

Evolution of the Convention
STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE SECRETARIAT

This document has been prepared and submitted by the Secretariat.

In accordance with a decision of the eighteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (March 1989), the Secretariat prepared and the Conference of the Parties adopted at its seventh meeting a long-term Strategic Plan for the Secretariat (Doc. 7.7.1).

Since then, the Secretariat has twice proposed amendments to the Plan, which were accepted by the Standing Committee at its twenty-first and twenty-seventh meetings.

During the five years that have passed since the adoption of the Strategic Plan, the Secretariat has presented to the Standing Committee six periodic reports on the implementation of the Plan.

At the twenty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee (March 1993), which coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Convention, it was agreed that some of the specific objectives laid down in document Doc. 7.7.1 had already been achieved.

Accordingly, the Secretariat presented to the Standing Committee a preliminary scheme for a new strategic plan for the Secretariat (Doc. SC.31.7) and sought its opinion. With one addition, the scheme was adopted by the Standing Committee.

At the same time, the Standing Committee recognized the need for an objective independent review of the effectiveness of the implementation regime developed since the entry into force of the Convention, of the extent to which all States and territories use the full potential of the Convention, and of the actions needed to improve the effectiveness of the Convention.

The proposal for this review, which will provide the Parties with the information necessary to make an informed response to these issues, is contained in document Doc. 9.18. It was prepared by Canada as the representative of the North American region in the Standing Committee, in accordance with a decision taken at the thirty-first meeting of the Standing Committee (March 1994). During the discussions on the outline of the proposal, it was agreed that it would not provide immediate answers that would influence

the substance of the current Plan for the work of the Secretariat but, if accepted, it should provide the "basis for a new Strategic Plan for the Convention, to be discussed at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties."

The Secretariat accordingly presents its Plan (Annex) which is a modified, more detailed continuation of the present long-term Strategic Plan of the Secretariat adopted in 1989, focusing on the last two to three years of the cycle which it refers. It incorporates the relevant decisions of the Standing Committee on the planning process (Doc. SC.31.7).

As agreed by the Conference of the Parties, this revision of the Plan reflects the fact that "different sections of the Plan change at different rates". While the specific objectives for each budget cycle are subject to constant substantive changes, "the medium-term goals undergo a slower evolution" and the mission remains "stable unless there is a major change in emphasis for the Convention, and therefore for the CITES Secretariat" (Doc. 7.7.1).

The main thrust of the Plan is worldwide coverage and strict implementation of the Convention through procedures that are as simplified as possible.

The work on the last point about "simplification" was started by the Secretariat more than two years ago by overhauling the Resolutions and streamlining all the decisions of the Conference of the Parties (see documents Doc. 9.19, 9.19.1, 9.19.2, 9.20). This is evidence of the continuity of the whole process of planning and development of the Convention. The plan is an open system, drawing from past experience and with a great degree of flexibility for measures on the move, to reflect changing programme management arrangements.

Unfortunately, for a totally different reason, the Plan is by necessity an even more open system than the Secretariat would like it to be. As is known, the regular budget of the Trust Fund does not provide resources for many important activities, including activities vital for the operation of the Convention. Consequently, because of the uncertain and irregular flow of external funding, the Secretariat often has to postpone the implementation of such tasks or, in some cases, even to abandon them for the foreseeable future.

Doc. 9.17 Annex

Strategic Plan for the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade
in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

I Introduction

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was signed by 25 States on 3 March 1973 at a Plenipotentiary Conference in Washington, D. C. and during the next few days, and entered into force after the tenth ratification or accession, on 1 July 1975.

Over the years that have passed since 1973, the scope of the Convention has evolved dramatically. Geographically, it already covers whole continents. 124 States are Parties to it. At the same time, the number of species – both animals and plants – on its appendices has increased enormously, to almost 39,000.

The two decades of CITES existence and growth have proven its vitality but revealed also serious weaknesses stemming mainly from improper implementation practices and lack of resources. A critical look at the past confirms that the potential of the Convention is far from being fully used by all Parties as an indispensable tool in their continuous efforts to prevent depletion and to manage more efficiently wild fauna and flora resources.

