

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Strategic matters

CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been submitted by Georgia as Chair of the Standing Committee's working group on Strategic Vision.*

Background

2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.23 – 18.26 on CITES *Strategic Vision*:

18.23 Directed to the Parties

Parties' Management Authorities are encouraged to communicate with their national Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) focal points to seek to ensure CITES aims are reflected in the outcomes of their domestic processes to develop contributions to the post-2020 biodiversity framework anticipated to be adopted by the Parties to the CBD in 2020.

18.24 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *undertake a comparative analysis in order to illustrate the linkages between the adopted CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and the goals within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, once adopted, the post-2020 biodiversity framework, and present their analysis to the Standing Committee for their information; and*
- b) *review the objectives of CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 against the current CITES Resolutions and Decisions and identify to the Animals and Plants Committee as appropriate, and to the Standing Committee those objectives (if any) where the current CITES policies as found in the Resolutions and Decisions do not appear to address activities in support of achieving that objective of the CITES Strategic Vision.*

* *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.*

18.25 Directed to the Animals Committee, Plants Committee

The Animals and Plants Committees shall consider the review prepared by the Secretariat under Decision 18.24, paragraph b) and provide their recommendations to the Standing Committee.

18.26 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) *in consultation with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and taking into account the information provided by Parties via the Report on Implementation as well as the comparative analysis prepared by the Secretariat under Decision 18.24, paragraph a), make recommendations on new or revised indicators of progress to be included in the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030, for consideration by the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and*
- b) *review the information provided by the Secretariat in Decision 18.24, as well as the views of the Animals and Plants Committees, and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. During the 72nd meeting of the Standing Committee an intersessional working group on Strategic Vision was established with representation of all regions and observer organizations with the mandate:

Taking into account the views of the Animals and Plants Committees, the information provided by Parties via the Report on Implementation as well as the comparative analysis prepared by the Secretariat, make recommendations on new or revised indicators of progress to be included in the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030.

4. The membership of the working group was agreed as follows:

Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, European Union, Georgia (Chair), Germany, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zimbabwe; United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Center for Biological Diversity, China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, Conservation Alliance of Kenya, Forest Based Solutions, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Natural Resources Defense Council, San Diego Zoo, Species Survival Network, Taylor Guitars, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Ranching South Africa, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and World Wildlife Fund.

Progress update: Decision directed to the Secretariat

5. In implementation of Decision 18.24, the Secretariat has undertaken the following activities:
 - a) Prepared a mapping of the *CITES Strategic Vision* against the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework has not been finalized at the time of analysis, paragraph a) of the Decision 18.24 could only be partly implemented;
 - b) Mapped the *CITES Strategic Vision's* objectives against valid CITES Resolutions and Decisions. The results of the review was available through the document [AC31 Doc. 8/PC25 Doc. 9](#) for the discussion by the Plants and Animals Committees;
 - c) analysed the implementation reports submitted by Parties using the new template mapped out against the *CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020*. When the data source for the indicators could not be found in the implementation report, the Secretariat has gathered the necessary additional data and presented its source and analysis.

Progress update: Decisions directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

6. The Animals and Plants Committees reviewed the mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 objectives against the CITES Resolutions and Decisions, as presented in the document AC31 Doc. 8/ PC25 Doc. 9 at their joint online meeting in June 2021. The Committees have endorsed the document with the few additions for submission to the Standing Committee for its consideration¹.

Progress update: Decisions directed to the Standing Committee

7. In order to identify the potential new or revised indicators for the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030 and make recommendations for the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee, the indicators identified for the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020 were matched with the updated Strategic Vision objectives. The members of the working group have reviewed the indicators in terms of adequacy, measurability and sufficiency. At the same time, new potential indicators were suggested. The members of the working group also had an opportunity to review the documents prepared by the Secretariat. The indicators identified at the initial stage, were further reviewed and filtered during the online meeting based on the abovementioned criteria.
8. General views were expressed during the discussion:
 - a) Few, streamlined and easily measurable indicators are preferred. The indicators should not create additional reporting burden for the parties.
 - b) It would be useful and efficient if the indicators developed for the CITES Strategic Vision are also used for purposes of reporting to other conventions and processes. Particularly, it would be useful to align the indicators with upcoming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework²³⁴, particularly Target 5 of the Framework.
 - c) It is important to have an information source for each indicator. The information required for assessment of indicators could already be held by the Secretariat or collected through existing processes including national reporting. However, it should also be noted that questions in the implementation report may require redesigning.
 - d) Preferably, the indicators should be identified at the same time with the objectives.
9. The indicators identified for the Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and specific comments related to indicators are presented in the annex of this document. The indicators filtered and agreed during the online meeting are highlighted in blue.

