

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

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Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

Administrative and financial matters

Administration, finance and budget of the Secretariat and  
of meetings of the Conference of the Parties

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP  
ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS

The attached document has been prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme.\*

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# **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**

Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, **Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September–5 October 2016**

## **Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme**

### **Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) pursuant to paragraph 34 of the memorandum of understanding between the Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Executive Director of UNEP, which became operative on 1 September 2011, concerning secretariat services to and in support of CITES, for consideration at the current meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. Section I contains updates on programmatic collaboration between UNEP and CITES. Section II provides information on the status of implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife. Section III provides an update on the implementation of outcomes of the 2013 UNEP-INTERPOL Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Conference, while section IV provides information on administrative and financial matters related to the support provided to the Convention under the Hosting Agreement.

### **I. Programmatic support provided to CITES**

#### **A. Support to strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies between CITES and other biodiversity-related conventions**

2. In its decision SS.XII/3, the Governing Council of UNEP recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies, including at the national and regional levels, among the biodiversity-related conventions and invited the Executive Director of UNEP to undertake, as appropriate, further activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, to explore the opportunities for further synergies in the administrative functions of the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements administered by UNEP, and to provide advice on such opportunities to the governing bodies of those agreements.

3. At the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, parties adopted resolution Conf. 16.4 on cooperation by CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions, which encourages parties to consider further opportunities to strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels, and to 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 coherent national-level implementation of the Convention.

4. Further, paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “The future we want”, encourages parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field.

5. In implementation of the above resolutions and the outcome document, UNEP worked closely with the CITES secretariat in its work and activities, including work related to implementation of resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, resolution Conf. 13.3 on cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, decision 15.19 on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the CITES Strategic Vision 2008–2020. In addition, UNEP reviewed guidance, experience and lessons learned at the national level relating to the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions by working closely with the CITES secretariat and national focal points and authorities.

6. UNEP and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), with funding from the European Union and the Governments of Finland and Switzerland, led a synergies process entitled “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies at all appropriate levels”. All relevant secretariats, including that of CITES, have been actively involved in the process. This has resulted in the publication of a sourcebook entitled *Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at National and Regional Levels*,<sup>1</sup> which was launched at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) in June 2015.

7. UNEP also published an options paper entitled “Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions” (UNEP/EA.2/12/Add.1),<sup>2</sup> which forms part of the Report of the Executive Director of UNEP to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, to be held in May 2016.

8. The options paper sets out 28 recommendations and 88 action points for consideration by, among other bodies, the United Nations Environment Assembly, the governing and advisory bodies of each biodiversity-related convention, including CITES at its current meeting, and the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions. UNEP also views the options paper as one of several inputs to the processes initiated by the CITES secretariat under resolution Conf. 16.4 and also by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity under its decision XII/6, on enhancing synergies and improving efficiency in implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.

9. The options paper further identifies specific options for action to improve synergies and coherence in the implementation of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, under seven related themes: national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; reporting, monitoring and indicators; the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and strengthening the science-policy interface; information management and awareness-raising; capacity-building; funding and resource efficiency; and institutional collaboration. The options paper also identifies the need for implementation links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. The overarching considerations identified by the options paper and of importance to CITES are the following:

(a) The benefits to be gained by implementing the biodiversity-related conventions in a synergistic and coherent manner, so as to increase their national implementation, efficiency and effectiveness;

(b) The importance of acknowledging and building on the past, existing and planned activities of biodiversity-related conventions and others so as to identify and address opportunities to build synergies and increase coherence in implementation of the conventions;

(c) The value of engaging with the activities of UNEP (and other relevant entities) to identify and address possible opportunities to further build synergies and increase coherence in implementation of the conventions;

(d) Potential opportunities for further promoting synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in the context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Global Sustainable Development Goals and their targets;

(e) The need for all actors, including governments, United Nations bodies, conventions and their secretariats, and other stakeholders, to continue to promote and undertake mutually supportive efforts and approaches aimed at enhancing coordinated and coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at all levels, building on existing activities and experience.

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<sup>1</sup> Available from: <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/Portals/7/Documents/cooperation-sourcebook-biodiversity-conventions.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Available from: <http://web.unep.org/unea/documents>.

## **B. Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative**

11. The Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative is facilitated and supported by UNEP. The aim of the Initiative is to develop harmonized multilateral environmental agreement information systems to assist parties in implementing their obligations under the various conventions. It brings together 17 secretariats servicing 43 global multilateral environmental agreements hosted by four United Nations agencies and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to develop interoperable information systems in support of knowledge management activities.

12. The CITES secretariat, working together with the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, serves as a co-chair of the Initiative.

## **C. United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA)**

13. UNEP continues to facilitate the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) project, the first project of the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative, which seeks to facilitate global access to information on multilateral environmental agreements and contribute to the capacity of countries to develop and enforce laws and strengthen institutions to achieve internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals, including those enshrined in multilateral environmental agreements.

14. The project brings together multilateral environmental agreements to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems for the benefit of parties and the environment community at large. The joint InforMEA web portal ([www.informea.org](http://www.informea.org)) provides access to decisions and resolutions of the conferences of the parties to multilateral environmental agreements as well as news about events, multilateral environmental agreement membership, national focal points, national reports and implementation plans.

15. The InforMEA national reporting database, designed to synthesize and analyse national reports, has been accessible since 2014. National reports to CITES and other multilateral environmental agreements can now be retrieved through InforMEA and are displayed for ease of reference on the InforMEA visual charts.

16. UNEP, through InforMEA, has further supported and made use of CITES projects related to information and knowledge management, such as the CITES Virtual College, the CITES e-permit toolkit, CITES registers, export quotas, guidelines for transport, reference lists, trade databases, and work in support of CITES parties related to the single-window environments for trade-related documentation. This process integrates literature, national legislation and case law, under the Law and Environment Ontology portal, which provides an overview of the concepts and definitions used by multilateral environmental agreements, and also the relationship between different multilateral environmental agreements, with linkages to the Environmental Law Information Service (ECOLEX), operated jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IUCN and UNEP. The information is organized against a set of hierarchical terms extracted from the official agendas of the sessions of the conferences of the parties to each multilateral environmental agreement.

17. UNEP has also supported the development and implementation of the new InforMEA e-learning platform (<http://e-learning.informea.org/>), using lessons learned from the development of the CITES Virtual College. The e-learning platform is aimed at enhancing knowledge and understanding of international environmental law. It provides educational and training materials on the concepts of international environmental law and the development and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. Learners can complete one or more of the 17 massive open online courses available via the platform, including an introduction to CITES. The platform is being translated into various languages to accommodate more learners.

