

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Committee II

CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013

REPORT OF STRATEGIC VISION WORKING GROUP

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on behalf of the Chairman of the Strategic Vision Working Group of Committee II, on the basis of document CoP14 Doc. 11 (Annex).

The working group has agreed the following revised text concerning the draft resolution, vision statement, goals, objectives and indicators originally presented in document CoP14 Doc. 11. While progress was made on the revision of existing explanatory text and indicators and completion of new indicators, it was not possible to complete this task for all objectives. The working group recommends that work on completing the indicators be completed by the Standing Committee, on the basis of previous work by the Strategic Plan Working Group and discussions and indicators agreed by the Strategic Vision Working Group convened during CoP14. Draft decisions are presented for the Committee's consideration.

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 14TH MEETING
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013

RECALLING Decision 11.1, adopted at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gigiri, 2000), through which the Conference adopted the *Strategic Vision through 2005* and the *Action Plan*;

RECALLING Decision 13.1, adopted at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2004) through which the Conference extended to 2007 the period of validity of the *Strategic Vision through 2005* and established a Strategic Plan Working Group as a subcommittee of the Standing Committee to prepare a new strategic vision for the period 2008 to 2013;

RECOGNIZING, with gratitude, the work of the Strategic Plan Working Group;

CONSCIOUS of the need to improve the implementation of the Convention globally;

CONVINCED that CITES should consider the broader international community relating to the environment and trade;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the Conference of the Parties, expressed in Decision 13.1, to contribute to the World Summit on Sustainable Development target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

ADOPTS the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*, annexed to this Resolution;

RECOMMENDS that Parties take the necessary action at the national level to help ensure that the Goals specified in the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* are achieved;

REQUESTS the Secretariat to ensure that its programme of work for the period 2008 to 2013 supports the implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* in the Annex;

INVITES intergovernmental environmental fora, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, other intergovernmental bodies and other organizations with an interest in the objectives of CITES to review their policies and their current and planned programmes and activities, with the aim of supporting achievement of the Goals specified in the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*; and

INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to review the progress in implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*, and in achievement of the Objectives, at each of its ordinary meetings during the term of the plan, and to report at the 15th and 16th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

CITES STRATEGIC VISION: 2008-2013General introduction

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was concluded on 3 March 1973. It entered into force after ratification by 10 States, on 1 July 1975.

Since then, the number of countries that have ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Convention has continued to increase. With 171 Parties, CITES is widely regarded as one of the most important international conservation instruments. During this period, the Conference of the Parties has shown itself to be capable of adapting to changing circumstances and, through the adoption of Resolutions and Decisions, has demonstrated an ability to construct practical solutions to increasingly complex wildlife trade and conservation problems.

At its ninth meeting (Fort Lauderdale, 1994), the Conference of the Parties commissioned a review of the Convention's effectiveness. The principal purposes of the review were to evaluate the extent to which the Convention had achieved its objectives and the progress made since CITES came into being and, most importantly, to identify deficiencies and requirements necessary to strengthen the Convention and help plan for the future. At its 10th meeting (Harare, 1997), the Conference agreed to an Action Plan for implementing certain findings and recommendations of the review. A central finding was the need for a strategic plan and, at its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), the Conference of the Parties adopted the Strategic Vision through 2005, and an Action Plan.

At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 13.1, which extended the validity of the Strategic Vision and Action Plan until the end of 2007. It also established a procedure for developing a new Strategic Vision through 2013, particularly to contribute to the achievement of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The present document is the result of this process.

With this new Strategic Vision, the Conference of the Parties to CITES outlines the Convention's direction in the new millennium and takes into account, within the context of its mandate issues such as:

- contributing to the UN Millennium Development Goals relevant to CITES;
- contributing to the WSSD goal of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;
- contributing to the conservation of wildlife as an integral part of the global ecosystem on which all life depends;
- cultural, social and economic factors at play in producer and consumer countries;
- promoting transparency and wider involvement of civil society in the development of conservation policies and practices; and
- ensuring a coherent and internationally agreed approach based on scientific evidence is taken to address any species of wild fauna and flora subject to unsustainable international trade.

Purpose

The two-fold purpose of the Strategic Vision is:

- to improve the working of the Convention, so that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.
- to ensure that CITES policy developments are mutually supportive of international environmental priorities and take into account new international initiatives, consistent with the terms of the Convention.

Structure

In order to achieve this purpose, three broad goals, of equal priority, have been identified as the key components of the Strategic Vision:

- Goal 1: Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.
- Goal 2: Secure the necessary financial resources and means for the operation and implementation of the Convention.
- Goal 3: Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.

