

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

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CITES STRATEGIC VISION: 2008-2020 AND ITS INDICATORS

This document has been submitted and prepared by the Secretariat. It presents the revised list of indicators for the Strategic Vision agreed by the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting (SC66, Geneva, January 2016).

General introduction

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was concluded on 3 March 1973. It entered into force after ratification or accession by 10 States, on 1 July 1975.

Since then, the number of countries that have ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Convention has continued to increase. With 183 Parties, CITES is widely regarded as one of the most important international conservation instruments. During this period, the Conference of the Parties has shown itself to be capable of adapting to changing circumstances and, through the adoption of Resolutions and Decisions, has demonstrated an ability to construct practical solutions to increasingly complex wildlife trade and conservation problems.

At its ninth meeting (Fort Lauderdale, 1994), the Conference of the Parties commissioned a review of the Convention's effectiveness. The principal purposes of the review were to evaluate the extent to which the Convention had achieved its objectives and the progress made since CITES came into being and, most importantly, to identify deficiencies and requirements necessary to strengthen the Convention and help plan for the future. At its 10th meeting (Harare, 1997), the Conference agreed to an Action Plan for implementing certain findings and recommendations of the review. A central finding was the need for a strategic plan and, at its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), the Conference of the Parties adopted the *Strategic Vision through 2005*, and an *Action Plan*.

At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 13.1, which extended the validity of the Strategic Vision and Action Plan until the end of 2007. It also established a procedure for developing a new Strategic Vision through 2013, particularly to contribute to the achievement of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The present document is the result of this process.

At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties extended the validity of the Strategic Vision and Action Plan to 2020 and included amendments to contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

At its 17th meeting (Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted amendments to contribute to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and their targets relevant to CITES and to update the number of Parties.

With this new Strategic Vision, the Conference of the Parties to CITES outlines the Convention's direction in the new millennium and takes into account, within the context of its mandate, issues such as:

- contributing to the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and their targets relevant to CITES;

- contributing to the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and the implementation of the *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to the extent that they are relevant to CITES;
- contributing to the implementation of the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012);
- contributing to the conservation of wildlife as an integral part of the global ecosystem on which all life depends;
- cultural, social and economic factors at play in producer and consumer countries;
- promoting transparency and wider involvement of civil society in the development of conservation policies and practices; and
- ensuring that a coherent and internationally agreed approach based on scientific evidence is taken to address any species of wild fauna and flora subject to unsustainable international trade.

Purpose

The twofold purpose of the Strategic Vision is:

- to improve the working of the Convention, so that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels; and
- to ensure that CITES policy developments are mutually supportive of international environmental priorities and take into account new international initiatives, consistent with the terms of the Convention.

Structure

In order to achieve this purpose, three broad goals, of equal priority, have been identified as the key components of the Strategic Vision:

- **Goal 1:** Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.
- **Goal 2:** Secure the necessary financial resources and means for the operation and implementation of the Convention.
- **Goal 3:** Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and to achieving relevant globally-agreed goals and targets by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.

The goals aim at consolidating the existing strengths of CITES, ensuring the implementation of the mandate of the Convention, and further improving the relationship with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and related conventions, agreements and associations.

Within the framework provided by each of these goals, this Strategic Vision identifies a number of objectives to be achieved. Corresponding indicators of progress are to be developed by the Standing Committee and reviewed by the Conference of the Parties.

This document provides a framework for the future development of the existing body of Resolutions and Decisions. While it should provide guidance on how the goals and objectives are to be achieved, the Conference of the Parties, the Committees or the Secretariat, as appropriate, will take required action. The document also serves the Parties as a tool for the prioritization of activities, and decisions on how best to fund them, in light of the need for the rational application of costs and the efficient and transparent use of resources.

It should be noted that all references to 'trade' in the Strategic Vision refer to trade as defined in Article I of the Convention.

CITES vision statement

Conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss and making a significant contribution towards achieving the relevant *Aichi Biodiversity Targets*.

THE STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL 1 **ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH AND IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION**

Introduction

The effectiveness of the Convention depends upon its full implementation by all Parties, whether they are consumers or producers of wild animals and plants. Full implementation relies, in turn, upon each Party's:

- commitment to the Convention and its principles;
- scientific expertise and analyses;
- capacity building; and
- enforcement.

Commitment to the Convention and its principles

The proper functioning of the Convention depends to a great extent on the commitment of Parties to comply with and implement the Convention and its principles.

- Objective 1.1 Parties comply with their obligations under the Convention through appropriate policies, legislation and procedures.
- 1.1.1 The number of Parties that are in category 1 under the national legislation project.
 - 1.1.2 The number of Parties that have designated Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities.
 - 1.1.3 The number of Parties subject to CITES recommendations on trade.
- Objective 1.2 Parties have in place administrative procedures that are transparent, practical, coherent and user-friendly, and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.
- 1.2.1 The number of Parties that have adopted standard transparent procedures for the timely issuance of permits in accordance with Article VI of the Convention.
 - 1.2.2 The number of Parties making use of the simplified procedures provided for in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17).
- Objective 1.3 Implementation of the Convention at the national level is consistent with decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
- 1.3.1 The number of Parties that have implemented relevant reporting under Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties and/or Standing Committee recommendations.
- Objective 1.4 The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation needs of species.
- 1.4.1 The number and proportion of species that have been found to meet the criteria contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24 or its successors. This includes both the periodic review and amendment proposals.