18. In response to the increasing number of partnerships between CITES and other multilateral environmental agreement secretariats forged through the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative, the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES drafted a joint project to link up their respective databases, consolidated on the Species+ website ([speciesplus.net](http://speciesplus.net)), with the IUCN REDlist of species, thus generating large-scale tagging of multilateral environmental agreement documents.

## **D. Great Apes Survival Partnership**

19. The Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) works to balance field projects undertaken in collaboration with the partnership – including member States, research institutions, conservation organizations, United Nations agencies and private supporters – with a policy agenda that uses legislative, educational, and communication resources to effect change. Following is a summary of the recent achievements of GRASP.

20. GRASP worked closely with CITES throughout the period between the sixteenth and seventeenth meetings of the Conference on a variety of projects related to illegal trade in wildlife.

21. In 2015 GRASP joined the CITES Standing Committee working group on special reporting requirements, which conducted a review of systems for reporting illegal trade and submitted a report to the Standing Committee at its sixty-sixth meeting, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 January 2016. In that report, GRASP confirmed its plans to create the apes seizure database and observed that domestic illegal trade in great apes had a serious impact on those species, and that bush meat might have moved from being the main focus of illegal trade to becoming a by-product of the capture of animals. The report also pointed to the potential added value of the planned database if it took into account all pressures affecting great ape populations.

22. CITES serves along with 11 other organizations on the technical advisory group that is assisting GRASP and WCMC with the creation of the apes seizure database, which will be launched at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. In the meantime, GRASP reviewed data on illegal trade in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and forwarded information on specific cases of illegal trade, including in Armenia, India and Qatar, to the CITES secretariat for follow-up.

23. GRASP and IUCN have agreed to collaborate to produce CITES documents on great apes for the seventeenth meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties. These documents will include information on the national and international illicit traffic in great apes, along with updated data on wild great ape population numbers and distribution.

24. CITES holds one of the two seats representing multilateral environmental agreements on the GRASP Executive Committee, and has met four times in 2016 with the GRASP secretariat. CITES will also attend the third meeting of the GRASP Council, which will be held from 14 to 18 November 2016 in Jakarta, with illegal trade as one of its three main themes.

25. GRASP collaborated with the African Union to help develop the African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation of and Illegal Trade in Wildlife, which came about as a direct result of the International Conference on Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, held in Brazzaville from 27 to 30 April 2015. That strategy was included in the agenda of the meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Kigali in June 2016.

26. GRASP, representing UNEP, and CITES worked closely as partners in the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and helped prepare information sheets on issues such as food security, biodiversity, climate change, human-wildlife conflict, livestock and hunting. UNEP and CITES were among the partners that staged an event at the European Parliament on 20 April 2016 entitled “Poachers or protectors? Local communities at the frontline of conservation”.

## **E. Technical and scientific support from the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre**

27. Technical and scientific support is provided to the CITES secretariat through UNEP-WCMC. This work is implemented under contracts with the CITES secretariat and other donors, including the European Commission.

28. UNEP-WCMC maintains and updates Species+ (<http://speciesplus.net/>) and the checklist of CITES species (<http://checklist.cites.org/>). These two online platforms were developed by WCMC in conjunction with the CITES secretariat and provide parties with a resource for key species-related information required for implementing the Convention. Species+ contains taxonomic, distribution and listing information on all species listed in the CITES appendices; it also provides details on CITES quotas and trade restrictions. The database of the checklist of CITES species is linked with Species+, and serves as the official checklist of CITES species, in accordance with CITES resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16). Since its launch in 2013, Species+ has had over 440,000 visits from approximately 280,000 users in over 200 countries or territories and the checklist has had 170,000 visits from over 114,000 users in over 200 countries or territories.

29. On 12 October 2015, CITES reported the addition of new features to the above data and information structures, developed with WCMC. The new features are designed to support the integration of the CITES checklist and Species+ with national information systems, reduce duplication, eliminate mistakes and errors and improve the quality of information.
30. The CITES trade database is managed by WCMC on behalf of the CITES secretariat, and now contains over 15 million records of international trade in wildlife. The data held in the trade database are based on the official trade statistics submitted by countries in their annual reports to CITES. The platform uses the same taxonomic backbone and underlying data management structure as Species+, meaning that management of the core datasets, such as taxonomy, listing or distribution data, of these databases is very efficient. In addition, the CITES trade data dashboards are updated annually; they provide an interactive means of visualizing trade data contained in the CITES trade database and offer a more accessible means of quickly viewing broader trade trends.
31. Data held in Species+, the CITES checklist and the CITES trade database are publicly available and accessible via the web. In addition, in collaboration with Belgium, France and Switzerland, WCMC has developed an application programming interface which allows national databases to link to and easily extract data from Species+ and download them on to national platforms to assist parties with the implementation of the Convention and reduce duplication of data maintenance work (see CITES Notification No 2015/056).
32. Under the review of significant trade process, WCMC undertook a review of 95 species and country combinations for which trade suspensions had been in place for longer than two years. The relevant report was discussed at the by the CITES Standing Committee at its sixty-sixth meeting. WCMC also participated in a meeting of the Advisory Working Group on the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, held from 27 April to 1 May 2015 in Shepherdstown, United States, and proposed a new methodology for the selection of species under the review. This resulted in proposed revisions to resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) (see annex B to the evaluation of the review of significant trade, set out in document PC22 Doc 11.1). WCMC also provided input to additional Standing Committee documents, including on CITES decision 14.78 (Rev. CoP16) on the legal trade in elephant ivory.
33. WCMC produced two reports on animal taxonomy and nomenclature (AC28 Doc. 21.1, annexes 4 and 9) for discussion by the Animals Committee at its twenty-eighth meeting, held in Tel Aviv, Israel, from 30 August to 3 September 2015.
34. In preparation for the forthcoming seventeenth meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties, WCMC has provided inputs to a number of working groups, including working groups on special reporting requirements, pangolins, sturgeons, review of significant trade, the advisory working group on the evaluation of the review of significant trade, captive bred and ranched specimens, periodic review, and the review of identification and guidance materials. For the last-mentioned group, WCMC has developed options to improve the accuracy and availability of CITES identification material, which are currently under review by parties.
35. The CITES secretariat has sought advice from WCMC on levels and trends in trade, and on scientific and technical matters, such as the distribution of species and nomenclature, together with support on issues relating to reporting, information management, capacity-building and training. WCMC provided substantial input to the revision of the guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports (see CITES Notification No. 2015/058). WCMC also provided tailored trade overviews to the CITES secretariat to support its trade assessments, missions and capacity-building work.
36. Support was provided to Ecuador to enhance future wildlife trade management within the country and ensure that trade would be legal, sustainable and traceable. In collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation, WCMC produced an analysis of Ecuador's wildlife trade and three additional reports focusing on traceability, information management, and the use of Harmonized System custom codes for wildlife trade.
37. In addition to work being carried out directly in support of the CITES secretariat and parties, WCMC is working on a host of updates and new features to develop further the online reporting system in support of national reporting to multilateral environmental agreements. This work is being carried out as part of the second phase of the African-Caribbean and Pacific multilateral environmental agreements project, which aims to support these countries in meeting their obligations to multilateral environmental agreements. The updates will include: improved speed; preparing the code to become open-source to facilitate further development by multilateral environmental agreements and partners as required; and implementing a more intuitive user design. WCMC is consulting a number of multilateral environmental agreements, including CITES, and parties to inform the development process and is discussing adoption of the online reporting system by CITES for its implementation reports.

