

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Strategic matters

CAPACITY BUILDING

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 14th meeting (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 14.2, *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*, which include the following goal and objective:

Goal 1: Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention

Objective 1.8: Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity-building programmes in place.

This document provides information on several recent capacity-building activities of the Secretariat that contribute to this Goal and Objective.

Capacity-building framework

3. Capacity-building activities require the transfer of knowledge and the provision of assistance in the development of specific skills linked to implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat therefore aims to build a greater understanding of the Convention and the ability to implement its provisions. The daily implementation of CITES involves a wide range of disciplines such as science, law, enforcement, resource management, administration and trade policy, while engaging a correspondingly large number of stakeholders from governments, intergovernmental agencies, the private sector and civil society. The opportunities for capacity-building interventions, individually and in partnership, are numerous and consideration must be given to the Secretariat's most effective role in the provision of capacity-building. To help provide focus and direct its efforts, the Secretariat has prepared a draft capacity-building framework to ensure its activities are targeted and cost-effective, produce visible and lasting results, and ultimately support the capacity-building Goal and Objective of Resolution Conf. 14.2.
4. The draft framework examines the capacity-building needs of CITES, the mandate of the Secretariat, the role of the Secretariat in capacity building, the core capacities and methodology of the Secretariat, partnerships and resource mobilization. Activity plans for each major capacity-building activity or area will be developed, to further guide and document the Secretariat's work.

Strengthening CITES implementation

5. The Secretariat has secured funding of USD 3,512,500 from the European Commission for a multi-year project to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to implement the Convention and ensure that international trade in wildlife is not detrimental to the survival of listed species. The Secretariat is very grateful to the European Commission for this important funding contribution to CITES capacity building.
6. The first phase of the project (2009-2011) aims to strengthen capacities to implement the Convention and satisfy the CITES-related requirements of trading partners (such as the European Union), to prevent overexploitation, and to ensure that legal international trade in wild fauna and flora does not exceed sustainable levels. The project involves identifying underlying problems affecting CITES implementation and fulfilment of import requirements, designing and delivering e-training to solve these problems, convening five regional workshops, and supporting a number of post-workshop activities aimed at

addressing implementation weaknesses and immediate data needs, such as population studies and surveys, and further national-level training. The second phase of the project (2011-2012) aims to build on the initial work and support specific Parties in need of assistance, to improve CITES implementation and to ensure that trade is legal, sustainable and traceable.

7. A needs assessment based on analysis of questionnaires has been completed. A total of 107 Parties were invited to submit questionnaires and, of these, 81 Parties provided 164 completed questionnaires (40 questionnaires received from 20 Parties in East and Southern Africa, 41 from 19 countries in West and Central Africa, 31 from 15 South and Southeast Asian countries, 42 from 17 Central and South American countries, and 10 from nine Parties in Western and Central Asia). A summary of questionnaire results is available as an information document at the present meeting.
8. Guided by the results of the needs assessment, e-courses on CD-ROM were developed in English, French and Spanish to help participants prepare for the regional meetings, and to provide capacity-building support on the basis of priorities identified in the needs assessment. These priorities included training for enforcement officers and Customs, training on making non-detriment findings, training on conducting population surveys, animal and plant identification, improving training and facilitation skills (training trainers), investigation-training for enforcement officers, and awareness-raising for policy-makers and decision-makers.
9. The wide range of training needs identified by respondents was addressed by existing training and teaching materials incorporated into the project e-courses or provided separately as supporting materials. The e-courses focussed on the most important subjects not covered in other materials (such as the making of non-detriment findings), and served as a preparatory courses and e-libraries of resource materials for the regional workshops. These e-courses were consolidated into the basic course on CITES and non-detriment findings offered through the CITES Virtual College (see paragraphs 19-22 below).
10. Four regional workshops were held in 2010 (in Kampala (Uganda) in January, for East and Southern Africa; in Makati City (Philippines) in June, for South and Southeast Asia; in Douala (Cameroon) in November, for West and Central Africa; and in Bogota (Colombia) in December, for Central and South America). A remaining regional workshop for Western and Central Asia is expected to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as soon as possible.
11. Small scale in-country activities under the first phase of the project are being supported in Cambodia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, the Philippines, Uganda and Viet Nam, and project proposals received from 11 other Parties are being considered for funding.
12. The Secretariat was invited to assist South Africa with the provision of training for the Management and Scientific Authorities, and a five-day workshop was held near the Kruger National Park in October 2010. The Secretariat is grateful to the Management Authority of South Africa for organizing the workshop and providing support to a Secretariat staff member who assisted in the training.

Science-related capacity building

13. One of the key areas of work for capacity building by the Secretariat is the assistance provided to Scientific Authorities through its 'Science in CITES' workshops, organized in collaboration with national CITES Authorities (addressing the call for such workshops in Resolution Conf. 10.3 on *Designation and role of the Scientific Authorities*). These workshops focus on the making of non-detriment findings, setting of quotas, adaptive management, and other tasks and responsibilities of Scientific Authorities. The training materials for these workshops have been regularly revised and updated and separate presentations deal with the subjects of adaptive management, quotas, the making of non-detriment findings, reporting and data collection. Recent workshops were conducted in Honiara (Solomon Islands) in May 2010 and in Kathmandu (Nepal) in January 2011.
14. The Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 14.7 on *Management of nationally established export quotas* and the annexed *Guidelines for management of nationally established export quotas* at CoP14, based on the work of the Export Quota Working Group of the Standing Committee. The Secretariat's capacity-building efforts relating to quotas have since been based on this Resolution, which was revised at CoP15 in March 2010.
15. The capacity-building courses and materials relating to training on quotas and the making of non-detriment findings were discussed during the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, April 2011), and will be

discussed at the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, July 2011). The Chairs of these Committees are establishing an intersessional working group to review the materials and provide the Secretariat with input to improve them through case studies, examples of application and any methodologies that have been found to be effective in assisting Parties with these subjects.