Recommendations

10. The Working Group invites the Standing Committee to:
 - a) take note of the present document and the progress made in implementation of Decisions 18.23 through 18.26;
 - b) Review the potential indicators presented in the Annex of this document and recommend for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting after discussion in the wider group during the next meeting of the Committee.

¹ [See draft summary record AC31/PC25](#)

² [Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

³ [Proposed Indicators](#)

⁴ [Proposed headline indicators](#)

Objective 2021-2030	Potential indicators	Potential sources of information	Comments
GOAL 1: TRADE IN CITES-LISTED SPECIES IS CONDUCTED IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THEIR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE			
Objective 1.1 Parties comply with their obligations under the Convention through the adoption and implementation of appropriate legislation, policies, and procedures.	<p>1.1.1 The number of Parties that are in category 1 under the national legislation project.</p> <p>1.1.2 The number of Parties subject to CITES recommendations to suspend trade.</p>	<p>1.1.1 National Legislation Project and in future the content management system of the CITES website. Question in the implementation report on whether new legislation is developed.</p> <p>1.1.2 Notifications to the Parties, the reference list on countries subject to a recommendation to suspend trade.</p>	<p>1.1.1 is a negative indicator and could be phrased in a more positive way. The indicator does not address implementation of the legislation. The indicator is proposed for inclusion in the monitoring framework of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>1.1.2 Ideally, indicator would account for both number of parties and the severity of recommendations</p> <p>UNEP-WCMC on behalf of the Secretariat has developed the CITES trade Monitoring Tool which also tracks potential issues in relation to CITES trade suspensions.</p>
Objective 1.2 Parties have established CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and enforcement focal points that effectively carry out the duties required of them under the Convention and relevant Resolutions.	1.2.1 The number of Parties that have designated at least one Management Authority, independent Scientific Authority and enforcement focal points in place.	CITES directory. In the future, the content management system of the CITES website.	The objective also addresses the crucial element, namely the quality of action of the CITES Authorities, which is not covered by the indicator. However, effectiveness is quite difficult to measure. It would be useful if COP could direct the SC to discuss how to assess effectiveness.
Objective 1.3 Implementation of the Convention at the national level is consistent with Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.	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.	Secretariat, Questions in the implementation report.	The indicator addresses only one aspect of implementation – reporting.

Objective 2021-2030	Potential indicators	Potential sources of information	Comments
Objective 1.4 The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation status and needs of species.	1.4.1 The number and proportion of species that have been found to meet the criteria contained in <u>Resolution Conf. 9.24</u> or its successors. This includes both the periodic review and amendment proposals.	Information from Secretariat, CoP and AC/PC records. Questions in the implementation report format whether a party has undertaken a review.	This objective is one of the fundamental objectives, while difficult to measure. The number of species for which periodic review is carried out is not sufficient.
Objective 1.5 Parties improve the conservation status of CITES-listed specimens, put in place national conservation actions, support their sustainable use and promote cooperation in managing shared wildlife resources.	1.5.1 The conservation status of species listed on the CITES Appendices has stabilized or improved. 1.5.2 No. of CITES-listed species for which Parties have put in place actions that support sustainable use.	1.5.1 Latest IUCN Red List conservation status categories, CITES Trade database, questions in the implementation report. 1.5.2 Questions in the implementation report.	
GOAL 2: PARTIES' DECISIONS ARE SUPPORTED BY THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE AND INFORMATION			
Objective 2.1 Parties' non-detriment findings are based on best available scientific information and their determination of legal acquisition is based on the best available technical and legal information.	2.1.1 The number of Parties that have adopted standard procedures for making non-detriment findings. 2.1.2 The number of written NDFs submitted and number of Parties submitting NDFs for posting in the CITES <u>on-line</u> database. 2.1.3 The number of Parties that have included the legal acquisition finding obligation in their national regulatory framework, as recommended by Resolution Conference 18.7.	2.1.1 Questions in the implementation report. 2.1.2 Notification to the Parties. 2.1.3 Questions in the implementation report.	2.1.1 and 2.1.3 could be merged as one indicator. These indicators themselves do not address the issue if the procedures adopted by the parties are effective. The NDFs ideally would be peer-reviewed and posted on the public domain.
Objective 2.2 Parties cooperate in sharing information and tools relevant to the implementation of CITES.	2.2.1 The number of surveys, studies or other analyses undertaken by exporting countries based on the sources of information cited in <u>Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)</u> on Non-detriment findings 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.	2.2.1 Questions in the implementation report. 2.2.2 Quotas published on the CITES website and Secretariat. 2.2.3 Questions in the implementation report. 2.2.4 Secretariat. 2.2.5 Secretariat.	