38. Together with the CITES secretariat and the Government of Switzerland, WCMC convened an expert meeting on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreement implementation: interoperability between reporting systems for biodiversity data. At the meeting, held in Geneva on 15 and 16 December 2014, experts made a number of recommendations on ways of improving and streamlining national report formats; technical enhancements to online reporting tools to improve usability and foster interoperability; improving the understanding of how data can be used more broadly to meet global targets; and improving communication across multilateral environmental agreements to foster collaboration and encourage interoperability.

## **F. Collaboration between the UNEP regional offices for Asia and the Pacific and for West Asia and the CITES secretariat during 2014–2016**

39. This section describes the activities of the UNEP regional offices for Asia and the Pacific and for West Asia in support of the CITES mandates during 2014–2016.

40. In support of new accessions, the CITES secretariat, in collaboration with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, conducted a joint scoping mission to Timor Leste on 25–27 November 2014. The mission was undertaken in response to the request from the Government of Timor Leste, to support relevant government offices and other stakeholders in their efforts towards the accession of Timor Leste to CITES. The representatives of the CITES secretariat and UNEP jointly provided technical support to the Government of Timor Leste and other national stakeholders, through the organization of a stakeholder workshop and bilateral meetings, providing an overview of CITES and clarification on further steps that need to be followed by the country to accede to the Convention.

41. On 15 January 2015, UNEP organized the sixteenth meeting of the Asia Regional Partners Forum on Combating Environmental Crime (ARPEC) in Bangkok. The meeting considered anti-money laundering efforts that could be used to combat environmental crime. The Anti-Money Laundering Office of Thailand described its success story in seizing assets worth 1,183 million baht (equivalent to \$39.4 million) from a syndicate of illegal wildlife and rosewood traders, following its discovery in 2014 of a zoo used as a front for smuggling. This financial investigation was the first of its kind in Thailand. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Wildlife Enforcement Network, FAO, Royal Thai Police, Royal Thai Customs, Thai Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants, World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) and the World Customs Organization. To date, ARPEC has served as a platform for organizations working on environmental crime to explore the possibilities of cooperation in capacity-building and information sharing in their respective fields of specialization. It also catalysed regional enforcement operations such as the Partnership against Transnational Crime through Regional Organized Law-Enforcement (PATROL).

42. UNEP organized a regional workshop on green customs in Asia and the Pacific, on the theme of enhancing the capability of customs officers to address environmental crime, from 10 to 13 November 2015 in Seoul. The Green Customs Initiative is a partnership of international organizations cooperating to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement officers to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to prevent illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities covered by trade-related multilateral environmental agreements, including CITES. The workshop aimed to strengthen the enforcement capacity of customs and enhance a long-term partnership at both strategic and operational levels, and promote the exchange of best practices in tackling illegal trade in environmentally regulated goods. The workshop was attended by 40 participants, including customs officers from 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and representatives of Green Customs Initiative partners, including CITES.

43. To strengthen the capacity of customs officials in combating illegal trade in environmentally regulated goods, including the wildlife regulated through CITES, and to promote the exchange of experience and best practices in tracking illegal trade in environmentally regulated goods, UNEP, in collaboration with the World Customs Organization on 6–10 April 2015, organized a joint risk-management workshop on countering illegal trade in environmentally regulated goods in Malacca, Malaysia, with support from the Customs Service of the Republic of Korea. The workshop was attended by 43 participants comprising 35 customs officers from the Asia-Pacific region and eight officers from environmental organizations, including the CITES secretariat and the Trade Records Analysis in Flora and Fauna in Commerce (TRAFFIC) – the wildlife trade monitoring network.

44. In the West Asia region, with the support of the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, the Kuwait Environment Authority and the CITES secretariat held a subregional workshop on the conservation of cheetahs. Recent workshops were held in Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

## **G. Collaboration with the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on illegal trade in wildlife and forest products**

45. Responding to the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations system has joined forces to develop an effective and coherent response to the security, political, economic, environmental and social aspects of trafficking in wildlife and forest products.

46. The recommendations adopted by the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General on illegal trade in wildlife and forest products on 3 February 2015 gave UNEP a clear mandate within the United Nations system to work with the CITES secretariat and other United Nations entities to ensure a coherent response by the United Nations system to illegal trade in wildlife.

47. UNEP, in collaboration with CITES, DESA, DPA, DPI, DPKO, UNDP and UNODC, and in consultation with United Nations regional presences and the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime, developed a robust evidence base, shared analysis and recommendations in response to Decision 2015/1 of the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Through such response, and in line with existing mandates and operational capacities, agencies collectively determined priorities and approaches designed to avoid duplication of effort, make better use of available resources, and ensure complementary engagement with Member States and partners.

## **H. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

### **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: progress update**

48. In response to paragraphs (a) and (b) of decision 16.13, directing parties to reinforce linkages between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and CITES and inviting parties to provide inputs to the secretariat in relation to CITES involvement in the Platform, CITES input to the Platform's processes was further refined. Thus, the work programme for 2014–2018 adopted by the Platform at its third session includes the initiation of scoping for a thematic assessment on the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and the strengthening of capacities and tools. Accordingly, a scoping document was developed by the Platform's Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, supported by an open access web-based consultation held from 7 to 25 September 2015. The scoping document was considered by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform at its fourth session, held in Kuala Lumpur from 22 to 28 February 2016, for approval. At that session, the Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, to undertake a further scoping of this thematic assessment, for consideration by the Plenary at its fifth session, involving a face-to-face scoping workshop of experts, with relevant stakeholders, and an open review of the revised draft scoping report by governments and stakeholders.