16. The Secretariat has used PowerPoint presentations on the role of quotas in CITES and non-detriment findings in its general training materials since 2002. These presentations serve as an introduction to the subject and to emphasize the importance of interrelationships of scientific data, monitoring and management decisions. Parties were informed of the training materials and subsequent updates in Notifications to the Parties Nos. 2002/073 of 19 December 2002, 2003/073 of 12 November 2003 and 2005/067 of 8 December 2005. After 2005, the materials were updated and tailored for use in training seminars and whenever materials were requested by Parties for use in national training. The Secretariat is grateful for comments and suggestions received from Parties to improve these materials.

Enforcement-related capacity-building

17. In February 2011, two Secretariat staff members participated in an enforcement training workshop and site visit organized by the CITES Enforcement Authority for Nigeria (the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency, NESREA). The workshop in Kano and the site visit in Lagos were a continuation of earlier enforcement-related work and missions previously conducted by the Secretariat, and the Secretariat is grateful to NESREA for making the local arrangements for the workshop and site visit.
18. A one-week course in wildlife law enforcement and the control of CITES-related trade was held in Johannesburg (South Africa) in June 2011. Agencies participating in the course were the CITES Management Authority, the Customs Border Control Unit, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Directorate of Priority Criminal Investigations, the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural development, INTERPOL National Central Bureau, National and Provincial Parks, the National Prosecuting Authority, the South Africa Police Service, the South Africa Revenue Service, and the CITES Secretariat. The Secretariat is grateful to the Management Authority of South Africa for organizing the course.
19. The Secretariat participated in several training workshops for Customs officers conducted under the Green Customs Initiative, and in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO). Regional workshops were held in Lebanon in April 2010, in the Dominican Republic in July 2010, in Turkmenistan in October 2010, in Kenya in December 2010 (in support of the WCO's Project GAPIN) and in Fiji in May 2011. The Secretariat's participation in the Dominican Republic and Kenyan workshops was supported by the WCO, while UNEP supported the Secretariat's participation in the Turkmenistan and Fiji workshops. The Secretariat is grateful for this support towards its capacity-building activities. For these workshops and for Customs training in general, a number of specialized training presentations have been prepared, dealing with subjects such as specimen identification, identification of fake and counterfeit specimens, handling and trade in bushmeat.

The CITES Virtual College

20. In accordance with Decision 14.12, *Virtual college*, the CITES Secretariat launched the CITES Virtual College at the International University of Andalusia, Baeza, Spain, on 7 June 2011.
21. The CITES Secretariat is thankful for the funding received from the European Commission under the project *Strengthening the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade*, which made possible the development of the CITES Virtual College. The Secretariat is also thankful to the International University of Andalusia for hosting the CITES Virtual College and for the technical support it provides.
22. The first Web courses made available through the College were based on the CD-ROM courses developed in support of the project funded by the European Commission, namely *Introduction to CITES and Non-Detriment Findings*. Composed of five modules, the course offers CITES Authorities exercises, readings, training materials and other information on how to make non-detriment findings. The course also includes a reference section where users are able to find materials to assist them in completing the course.
23. The CITES Virtual College is available at: <http://campusvirtual.unia.es/cites>.

Support to Master's degree programmes

24. The Secretariat contributes to Master's degree programmes that include study of the Convention. In 2010 and 2011, it has given lectures for the Master's course on *Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework* offered by the International University of Andalusia. For the 2011 academic year, the Secretariat was able to contribute towards the participation costs of several students, via the capacity building project (see paragraph 5 above). A staff member of the Secretariat is acting as a thesis advisor to several graduate students of the programme. The Secretariat is grateful to the University for supporting the participation of the Secretariat in this important programme., and to the European Commission for its support in sponsoring students to participate in the Master's course.

Assistance to Parties on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

25. In Notification to the Parties No. 2011/021 of 24 February 2011, the attention of CITES Parties was drawn to the adoption of a *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and the *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, 2010). The CBD Conference also urged 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. CITES Parties were invited, in Notification to the Parties No. 2011/021, to consider integrating into NBSAPs 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. To assist Parties in their work, the CITES Secretariat commissioned an expert to produce the draft guide *Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) – A Draft Guide for CITES Parties*. The draft guide was circulated in Notification to the Parties No. 2011/026 of 4 May 2011.

Recommendation

26. The Secretariat encourages Parties to make use of the capacity-building courses, tools and materials it has prepared in their own training and outreach programmes. The courses, tools and training materials are available via the Virtual College or from the Secretariat upon request.
27. The Secretariat also encourages Parties to make use of the CITES Virtual College for the training of national staff.