

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES*

Sustainable use of and trade in CITES species

NOTING that the sustainable use of natural resources is the basis of human livelihoods and viable local communities;

ACKNOWLEDGING that peoples and States are and should be the best protectors of their own wild flora and fauna;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the concept of sustainable use is being incorporated as the basis for responsible management of natural resources by States and regional management bodies as well as international organizations;

NOTING that the conservation and management of living natural resources is governed by a multitude of international and regional agreements, and that the existing body of international law sets forth important principles for conservation and sustainable use;

NOTING the IUCN 2000 Policy Statement on Sustainable use of Wild Living Resources stating that "Both consumptive and non-consumptive use of biological diversity are fundamental to the economies, cultures, and well-being of all nations and peoples" and that "Use, if sustainable, can serve human needs on an ongoing basis while contributing to the conservation of biological diversity";

NOTING the importance of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in protecting certain species against overexploitation through regulation of international trade;

NOTING that the Conference of the Parties has endorsed the principle of sustainable use in its work, in particular through its Resolution Conf. 8.3 stating that "trade in wildlife products may be beneficial to the conservation of species and ecosystems (and/or to the development of local people) when carried out at levels that are not detrimental to the survival of the species in question";

NOTING the need to base the inclusion of species in the Appendices, and the deletion of species therefrom, on the best scientific advice;

NOTING the difficulties related to deletion of species from the Appendices or downlisting of species even when this has been warranted under the CITES criteria or when the criteria for inclusion are no longer met;

RECOGNIZING the necessity of involving indigenous knowledge in the efforts to achieve protection and sustainable use of wild fauna and flora;

AWARE of the considerable risk of using trade restrictions as protectionist measures under cover of scientific uncertainty;

NOTING that the objectives of conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits are all fundamental principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

* This document has been prepared on the basis of document CoP12 Doc. 17, after discussion in Committee II

NOTING that international resource management agreements and their executive bodies provide essential insights into practicable policies on sustainable use in resource management;

ACCEPTING that Resolution Conf. 10.4 and the Memorandum of Cooperation acknowledge the need for cooperation and synergies between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

NOTING the importance of harmonization between related conventions to achieve synergies and improve the effectiveness of international work;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOMMENDS that:

- a) CITES seek close cooperation with *inter alia* the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and FAO ~~to develop guidelines on~~ **aimed at harmonizing** the interpretation of the principle of sustainable use in order to ~~harmonize improve the implementation of CITES with the objective of sustainable use in synergy with~~ the CBD and other relevant international management organizations **in order to ensure that international trade in wildlife and wildlife products is sustainable**;
- b) the CITES Secretariat, on the basis of elaborations by the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, prepare a proposal for the application of the CITES listing criteria in a manner that supports the objective of sustainable use, **taking into account the objectives of sustainable trade and sustainable development**, with the aim of adopting this proposal at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) ~~the Parties consider ways of validating the CITES Appendices, e.g. by an automatic review of listed species every fifth year or by the introduction of a 'sunset clause' for a suitable period~~ **CITES consider ways of developing a more effective mechanism for review of the Appendices, *inter alia*, through formalization and regularization of the existing review procedures under the Plants and Animals Committees, taking into account the biological dynamics of the various taxonomic groups, aimed at facilitating any appropriate changes in the Appendices.**