The goals aim at consolidating the existing strengths of CITES, ensuring the implementation of the mandate of the Convention, and further improving the relationship with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and related conventions, agreements and associations.

Within the framework provided by each of these goals, this Strategic Vision identifies a number of objectives to be achieved and corresponding indicators of progress to be reviewed at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

This document provides a framework for the future development of the existing body of Resolutions and Decisions. While it should provide guidance on how the goals and objectives are to be achieved, the Conference of the Parties, the Committees or the Secretariat as appropriate will take required action. The document also serves the Parties as a tool for the prioritization of activities and decisions on how best to fund them, in light of the need for the rational application of costs and the efficient and transparent use of resources.

It should be noted that all references to “trade” in the Strategic Vision refer to trade as defined in Article I of the Convention.

CITES VISION STATEMENT

Conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss

THE STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL 1 ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH AND IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION.

Introduction

The effectiveness of the Convention depends upon its full implementation by all Parties, whether they are consumers or producers of wild animals and plants. Full implementation relies, in turn, upon each Party's:

- commitment to the Convention and its principles;
- scientific expertise and analyses;
- capacity building;
- enforcement

Commitment to the Convention and its principles

The proper functioning of the Convention depends to a great extent on the commitment of Parties to comply with and implement the convention and its principles.

- Objective 1.1** Parties comply with their obligations under the Convention through appropriate policies, legislation and procedures.
- Objective 1.2** Parties have in place administrative procedures that are transparent, practical, coherent and user-friendly, and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Objective 1.3** Implementation of the Convention at the national level is consistent with decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
- Objective 1.4** The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation needs of species.
- Objective 1.5** Best available scientific information is the basis for non-detriment findings.
- Objective 1.6** Parties cooperate in managing shared wildlife resources.
- Objective 1.7** Parties are enforcing the Convention to reduce illegal wildlife trade.
- Objective 1.8** Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity building programmes in place.

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.
- Objective 2.2** Sufficient resources are secured at the national/international levels to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.
- Objective 2.3** Sufficient resources are secured at the national/international levels to implement capacity-building programmes.

GOAL 3 *CONTRIBUTE TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING THE RATE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS 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.
- Objective 3.2** Awareness of the role and purpose of CITES is increased globally.
- Objective 3.3** Cooperation with relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations is enhanced.
- Objective 3.4** The contribution of CITES to the relevant Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development goals set at WSSD is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.
- Objective 3.5** Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other relevant international organisations 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.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 14.XX The Standing Committee shall develop indicators for each of the objectives contained in the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013, based upon the work of the Strategic Vision Working Group convened at CoP14.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 14.XX The Secretariat shall circulate the Annex attached to the report of the Strategic Vision Working Group by Notification, and request input on remaining indicators to be developed and agreed upon. Based on the comments received, the Secretariat shall prepare a compilation of the suggested amendments and proposals regarding indicators and any other outstanding items, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting.

The following indicators were adopted by consensus within the Strategic Vision Working Group. Text within brackets has either not been discussed in the working group or consensus could not be reached.

Objective 1.1 Indicators

- The number of Parties that have appropriate policies, legislation and procedures in place to implement the Convention.
- The number of Parties that have Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities that have the skills and resources necessary to undertake their Convention obligations.
- The number of Parties that have programmes for the conservation and sustainable management of CITES-listed species and the recovery of Appendix-I-listed species in the wild with the aim that they no longer satisfy the biological criteria for inclusion in that Appendix.

Objective 1.2 Indicators

- The number of Parties that have adopted standard procedures for the timely issuance of permits in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- The number of Parties that have electronic systems for information management, permit issuance, marking of specimens and generating annual, biennial or other reports.

Objective 1.3 Indicators

- The number of Parties that have implemented relevant resolutions.
- The number of Parties that have implemented relevant decisions.

Objective 1.4 Indicators

- The number of species in the Appendices that are regularly reviewed by the Animals and Plants Committees, with support by the Parties and in accordance with any existing Resolutions and Decisions, to verify that they are appropriately listed on the basis of the agreed criteria, and for which amendment proposals may be prepared as appropriate.
- The number of species that have not been reviewed.
- The number of recommendations from the periodic review which have been acted upon.
- The number of range countries participating in the review of their indigenous species.
- [The establishment of a transparent mechanism for the regular evaluation of trade and biological information on unlisted species subject to significant levels of international trade to determine whether they would benefit from inclusion in the Appendices.]
- The number of cases where CITES regulation has had a positive impact on the status of species.

Objective 3.1 Indicators

- The number and size of CITES-related conservation and sustainable development projects funded by international financial mechanisms and other related institutions have increased without diminishing funding for currently prioritized areas.