



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2011/021

Geneva, 24 February 2011

CONCERNING:

CITES and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
under the Convention on Biological Diversity

1. The present Notification to the Parties has been prepared by the CITES Secretariat in consultation with the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
2. The *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* comprises three interrelated goals. Goal 3 is to “Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.” In addition, the Memorandum of Cooperation between the CITES and CBD Secretariats states that “the secretariats will consult their Contracting Parties with a view to encouraging integration and consistency between national strategies, plans or programmes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and plans or programmes under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.”
3. The secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions have been working together to help Parties achieve a more coherent and mutually supportive implementation of the conventions at the national level.
4. At its 10th meeting (Nagoya, 2010), the Conference of the Parties to CBD adopted a number of Decisions that are of relevance to the implementation of CITES plans and programmes.
5. In [Decision X/2](#), the CBD Conference adopted a *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* which it recognizes as “a useful flexible framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions”. In paragraph 3) of this Decision, the CBD Conference urges CBD Parties to develop national targets in line with the Strategic Plan and to update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), where appropriate. Moreover, in subparagraph 3 (f), it urges CBD Parties to:

Support the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as effective instruments to promote the implementation of the Strategic Plan and mainstreaming of biodiversity at the national level, taking into account synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in a manner consistent with their respective mandates.

6. Furthermore, in paragraph 3 of Decision X/5 on *Implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan*, the CBD Conference invites CBD Parties to:

involve national level focal points of all the biodiversity-related agreements, as appropriate, in the process of updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related enabling activities.

7. Finally, in paragraph 7. c) of the same Decision, it requests the CBD Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to:

collaborate with the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate the participation of national focal points of these agreements, as appropriate, in the updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related enabling activities.

8. With the support of Japan and other donors, the CBD Secretariat is organizing a series of regional or subregional workshops to: assist Parties in updating their NBSAPs, including development of national targets; help facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and translate the Strategic Plan into national targets and commitments. The workshops will be announced by the CBD Secretariat, with the first one being a workshop for southern Africa on 14-20 March 2011, in Kasane (Botswana).
9. Activities identified in the NBSAPs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition will be better placed to attract financial resources, especially from GEF, the financial mechanism of the CBD. The GEF provides financial resources to country-driven projects and activities that are aligned with COP decisions, the GEF biodiversity strategy and that are prioritized in NBSAPs.
10. When revising and updating their NBSAPs, Parties are therefore invited to consider integrating national and regional CITES activities that contribute to the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the conservation and sustainable use of wild fauna and flora, as appropriate.
11. CITES Management Authorities are encouraged to engage directly with the national CBD focal point in advance of the workshop, and throughout the process of updating NBSAPs, in order to explore possibilities of their participation in the workshops, where appropriate, and to identify relevant CITES activities that could be included into the revised and updated NBSAPs. The contact details of national CBD focal points can be found at www.cbd.int/information/nfp.shtml.
12. Further information on the workshops is available from the CBD website at www.cbd.int/nbsap or on the CITES calendar at <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/calendar.shtml>.
13. The CITES Secretariat is preparing practical guidance on integrating CITES commitments into NBSAPs and on developing GEF project proposals, which it will circulate in a future Notification.