49. The objective of the proposed thematic assessment is to assess various approaches to the sustainable use of wild species, and to strengthen related capacities and tools, in line with the Platform's objectives. For biodiversity, human use is a dominant driving force behind change, with implications for the benefits that nature has for people and quality of life. By taking examples of the use of wild species, the assessment would focus on practices and measures that enhance sustainability in a broad sense, including the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. In that way, it would adopt an integrative perspective on humans and their physical surroundings – in other words, a system-wide approach, recognizing the inseparable unity of nature and culture. The assessment would examine a wide range of governance regimes, practices and approaches aimed at promoting the sustainable use of wild species, which encompasses modern technologies, indigenous and local knowledge and methods and diverse patterns of sustainable management and harvesting, and takes due account of the implications of State decisions and policies. The assessment corresponds to Strategic Goal B of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011–2020, which aims to reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use, so as to maintain the integrity, functioning and services of ecosystems.

50. Work under CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity is of particular interest given that the aim of CITES is to ensure that trade in species covered by the Convention is legal, traceable and sustainable, and that sustainable use of biodiversity is the second objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity and is explicitly referred to in the Convention's Aichi Biodiversity Targets 3, 4, 6, 7 and 18.

## **I. World Wildlife Day 2016**

51. In partnership with CITES, UNODC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP provided significant in-kind support to ensure the success of World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2016, including development of a social media campaign, drafting and distribution of a joint press release, production of a public service announcement and goodwill ambassador engagement.



52. The main event organized for the Day, held under the theme: “The future of wildlife is in our hands”, took place in New York at United Nations Headquarters and drew a full house in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, attended by UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, Gisele Bündchen. Public service announcements ran for several days in the lead-up to the Day on a big screen at Times Square donated by UNEP partner, Xinhua News Agency.

53. UNEP activated the social media campaign by showcasing staff participation in World Wildlife Day, which helped inspire public action in support of ending illegal trade in wildlife. The social media campaign raised awareness of the need for immediate action by posting striking facts about illegal trade in wildlife coupled with high-quality images throughout the campaign. By raising awareness and emphasizing the personal component of illegal trade in wildlife, the social media effort for World Wildlife Day 2016 produced engagement and reached totals that in most cases tripled the 2015 results.

#### **1. Twitter**

54. Impressions from UNEP Twitter posts from 2–3 March 2016 increased more than threefold over the previous year’s total, from 424,500 to 1.3 million. Over this period, users responded to UNEP posts on Twitter 24,069 times, up from 8,708 times in 2015. Posts across Twitter using the hashtag #WorldWildlifeDay were displayed on user timelines 540 million times, a fourfold increase from 2015.

#### **2. Facebook**

55. Facebook posts about World Wildlife Day from 2 and 3 March 2016 reached 283,585 users in total, nearly three times the 2015 mark of 83,568. Facebook users expressed opinions on xxx engaged with this content on a far greater scale – 14,231 times in 2016 as opposed to 3,760 times in 2015, representing an almost threefold increase.

#### **3. Instagram**

56. Activity on Instagram was several times greater in 2016 than 2015, with a post conveying Goodwill Ambassador Gisele Bündchen’s World Wildlife Day message recording the highest ever engagement total – 1,700 hits – for a UNEP post on this platform.

#### **4. Goodwill Ambassador contributions**

57. UNEP and GRASP goodwill ambassadors significantly helped raise awareness on World Wildlife Day, with Gisele Bündchen, Ian Somerhalder, Yaya Touré, Nadya Hutagalung and Jane Goodall posting on multiple platforms and supporting the Day with their contributions. Li Bingbing lent her support by acting as a judge at the International Elephant Film Festival presented by the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival and CITES.

### **J. World Environment Day 2016**

58. Since 1974, World Environment Day has been the flagship day for United Nations efforts to build worldwide awareness and to encourage action in support of the environment agenda and, currently, for its implementation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. Over the last five years in particular, World Environment Day has come to be celebrated by an increasingly wide range of stakeholders – major corporations, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, governments and individuals in over 143 countries – whose various actions, in combination, generate a collective power with exponential impact.

59. The primary outreach tool is the World Environment Day website, where host country activities are featured and where stakeholders can learn about the theme, register and showcase their activities, share best practices and connect with the larger World Environment Day community.

60. World Environment Day provides an opportunity for UNEP to motivate what is known as “people power” and to quantify the results through systematic site analysis. The events on that day are designed to encourage people not only to learn more about the annual theme, but then to pledge to undertake an activity that supports it, encouraging a transition from awareness-raising to social mobilization.

61. World Environment Day in 2016 focused on illegal trade in wildlife and the Day was hosted by Angola. The agenda for the Day comprised activities which supported the work of CITES and highlighted the commitments made by Angola to tackling this illegal trade.

### **K. UNEP support for the CITES national legislation project**

62. UNEP and the CITES secretariat are continuing to collaborate in efforts to encourage countries to strengthen their legislation for the implementation of CITES, in line with resolution Conf. 8.4

(Rev. CoP15) on national laws for implementation of the Convention, which forms the basis for the CITES national legislation project to encourage and assist parties in their legislative efforts.

63. Currently, 87 parties to the Convention have in place legislation that meets the minimum requirements for the implementation of CITES by, among other measures, designating at least one management authority and one scientific authority, prohibiting trade in specimens in violation of the Convention, penalizing such trade, or confiscating specimens illegally traded or possessed.

64. To ensure that CITES is effectively implemented by the parties, UNEP, in collaboration with the CITES secretariat, organized a workshop on strengthening national legal frameworks for the effective implementation of CITES and for combating illegal trade in wildlife, held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi on 4 and 5 April 2016.

65. The workshop was designed for all those involved in the preparation of the implementing legislation, including representatives of management authorities and legal advisers. It aimed to furnish them with a deeper understanding of the essential legal and institutional requirements for strengthening national legislation for the implementation of the Convention at the national level, thus enabling them to ascertain their needs for assistance and to draw up a realistic and ambitious work plan for the legislative process, indicating the kinds of assistance required and a timeline of such assistance.

## **II. United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife: status of implementation**

66. In its resolution 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife, the United Nations Environment Assembly called upon the General Assembly to consider the issue of illegal wildlife trade at its sixty-ninth session. In its resolution 69/314 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, the General Assembly reaffirmed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in which the economic, social and environmental effects of illicit trafficking in wildlife were recognized, as was the need for firm and strengthened action on both the supply and demand sides, and the importance in that regard of effective international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations. In addition, the General Assembly resolution called upon Member States to adopt effective measures to prevent and counter illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products and harmonize national legislation and transnational cooperation on illegal wildlife trade, and recognized the links between wildlife crime, international organized crime and the plight of local communities, whose livelihoods are affected by the illicit trade. The resolution is considered a historic step forward in promoting the firm and concerted international action needed to combat illegal trade in wildlife.

