

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee
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Strategic matters

REVIEW AND REPLACEMENT OF THE *CITES STRATEGIC VISION 2008–2020*:
COMMENTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC VISION AND ITS INDICATORS

This information document was prepared by Canada* as Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on the CITES Strategic Plan in relation to agenda item 11, Revision and replacement of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020*: Report of the working group. This document provides a summary of the comments of the working group members on the implementation of the current Strategic Vision and an indication of the perceived value of each indicator.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

COMMENTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC VISION AND ITS INDICATORS
 Compiled views of the intersessional Standing Committee working group on the CITES Strategic Plan (formed during the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland, 27 November – 1 December, 2017)

GOAL 1: Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention

Objective 1.1: Parties comply with their obligations under the Convention through appropriate policies, legislation and procedures.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
1.1.1 The number of Parties that are in category 1 under the national legislation project.	101 Parties as of December 2017 (55%) To be reported through the Implementation Report; Also found at: https://cites.org/legislation	Relevant (meaning participants did not indicate a lack of relevance or implementation challenge against this indicator)
1.1.2 The number of Parties that have designated Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities.	See: https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp	Relevant (One participant noted this is compulsory so not convinced it's a useful indicator)
1.1.3 The number of Parties subject to CITES recommendations on trade.	30 Parties as of 1 August 2017 (16%) See: https://cites.org/eng/resources/ref/suspend.php	Relevant (One participant would also nuance the indicator to those that have successfully complied; distinguish those making progress from those not making progress)

Objective 1.2: Parties have in place administrative procedures that are transparent, practical, coherent and user-friendly, and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
1.2.1 The number of Parties that have adopted standard transparent procedures for the timely issuance of permits in accordance with Article VI of the Convention.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant
1.2.2 The number of Parties making use of the simplified procedures provided for in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17).	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant (One participant would add number of Parties using electronic procedures)

Objective 1.3: Implementation of the Convention at the national level is consistent with decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
1.3.1 The number of Parties that have implemented relevant reporting under Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties and/or Standing Committee recommendations.	To be reported through the Implementation Report <i>Also via information in Secretariat records</i>	Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to “Number of parties that have implemented national legislation according to Resolutions and Decisions” • identify the reporting requirements to know what is being counted • Not sure it can be reliably measured • useful indicator of where capacity building would be useful • useful, would expand beyond reporting • use CITES website list of reporting requirements; but not convinced it’s a useful measure of progress

Objective 1.4: The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation needs of species.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
1.4.1 The number and proportion of species that have been found to meet the criteria contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24 or its successors. This includes both the periodic review and amendment proposals.	To be (partially) reported through the Implementation Report <i>Also through statistics from CoP and the Periodic Review</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • doesn’t reflect the objective; use Red List instead • only official measure is periodic review; flawed • not useful • amendment proposals not necessarily a measure of meeting the criteria

Objective 1.5: Best available scientific information is the basis for non-detriment findings.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
1.5.1 The number of surveys, studies or other analyses undertaken by exporting countries based on the sources of information cited in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Non-detriment findings</i> related to: the population status of Appendix-II species; the trends and impact of trade upon Appendix-II species; and the status of and trend in naturally-occurring Appendix I species and the impact of any recovery plans	To be reported through the Implementation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply to all of 1.5; not meaningful • combine 1.5.1 and 1.5.2 • Important indicator but not sure if we’ll get good data from implementation report (not all Parties report)
1.5.2 The number of Parties that have adopted standard procedures for making non-detriment findings.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	One participant indicated this is not a valuable indicator
1.5.3 The number and proportion of annual export	To be reported through the Implementation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quotas case by case • had no quotas but still views this as a useful indicator

quotas based on population surveys.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not valuable • valuable for those who routinely set quotas • not useful • not useful; doesn't really tell us if the NDF is sound
1.5.4 The number of Appendix-II species for which trade is determined to be non-detrimental to the survival of the species as a result of implementing recommendations from the Review of Significant Trade.	<i>Report determined from statistics related to the review of significant trade</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interpretation requires caution (not meaningful?) • non verifiable assumptions

Objective 1.6: Parties cooperate in managing shared wildlife resources.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
1.6.1 The number of bilateral and multilateral agreements that specifically provide for co-management of shared CITES-listed species by range States.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant (one participant noted reporting might be difficult)
1.6.2 The number of cooperative management plans, including recovery plans, in place for shared populations of CITES listed species.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant
1.6.3 The number of workshops and other capacity-building activities that bring range states together to address the conservation and management needs of shared CITES listed species.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant

Objective 1.7: Parties are enforcing the Convention to reduce illegal wildlife trade.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
1.7.1 The number of Parties that have, are covered by, or engaged with: an international enforcement strategy and/or action plan; formal international co-operation, such as an international enforcement network; a national enforcement strategy and/or action plan; and formal national inter-agency co-operation, such as a national inter-agency enforcement committee.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant
1.7.2 The number of Parties with a process or mechanism for reviewing their enforcement strategies, and	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant

the activities to implement their strategies.		
1.7.3 The number of Parties that have criminal (penal) law and procedures and forensic capacity in place, and that use specialized investigation techniques, for investigating, prosecuting, and penalizing CITES offences.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant
1.7.4 The number of Parties using risk assessment and intelligence to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant
1.7.5 The number of administrative measures, criminal prosecutions and other court actions for CITES-related offences.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant (one participant noted the number alone may be misleading)

