1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

2. At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties decided "to extend until the end of 2007 the time validity of the Strategic Vision and its Action Plan" [Decision 13.1, paragraph a)] and agreed on a process to produce a new Strategic Vision and Action Plan valid until 2013.

3. The revised Strategic Vision and Action Plan will build on the results of an evaluation, by all bodies involved, of the implementation of the existing Strategic Vision and Action Plan and should contribute to the achievement of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. During the course of their 21st and 15th meetings respectively (AC21 and PC15, Geneva, May 2005), the Animals and Plants Committees began to evaluate their own efforts in relation to the implementation of the existing Strategic Vision and Action Plan. This evaluation continued intersessionally.

4. As instructed in Decision 13.1, the Standing Committee has established a Strategic Plan Working Group to develop a proposal for this new Strategic Vision and Action Plan. At AC21 and PC15 the committees both nominated their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to represent them on the Strategic Plan Working Group.

5. At the time of writing (March 2006) it is planned that the Standing Committee Strategic Plan Working Group will meet in Ottawa, Canada from 24 to 28 April 2006 and the representatives of the committees who attend that meeting will be able to report on the outcome at AC22/PC16.

6. The final proposal for a Strategic Vision and Action Plan through 2013 will be submitted by the Standing Committee at the 14th Conference of the Parties in 2007.