

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

Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Strategic and administrative matters

SYNERGY BETWEEN CITES AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

1. This document has been prepared by the representative of Africa (Ghana) on the basis of the work of an intra-sessional working group.
2. The working group proposes that the Standing Committee note the ongoing work relevant to CITES/CBD synergy detailed on page 2 of document SC53 Doc. 8 (Rev. 1).
3. With respect to Decision 13.2 b), the working group suggests that the Standing Committee instruct its Strategic Plan Working Group to consider the whole of the Vilm Report (see document CoP13 Doc. 12.1.1, Annex 2) in its consideration of the revision of the Strategic Vision and Action Plan.
4. In accordance with Decision 13.2, the working group identified the following possible priority actions to improve synergies between the two Conventions in areas of common concern in order to contribute to reaching the WSSD 2010 target. The working group suggests that in accordance with Decision 13.3, these are sent as guidance to the Secretariat in order for them to revise, in conjunction with the CBD Secretariat, the Work Plan for Implementation of Joint Activities attached to the Memorandum of Cooperation between them.

a) General recommendations

- Encouraging integration of CITES implementation and enforcement into the development and strengthening of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.
- Participating in national and international fora or networks to exchange ideas on best practice and identifying areas for achieving greater synergy making the best use of existing tools/activities such as the CBD Clearing House Mechanism and UNEP's work on synergies.

b) Sustainable use

- Strengthening the foundations for ensuring that the use of species is sustainable by;
 - i) improving the capacity to make non-detriment findings;
 - ii) participating in and contributing CITES experiences into ongoing initiatives to develop indicators to measure the sustainability of use; and
 - iii) enhancing engagement with implementing the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use including developing and promoting case studies (working with the Animals and Plants Committees and the Parties), informing CBD SBSTTA and Conference of the Parties of CITES experiences with sustainable use and engaging with ongoing CBD processes as they relate to the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (e.g. capacity-building workshops, case studies).

- c) Access and benefit-sharing
 - Providing CBD with CITES experiences on; the design and implementation of licensing and permitting systems and training on their use.
 - d) Linking the species-based conservation approach of CITES to CBD's thematic (e.g. forests, marine and coastal, drylands, freshwater, protected areas) and cross-cutting (e.g. invasive alien species and protected areas) programmes of work
 - Enhancing attention to CITES-listed species in the design and implementation of CBD's thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work, with particular attention to, *inter alia* conservation, sustainable use and the recovery of those species threatened by trade.
 - Ensuring CBD's thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work incorporate and reinforce CITES management and trade control efforts, especially with regard to Appendix-I species.
 - Tracking changes in the status of CITES-listed species as a contribution to the indicators for CBD's 2010 targets and the WSSD's 2015 Millennium Development Goals.
 - e) Taxonomy
 - Establishing a process for collaboration in the identification of and support for species-oriented taxonomic research tools and mechanisms such as the Global Taxonomy Initiative and the CITES Nomenclature Committee and its outputs.
5. The working group proposes that the Standing Committee requests the Secretariat to report to it and to the Conference of the Parties on:
- a) examples of synergy between CITES and CBD both nationally and internationally;
 - b) implementation of CITES Decisions and Resolutions relevant to CITES/CBD synergy; and
 - c) other ongoing activities.