Within the comparatively broad mandate given to it under Article XII of the Convention, the Secretariat can and ought to help the Parties to make their efforts more effective. This Strategic Plan is a modified and more detailed elaboration of the long-term Strategic Plan for the Secretariat, adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Doc. 7.7.1 Annex). It is intended to provide guidance on how that assistance

should be delivered over the last two to three years of the period, defined in paragraph 1 of the above-mentioned document.

II Mission

To administer the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in accordance with its provisions and the decisions of its supreme governing body, the Conference of the Parties, and in co-operation with the Parties to the Convention, States not yet Parties to CITES, international organizations, governmental and non-governmental conservation organizations, wildlife management or trade agencies and organizations and private individuals, so as to ensure achievement of the long-term goal that no species of wild fauna and flora becomes threatened with extinction or subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade.

1. Article XII of the Convention gives the Secretariat a very broad mandate to perform a number of tasks in the service of the Convention and the Parties that adhere to it.
2. It is however also very important to understand what the CITES Secretariat can not do. The CITES Secretariat can not dictate policy to the Parties, collectively or individually, nor it can serve only the interest of any one Party or a group of Parties. Further, it is not an international wildlife enforcement agency, empowered to investigate allegations of infractions against national legislation. The Secretariat can not take legal action against either persons or States.

III Expected Results

The ultimate purpose of the Convention is twofold: on one hand, to provide within the scope of its legal authority for the security of wild fauna and flora resources and, on the other hand, to provide for commercial trade in wildlife that is sustainable and beneficial to the conservation of species and ecosystems and to the well-being of the people in range States.

The present Strategic Plan of the Secretariat is a tool through which the Secretariat carries out its mission in a way responsive to the changing needs and priorities of the Parties, thus facilitating the achievement of the above-stated purpose of the Convention.

The expected result of the realization of the Plan is the more effective use of the full potential of the Convention and the strict implementation of all its provisions by all Parties.

IV Medium-term Goals and Specific Objectives

Long-term goals are seldom if ever completely fulfilled. More specific direction is needed for shorter terms, otherwise there is a danger that activities will be poorly focused and uncoordinated. Therefore a set of medium-term goals has been elaborated for the next two to three years in order to focus the Secretariat's work on providing at least a partial solution to the main problems on the way to achieving the long-term goal.

A

The problems, as identified by the Secretariat and agreed by the Standing Committee, are as follows:

1. Lack of or insufficient knowledge of the current state of wildlife resources that are subject or expected to be subject to international trade as well as of the trends in international trade and consumption of wildlife.
2. Lack of agreement among the concerned partners, even within the CITES community, on the nature, scope and

causes of depletion of wildlife resources and of ecosystem damage and on the linkages between conservation problems and present trade practices.

3. Almost 60 States are not yet Parties to CITES and on the map of the world there are still noticeable parts that are important in the context of wildlife trade but are not covered by the Convention.
4. Lack of or flaws in relevant national legislation and development-planning processes.
5. Problems with the implementation and enforcement of CITES. Without pretending to present a complete list of these, the Secretariat is very much preoccupied by the following problems:
 - a) Differences between national legislations for CITES implementation, which make implementation more complicated
 - b) Insufficient border controls
 - c) Inadequate management of trade statistics
 - d) Late and incomplete national reports
 - e) Incomplete or erroneous information on CITES permits
 - f) Acceptance of irregular CITES documents
 - g) Lack of training of staff in Management Authorities and of enforcement officers
 - h) Poor co-operation among Parties to combat smuggling
 - i) Insufficient co-ordination between Scientific and Management Authorities
 - j) Irregular monitoring of ranching and captive-breeding operations
 - k) Lack of interest to control conditions of transportation of live animals
 - l) Insufficient control of circuses
 - m) Inadequate transit control
 - n) Inadequate monitoring of trade with overseas territories belonging to Parties
 - o) Establishment and monitoring of national quotas.
6. Lack of or constant insufficiency of resources (both human and financial).
7. Lack of objective, knowledge among the general public, of CITES, its aims, scope and operational practices.