67. The recommendations adopted by the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General on illegal trade in wildlife and forest products at its meeting on 3 February 2015 provided UNEP with a clear mandate within the United Nations system to work with the CITES secretariat and other United Nations entities to ensure a coherent response by the United Nations system to illegal trade in wildlife. UNEP, in collaboration with the CITES secretariat, was requested by the Policy Committee to coordinate the development by the United Nations system of a robust evidence base, shared analysis and recommendations for an effective and coherent response to the security, political, economic, environmental and social aspects of illegal trade in wildlife.

68. In collaboration with CITES and other United Nations entities, UNEP was also requested to step up United Nations advocacy to combat illegal trade in wildlife and to encourage States Members of the United Nations to take action to implement CITES and relevant international commitments, including in relation to UNODC. Work is under way on these elements, guided by discussions between UNEP, CITES, UNDP and UNODC. The requisite documentation will be made available by the end of April 2016.

69. The implementation of resolution 1/3 is now well under way, and considerable momentum has already been generated across many activities, including the gathering of information on the environmental impact of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products and the implementation of the action plan and the UNEP programme of work in support of the efforts of Member States to strengthen national, regional and global responses to illegal trade in wildlife. This process is benefiting from strong collaboration with UNDP, the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, and partner organizations such as UNODC, CITES, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Bank, the World Customs Organization and others. The relevant report of the Executive Director to the Environment Assembly at its second session (UNEP/EA.2/2) is available from <http://web.unep.org/unea/documents>.

70. The report builds on existing knowledge, moving beyond the attention currently being given on the poaching crisis facing African elephants and rhinos, to take into account the diverse and global nature of such challenges and to address a wider range of ecological threats from such illegal activities as the harvesting and trafficking of timber, great apes, reptiles, bush meat, tigers, bears, coral, birds, pangolins and fish. The analysis provides an opportunity to review the environmental dimensions of illegal trade, enhancing the knowledge base for the further development of policy-support tools and building capacity to secure the foundations of future projects to tackle illegal wildlife trade.

71. In resolution 1/3, the Environment Assembly also addressed a number of requests to the Executive Director, as detailed in the following subsections.

**A. Provision to the Environment Assembly at its second session of an analysis of the environmental impacts of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products**

72. The analysis, developed in close collaboration with WCMC, GRID-Arendal and a team of over 50 independent expert contributors and reviewers, is available for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its second session.

73. Strongly evidence-based and drawing on considerable external expertise, the analysis is a ground-breaking body of work, compiling and synthesizing for the first time evidence of the environmental effects of illegal trade in wildlife. The report complements the current work by UNODC to assess the volumes and values of illegal trade in wildlife, and secures the role of UNEP as a credible source of evidence underpinning policy responses to illegal trade in wildlife. It is anticipated that, subject to the availability of resources, an annual report will be compiled to update the impacts analysis and broader areas of the evidence base on illegal trade in wildlife;

**B. Continuation and strengthening of UNEP activities in collaboration with Member States and other relevant international, regional and national stakeholders, to raise awareness of the problems and risks associated with the supply of, transit in and demand for illegal wildlife products**

74. UNEP has developed a phased approach to this request, which further supports the role assigned to UNEP in the decision of the Secretary-General's Policy Committee, together with CITES and other relevant United Nations agencies, to lead the advocacy and outreach elements of the United Nations system-wide response to the illegal wildlife trade.

75. The first phase of this undertaking focuses on a campaign by the United Nations and a global coalition of its partners to raise public awareness and encourage social mobilization. The aim is to ensure a prompt and wide-ranging response to knowledge gaps about the scale and implications of illegal trade in wildlife through the identification of strategic, high-profile and high-impact activities, including airport exhibitions, transport sector outreach activities, the use of digital media, pledging commitments and the United Nations network of goodwill ambassadors. The terms of reference for this communications project were agreed upon by UNEP, CITES, UNDP and UNODC; financing has been secured by UNEP and the campaign is in its final stages of development, with a target launch date of May 2016. The work is underpinned by a solid assessment of knowledge on the market dynamics for high-profile illegally traded taxa, which is currently under way, leading to a strengthened evidence base for targeted communications. The first phase of research to consolidate knowledge and identify knowledge gaps has been undertaken and it is planned that the report will be ready by World Environment Day, on 5 June 2016.

76. The second phase will focus on a global public awareness-raising effort to encourage deeper engagement and the development of a targeted communications plan to deliver the specific behavioural objectives identified in the three main components of the overall work programme of UNEP, with the aim of tackling illegal trade in wildlife and forest products: policy engagement and agenda setting; strengthening the rule of law; and communication for behavioural impact. This process will likewise be grounded in the evidence-based learning from online surveys and comprehensive studies on knowledge, attitudes and practices in those markets identified through the programmatic scoping exercise. Both phases of this campaign are being led by the UNEP Division of Communication and Public Information.

77. UNEP is also collaborating with the African Union Commission in support of the development of an African common strategy to combat illegal trade in wild flora and fauna in Africa. To this end, UNEP participated in the International Conference on Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, held in Brazzaville from 27 to 30 April 2015, and the subsequent ad hoc meeting of member States held in Addis Ababa on 25 and 26 May 2015, which finalized the draft and developed an implementation plan. African member States at the Conference adopted a united declaration and approved an initial strategy

which, with continuing support from UNEP, is to undergo more extensive regional consultation and further consideration by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fifteenth session in April 2016 and by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its meeting in June 2016.

**C. Close cooperation with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, UNDP, and the Secretary-General's Rule of Law Group, notably with regard to core areas of UNEP expertise, such as environmental aspects of the rule of law, judicial training and information exchange about judicial decisions and practices**

78. A number of collaborative activities with partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, UNDP and other United Nations entities are under way in response to this request, in addition to the provision of direct support to Member States in core areas of UNEP expertise.

79. The mandate conferred on UNEP by decision PC/2015/1 of the Policy Committee, included working through the United Nations system to develop a robust evidence base, share analysis and consequent recommendations for an effective and coherent United Nations response to the security, political, economic, environmental and social aspects of the illegal wildlife trade. Although the focus of this undertaking is on the role of the United Nations system, partners such as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime are being consulted in the process, based on the consideration that agencies are working in close collaboration with a wider range of stakeholders beyond the United Nations system. Implementation of the decision is progressing and it is anticipated that, by the end of 2016, all elements of the decision will be submitted to the Secretary-General.

