

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

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Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Gigiri (Kenya), 10-20 April 2000

Meeting of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean sub-region  
Quito (Ecuador), 3 and 4 March 2000

IMPROVING IMPLEMENTATION OF CITES IN THE CARIBBEAN SUB-REGION

Concept

At its meeting in Quito, Ecuador, 3 and 4 March 2000, representatives of Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean sub-region, in recognition of the broad range of issues that need to be addressed to improve implementation of CITES, as also reflected in the draft Strategic Plan for the Convention and Decision 10.112, as well as limited resources, established a set of achievable priorities in a phased approach.

First phase (2000 to 2003)

1. Improving awareness of CITES as a tool for national biodiversity conservation and sustainable development

*Action:* the CITES Secretariat should conduct a mission to CITES Parties in the Caribbean sub-region to create political awareness at the highest level for the need to improve the implementation of CITES.

2. Improving national legislation for CITES implementation

*Action:* participants agreed to review their national legislation on the basis of the model law and checklist provided by the CITES Secretariat, and, when necessary, to revise and develop appropriate legislative measures.

3. Capacity Building for Scientific Authorities for the implementation of Article IV

*Action:* the CITES Secretariat is requested to conduct a training workshop for Scientific Authorities, with emphasis on the responsibilities of Scientific Authorities and the implementation of Article IV (non-detriment findings).

4. Law enforcement training seminar

*Action:* the CITES Secretariat is requested to conduct a training seminar for enforcement officers in the sub-region.

5. Training in CITES implementation

*Action:* participants agreed to make optimal use of available opportunities to train at least one member of each Management and/or Scientific Authorities at MSc level in CITES implementation, and request funding institutions to support this endeavour.

6. Development of a model management plan for *Strombus gigas*

*Action:* the CITES Secretariat is requested to, in co-ordination with CITES Parties and expert organisations, facilitate the development of a model *Strombus gigas* management plan. This plan should take account of existing management plans in the sub-region.

7. Development of generic information materials to raise awareness of CITES in the Caribbean sub-region

*Action:* the CITES Secretariat is requested to, in collaboration with other parties, develop generic information materials for use in the Caribbean sub-region to inform tourists and the public of the provisions of CITES concerning tourists souvenirs and wildlife specimens.

8. Improving information flow on CITES

*Action:* the CITES Secretariat is requested to establish and maintain frequent technical contact with Parties in the sub-region, taking account of specific requirements for communication in the region.

*Action:* participants agreed to disseminate policies, plans, strategies, and scientific information amongst other Parties of the sub-region, making use of the CITES Secretariat where appropriate.

9. Deregulating trade in *Strombus gigas* shells as personal effects

*Action:* participants agreed to assess the feasibility of waiving the requirement that export documentation be issued for limited quantities of *Strombus gigas* shells traded as personal effects, in consultation with the CITES Secretariat.

10. Improving CITES implementation by Overseas Territories

*Action:* urge governments responsible for territories in the sub-region, to decentralise the implementation of CITES to the greatest extent possible and allocate resources for this purpose.

Subsequent phases

From experience gained and results achieved in the first phase, Parties in the sub-region may wish to propose further priorities and request support from the Conference of the Parties.

Funding

The Conference of the Parties to CITES and other appropriate bodies are requested to provide financial support to improve the implementation of CITES in the Caribbean sub-region.