B

The following medium-term goals chart the outline of how the Secretariat plans to move towards implementing its long-term Plan.

In order to ensure more tangible results, a set of measurable specific objectives and samples of tasks for the short term is included. The latter directly address the individual problems identified above. The extent to which the concrete tasks are achieved is the real measure of any progress, year by year.

1. Provide increased support to Parties to enhance knowledge about the current state of wildlife resources that are subject or expected to be subject to international trade and about the main trends in this trade.

This would assist Parties and the Conference of the Parties in determining whether or not species should be listed in the CITES appendices. The inclusion of species in the CITES appendices or their deletion from the appendices is naturally the most controversial and politicized issue in the context of CITES and is decisive for the development of the Convention.

Within the broad authority given by the treaty to the Secretariat, it can and must assist the Parties in assessing the current state of resources and consequently in reaching their conclusions about individual species by "undertaking scientific and technical studies". The sole aim of such studies is to provide reliable data and experts' opinions that will help the Parties in reaching conclusive decisions whether species meet the criteria for listing or for transfer and to provide advice about setting quotas if necessary.

At the same time, the achievement of this medium-term goal would help the Parties immensely in preparation of wildlife management plans. Any action must be based on a good knowledge of the status and biology of the species and on a precise conclusion whether a population is declining and, if so, on a firm diagnosis of the cause of decline.

1.1 Develop and carry out through contracts, subject to availability of resources, projects that respond to the needs of the Parties to develop and implement the necessary biological studies and appropriate management plans for different species.

Without prejudicing the carrying out of studies on other species, the Secretariat, following requests from Parties and recommendations of the CITES permanent committees, will give priority to the studies of the following species during the next several years:

- Cacti
- Cycads
- Orchids
- African elephant
- Argali
- Asian pangolins
- Boids from South America
- Brown bear
- Cats and more specifically – lynx
- Chameleons and geckos
- Cockatoos
- Crocodiles
- Finches
- Monitor lizards
- Guanaco
- Some parrots
- Peccaries
- Queen conch
- Saiga antelope
- Sea turtles
- Soft-shelled tortoise
- Vicuna

1.2 As far as Appendix-I species are concerned, actively encourage Parties to develop and implement recovery plans for these species, whenever appropriate.

- Initiate the preparation of a set of standards for these plans which has to be ready for the Standing Committee meeting in 1996.

1.3 As far as Appendix-II species are concerned, help to ensure, to the extent possible under the mandate of the Secretariat, the impeccable implementation of the mechanism established in Resolution Conf. 8.9 for correcting problems in implementation of Article IV of the Convention. The Secretariat is of the opinion that this should refer to both animal and plant species.

1.4 Organize during the first half of 1996 a symposium on the linkages between conservation problems and trends in international trade in and consumption of wildlife (with working groups for the

following groups of products: medicines, leather and textiles).

2. Ensure worldwide coverage of CITES.

2.1 Extend the membership of CITES.

Special efforts will be made, using contacts already established, to ensure the accession to CITES before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of at least:

- five more States from the Near East
- half of the countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States
- the States non-party to CITES from Indochina
- two more States from West Africa
- two more States from the Caribbean region
- States from the South Pacific region.

It should be noted that for the majority of non-party States the main factors that may be deterring them from acceding to CITES are of an administrative nature. Practically, unlike the case for some other environmental conventions, there is no fundamental political disagreement with the objectives or the provisions of CITES. States, not party to CITES are more often deterred by insufficient knowledge about the Convention, the long procedures necessary for accession or ratification, the lengthy process of enacting appropriate national legislation for the implementation of the Convention, fear that this implementation is excessively costly, and a lack of planned resources to fulfil the direct financial obligations to the Trust Fund.

