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ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

ENHANCING NATIONAL CAPACITIES TO ASSESS WILDLIFE TRADE POLICIES IN SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

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I Overview of the initiative

This joint initiative will build national institutional and human capacities in developing countries to assess, design and implement effective and sustainable national wildlife trade policies. The initiative responds directly to calls by governments for international support in the review of their wildlife trade policies and brings together the expertise of the joint United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED) of the University of Geneva. The core of the initiative is the implementation of pilot country studies in four developing countries with balanced representation from all regions.

As an initial step in this initiative, a Wildlife Trade Assessment Framework for reviewing national wildlife trade policies will be developed by IUED in close coordination with, and drawing on assessment methodologies developed by, CITES and UNEP. The framework methodology will include guidance on how to adapt the methodologies to fit local needs and conditions. Using this guidance, each country will select its preferred methodologies from the framework, and customize these to reflect their particular national circumstances.

Once the methodologies have been adapted, national institutions, with the support of the international project partners, will undertake a review of national wildlife trade policy(ies) to identify their content as well as assess their economic, social and environmental impacts. Integrated national responses, including traditional regulatory policies, economic incentives, scientific/technical measures and voluntary measures, will then be developed to respond to the outcomes of the integrated assessment. The policy recommendations will seek to reduce poverty and ensure conservation of wildlife resources while allowing for their sustainable trade – thereby contributing to national sustainable development objectives.

Results gathered during the integrated assessments will be set out in Country Project Reports, and compiled into a Final Synthesis Report. To support the development of national institutional capacity, assure a self-sustaining follow-up, and to assess the impact of the project, IUED will undertake several studies concurrently with project implementation.

An international meeting will be organized to disseminate results from the initiative and encourage the use of the Wildlife Trade Assessment Framework by other countries.

II The need for the initiative

This initiative responds to CITES Conference of Parties (COP) Decisions calling for the review of “national (wildlife trade) policies regarding the use and trade in specimens of CITES-listed species” and assessing their social, economic and environmental impacts. As one of the oldest multilateral environmental agreements, CITES aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It works by listing the species covered by CITES on three Appendices according to the degree of protection required, and by subjecting

international trade in selected species to certain controls, essentially through a licensing system.

For many countries, national wildlife trade policies have been developed in isolation from other government policies with limited coordination between relevant ministries and agencies. Yet there is increasing recognition that a coherent set of policy instruments and an integrative approach to policymaking is necessary to ensure that wildlife trade policies benefit the environment, local communities, promote CITES implementation as well as support national goals relating to the trade, conservation and sustainable use of wild species. In designing wildlife trade policies for CITES-listed species, it is important that national policymakers clearly understand the threats (e.g. land conversion, illegal takings, etc.) and opportunities (sustainable harvesting, eco-tourism, etc.) related to the sustainable management of their wild flora and fauna and evaluate the environmental, social and economic impacts of those policies.

Specifically, at the 12th COP meeting in 2002, CITES Member States recognized the need for international support in the review of wildlife trade policies. They called for the CITES Secretariat to organize a technical workshop on wildlife trade policies in order to develop a methodology for reviewing trade policies and to conduct a review of national policies regarding the use of and trade in CITES-listed species (Decision 12.22). At the subsequent COP meeting in 2004, CITES Parties again called for reviewing the social-economic and conservation benefits and costs of national wildlife trade policies (Decision 13.74). This project is the first international initiative to respond directly to the calls by governments for international support in the review of wildlife trade policies. By assessing the impacts of wildlife trade policies this project will provide national policy-makers with information and methodologies to aid the design of policies that benefit biodiversity conservation, the implementation of CITES, and ultimately sustainable development.

In addition, this project responds to a number of international agreements and declarations. The UN Millennium Development Goals call for reducing poverty, and ensuring environmental sustainability, specifically through integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes. The project also supports the Plan of Implementation agreed to at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which emphasized the importance of taking a “holistic and inter-sector approach to sustainable development,” and encouraged the design and implementation of integrated policies, plans and programmes. Moreover, the WTO Doha Declaration recognized the importance of capacity building for developing countries in the field of trade and environment and encouraged “expertise and experience be shared with Members wishing to perform environmental reviews at the national level”.

