_Address_by_John_E_Scanlon_Secretary-General_27102016

indicators could include, the number of Parties in Category 1 under the National Legislation Project, the number of Parties submitting their annual trade reports, annual illegal trade reports and implementation reports and the levels of recorded illegal trade under CITES monitoring programmes, such as the programme Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS).

Recommendations

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) establish a Strategic Plan working group, with representation from all regions and from the Animals and Plants Committees with a mandate to:
 - i) review progress in implementing the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020* against the adopted indicators, taking account of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, and of any emerging replacement for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets; and
 - ii) on the basis of the annex to the present document, develop a proposal for a Strategic Plan for the period after 2020 and any associated action plan and indicators to measure progress and submit this to the 70th meeting of the Committee, together with any background material that the working groups believes would be helpful to the Committee in its consideration of the working group's proposal.
- b) agree that the next CITES Strategic Plan should run from 2021 to 2030; and
- c) endorse the outline of the next Strategic Plan and related documents, contained in the annex to the present document to be used by the working group.

CITES Strategic Plan 2021-2030 and related documents

Outline of the CITES Strategic Plan 2021-2030

Preamble/Introduction

Reference briefly the evolution of CITES from 1973 to the present day and to projected challenges and opportunities until 2030. Include reference to past Visions and the mandate for this revised version.

Highlight linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets together with references to other international agendas such as any emerging replacement for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

Mission statement

Purpose of the Convention.

Vision statement

Where CITES would like to see itself by 2030.

Values statement

Commitment to fairness, impartiality, geographic and gender balance and to transparency.

Strategic Goals

Up to five Strategic goals to express broad longer term aspirations.

Objectives

No more than 10 Objectives for each Strategic goal to set out mid to short term actions to 2030 to achieve the Goals.

Consideration to be given to the use of graphics to illustrate the Strategic Plan and its statements, goals and objectives, for an audience of specialists and for the general public, industry and civil society more generally.

To include as part of the Plan or as (a) separate document(s)

Indicators – particularly for identified Objectives.

To be limited in number and specific, measurable, assignable, relevant and time-bound and, wherever possible, use metrics already being collected under CITES for other purposes.

Action Plan

Consideration to be given to the need for an Action Plan, what it should contain and what added value it would bring to the Strategic Plan.