80. In October 2015, UNEP, together with the Office of the Chief Justice of Kenya and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, hosted a special session on illegal wildlife trade during the first Africa Colloquium on Environmental Rule of Law. Participants at the special session discussed the obstacles to the effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of illegal wildlife trade from their national and regional standpoints. In their discussions they identified and proposed solutions to the legislative problems faced in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating on illegal wildlife trade and suggested ways of strengthening enforcement to curb such trade.

81. In November 2015, UNEP and INTERPOL co-organized the second International Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Conference, held in Singapore. Building on the outcomes of the first such conference in 2013, the Singapore conference focused on the growing connection between environmental offences and internationally agreed development goals, by identifying strategies designed to ensure the better incorporation of law enforcement in the monitoring of the environmental product supply chain; to promote collaboration between law enforcement and the public and private sectors; and to curb demand for illegal products.

82. In support of CITES, UNEP provided technical support for the fourth annual training course for the East African Association of Prosecutors, held from 5 to 7 November 2015 in Kampala, with a presentation on practical aspects of prosecuting environmental crimes. The objective of the course was to enhance harmonization and international cooperation in the prosecution of environmental offences. The course was attended by participants from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

**D. Continued support for national governments, upon their request, to develop and implement the environmental rule of law, and in that context to continue its efforts to fight the illegal wildlife trade and to continue to promote actions including through capacity-building**

83. UNEP provided technical support to the International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna, jointly organized by the African Union and the Congo in Brazzaville in April 2015. This support included the preparation of the elements of a declaration affirming Africa's commitment to combating illegal wildlife trade and the preparation of a draft strategy on an African common strategy for combating such illegal trade. UNEP is also supporting finalization of the common strategy.

84. UNEP has been supporting Botswana and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in their follow-up initiatives to the African Elephant Summit, held in Gaborone in December 2013, and the international conference on illegal wildlife trade held in London in February 2014. UNEP provided technical support for the preparation of the international conference on the illegal wildlife trade held in Kasane, Botswana, in March 2015, including contributing to the development of the Kasane

Statement, the main outcome of the Conference. UNEP continues to collaborate with and support countries in the implementation of the commitments emanating from those meetings.

85. On 28 and 29 July 2015, in Nairobi, UNEP and the Conservation Council of Nations, with the cooperation of experts in the prosecution of international crime, hosted an East Africa regional judiciary and law enforcement workshop on wildlife and environmental crime. The workshop strengthened judicial, prosecutorial and support sectors in the fight against wildlife crime, and identified challenges and strategies to address priority issues in the subregion, including the need to strengthen cross-border cooperation through formal and informal avenues; to streamline the procedures and strengthen the capacity of the judiciary, prosecutors, and law enforcement to combat wildlife crime; to develop strategic training programmes for that purpose; to strengthen policy and legislation; to make use of the international resources available to support and add value to efforts to combat wildlife and environmental crime; to expand efforts to raise the awareness of judges, prosecutors, agents, policymakers and local communities of the value of wildlife and the implications of wildlife crime; to prosecute corruption, which undermines all efforts at all levels to combat wildlife crime; and to run training programmes for the judiciary, prosecutors and law enforcement officials from supply, transit, and demand countries with a view to strengthening collaboration on international trade cases and awareness-raising initiatives.

86. UNEP supported the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association in its work to develop a training manual on environmental law with a component on illegal trade in wildlife. In particular, UNEP financed a workshop on 23 and 24 October 2015 to review the training manual. It also provided technical input for the manual. A draft of the manual will be used to roll out the training of judges and magistrates in all the subregions of the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association.

87. Following the fourth annual training course for the East African Association of Prosecutors, discussions are currently under way with the Institute for Security Studies to develop a prosecutor's manual for use by prosecutors in the East Africa region and beyond.

88. UNEP is working with the CITES secretariat on a flagship initiative to support countries in controlling the illegal wildlife trade and in strengthening their national legislation in that area. The national legislation project is a high-profile initiative within the CITES Convention, and includes: the provision of legal advice and technical assistance to 17 countries that urgently need such assistance in the development of appropriate measures for effective implementation of the CITES Convention; legislative guidance for the drafting of national legislation with a special focus on optimal penalties to deter illegal wildlife trade; the compilation of best examples of existing national legislation to regulate international wildlife trade and combat wildlife crime, including criminal law provisions to treat illegal wildlife trade as a serious crime and to deal with organized crime and corruption and also with the criminal liability of all those involved in the illegal wildlife trade chain in origin, transit and destination countries; and the training of CITES authorities, legal drafters, policymakers, the judiciary, parliamentarians and other relevant government officials responsible for the formulation and adoption of CITES-related legislation.

## **E. Proactive role of UNEP in administering the African Elephant Fund for the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan**

89. The African Elephant Action Plan is the only document negotiated under the auspices of CITES that was agreed upon by all 37 African elephant range States. UNEP has been exercising the function of secretariat of the African Elephant Fund for the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan since February 2013. Over that period, support for the Fund has strengthened considerably, in the following areas:

(a) *Staffing*: The secretariat's capacity has been enhanced with additional staff members who joined the team in July 2015, making the Fund fully functional and fast-tracking services to all range States. The efficiency of the newly revamped secretariat was recognized by the Fund's steering committee at its fifth meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 11 and 12 September 2015.

(b) *Resource mobilization*: Over and above its own direct support for the Fund in the form of the provision of human resources and money to develop communications materials, UNEP has mobilized additional funding, including: €500,000 from Germany, €120,000 from the Netherlands and \$50,000 from Belgium. These new contributions have doubled the budget of the Fund within a period of six months.

(c) *Administration of the Fund*: To date, 30 projects totalling some \$2 million have been funded and are under implementation. Activities funded under the Fund are focused primarily on the objectives of the African Elephant Action Plan, namely: reducing the illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products; maintaining elephant habitats and restoring connectivity; and reducing human-elephant conflicts. Additional measures are envisaged under the project in the areas of, among others, advocacy,

training, awareness raising and capacity–building.

(d) *Visibility and awareness-raising*: In addition to various promotional materials, which have provided more visibility for range States and donors to the Fund, UNEP has also supported the Fund with a revamped website: [www.africanelephantfund.org](http://www.africanelephantfund.org).

(e) *Next steps*: To make further progress in harnessing the opportunities that the Fund offers for the conservation of African elephants, Member States need to be encouraged to channel more funding towards it, rather than support bilateral or other alternative initiatives.