Objective 2021-2030	Potential indicators	Potential sources of information	Comments
	<p>2.2.2 The number and proportion of annual export quotas based on population surveys.</p> <p>2.2.3 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.</p> <p>2.2.4 The number of reports shared by the Parties in compliance with the Resolutions of the Convention.</p> <p>2.2.5 The number of tools developed used for Parties cooperation relevant to the implementation of CITES.</p> <p>2.2.6 The number of Parties involved in information sharing relevant to the implementation of CITES.</p> <p>2.2.7 Number of Parties using list of tools: E.g. shared databases, data visualization/software, information-sharing focused tools, etc.</p> <p>2.2.8 Number of cooperation clusters identified.</p>	<p>2.2.6 Questions in the implementation report.</p> <p>2.2.7 Questions in the implementation report.</p> <p>2.2.8 Questions in the implementation report.</p>	
Objective 2.3 Parties have sufficient information to enforce the Convention.	<p>2.3.1 The proportion of Parties that are making use of the available tools. For instance, could look at Google Analytics for the No. of site visits to CITES website, CITES Checklist, or Species+ or no. downloads from CITES Trade Database as a proxy for usage of shared tools.</p> <p>2.3.2 The percentage of Parties reporting having sufficient information to enforce the Convention.</p>	<p>2.3.1 Secretariat.</p> <p>2.3.2 Questions in the implementation report.</p> <p>2.3.3 Questions in the implementation report.</p>	
Objective 2.4 Parties have sufficient information to make listing decisions that are reflective of species conservation needs.	<p>2.4.1 The percentage of Parties reporting having sufficient information to make listing decisions that are reflective of species conservation needs.</p>	<p>Questions in the implementation report.</p>	

Objective 2021-2030	Potential indicators	Potential sources of information	Comments
Objective 2.5 Information gaps and needs for key species are identified and addressed.	<p>2.5.1 The number of Parties reflecting gaps and needs for identifying key species.</p> <p>2.5.2 The numbers of gaps and needs identified.</p> <p>2.5.3 The percentage of gaps and needs solved which are reported for key species identified and addressed.</p> <p>2.5.4 Number of parties with improved access to information in the past triennium.</p> <p>2.5.5 Number of countries that currently lack information for key species and need assistance to address them.</p>	Questions in the implementation report.	The indicators could also consider the CITES species, which are categorized as “Data Deficient”, have not been assessed or where the IUCN Red List Assessments are older, e.g. 5 or 10 years more.
GOAL 3: PARTIES (INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY) HAVE THE TOOLS, RESOURCES AND CAPACITY TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE THE CONVENTION, CONTRIBUTING TO CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND THE REDUCTION OF ILLEGAL TRADE IN CITES-LISTED WILDLIFE SPECIES			
Objective 3.1 Parties have in place administrative procedures that are transparent, practical, coherent and user-friendly, and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.	<p>3.1.1 The number of Parties that have adopted standard transparent procedures for the timely issuance of permits in accordance with Article VI of the Convention.</p> <p>3.1.2 The number of Parties making use of the simplified procedures provided for in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17).</p> <p>3.1.3 The number of Parties that have adopted an electronic system for the issuance of permits.</p>	Questions in the implementation report.	
Objective 3.2 Parties and the Secretariat develop, adopt and implement adequate capacity-building programmes.	<p>3.2.1 The number of Parties with training programmes and information resources in place to implement CITES, including the making of non-detriment and legal acquisition findings, issuance of permits and enforcement.</p> <p>3.2.2 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.</p>	Questions in the implementation report.	This objective is also linked with the new Compliance Assistance Programme and Capacity Building Framework.

Objective 2021-2030	Potential indicators	Potential sources of information	Comments
Objective 3.3 Sufficient resources are available at the national and international levels to support necessary capacity-building programmes and ensure compliance with and full implementation and enforcement of the Convention.	3.3.1 The number of Parties meeting their obligations with regard to their assessed contributions to the Trust Fund. 3.3.2 The percentage of the total funds required to implement the work programme agreed by the Conference of the Parties that is fully funded.	Secretariat.	
Objective 3.4 Parties recognize illegal trade in wildlife as serious crime and have adequate systems in place to detect and deter it.	3.4.1 No. of Parties where criminal offences relating to illegal trade in wildlife (such as illegal hunting/harvest and wildlife trafficking) are recognized as a serious crime.	Questions in the implementation report.	Some members of the group thought the indicator should look at the number of parties that have adopted maximum sentence for violations.
Objective 3.5 Parties work collaboratively across range, transit and destination states, to address entire illegal trade chains, including through strategies to reduce both the supply of and demand for illegal products, in order for trade to be legal and sustainable.	3.5.1 The number of seizures made through Parties collaboration across range, transit and destination states, to address entire illegal trade chains.	Illegal trade report, Implementation report.	
Objective 3.6 Parties take measures to prohibit, prevent, detect and sanction corruption.	3.6.1 Number of Parties reporting in Illegal Trade and Implementation Reports of activities taken to address corruption.	Illegal trade report, Secretariat.	
Objective 3.7 Investments in building capacity of CITES are prioritized, coordinated, and their success monitored to ensure stepwise improvement through time.	3.7.1 Number of Parties for which improvements in implementation has been identified following targeted capacity building efforts	Secretariat website (E.g. National legislation project, information on trade suspension).	
Objective 3.8 Parties take full advantage of emerging technological developments to improve the effective implementation and enforcement of the Convention.	3.8.1 Number of CITES Parties using of the CITES Checklist API.	Secretariat.	The members also felt that the indicator on E-permitting would be beneficial.