- Objective 1.5 Best available scientific information is the basis for non-detriment findings.
- 1.5.1 The number of surveys, studies or other analyses undertaken by exporting countries based on the sources of information cited in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* related to:
- the population status of Appendix-II species;
 - the trends and impact of trade upon Appendix-II species; and
 - the status of and trend in naturally-occurring Appendix I species and the impact of any recovery plans.
- 1.5.2 The number of Parties that have adopted standard procedures for making non-detriment findings.
- 1.5.3 The number and proportion of annual export quotas based on population surveys.
- 1.5.4 The number of Appendix-II species for which trade is determined to be non-detrimental to the survival of the species as a result of implementing recommendations from the Review of Significant Trade.
- Objective 1.6 Parties cooperate in managing shared wildlife resources.
- 1.6.1 The number of bilateral and multilateral agreements that specifically provide for co-management of shared CITES-listed species by range States.
- 1.6.2 The number of cooperative management plans, including recovery plans, in place for shared populations of CITES listed species.
- 1.6.3 The number of workshops and other capacity-building activities that bring range states together to address the conservation and management needs of shared CITES listed species.
- Objective 1.7 Parties are enforcing the Convention to reduce illegal wildlife trade.
- 1.7.1 The number of Parties that have, are covered by, or engaged with:
- an international enforcement strategy and/or action plan;
 - formal international co-operation, such as an international enforcement network;
 - a national enforcement strategy and/or action plan; and
 - formal national inter-agency co-operation, such as a national inter-agency enforcement committee.
- 1.7.2 The number of Parties with a process or mechanism for reviewing their enforcement strategies, and the activities to implement their strategies.
- 1.7.3 The number of Parties that have criminal (penal) law and procedures and forensic capacity in place, and that use specialized investigation techniques, for investigating, prosecuting, and penalizing CITES offences.
- 1.7.4 The number of Parties using risk assessment and intelligence to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species.
- 1.7.5 The number of administrative measures, criminal prosecutions and other court actions for CITES-related offences.
- Objective 1.8 Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity-building programmes in place.
- 1.8.1 The number of Parties with national and regional training programmes and information resources in place to implement CITES including the making of non-detriment findings, issuance of permits and enforcement.

- GOAL 2** **SECURE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MEANS FOR THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**
- Objective 2.1 Financial resources are sufficient to ensure operation of the Convention.
- 2.1.1 The number of Parties meeting their obligations with regard to their assessed contributions to the Trust Fund.
- 2.1.2 The percentage of the work programme agreed by the Conference of the Parties that is fully funded.
- Objective 2.2 Sufficient resources are secured at the national and international levels to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.
- 2.2.1 The number of Parties with dedicated staff and funding for Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and wildlife trade enforcement agencies.
- 2.2.2 The number of Parties that have undertaken one or more of the following activities:
- changed the budget for activities;
 - hired more staff;
 - developed implementation tools; and
 - purchased technical equipment for implementation, monitoring or enforcement.
- 2.2.3 The number of Parties raising funds for CITES implementation through user fees or other mechanisms.
- 2.2.4 The number of Parties using incentive measures as part of their implementation of the Convention.
- Objective 2.3 Sufficient resources are secured at the national and international levels to implement capacity-building programmes.
- 2.3.1 The number of capacity building activities mandated by Resolutions and Decisions that are fully funded.
- GOAL 3** **CONTRIBUTE TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING THE RATE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND TO ACHIEVING RELEVANT GLOBALLY-AGREED GOALS AND TARGETS BY ENSURING THAT CITES AND OTHER MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENTS AND PROCESSES ARE COHERENT AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE**
- Objective 3.1 Cooperation between CITES and international financial mechanisms and other related institutions is enhanced in order to support CITES-related conservation and sustainable development projects, without diminishing funding for currently prioritized activities.
- 3.1.1 The number of Parties funded by international financial mechanisms and other related institutions to develop activities that include CITES-related conservation and sustainable development elements.
- 3.1.2 The number of countries and institutions that have provided additional funding from CITES Authorities to another country or activity for conservation and sustainable development projects in order to further the objectives of the Convention.
- Objective 3.2 Awareness of the role and purpose of CITES is increased globally.
- 3.2.1 The number of Parties that have been involved in CITES awareness raising activities to bring about better awareness by the wider public and relevant user groups of the Convention requirements.
- 3.2.2 The number of visits to the CITES website.
- 3.2.3 The number of Parties with web pages on CITES and its requirements.

- Objective 3.3 Cooperation with relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations is enhanced.
- 3.3.1 The number of Parties which report that they have achieved synergies in their implementation of CITES, other biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental, trade and development agreements.
 - 3.3.2 The number of biodiversity conservation or sustainable use projects, trade and development goals, or scientific and technical programmes that integrate CITES requirements.
 - 3.3.3 The number of Parties cooperating / collaborating with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in and/or fund CITES workshops and other training and capacity-building activities.
- Objective 3.4 The contribution of CITES to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, the sustainable development goals set at WSSD, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.
- 3.4.1 The conservation status of species listed on the CITES Appendices has stabilized or improved.
 - 3.4.2 The number of Parties incorporating CITES into their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).
- Objective 3.5 Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, as appropriate, in order to achieve a coherent and collaborative approach to species which can be endangered by unsustainable trade, including those which are commercially exploited.
- 3.5.1 The number of cooperative actions taken under established bilateral or multilateral agreements to prevent species from being unsustainably exploited through international trade.
 - 3.5.2 The number of times other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources are consulted on issues relevant to species subject to unsustainable trade.