2.2 Further develop systematic contacts with relevant competent authorities in States not-party to the Convention and, with the consent of the Parties concerned, in territories under the sovereignty of Parties but enjoying relative autonomy, in order to ensure broader co-operation for the better implementation of CITES worldwide.

3. Enhance support to the Parties for the more effective implementation of the Convention.

3.1 Provide direct assistance to the Management Authorities of all new Parties for the implementation of the Convention.

- All new Parties should receive a visit from a representative of the Secretariat within six months after ratification or accession.

3.2 Assist the Parties in the development of national legislation to allow the full implementation of CITES.

- Following a decision of the Conference of the Parties in Resolution Conf. 8.4 the Secretariat has finished the first phase of a major exercise to improve national legislation to implement CITES (see document Doc. 9.24). The second phase will begin in 1995, in parallel with the other actions proposed in document Doc. 9.24 Annex 2.
- Project A-097 on technical assistance to Guyana for development of national legislation to implement CITES will be continued and, subject to availability of resources, similar projects for other countries will be initiated.

3.3 Provide assistance to Parties for the enforcement of CITES.

Apart from the actions that will stem from the proposed decisions of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties after the discussions on documents Doc. 9.25 and Doc. 9.25.1:

- the close contacts with the Wildlife crime working group of Interpol and with the Customs Co-operation Council will be further developed; and
- the Secretariat will continue actively to support the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement and to encourage broader accession to it by African States as well as the undertaking of similar initiatives in other parts of the world and in particular in the East Asian subregion.

Subject to the availability of resources:

- projects for assisting enforcement in specific regions, similar to the continuing project A-072 on enforcement in Eastern European countries, will be initiated. Priority will be given to the Indochina peninsula, the island Asian States, North-east Africa.

3.4 Diversify, through contracts, the tools provided to Parties for the identification of CITES specimens to make it more practical and easier.

- Produce a new version of the checklist of CITES fauna and flora. Work will start in early 1995.
- Produce a revised version of the annotated appendices and reservations. Subject to securing the necessary funding, work will start during the first half of 1995.
- Publish with the help of the Governments of the United Kingdom and Japan a "CITES Guide to Plants in Trade", before February 1995.
- Continue developing and updating the CITES Identification Manual in different languages.

3.5 Assist the Parties to achieve the better and faster preparation of their annual reports, in pursuance of the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 7a, of the Convention.

- Subject to approval, a project will be carried out from November 1994 to November 1996 to analyze what improvements are needed in national reporting of trade in plants and how to achieve them (see Doc. 9.34).
- The preliminary work for establishing a standard system of computer software for production of annual reports is at a rather advanced stage. The Secretariat will try to finalize the work before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3.6 Develop a programme for training of staff in Management Authorities, Customs and police services as well as scientific and other officials for the better understanding of the Convention and its implementation. Increase the number of individuals trained in courses and seminars developed, sponsored or initiated by the CITES Secretariat. Encourage Parties to develop their own national training programmes for their staff.

Subject to availability of funds:

- Organize in 1995-96 training seminars either on a **regional basis** [Francophone Central Africa, northern and southern Africa and Middle East, European Union, eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), central Asia] or on **specific issues** (officers of European NCB of Interpol, enforcement, computerization of trade data and annual reports, establishment of national quotas).
- Assist Parties in training at national level. For this assistance, the Secretariat provides instructors and, in co-operation with the Party concerned, selects the appropriate teaching method and establishes the programme. The Party concerned is responsible for all the technical arrangements, invitations, etc. The Secretariat has received requests from India, Poland, France, the Russian Federation and Bulgaria.
- Co-operate with other organizations in training government officials (UNEP for lawyers, Customs Co-operation Council for Customs officers, USFWS for enforcement officers).

In addition to the above:

- Continue the development of transparencies to be used for training, and if the funding is available, expect to be in a position to publish the "Customs Training Package" with CCC.
- A specialized seminar on computerization of trade data will be organized in Cambridge (UK).
- Annual orientation meetings with focal points in the countries' Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva or Embassies in Bern will be organized, starting in February 1995.

