WWF POSITION STATEMENT
13TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO CITES, BANGKOK, 2-14 OCTOBER 2004

SYNERGY BETWEEN CITES and CBD

Documents 12.1.1 and 12.1.2

CoP13 Doc. 12.1.1- Achieving Greater Synergy in CITES and CBD Implementation: Ireland on behalf of the European Community and its Member States has submitted a document transmitting the outcomes of an international experts workshop on opportunities for collaboration between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including recommendations for action and a draft decision.

WWF Recommendation: SUPPORT

CoP13 Doc. 12.1.2- Sustainable Use Principles and Guidelines: Namibia has submitted a document and draft resolution dealing with the principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of biological diversity that were adopted by the CBD at its recent Conference of the Parties (CoP7, February 2004), and opportunities for synergy between CITES and CBD on this issue.

WWF Recommendation: SUPPORT
RATIONALE and BACKGROUND

WWF strongly supports the strengthening of synergies between the CITES and CBD. WWF has engaged actively with both CITES and CBD since their respective inceptions, at both the international policy and national implementation levels, and was an invited participant in the Experts Workshop referred to in Doc. 12.1.1. WWF also notes that at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 the recommendation was made that synergy could best be achieved through increased coordination and implementation of both Conventions at national levels.

WWF believes that to make this joint implementation effective, national level action should focus on developing cooperation between the implementation of CITES and the CBD to ensure that CITES-listed species are not threatened by international trade or unsustainable use at the national and regional level, and that ecosystem and species-based conservation measures put into place in a CBD context take into consideration the CITES listing of a species. WWF further believes that although the two conventions have clear differences in perception, approach, and mandate, it is vital for collaboration to be enhanced at the national, regional, and international levels. While collaboration between the Convention Secretariats is important, collaboration at the national level within governments between different agencies responsible for the two conventions, as well as at the regional and international levels by governments, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders, will enhance conservation outcomes pursuant to both conventions’ missions and goals.

More than 180 governments are Parties to the CBD, and have therefore adopted the CBD target of substantially reducing biodiversity loss by 2010. This was reaffirmed by Heads of State in Johannesburg at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD 2002). Indeed, the CBD is seen as the key international mechanisms for delivering on biodiversity conservation, and the 2010 target to “achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss”, as well as a key international tool to contribute to sustainable development. In addition, Governments at WSSD and the CBD COP 7 acknowledged the CBD’s role in contributing to the Millennium Development Goals and synergy between the conventions would help place CITES in that context.

Further, all but two of the 166 CITES Parties are Parties to the CBD. Since the CBD operates on a consensus basis, all decisions of the CBD Conference of the Parties have already been endorsed by all CBD Parties and therefore virtually all CITES Parties. Furthermore, there is significant complementarity between the two conventions, with many opportunities to work together in a mutually supportive manner, at both the national and international levels.

Both conventions have goals and strategies to reduce biodiversity loss. For example, Goal 4 of the “Provisional Framework for Goals and Targets” of the CBD Strategic Plan, adopted at CBD CoP7 in February 2004 (CBD Decision VII/30), is the promotion of sustainable use, with these sub-targets:

4.1: Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity;
4.2: Unsustainable consumption of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced; and
4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade.

While sub-targets 4.1 and 4.2 have some relevance to CITES, sub-target 4.3 is directly relevant, and can only be effectively delivered if CITES and its provisions (both nationally and internationally) are effectively implemented.
Furthermore, the CITES Strategic Vision and Action Plan (adopted by consensus as CITES Decision 11.1 and its Annex) has as its purpose “to ensure that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade”, which is directly parallel to the CBD Strategic Plan Sub-target 4.3. Furthermore, Goal 5 of the CITES Strategic Vision is to “Increase cooperation and conclude strategic alliances with international stakeholders.” Objective 5.1 of that Goal is “to ensure an optimal working relationship with UNEP, as well as close coordination and synergy with CBD and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.” The documents submitted by Namibia and Ireland (on behalf of the European Union) are designed to deliver on Goal 5, and WWF applauds those efforts and encourages the Parties at CoP13 to discuss these issues carefully, and make practical recommendations accordingly.

12.1.1: Ireland (on behalf of the EU) document: Achieving Greater Synergy in CITES and CBD Implementation

With regards to the Vilm Workshop Report, which this document transmits, WWF supports the implementation of mechanisms that increase cooperation in the implementation of CITES and CBD at the national, regional and international levels. WWF encourages the Parties to discuss the issues presented in the report, and to make practical recommendations and take realistic decisions that will advance this process. WWF supports the suggestion in Doc. 12.1.1 to refer the expert workshop report to the CITES Animals, Plants, and Standings Committees for further consideration and action. However, we urge the Parties not to allow such a strategy to be used to defer any positive action until CITES CoP14, and therefore we also recommend:

- Attendance of secretariat staff and committee representatives from each convention at counterpart meetings of the other Convention (e.g., CITES permanent committees, CBD’s Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA ) and CBD CoP8).
- A concerted effort to revise and update the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Conventions, including development of joint workplans designed to maximize progress in achieving mutually compatible goals.
- CITES assistance specifically in ensuring achievement of CBD 2010 sub-target 4.3, “no species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade” through the development of appropriate workplans. Such assistance should come from the CITES Secretariat, governments, and non-governmental organizations.
- Increased consideration of synergies between CBD and CITES in the development of the next CITES Strategic Plan.
- Joint fundraising efforts with regards to thematic programmes of work of relevance to both the CBD and CITES-listed species, and the development of proposals for cooperation in these areas.
- Evaluation of the potential use of CITES-listed species as indicators under CBD processes, including the 2010 target.
- Development of co-funded activities and joint proposals to the GEF that create and enhance synergies between the two Conventions. Special consideration should be given to project activities that address both protection and sustainable use (both consumptive and non-consumptive) of species impacted by trade. WWF recommends that the Parties at CoP13 identify listed species that could be used in pilot projects to test this relationship. In this regard, WWF also proposes the consideration of possible three-way initiatives, to include the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), to address issues specific to CITES-listed migratory species. Some possible taxa for inclusion in such funding initiatives include marine turtles, cetaceans, saiga antelope (Saiga tatarica), elephants, and Asian big cats.

