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CITES mandate for wildlife trade policy reviews

International Advisory Group
Geneva, 19-20 June 2006

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Antecedents

- Rio Declaration (in particular Principles 1 to 12)
- CBD national biodiversity strategies
- OECD policy reviews and environmental performance reviews
- Negotiations under Doha Ministerial Declaration on WTO rules and specific trade obligations of MEAs
- ERM assessment of CITES effectiveness (1996)

2000

- At CoP11, Parties adopted the Strategic Vision through 2005 (now extended to 2007)
- Objective 1.1 is to assist in the development of appropriate domestic legislation and policies that encourage the adoption and implementation of social and economic incentives, allied to legal instruments that:
 - Promote and regulate sustainable management of wild fauna and flora
 - Promote and regulate responsible trade in wild fauna and flora and
 - Promote the effective enforcement of the Convention

2001

- With EU support, a workshop for 11 mega-biodiversity exporting countries was held in January 2001 inter alia to look at trade in key exported species and how CITES contributed to national conservation objectives
- The idea of wildlife trade policy reviews was 'born' thereafter from experience with CITES implementation processes
- Under NLP, wildlife policy development is an essential precursor to drafting adequate legislation
- Under SigTrade, there is a holistic review on how export trade is managed within Madagascar

2002

- At CoP 12, Parties adopted **Decision 12.22** that called on the Secretariat to '*organise a technical workshop on wildlife trade policies and economic incentives applicable to the management of and trade in CITES-listed species, and in particular to develop a methodology to review those policies*'
- Decision 12.22 directed the Secretariat, if external funds were found, to collaborate with CBD, FAO, FFI, ICTSD, IFC, IUCN, OECD, TRAFFIC, UNEP-ETB, UNCTAD-Biotrade, WRI and the World Bank in organizing the workshop

2003

- With support provided by Switzerland and the UK, the technical workshop was held in December 2003
- Participants included government representatives from 6 mega-biodiversity countries, representatives of IGOs and NGOs and academics with expertise in policy and economics
- The workshop report contained results of working groups on wildlife trade policy reviews and economic incentives, respectively

2004

- As a result of the workshop, a background paper on methodologies for national wildlife trade reviews was presented to CoP13
- The Secretariat asked for an extension of its mandate in order to refine the methodology and complete other envisaged activities
- This led to the adoption of **Decisions 13.74–13.77** on wildlife trade policies and economic incentives



Decision 13.74

- Contingent on the availability of external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with interested Parties and building on the findings and recommendations of the workshop on trade policy and economic incentives (Geneva, 2003):
 - a) conduct, in cooperation with the Parties, a review of their national policies regarding the use of and trade in specimens of CITES-listed species, taking into account economic incentives, production systems, consumption patterns, market access strategies, price structures, certification schemes, CITES-relevant taxation and subsidy schemes, property rights, mechanisms for benefit sharing and reinvestment in conservation, as well as stricter domestic measures that Parties apply or are affected by;



Decision 13.74

- b) compile and synthesize the information provided by the Parties, and produce a report analysing the impacts of national policies for trade in CITES-listed species in terms of socio-economic and conservation benefits and costs, including on the economic value of the species, levels of legal and illegal trade, improvement of the livelihood of local communities, and on how they affect the role of the private sector involved in such trade;
- c) report at the 54th and subsequent meetings of the Standing Committee and at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made with regard to the implementation of this Decision; and



Decision 13.74

- d) submit a project proposal to the Global Environment Facility, and other funding institutions and development agencies, to seek financial support to prepare the trade policy reviews in the interested countries, in the context of their national and regional strategies for biodiversity conservation



2005

- UNEP and the CITES Secretariat developed, and obtained funding for, a project that would allow implementation of Decision 13.74
- The Secretariat reported on its progress to SC53 (Geneva, June 2005)



2006

- The SC Strategic Plan Working Group has begun developing a new Strategic Plan for CITES through 2013
- It takes account of developments in the international community since the Convention was concluded in 1973 (e.g. CBD, the Millennium Development Goals and the WSSD target of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010)