3.7 Subject to availability of resources, regional CITES meetings will be organized in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

These meetings, like the training activities specified in 3.6 will be focused on CITES implementation issues typical for the Parties in the region. At the same time, all these undertakings will be used to encourage the development of systematic cross-sectoral co-ordination at both national and international levels.

3.8 Initiate in the second half of 1995 the preparation of "CITES Implementation Manual"

4. Expand public awareness of CITES.

4.1 Develop an expanded public-awareness programme that explains the objectives and the importance of the Convention, its evolution and especially the decisions taken at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- Progress in meeting this specific objective will be evident from increased contacts with the various media – press, TV and radio – as well as with special audiences such as airline companies, industry, trade associations and travel agents. Other indicators will include the number of publications and audio/visual packages produced.

4.2 Further assist through active participation in the editorial committee of "C&M/CITES Magazine" its development as a valuable tool in the CITES public-awareness campaign.

5. Actively promote the concept of sustainable development, especially within the CITES community. Solicitously regulated trade in wildlife at sustainable levels is a better option than allowing unsustainable trade to lead to depletion that almost irreversibly brings in listing in Appendix I and later even stricter domestic measures. It is difficult to measure progress toward this objective but tangible results can be obtained through educating people about the important positive role that meticulously controlled wildlife use can have in the safeguarding of both species and ecosystems.
6. Develop further intensified co-operation with the CITES partners in the international arena. Special attention will be given to:
 - IUCN, TRAFFIC, WCMC, WWF
 - The secretariats of other environmental conventions: Biodiversity, Ramsar, Migratory Species, World Heritage, Bern.
 - EUC, CCC, Interpol, IWC, ICCAT, ITTO, IATA.
7. Improve the internal organization of work in the Secretariat. Assist the personal career development of staff members.
 - 7.1 Actively participate in the elaboration of the necessary and feasible common services (library, conference rooms, a small administrative unit, maintenance of electronic equipment) in the Geneva Executive Centre.
 - 7.2 Modernize the communications and office equipment of the CITES Secretariat:
 - update the computer system of the Secretariat
 - ensure that the Secretariat can use e-mail from early 1995

- ensure access of the Secretariat to the networks and databases of as many of the partners mentioned in paragraph 6 as possible.

7.3 A workshop for the professional staff members of the Secretariat for improving their managerial skills and individual and team performance will be organized in February 1995 with the Human Resources Department of UNEP.

7.4 In co-operation with UNOG and UNITAR ensure regular participation of all staff members in training and language courses.

V Financial Resources

Meeting the goals and objectives, and carrying out the tasks specified above, requires large financial resources. The budget presentations of the Secretariat document (Doc. 9.10) were developed in conjunction with the long-term Plan and provide a clear insight about what is needed as a minimum in order to achieve substantive progress in its fulfilment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, as always, a very substantial part of the essential activities will have to be covered by external funding. In an ideal world this should amount to USD 5.8 million for the next biennium. (This is less than for the previous biennium.)

Since, however, the world is far from being ideal, a careful prioritization and, by necessity, painful cuts will probably have to be made in such vital programmes as species studies and capacity building. The Secretariat nonetheless submits this ambitious detailed revision of the Plan established for it by the Conference of the Parties because it firmly believes that the proposed actions should be carried out and because it hopes that its time-consuming and often frustrating fund-raising activities together with the good will of the generous donors will match the requirements of the Plan to the maximum extent possible.

