

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Strategic matters

DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISION ON THE COOPERATION OF CITES
WITH OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

1. This document has been submitted by Switzerland¹.
2. The objective of the annexed draft resolution and decision is to underline the commitment of CITES and its Parties to contribute to and show leadership in the process of cooperation, coordination, synergies and enhanced efficiency between biodiversity related conventions. This would not only generally support these efforts to strengthen the international regime for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and its implementation on the ground, it would also strengthen the role of CITES in this process.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The issue of cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions has been addressed through resolutions of other biodiversity-related conventions, by the UN General Assembly, the UNEP Governing Council, and most recently the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, often known as Rio+20, through paragraph 89 of the outcome document *The Future We Want*. Paragraph 89 of that document says, *inter alia*: "We encourage parties to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to consider further measures, in these and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among MEAs".
- B. It is considered desirable for CITES to set in place a process for giving consideration to these issues through a CITES Party-led process.
- C. The Secretariat suggests that the draft resolution and decision in the present document be read together with the Secretariat's document CoP16 Doc. 13, on *Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements*.
- D. The Secretariat generally supports the draft resolution in the present document.

¹ *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.*

- E. The Secretariat recommends that the draft decisions presented in document CoP16 Doc. 13 and the present document be consolidated into one decision, which could read as follows:

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.xx The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore further options to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels, including through their respective programmes of work and secretariats.
- 16.xx The Standing Committee shall further pursue this work and report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.xx The Secretariat shall:
- a) undertake a review of activities related to cooperation found in valid Resolutions and Decisions to identify possible opportunities for rationalization and consolidation of these activities, where appropriate;
 - b) explore further options to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels, including through their respective programmes of work and secretariats;
 - c) report its findings and recommendations at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee, which may include proposals for revised or new Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties related to cooperation;
 - d) in undertaking the review of activities and exploration of options referred to in paragraphs a) and b), work with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to revise and, if necessary, agree on the revision of the existing cooperation mechanisms between them; and
 - e) report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions

RECOGNIZING the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, developed and adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its 10th meeting in Nagoya, Japan;

STRESSING that effective implementation of CITES is needed to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to achieve the Aichi targets;

UNDERLINING the commitment of the Convention to demonstrate how the effective implementation of CITES contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi targets; RECOGNIZING the already existing significant cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions;

COMMENDING the ongoing and important cooperation among the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, such as through the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the Environmental Management Group, and in particular through its Issue Management Group on Biodiversity;

RECALLING Resolution 10.4 on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Resolution 13.3 on the cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), as well as Decision 15.19, and the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013;

WELCOMING the decisions taken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species on cooperation, coordination and synergies with CITES and other biodiversity related conventions;

RECOGNIZING the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, The Future We Want, that recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and encouraging the Parties to MEAs to consider further measures to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance cooperation and coordination amongst MEAs;

CONVINCED of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to enhance the national level implementation of each of the conventions.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

ENCOURAGES Parties to consider further opportunities to strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels.

RECOMMENDS that Parties further strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and other partners at the national level to enhance national level implementation of the Convention.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions

Directed to the Standing Committee:

- 16.AA The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore further options to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels, including through their respective programmes of work and secretariats; and

The Standing Committee will further pursue this work and report back to the next Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat:

- 16.BB The Secretariat shall prepare a paper for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee that explores further options to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels, including through their respective programmes of work and secretariats.