Objective 2021-2030	Potential indicators	Potential sources of information	Comments
GOAL 4: CITES POLICY DEVELOPMENT ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO AND LEARNS FROM INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
Objective 4.1 Parties support sustainable wildlife trade policies, especially those that increase the capacity of Indigenous peoples and local communities to pursue livelihoods.	<p>4.1.1 No. of CITES-listed species for which Parties have designed/implemented relevant sustainable wildlife management policies.</p> <p>4.1.2 Percentage of those that co-developed or otherwise supported the capacity of IPLCs to pursue livelihoods.</p>	Questions in the implementation report.	
Objective 4.2 The importance of achieving CITES' aim as a contribution to achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, is recognized.	4.2.1 The number of Parties incorporating CITES into their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), also included in the global and national Strategies for Plant Conservation under CBD programme.	Questions in the implementation report.	
Objective 4.3 Awareness of the role, purpose and achievements of CITES is increased globally	<p>4.3.1 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.</p> <p>4.3.2 The number of new, unique visits to the CITES website.</p> <p>4.3.3 The number of Parties with web pages on CITES and its requirements.</p> <p>4.3.4 The number of shares, likes, and comments on CITES Instagram, Twitter and Facebook posts increases.</p> <p>4.3.5 The use of key identified hashtags (e.g. #cites, #citescop19 #worldwildlifeday, etc.) on CITES Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts increases.</p> <p>4.3.6 The number of parties which have provided support to World Wildlife Day.</p>	<p>4.3.1 Questions in the implementation report.</p> <p>4.3.2 Secretariat.</p> <p>4.3.3 Secretariat, Questions in the implementation report.</p> <p>4.3.4 Secretariat.</p> <p>4.3.5 Secretariat</p> <p>4.3.6 Questions in the implementation report</p>	

Objective 2021-2030	Potential indicators	Potential sources of information	Comments
Objective 4.4 CITES Parties are informed of international actions for sustainable development that may have a bearing on achieving the goal of CITES.	<p>4.4.1 No. meetings/COP where representatives of other international actions report on relevant activities to CITES Parties.</p> <p>4.4.2 Events, documents and presentations delivered by other intergovernmental bodies and fora in meetings convened by the CITES Secretariat.</p> <p>4.4.3 Number of Parties that have received information regarding international actions that are relevant to the achievement of CITES goals.</p>	<p>4.4.1 Secretariat</p> <p>4.4.2 Secretariat</p> <p>4.4.3 Questions in the implementation report</p>	
GOAL 5: DELIVERY OF THE CITES STRATEGIC VISION IS IMPROVED THROUGH COLLABORATION			
Objective 5.1 Parties and the Secretariat support and enhance existing cooperative partnerships in order to achieve their identified objectives.	<p>5.1.1 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.</p> <p>5.1.2 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.</p> <p>5.1.3 The number of cooperative actions taken under established bilateral or multilateral agreements to prevent species from being unsustainably exploited through international trade.</p> <p>5.1.4 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.</p>	<p>5.1.1 Questions in the implementation report</p> <p>5.1.2 Questions in the implementation report</p> <p>5.1.3 Secretariat, Questions in the implementation report</p> <p>5.1.4 Secretariat, Questions in the implementation report</p>	

Objective 2021-2030	Potential indicators	Potential sources of information	Comments
Objective 5.2 Parties encourage the formation of new, innovative and mutually sustainable alliances between CITES and relevant international partners, where appropriate to advance CITES' objective and mainstream conservation and of sustainable use of biodiversity.	5.2.1 The number of biodiversity conservation or sustainable use projects, trade and development goals, or scientific and technical programmes that integrate CITES requirements.	Questions in the implementation report	
Objective 5.3 Cooperation between CITES and international financial mechanisms and other related institutions is enhanced in order to support activities that contribute to CITES implementation and enforcement.	<p>5.3.1 The number of Parties funded by international financial mechanisms and other related institutions to develop activities that include CITES-related conservation and sustainable development elements.</p> <p>5.3.2 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.</p> <p>5.3.3 The number of Parties raising funds for CITES implementation through user fees or other mechanisms</p> <p>5.3.4 The number of Parties using incentive measures as part of their implementation of the Convention</p>	Questions in the implementation report	