III Objectives

The overall aim of this initiative is to provide the foundation and impetus for assessing, designing and implementing national wildlife trade policies that further CITES implementation and support national sustainable development and poverty reduction goals.

The specific objectives of this initiative include:

- Enhancing the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to review national wildlife trade policy(ies) and to assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of those policies.
- Assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop national action plans that incorporate environmental, social and economic considerations into national wildlife trade policies.
- Exchanging national experiences among participating countries on best practices for the development and implementation of national wildlife trade policies.
- Refining a general framework on assessment methodologies that can be used by pilot countries and other interested countries to assess their national wildlife trade policies.
- To support and improve the implementation of CITES.

IV Description of activities

The following is an overview of the main activities of the initiative:

- As a first step, the project partners (the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force, CITES and IUED) will form a Steering Committee to guide implementation of the project. Throughout the project, the Steering Committee will coordinate and provide technical backstopping for all aspects of country project implementation, including a presence in the initial and final national workshops for each project.
- The Steering Committee will convene an International Advisory Group (IAG) of international experts and representatives from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions to advise them on implementation of the project. Among other things, the IAG will assist the Steering Committee in refining a Wildlife Trade Assessment Framework for reviewing national wildlife trade policies.
- IUED will take the lead in developing the Wildlife Trade Assessment Framework receiving advice and guidance from the Steering Committee and the International Advisory Group, and drawing on a wide range of existing work on general policy analysis, integrated assessment and indicators developed by CITES, UNEP and others.
- Country capacity-building projects will be initiated in four developing countries. The country projects will be selected by the Steering Committee, based on agreed criteria. The Steering Committee will also identify potential partners and contacts within these countries.
- A launch meeting will be convened in the first half of the initiative to inform representatives from international organizations (e.g. UNCTAD, UNDP, the World Bank), NGOs (e.g. International Institute for Sustainable Development and

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development) and Geneva-based government missions on the project's objectives and address their questions and concerns.

Major elements of the country projects will include:

- Finalization of MoUs between the Steering Committees and the designated national institutions in the four selected countries, with the active participation of relevant government ministries (e.g. trade and environment).
- Establishment of National Steering Committees to help guide development and implementation of the projects. The Steering Committees will include national CITES authorities, other relevant government ministries, national non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and other relevant stakeholders.
- Convening of initial national workshops to launch the country studies. Training will be provided for national project partners on techniques and methodologies to support implementing the wildlife trade policy assessment processes. Initial National Steering Committee Meetings will be held back-to-back to develop lists of relevant stakeholders to be involved in the projects.
- Review of national wildlife trade policies by the national institutions and assessment of their environmental, social and economic impacts, following the customisation of the framework methodology.
- Convening of subsequent national workshops to discuss project implementation, disseminate project results, and ensure the active participation of stakeholders.
- Convening of an international workshop, held back-to-back with CITES COP-14, after the completion of the national wildlife trade policy reviews. The purpose is to discuss the assessment studies, receive feedback and provide a forum for participants to learn from and establish networks with institutions and colleagues from other participating countries.
- Design of integrated national responses and action plans to address the outcomes of the integrated assessments.
- Preparation of Country Project Reports describing the process and methodology used in undertaking the integrated assessments, the main stakeholders and their participation, the results from the assessment processes, and the national policy response developed.

Throughout project implementation, IUED will prepare the following studies analysing various aspects of the initiative:

- Background study on current national trade in CITES-listed species.
- Study on “Lessons Learned from the National Steering Committee Experience”

focusing on the governance process of each National Steering Committee.

- Post-Capacity Building Study to analyse the social, economic and environmental impacts of the project, and to identify best practices and recommendations for countries undertaking assessments of national wildlife trade policies in the future.

At the conclusion of the country projects, the Steering Committee will:

- Prepare a Final Synthesis Report summarizing the results of the four country projects, and the outputs from any international discussions by CITES Parties at COP-14, including the findings from IUED's research studies.
- Following the completion of the Final Synthesis Report, the Steering Committee will organize an international meeting in Geneva to discuss the initiative, disseminate project results and encourage further assessment activities in support of CITES implementation.