

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



Fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008

Strategic and administrative matters

CITES AND LIVELIHOODS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with Argentina, China, Nicaragua and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It also includes input provided by the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Fauna and Flora International.
2. Decision 14.3, adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), directs the CITES Standing Committee to initiate and supervise a process to develop, by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15):
 - a) *tools for voluntary use by the Parties for the rapid assessment at the national level of the positive and negative impacts of implementing CITES listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor, in conformity with Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13); and*
 - b) *draft voluntary guidelines for Parties to address these impacts, particularly in developing countries. The guidelines should, where possible, assist Parties to develop local, national and regional initiatives that take account of the impacts of implementing CITES listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor.*
3. Decision 14.4 directs the Secretariat to seek external funds to enable the Standing Committee to initiate and develop the process described in Decision 14.3. The Secretariat is glad to acknowledge the financial support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (GBP 15,000) and the Safari Club International Foundation (USD 25,000) for implementation of Decision 14.3. The European Union is considering contributing additional funds during the second half of the current year. Interested donors that have not yet contacted the Secretariat are encouraged to do so.

Suggested approach for implementing Decision 14.3

4. To assist the Standing Committee in its consideration of this matter, a suggested approach for implementing Decision 14.3 is provided below. It takes into account the deliberations and recommendations of the CITES and Livelihoods Workshop (Cape Town, September 2006) as well as the document on *CITES and Livelihoods* considered at CoP14 (document CoP14 Doc. 14). This approach is intended to facilitate the gathering of technical contributions from Parties (including local governments and communities), intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic or research institutions, and other interested stakeholders at the national and international levels.
5. To provide direction to the process described in Decision 14.3, the Standing Committee could create a working group on livelihoods. The Working Group would work electronically. Pending the availability of external funds, it is also recommended that the Working Group hold one or two meetings in regions more affected by this issue.

6. It is recommended that members of the Working Group be government-nominated experts, selected on the basis of their expertise and taking into account the need to ensure regional distribution and gender balance. In addition, members could be selected from among representatives of indigenous and local communities, private sector, research institutions/academia, relevant international inter-governmental organisations and non-governmental organizations. The Secretariat should provide administrative and technical support and perform any other function as may be entrusted to it by the Working Group. Consideration should be given to involving in the Working Group Parties and organizations that participated in the 2006 Workshop on CITES and Livelihoods. Such Parties and organizations have already demonstrated an interest in and commitment to assessing and addressing impacts caused by the implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor. The Standing Committee should designate a chairman and approve the list of working group members.

Suggested terms of reference for the working group

7. Two background papers should be prepared under the Working Group's direction in order to assist its work. One should address possible tools for rapidly assessing "the positive and negative impacts of implementing CITES listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor". This paper should survey the relevant tools used by development and conservation agencies and offer preliminary recommendations on their suitability for use in the CITES context.
8. A second paper should provide guidance on how to address the impacts that have been assessed. This paper should have two parts. The first part would survey the past and current work undertaken by Parties on this matter. It would identify Parties' successful efforts to deal with impacts as well as problems that they have encountered, and would list key factors that have contributed to success or failure. The second part would provide draft guidelines for assisting Parties to address the impacts of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor. This would provide a starting point for discussions in the suggested Working Group.
9. The Working Group should identify, on the basis of the background paper on rapid assessment tools, the most promising tools for use in the CITES context and then to determine what further work needs to be done to adapt such tools for CITES Parties. The Working Group should also review and comment on the draft guidelines mentioned above.
10. The Working Group should report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 58th meeting (SC58).
11. Based on the feedback provided at SC58, the Working Group should finalize: (a) a toolkit for voluntary use by the Parties for the rapid assessment at the national level of the positive and negative impacts of implementing CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor; and (b) a draft set of guidelines for addressing the identified impacts. The chairman of the Working Group should submit the toolkit and the guidelines for consideration and approval at CoP15.

Country-specific work on livelihoods and linkages with other livelihood initiatives

12. In addition to the process above for developing rapid assessment tools and draft guidelines, some Parties and donors have expressed interest in conducting country-specific work on CITES and livelihoods. It is expected that this work could learn from and feed into the process driven by the Working Group. Country-specific work could focus on how livelihood issues might be integrated into management plans for CITES-listed species, revised policy frameworks, national legislation and institutional structures that are currently being developed to improve CITES implementation. In this connection, the Standing Committee might wish to refer to paragraph d) A. *Underlying conditions for sustainable use* of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity annexed to Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14). The *livelihoods module* for species in the Red List of IUCN may also be considered.

Recommendations

13. The Secretariat recommends the adoption by the Standing Committee of the suggested approach for implementing Decision 14.3.