### **III. Implementation of outcomes of the 2013 UNEP-INTERPOL Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Conference**

#### **A. Action points from the Conference**

90. The first International Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Conference took place on 6 November 2013 in Nairobi. Convened by INTERPOL and UNEP, the meeting was attended by over 300 participants, including national enforcement officials, government representatives and representatives of non-governmental organizations, international organizations and civil society.

91. Participants at the conference discussed such issues as recent trends in the violation of international environmental law and the effects of such violations on sustainable development and the implementation of internationally-agreed environmental goals; possible solutions to the problem of talking environmental crime; and the effect of new and existing tools in combating these violations. They also discussed and agreed on outcomes and future action points aimed at strengthening collaboration in combating crimes and other violations of environmental law.

92. Participants at the conference also invited the United Nations Environment Assembly and the INTERPOL General Assembly to initiate a debate on the issue, given the serious implications of the illegal activities discussed during the conference for environmental sustainability, sustainable development and security in general.

93. The future action points from the conference included:

(a) *National environmental security task force*: To promote a multidisciplinary approach to collaboration, communication and cooperation to address obstacles and opportunities at all levels;

(b) *Information and intelligence assessment and analysis*: To facilitate intelligence and assessments to identify threats, transfer information, support investigations and extend current databases to cover other related areas of crime;

(c) *International capacity-building platform*: To implement an international or regional capacity-building platform to facilitate the effective delivery of capacity-development initiatives, materials and activities;

(d) *International environmental security task force*: To establish an international task force to harmonize approaches to tackling environmental offences, strengthening the legislative framework, connecting countries and fostering inter-agency communication.

#### **B. Response by UNEP**

94. UNEP has made significant efforts in the past two years that have contributed to the implementation of action points (b) and (c), and also in other related areas, as described below.

##### **1. UNEP work on information and intelligence assessment and analysis**

95. UNEP, in collaboration with INTERPOL, has developed a number of rapid response assessment reports specifically on issues related to illegal wildlife trade and waste crime. Thus, in June 2014, UNEP and INTERPOL launched a rapid response assessment report entitled *Environmental Crime Crisis – Threats to Sustainable Development from Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Wildlife and Forest Resources*. The report was released at the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and significantly raised awareness of the need to focus attention on emerging areas. The assessment focuses on the consequences of illegal trade in wildlife, highlighting policy responses and recommendations to address this issue.

96. In May 2015, UNEP and INTERPOL launched a rapid response assessment report entitled *Waste Crime – Waste Risks: Gaps in Meeting the Global Waste Challenge*. The assessment examines the current legal framework governing the cross-border movement and management of waste at the

international, regional, and national levels; existing initiatives to prevent and combat the illegal traffic of hazardous waste and other waste; and policy recommendations to tackle this problem.

## **2. Review of the environmental impacts of illegal trade in wildlife**

97. In response to Environment Assembly resolution 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife, which requested the Executive Director to provide an analysis of the environmental effects of this trade, an assessment report analysing the environmental impacts of this trade has been prepared and made available for the second session of the Environment Assembly. Strongly evidence-based, the analysis is a ground-breaking body of work, compiling and synthesizing for the first time the evidence base on the environmental effects of illegal trade in wildlife, enhancing the knowledge base for further development of policy-support tools.

## **3. Feasibility study to determine the status of illegal trade in West Asia**

98. UNEP and the CITES secretariat have conducted a feasibility study to determine the status of illegal trade in West Asia, with a view to establishing a regional mechanism for the coordination of enforcement of laws regulating wildlife trade in the region. The study includes a useful background on the gaps and challenges impeding the effective implementation of law enforcement efforts on wildlife trade control in West Asia at the national and regional level and sets out recommendations on ways of remedying these problems.

## **4. UNEP work in the area of international capacity-building**

### **(a) Training**

99. UNEP has been undertaking a series of capacity-building initiatives to empower, build skills, equip and enhance, at the international, regional and national levels, the capacity of key stakeholders (enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges) in dealing with environmental crimes.

100. In order to assist parties with CITES implementation, UNEP has continued to provide capacity-building support for judges and prosecutors as follows:

(a) Training programme to strengthen the capacity of prosecutors in the East African Region, implemented in collaboration with the Institute for Security Studies: the training programme, held in November 2015, brought together participants from Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania;

(b) Judicial training and compliance and enforcement training in Malawi and Zimbabwe, and a workshop on institutional and transboundary cooperation for Lake Malawi in 2014;

(c) Special session on illegal trade in wildlife, organized together with the office of the Chief Justice of Kenya and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the East Africa regional judiciary and law enforcement workshop on wildlife and environmental crime.

### **(b) Regional and cross-border cooperation**

101. UNEP has facilitated and promoted regional cooperation and networking among enforcement officials dealing with environmental crime. In addition, since 2002, it has been implementing a regional enforcement networking project to combat environmental crime.

102. Attention is also drawn, in this context, to the sixteenth meeting of ARPEC, held in Bangkok in January 2015.

103. The Asia-Pacific round table on environmental rule of law for sustainable development was held in May 2015 back-to-back with the first Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, and was attended by chief justices, legislators, police, customs and other enforcement officials from the region. UNEP also launched the Asian Environmental Enforcement Award in 2014, to encourage countries, organizations and individuals in the Asia Pacific region to combat environmental crime and to reward excellence in enforcement efforts.

### **(c) Technical support and guidance**

104. UNEP is working with the CITES secretariat on an initiative to support countries' efforts to strengthen their national legislation to control illegal trade in wildlife, by providing legal advice and technical assistance to 17 countries for effective implementation of the CITES Convention. It has also developed a series of guidance materials and e-learning tools to support national level efforts to combat environmental crime. Thus, in 2014, UNEP published a guide to good practices from Africa and Asia, entitled *Enforcement of Environmental Law Good Practices from Africa, Central Asia and ASEAN Countries*. The guide is intended to share a set of good practices generated by experts from selected

countries in the African, ASEAN and Central Asian regions. In East Africa, UNEP is supporting the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association to develop a training manual on environmental law with a component on illegal trade in wildlife.

105. In 2014 UNEP launched an e-learning portal (<http://e-learning.informea.org>) that provides training courses for government officials, including enforcement officials, in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on issues such as biodiversity, ozone, chemicals and climate change.

#### **IV. Administrative and financial management support provided to the CITES secretariat**

##### **A. Delegation of authority**

106. The delegation of authority document signed between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary-General of CITES on 1 October 2010 remains in force.

107. UNEP is revising its accountability framework and is drafting a new delegation of authority policy and framework. In that connection, it has held consultations with secretariats of such agreements. These steps are being taken in line with the recommendations of the UNEP Task Team on the Effectiveness of Administrative Arrangements and Programmatic Cooperation between UNEP and UNEP-administered Convention Secretariats.