Evolution of the Convention

HOW TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONVENTION

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------|--|--|--|------------|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------|---|--|--|----------------|---|--|
| <p>1. This document was prepared by Canada as the Representative of North America on the Standing Committee, as agreed by the Standing Committee at its 31st meeting (Geneva, 21-25 March, 1994).</p> <p>2. CITES has now been in effect for almost than twenty years. During that period the number of conservation conventions has multiplied many times. CITES remains a leader in the field, with the largest number of Parties, and very active participation by a large number and range of other States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Many Parties have put in place extensive, and sometimes elaborate, systems for the implementation of the Convention. Many other participants have established programmes to assist in implementation, or to monitor the implementation efforts of Parties. A very active, professional Secretariat has been established and enhanced over the past twenty years, and the Parties have established a comprehensive complex of permanent committees to advise the Conference of the Parties and to carry on its work between meetings.</p> <p>3. The Convention has had some notable successes, and it is important to acknowledge them. Many participants think that it can become even more effective at achieving its fundamental objective of ensuring that wild fauna and flora in their many and beautiful forms are protected for this and the generations to come through the protection of certain species against over-exploitation through international trade (paraphrase of the CITES Preamble). Improving the implementation of the Convention should be a permanent objective of the Parties.</p> <p>4. At its 31st meeting the Standing Committee recognized the need for additional information if Parties are to make good decisions. It is not always easy to quantify the conservation benefits to a species of listing it in the CITES appendices. It is not easy to make definitive judgements about the effectiveness or the efficiency of the current provisions of the Convention, nor to make definitive judgements about the implementation regime that has developed over the past 20 years. It can be difficult to separate the effects of CITES from the effects of domestic legislation, or of other international instruments.</p> <p>5. Time constraints did not allow for complete discussion at the Standing Committee meeting of a proposal for an objective review conducted by an independent consultant. The Regional Representative for North America was directed to discuss the concept with the</p> | <p>Secretariat and to prepare a proposal for consideration at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>6. A draft of the substantive portions of the terms of reference for Phase 1 of such a project are in the attached Annex. Should the project be approved, administrative details would be added by the Standing Committee and Secretariat. The Standing Committee would also be responsible for deciding whether to extend the project to include additional phases that would examine specific subjects identified in Phase 1.</p> <p>7. The Conference is requested to approve the draft terms of reference and to assign the responsibility for the management of the process to the Standing Committee in accordance with the following timetable (approximate, depending on the dates of meetings of the Standing Committee):</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Issue Request for Proposals for phase 1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">December 1994</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">– contractor selected by delegated group of the Standing Committee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Confirmation of Contractor and Phase 1 Details</td> <td style="text-align: right;">March 1995</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">– initial phase to take place from March 95 to August 95</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Presentation of Results of Phase 1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">September 1995</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">– Standing Committee to decide on the details of additional work on specific topics</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Results of additional work and Recommendations</td> <td style="text-align: right;">September 1996</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Presentation to COP10 by the Standing Committee</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>8. If the project is approved, the Conference is requested to consider the financial implications during their examination of the proposed budget. The total costs for Phase 1 are not expected to exceed CHF 200,000. Further costs will be incurred for additional work on specific topics, and the Conference is asked to consider establishing a budget allocation of CHF 300,000 to be assigned at the discretion of the Standing Committee.</p> <p>9. If this project is approved and financed, the Parties are requested to extend all possible assistance to the Standing Committee and the selected contractor in the timely completion of the project.</p> | Issue Request for Proposals for phase 1 | December 1994 | – contractor selected by delegated group of the Standing Committee | | Confirmation of Contractor and Phase 1 Details | March 1995 | – initial phase to take place from March 95 to August 95 | | Presentation of Results of Phase 1 | September 1995 | – Standing Committee to decide on the details of additional work on specific topics | | Results of additional work and Recommendations | September 1996 | Presentation to COP10 by the Standing Committee | |
| Issue Request for Proposals for phase 1 | December 1994 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – contractor selected by delegated group of the Standing Committee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Confirmation of Contractor and Phase 1 Details | March 1995 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – initial phase to take place from March 95 to August 95 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Presentation of Results of Phase 1 | September 1995 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| – Standing Committee to decide on the details of additional work on specific topics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Results of additional work and Recommendations | September 1996 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Presentation to COP10 by the Standing Committee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Doc. 9.18 Annex