Objective 1.8: Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity-building programmes in place.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
1.8.1 The number of Parties with national and regional training programmes and information resources in place to implement CITES including the making of non-detriment findings; issuance of permits and enforcement	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant (one participant asked why only national/regional and suggested it could be revised)

GOAL 2: Secure the necessary financial resources and means for the operation and implementation of the Convention

Objective 2.1: Financial resources are sufficient to ensure operation of the Convention.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
2.1.1 The number of Parties meeting their obligations with regard to their assessed contributions to the Trust Fund.	79 Parties have unpaid contributions from 2016 or earlier (43%) as of 31 July 2017; See: SC69 Doc.7 Annex 5	Relevant but one participant noted the indicators under Goal 2 are administrative matters and are all not very useful
2.1.2 The percentage of the work programme agreed by the Conference of the Parties that is fully funded.	See SC69 Doc. 7 Annex 1 (2016) and Annex 2 (2017)	Relevant (noting comment above)

Objective 2.2: Sufficient resources are secured at the national and international levels to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
2.2.1 The number of Parties with dedicated staff and funding for Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and wildlife trade enforcement agencies.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant (noting comment above)
2.2.2 The number of Parties that have undertaken one or more of the following activities: changed the budget for activities; hired more staff; developed implementation tools; and purchased technical equipment for implementation, monitoring or enforcement.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not useful given the large number of variables at play (so what does it really measure) needs revision; not clear or focused
2.2.3 The number of Parties raising funds for CITES implementation through user fees or other mechanisms.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant (noting comment above)
2.2.4 The number of Parties using incentive measures as part of their implementation of the Convention.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> what does this mean? what types of "incentive measures" are meant? not clear

Objective 2.3: Sufficient resources are secured at the national and international levels to implement capacity building programmes.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
2.3.1 The number of capacity building activities mandated by Resolutions and Decisions that are fully funded.	To be reported through the Implementation Report See also Indicator 2.1.2	Relevant (noting comment above)

GOAL 3: 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

Objective 3.1: Cooperation between CITES and international financial mechanisms and other related institutions is enhanced in order to support CITES-related conservation and sustainable development projects, without diminishing funding for currently prioritized activities.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
3.1.1 The number of Parties funded by international financial mechanisms and other related institutions to develop activities that include CITES-	To be reported through the Implementation Report	One participant noted Goal 3 is important but the objectives don't address the goal

related conservation and sustainable development elements.		
3.1.2 The number of countries and institutions that have provided additional funding from CITES Authorities to another country or activity for conservation and sustainable development projects in order to further the objectives of the Convention.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant (noting comment above)

Objective 3.2: Awareness of the role and purpose of CITES is increased globally.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
3.2.1 The number of Parties that have been involved in CITES awareness raising activities to bring about better awareness by the wider public and relevant user groups of the Convention requirements.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unclear how useful the measure from this indicator will be
3.2.2 The number of visits to the CITES website.	To be (partially) reported through the Implementation Report <i>Also reported via statistics on CITES.org unique hits</i>	Relevant (noting comment above)
3.2.3 The number of Parties with web pages on CITES and its requirements.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant (noting comment above)

Objective 3.3: Cooperation with relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations is enhanced.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
3.3.1 The number of Parties which report that they have achieved synergies in their implementation of CITES, other biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental, trade and development agreements.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not clear what does “achieved synergy” mean?
3.3.2 The number of biodiversity conservation or sustainable use projects, trade and development goals, or scientific and technical programmes that integrate CITES requirements.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> difficult for reporting authorities to know not clear what this is measuring or how to count “programmes”

3.3.3 The number of Parties cooperating / collaborating with intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to participate in and/or fund CITES workshops and other training and capacity-building activities.	To be reported through the Implementation Report	Relevant (noting comment above)
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Objective 3.4: The contribution of CITES to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, the sustainable development goals set at WSSD, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, 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.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
3.4.1 The conservation status of species listed on the CITES Appendices has stabilized or improved.	To be (partially) reported through the Implementation Report <i>Also could use statistics found on the IUCN Red List to support this indicator</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • useful information but not necessarily attributable to CITES (similar HSI) • daunting; done by a CITES body instead of Parties • not useful as to many other factors influence conservation status
3.4.2 The number of Parties incorporating CITES into their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).	To be reported through the Implementation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not sure if useful; NBSAPs may not have this level of granularity

Objective 3.5: Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, as appropriate, in order to achieve a coherent and collaborative approach to species which can be endangered by unsustainable trade, including those which are commercially exploited.

Indicators	Comments	Strategic Vision WG Comments
3.5.1 The number of cooperative actions taken under established bilateral or multilateral agreements to prevent species from being unsustainably exploited through international trade.	To be reported through the Implementation Report <i>Also supported by Secretariat's records</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to indicator 1.6.1 and 1.6.2
3.5.2 The number of times other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources are consulted on issues relevant to species subject to unsustainable trade.	To be reported through the Implementation Report <i>Also supported by Secretariat's records</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not useful as written; prefer 3.5.1