

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

Species specific matters

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITES STRATEGIC VISION: 2008-2020

1. This document has been submitted by Brazil.*

Background

2. At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties extended the validity of the Strategic Vision and Action Plan to 2020 and included amendments to contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
3. With the new Strategic Vision, the Conference of the Parties to CITES sets the direction of the Convention in the new millennium and takes into account, in the framework of its mandate, issues such as contributing to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that are relevant to CITES.
4. At its 66th meeting (SC66, Geneva, January 2016), the Standing Committee presented document SC66 Doc. 30.2 on *Special Reporting Requirements – report of the working group*. The terms of reference of the working group were established in Decision 16.44 and included specific matters such as the review of the draft format for reporting on implementation, the linkages between the indicators of the Strategic Vision and the Aichi Targets, use of information technology to help countries submit reports, etc., in order to assess compliance with and enforcement of the Convention.
5. At the same meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66), Brazil submitted document SC66 Doc. 14 on *Implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020*. The Standing Committee recommended that Brazil submit that proposal to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The main purpose of that document is to obtain information about the conservation status of species that are most in decline in order to take conservation measures within the timeframe of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, that is, by 2020.

CITES Strategic Vision and Aichi Biodiversity Targets

6. In Resolution Conf. 16.3 on the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020* it is assumed that the CITES Convention contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Aichi Targets.
7. Recalling that the CITES vision statement is to “*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 and making a significant contribution towards achieving the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets*”.

* 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.

8. In order to achieve the purpose of the Strategic Vision, three goals were identified, including Goal 3, as follows:

Goal 3: Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and to achieving relevant globally-agreed goals and targets by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.

and

Objective 3.4: The contribution of CITES to the relevant Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals set at WSSD, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.

9. Taking into consideration that the Aichi Targets defined in the CBD Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 (COP 10 Decision X/2) include Target 12:

Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

- 10. Highlighting that 623 (63%) of CITES Appendix-I listed species are classified in a threatened category, according to IUCN international criteria, and 429 (i.e., 44%) of the threatened species are experiencing population declines.**

Status of Appendix-I listed species*

Number of species listed in CITES Appendix I	975
Number of species listed in CITES Appendix I that are classified in a threatened category (EX/EW/CR/EN/VU)	623
EX/EW/CR/EN/VU decreasing	429
EX/EW/CR/EN/VU stable	23
EX/EW/CR/EN/VU increasing	23

11. Considering the fundamental principles of Article II of the Convention and that it is necessary to conduct periodic reviews of species included in Appendices I and II in order to ensure that they are appropriately listed based on updated biological and trade information.
12. Recognizing the need for action and more effective participation by the Parties and the Convention in order to prevent the extinction of Appendix-I species and improve the status of those species facing population decline.
13. Considering the need to obtain information about the status of species based on IUCN criteria in order to assess the implementation of Objective 3.4 of the CITES Strategic Vision and that it is extremely necessary to have an analysis of data that indicates priority actions and resources needed so that CITES can contribute to the recovery of Appendix-I species and consequently to the achievement of the Aichi Targets.

Recommendation

14. Brazil suggests that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decision included in the Annex to this document.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat supports the intent of the proposed draft decisions to assess the conservation status of, and the conservation measures adopted for the species listed in Appendix I, and to generate additional resources for the recovery of those species listed in Appendix I which have the highest risk of extinction and for which no funding for adequate conservation projects is known to exist. It recalls in this context that Article XI of the Convention agrees that at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Parties shall review the implementation of the present Convention and may review the progress made towards the restoration and conservation of the species included in Appendices I, II and III.
- B. Paragraph 11 of the present document, stating that “it is necessary to conduct period reviews of species included in Appendices I and II in order to ensure that they are appropriately listed based on updated biological and trade information”, seems to refer to the Periodic Review process as outlined in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16). However, this process has a *modus operandi*, objectives and outcomes that are very different from what is envisaged in the present document.
- C. The Secretariat is of the opinion that the most practical approach to undertake the species reviews and identify priorities for conservation action would be by way of contracting consultants to perform a proposed rapid assessment of the species listed in Appendix I. The assessment could differentiate species according to their conservation status and the extent to which they are legally or illegally traded; it could result in clustering species for which conservation funding is known to exist, for which only limited funding is available, and for which no funding is available. The clustering could guide the allocation of funding and resources for recovery measures.
- D. The Secretariat notes that the timeframe for implementing the proposed rapid assessment is extremely tight and Parties would need to respond quickly to the recommendations from the Animals and Plants Committees.
- E. The Secretariat therefore suggests replacing the proposed draft decisions with the following:

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.XX Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall contract IUCN, UNEP-WCMC or other consultants, as appropriate, to make a rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal in trade in species included in Appendix I, with an indication of conservation priorities based on levels of threats caused by trade and resource availability to address these threats, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees. The Secretariat shall make recommendations to the Animals and Plants Committees on how the findings can contribute to the implementation of Aichi Target 12.
- 17.XX The Secretariat shall assist Parties in leveraging funding for the recovery of those species included in Appendix I which have the highest risk of extinction and for which no funding of conservation projects is known to exist.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 17.XX The Animals Committee and the Plants Committees shall review the report and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 17.XX, and formulate recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties and consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

Directed to the Parties

- 17.XX Parties are encouraged to seek support from governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other bodies to provide financial assistance for the recovery of species included in Appendix I that are facing the highest extinction risk and for which no projects or funding are currently available.
- F. Should the above-mentioned proposed draft decisions be adopted, the Secretariat would need to contract external consultants to perform the rapid assessment, generating budgetary implications of 100,000 to 300,000 USD.

- G. The Secretariat notes that the scope of the recommendations and the number of issues identified by the Animals and Plant Committees may be considerable. One way to raise the necessary funds for the recovery of species included in Appendix I that are facing the highest extinction risk and for which no projects or funding are currently available could be for example the organization of a donor roundtable (see document CoP17 Doc. 7.5 on the organization of a Wildlife Donor Roundtable). This would have additional cost implications.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Parties

- 17.XX Parties should provide the information requested on the conservation status of and measures adopted for species included in Appendix I by July 2017.
- 17.XX Parties should seek support from governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other bodies to provide financial assistance for the recovery of species included in Appendix I that are facing the highest extinction risk and for which no projects or funding are currently available.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 17.XX At the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, based on the information received from the Parties, the Committees shall assess the status and trends of species included in CITES Appendix I with a view to implementing Aichi Target 12; the Committees shall report on the results of this work at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.XX The Secretariat shall encourage Parties to provide information about the conservation status of and measures adopted for species included in Appendix I by July 2017. The IUCN model can be used to assess the conservation status of species.
- 17.XX The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Parties, shall seek sources of funding for the recovery of species included in Appendix I that are facing the highest extinction risk and for which no projects or funding are currently available.