

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

Strategic matters

COOPERATION WITH OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on *Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions*:

Decision 17.55 directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to strengthen synergies among biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity-building activities.

Decision 17.56 directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and a possible follow-up framework, as appropriate, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This should involve the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and, as appropriate, engagement with other relevant organisations and processes, including processes under the Rio Conventions. The Standing Committee shall report on the implementation of this Decision at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Actions and developments since SC69

3. Since its report to CoP17 in documents [CoP17 Doc. 14.1](#) and [CoP17 Doc. 14.5](#) and to the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC69, Geneva, November 2017) in document [SC69 Doc. 19](#), the Secretariat has undertaken a number of activities in order to cooperate, collaborate and work in synergy with other biodiversity-related conventions.
4. As requested by the Committee at SC69, the Secretariat provided advice to Parties, via Notification to the Parties [No. 2018/063](#) of 19 June 2018, about ongoing cooperative processes and their relationships.
5. As part of its reflection on the development of a post-2020 global framework for biodiversity, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) invited the Secretariat to participate in the Second Bogis Bossey Dialogue for Biodiversity Meeting (Chexbres, Switzerland, 4-6 March 2018). The results of the meeting¹ stressed the need

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/post2020/doc/sbi-02-inf-35-en.pdf>

for one key overarching post-2020 biodiversity narrative that can form an umbrella for the contributions of others, including Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as CITES.

6. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of entry into force of CBD, the Secretariat sent a congratulatory message² and spoke at a high-level discussion "*Celebrating 25 years of CBD and its aim to tackle the increasing global biodiversity crisis*" in Geneva on 2 March 2018.³
7. On a programmatic level, the Secretariat cooperated with CBD over its Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020, as described in document SC70 Doc. 20.
8. The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) took place from 9 to 18 July 2018 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. Although the Secretariat could not be represented because of a clash of dates with the CITES scientific committee meetings a high-level event "*The Living Planet – the foundation of sustainable development: Contribution of the biodiversity-related conventions to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals*" was held on 17 July under the initiative of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions – BLG. This gathered the executive management of secretariats of a number of the biodiversity-related conventions, political leadership of their governing bodies and leadership of organizations important to their implementation, together with high-level representation of delegations to HLPF. Among others, a message was delivered on behalf of the UN Deputy Secretary-General in which she noted that each biodiversity-related convention has its unique role and mandate, but collectively, they provide a global strategy for arresting the loss of biological diversity that is so critical to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.
9. The Secretariat contributed to the ninth meeting of the InforMEA initiative⁴ which brings together MEAs to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems for the benefit of Parties and the environment community at large. Information gathered at this forum will improve synergies between MEAs and provide the Secretariat with ideas for improving management of its own data.
10. The Secretariat contributed to the peer review of a set of three compendia of guidance publications related to the biodiversity-related conventions⁵, published by UN Environment, the CBD Secretariat and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC).
11. Practical collaboration continued with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) on the basis of the CITES-CMS Joint Work Programme 2015-2020. Since SC69, a first meeting of range States under the CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative has been agreed. It will take place from 5 to 8 November 2018. This initiative will address the implementation of CITES measures required concerning the African lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*). The two Secretariats have been working together on the development of a lion web-portal to permit, among other things, the posting and sharing of information and voluntary guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for the African lion. Additionally, an Internal Cooperation Agreement has been signed with the Secretariat of the CMS sister agreement, Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, concerning a study on the illegal trade in marine turtles under Decision 17.222.
12. Concerning the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), an exchange of staff members has been agreed for the upcoming 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Ramsar in October 2018 and CITES CoP18. As well as enhancing staff development, this will enable the pooling of resources involving specialist staff.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. The Secretariat would welcome suggestions for the Standing Committee on measures that could be taken to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and the emerging post-2020 framework, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals; in particular, on engagement with the

² https://cites.org/eng/CITES_congratulates_CBD_for_25_years_action_for_biodiversity

³ <https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/?q=en/events/celebrating-25-years-cbd-and-its-aim-tackle-increasing-global-biodiversity-crisis>

⁴ https://cites.org/eng/news/CITES_contributes_to_the_largest_gathering_of_InforMEA_04072018

⁵ <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources-and-data/biodiversitysynergies>

process currently underway to adopt a post-2020 biodiversity framework to replace the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets.

14. The Secretariat believes that synergies among biodiversity MEAs should continue to be strengthened and that it is beneficial for the Standing Committee to keep these matters under review. For those reasons, it intends to recommend at CoP18 that Decision 17.55 and 17.56 be continued.