108. UNEP confirms that the Secretary-General of CITES is accountable to the Executive Director of UNEP for the management and administration of the CITES secretariat. At the same time, the Secretary-General of CITES is accountable to the CITES parties, including through the Conference of the Parties and its Standing Committee, with respect to the implementation of the CITES Costed Programme of Work and all other functions entrusted to it by the parties.

##### **B. Memorandum of understanding between the Standing Committee of CITES and the UNEP Executive Director**

109. A memorandum of understanding between the CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP entered into force on 1 September 2011. The main purpose of the memorandum is to define clearly the secretariat services and related support to be provided by UNEP to the Convention.

110. UNEP is reiterating its previous requests to the Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties for a review of the memorandum.

##### **C. United Nations system-wide enterprise resource planning system**

111. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/283, on investing in the United Nations for a stronger organization worldwide, including by harmonizing the way the United Nations works and increasing transparency and accountability, since 2 June 2015 the United Nations, including UNEP and the convention secretariats, has been operating with the support of the new enterprise resource planning system Umoja.

112. The implementation of Umoja across UNEP and the convention secretariats has moved from the deployment phase to the stabilization phase. The several remaining challenges are being tackled according to established priorities, with particular emphasis on ongoing issues with the business intelligence and travel modules. UNEP has been proactive in drawing systemic and process issues to the attention of the United Nations Secretariat in New York, which will ensure they are resolved.

113. Other previously noted areas of concern have seen some improvement. For example, the error rate in payroll transactions has decreased to less than 1 per cent, the rate of payments to partners and suppliers has returned to pre-Umoja levels, and workflows have been reviewed to include more requisitions and buyers located outside Nairobi. UNEP is implementing follow-up training in grants, project, funds and cost management, and for consultants and individual contractors, with the aim of training 70 per cent of mapped users.

##### **D. Support provided to CITES from the programme support costs**

114. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/217 and the United Nations procedures for the approval and management of programme support accounts (ST/AI/286), all trust funds are charged for programme support costs. The rate charged is approved by the General Assembly; for UNEP the rate is 13 per cent. This charge is intended to ensure that the cost of supporting activities financed from extrabudgetary contributions is not borne by the regular budget or other core resources that are central to the budget review and approval process of the United Nations organizations. For UNEP, the term



“extrabudgetary resources” refers to trust funds as distinct from budgetary resources, namely the Environment Fund.

115. Following United Nations standard procedures, the amount of resources available to the UNEP and CITES secretariats for programme support in any given year is based on the income received for this purpose in the previous year. Under the current arrangement, the CITES secretariat receives 67 per cent of the programme support costs generated by the previous year’s delivery of the programme of work against its respective trust funds.

116. As in previous years, since the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, in Doha in March 2010, the posts of three administrative staff members directly assigned to the CITES secretariat have been funded from programme support costs. These include an administrative and financial management officer (at the P4 level), an administrative assistant (G6), and a finance assistant (G6). The administrative and financial management officer retired on 31 March 2015 and a new officer was recruited with effect from 1 April 2015. In addition, 50 per cent of the salary of the information network officer (at P3 level) was funded from the same source. Programme support costs are also used to finance that part of the UNEP central administrative functions that supports the CITES secretariat, including those performed by the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations Headquarters, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors.

117. Programme support costs were also used to finance staff development training to ensure smooth implementation of Umoja and assistance in preparing the first set of International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) financial statements, which were approved by the Board of Auditors on 30 June 2015. Details of programme support costs appear in the following table.

#### Schedule of Programme support costs

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>Total</i>
QTL	Exchange gain/loss	589,272	1,355,527	1,944,799
QTL	Expenditure	3,156,395	7,389,074	10,545,469
QTL	Programme support costs	244,773	419,862	664,635
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,990,440</b>	<b>9,164,463</b>	<b>13,154,903</b>
CTL	Exchange gain/loss	23,658	-	23,658
CTL	Expenditure	4,972,212	5,886,121	10,858,333
CTL	Programme support costs	637,051	749,268	1,386,319
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,632,921</b>	<b>6,635,389</b>	<b>12,268,310</b>
EAP	Exchange gain/loss	-	-	-
EAP	Expenditure	101,852	6,459	108,311
EAP	Programme support costs	18,986	17,302	36,288
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120,838</b>	<b>23,761</b>	<b>144,599</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Programme support costs</b>	<b>900,810</b>	<b>1,186,432</b>	<b>2,087,242</b>
Allocation	CITES 67 percent allocation.	603,543	794,909	1,398,452
Expenditures	Staff costs	598,042	640,955	1,238,997
	Other cost	-	-	-
	Total costs	598,042	640,955	1,238,997
	Under expenditure against allocation	5,501	153,954	
	Cumulative (over)/under expenditure at 1 January	(58,913)	(53,412)	
	Cumulative (over)/under expenditure at 31 December	(53,412)	100,542	

*Abbreviations:* QTL = Support of the CITES Activities; CTL= Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora; EAP = Multi-Donor Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan.

118. All convention trust funds continue to be administered by the Executive Director of UNEP and have been extended to 31 December 2017. The Executive Director of UNEP has requested that the United Nations Environment Assembly endorse the extension of the trust fund until 31 December 2019.

## **E. Additional information on administrative matters for the Conference of the Parties**

119. In order to implement Environment Assembly decision 1/12 and complement the efforts to strengthen the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides secretariat functions, the Executive Director of UNEP established a task team on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and UNEP-administered convention secretariats, comprising representatives of the secretariats of those agreements and the relevant offices of the UNEP secretariat. The task team began consultations at its first meeting, held on 3 February 2014, on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between them.

120. The task team was chaired by the Deputy Executive Director, and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species serves as vice-chair. Two working groups – one on administrative arrangements and the other on programmatic cooperation – were established under the task team. The representatives of the CITES secretariat chaired the working group on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and representatives of the Convention on Biological Diversity chaired the working group on programmatic cooperation. The two working groups concluded their reports and submitted them for final approval to the task team, which in turn prepared a report for the consideration of the Executive Director.

121. A final report by the UNEP Executive Director<sup>3</sup> was submitted in February 2016 to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP at its second open-ended meeting, with a view to bringing the issue before the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, in May 2016, in accordance with resolution 1/12. The report was submitted together with supplementary information on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Available from: [http://www.unep.org/about/sgb/cpr\\_portal/Portals/50152/K1600017Doc%207%20add3rev.pdf](http://www.unep.org/about/sgb/cpr_portal/Portals/50152/K1600017Doc%207%20add3rev.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Available from: <http://web.unep.org/unea/documents>.