Draft Terms of Reference for a Study on How to Improve the Effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <u>Background</u></p> <p>At its ninth meeting, in Fort Lauderdale, USA, the Conference of the Parties to CITES assigned to its Standing Committee the responsibility to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the provisions and implementation of the Convention, and to report its findings to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Information on the reasons for the review, and a</p> | <p>summary of the views expressed by the Parties can be found in the working papers of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Standing Committee intends to conduct the review in several phases. The first phase will commence immediately after selection of the contractor, in early 1995.</p> <p>Additional background information about the treaty can be obtained from several sources, including the</p> |
|---|--|

Secretariat itself. Recent overviews can be found in the Fact Sheets produced by IUCN – The World Conservation Union at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and in the book *The Evolution of CITES* by Willem Wijnstekers (available from the CITES Secretariat).

2. Aim of the Study

The principal aim is to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the current provisions of CITES and the way it is implemented to achieve the objective of the Convention: ensuring that wild fauna and flora in their many and beautiful forms are protected for this and the generations to come through the protection of certain species against over-exploitation through international trade (paraphrase of the CITES Preamble).

Subsequently, recommendations will be prepared for consideration by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties or by other CITES bodies as appropriate.

3. Scope of the Study

Phase 1

The chosen contractor will present a detailed study design for an initial survey phase that will provide information about a range of topics, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

- a) the stated and implied objectives of the Convention and their continued relevance to the conservation of wild fauna and flora;
- b) the extent to which the conservation status of a representative selection of species listed in each of the three appendices of CITES has changed, and the extent to which the change can be attributed to the application of CITES, in both party and non-party States;
- c) the relationship of CITES to other global and regional conservation instruments, especially those purporting to affect the conservation status of wild fauna and flora, and the extent to which the objectives of CITES are helped or hindered by the existence and implementation of the other instruments;
- d) the ease of implementation of CITES under the various legal and administrative regimes in party States; and
- e) the expected and actual roles of the various categories of participant in the implementation of CITES, including but not necessarily limited to:
 - i) party States;
 - ii) non-party States;
 - iii) international conservation organizations;
 - iv) national conservation organizations;
 - v) intergovernmental conservation, development and trade organizations;
 - vi) national and international trade organizations.

The contractor should make recommendations to address problems in the implementation of the Convention or information gaps identified during Phase 1 of the study.

Subsequent Phase(s)

Optional additional phases of the review may be considered to elaborate on the specific findings and recommendations of Phase 1.

4. Submission and Evaluation of Tenders

Tenders to undertake the review must be received at the CITES Secretariat, 15 chemin des Anémones, Case postale 456, CH-1219 Châtelaine-Geneva, Switzerland, no later than 31 January 1995.

Tenders should include:

- a) a proposed methodology for the conduct of the review that will ensure adequate consideration of the full range of views present in the community of CITES participants;
- b) a description of the organization, its past experience and record in undertaking similar or relevant tasks and references that may be contacted regarding such projects;
- c) a description of the qualifications and experience of the proposed project team, which should include at a minimum members with qualifications in biology and ecology, wildlife conservation and management, economics, and an understanding of various socio-economic situations and legal systems;
- d) a demonstrated ability to communicate in the three working languages of CITES; and
- e) a proposed fee for the conduct of the review, divided into such phases as required by the proposed methodology, including at least the conduct of an initial review, and preparation of final recommendations.

The Standing Committee may decide to limit the award of a contract to one or more phases of any proposed project, and may choose to award different portions of the project to different contractors.

5. Schedule

Tenders to undertake the review must be received at the CITES Secretariat, 15 chemin des Anémones, Case postale 456, CH-1219 Châtelaine-Geneva, Switzerland, no later than 31 January 1995.

Selection of the successful tenderer, if any, will be carried out by the Standing Committee and the award of the contract made public by the end of March 1995.

The successful contractor(s) must be prepared to submit a preliminary analysis of review information by 30 September 1995.

The Standing Committee will decide by 31 December 1995 whether to extend the project to include further data collection and analysis, and will establish the schedule for such further reports as it may require.

Final recommendations from the review will be presented to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, after circulation no later than 150 days in advance of that meeting.