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Collaborative working between Convention focal points at national levels and the consideration of reporting under a harmonized format and timetable.

Clear guidance to the CITES Animals, Plants, and Standing Committees on how to take these issues forward, with reporting to Standing Committees 53 and 54, such that a report can be submitted by the CITES Parties (through the Standing Committee) to CBD CoP8, scheduled for 2006 in Brazil.

WWF notes that Target 11 (No species of wild flora endangered by international trade) of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), which was adopted by the CBD at CoP6, is directly linked with CITES. Through the Plants Committee, CITES currently acts as the lead coordinating agency for the implementation of Target 11. Mechanisms for delivery of Target 11 have been identified. WWF would like to see CITES play a similar role with regards to fauna. WWF thus proposes that the CITES Secretariat, or the Animals Committee, prepares a proposal for the CBD, requesting that CITES be considered for the lead role in delivery of CBD 2010 sub-target 4.3.

WWF proposes that CITES Secretariat call on the upcoming 'Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG)' which will meet from 19-22 October 2004, in Montreal, to consider indicators under the CBD for assessing the progress towards CBD 2010 sub-target 4.3 as well as the scope for CITES involvement in implementation and monitoring.

WWF also proposes that the CBD Secretariat be requested to consider CITES involvement at a number of upcoming meetings such as the 'Expert meeting on outcome oriented targets for the Programmes of Work on the biodiversity of Inland Water, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems’ (25-27 October 2004) in Montreal, SBSTTA-10 (14-18 February 2005) in Thailand, CBD CoP8 (8-19 May 2006) in Brasilia. Participation at the CBD meetings is recommended in order to facilitate the integration of targets and indicators on trade in endangered and potentially endangered species for the programmes of work, development of joint workplans and other issues related to strengthening collaboration between the two conventions.

WWF further recommends more active CITES-CBD collaboration in implementing Goal 4 of the CBD Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity (Decision VI/22), especially as this relates to preventing “losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources”, and promoting forest law enforcement and addressing related trade. Activation of the CBD liaison group charged with developing a programme of work on trade in non-timber forest products should be a priority in this regard, CITES having been named as an important collaborator in this process in the CBD Decision.

WWF notes that if CoP13 decides to establish a working group to discuss these issues, we are eager and willing to participate and share our expertise and ideas in such a forum.

**12.1.2: Namibia document: Sustainable Use Principles and Guidelines**

After a series of workshops and consultations, CBD CoP7 adopted a series of principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of biological diversity—the “Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines” (CBD CoP7 Decision VII.12). These guidelines are an important step forward in articulation of the conditions necessary to ensure the sustainable use of biological diversity, and have the potential to be of assistance to CITES Parties in the issuance of non-detriment findings, and otherwise in the effective management of species subject to international trade.
WWF supports the concept and implementation of the sustainable use of biodiversity, whereby it is vital to work to ensure that utilization of wild species does not harm (and ideally benefits) wild species or systems, is sustainable biologically, culturally, and socio-economically, and is based on sound science, adaptive management, and local knowledge. More than that, WWF believes that it is vital that sound principles be adopted that promote means to ensure that the utilization of wild plants and animals also benefits not only natural systems and wild species, but provides sustainable livelihoods for local people and communities.

WWF works with partners, including TRAFFIC, around the world on programmes that assist governments and local communities in developing systems of sustainable utilization, providing equitable benefits for local communities and for species upon which they depend. WWF believes that the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity provide helpful tools that are essential for governments, local communities, and other stakeholders, to address the sustainable utilization objectives of both the CBD and CITES, and to help develop sound sustainable use systems and models.

Therefore, we are appreciative of the document submitted by Namibia, and for Namibia’s efforts to bring this issue to the attention of the CITES Parties, although we do not agree with all aspects of paragraph 11 in the document. However, we support adoption of the Draft Resolution in Annex 1 of this document.

**Recommendations**

WWF recommends that the Parties:

- Adopt the Draft Resolution in Annex 1 of Doc. 12.1.2;
- Direct the Animals and Plants Committees to analyze the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines, to:
  - evaluate their relationship with CITES non-detriment findings; and
  - develop case studies on how they could be used in the issuance of non-detriment findings and for management and export of CITES Appendix II-listed species;
- Recommend that CITES Scientific Authorities give special consideration to relevant aspects of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines when making non-detriment findings with regards to species in trade;
- Promote the sharing of success stories between Parties to the CBD and CITES, where sustainable use programmes have clearly contributed positively to the conservation of globally important biological diversity; and
- Encourage all parties to work towards the development of policies that ensure that the use of biological diversity is sustainable, and to apply these policies to species management programmes with special relevance to the significant trade process, development of conservation incentives, benefit sharing and access to natural resources.