



A CITES priority:

## ACHIEVING INCREASED CITES-CBD SYNERGY

Opportunities during CITES COP 13

TRAFFIC

September 2004

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have much in common. They share the aim of ensuring that wild species in trade are managed in a manner supporting both species conservation and sustainable use. They also share the vast majority of their membership. What the two Conventions lack, however, are effective and efficient mechanisms to help them achieve their common aims through implementation at the national and international levels.

In April 2004, TRAFFIC, Flora & Fauna International, IUCN – The World Conservation Union, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), and the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) collaborated in the organisation of an experts workshop to explore the potential for enhancing CITES-CBD synergy, with active support from UNEP and the CITES and CBD Secretariats. The workshop was generously supported by BfN, GTZ, UNEP, and the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The report of this workshop has been submitted by Ireland, on behalf of the member states of the European Union, for consideration by the Parties (Doc. 12.1.1), and the workshop proceedings as CoP 13 Inf. 15.

CoP 13 provides CITES Parties with a chance to act on some of the recommendations emerging from this workshop. This includes a number of opportunities to improve communications and collaboration between CITES and CBD implementing bodies and processes. Some of these opportunities are outlined below, and possible actions identified.

### Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports and Recommendations (Plenary)

**Thus far there has been very little cross-communication among the various CITES and CBD information sharing and decision making processes, including among representatives of committees of the two Conventions.** Closer collaboration will require more than increased documentation exchange, and would greatly benefit from cross-participation in relevant meetings as well as co-planning. Collaboration with the CITES Plants Committee with regard to development of the international trade target of the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation demonstrates the effectiveness of this type of approach. **CITES Parties should consider requesting representatives of the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees to participate in relevant CBD meetings, and extend an invitation to the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to send representatives to CITES committee meetings and CoPs.**

### Agenda Item 12.1.1 – Achieving Greater Synergy in CITES and CBD Implementation (Committee II)

A variety of potential opportunities and mechanisms for increased CITES-CBD synergy are provided in the document accompanying this agenda item, and particularly in Annex 2, which reflects the final report of an experts workshop on this issue convened in April 2004. **Annex 1 of CoP Doc. 12.1.1 contains a draft Decision recommending that the current shared work plan of the CITES and CBD Secretariats be revised in view of the workshop's findings and recommendations.** The Parties should bear in mind that actions to be included in the joint CITES-CBD work plan would normally first need to be included within the Secretariats' individual work plans. The workshop report also contains a number of recommendations aimed at CITES committees, which similarly would seem to require CoP Decisions if they are to become part of the Committees' work plans. **Recommendations for action by the CITES Secretariat, as well as by Committees and Parties, on specific priorities might therefore also be made under more specific agenda items, e.g. Item 61 on Bushmeat.** CITES Parties might also explore how to ensure that similar issues are considered and decisions taken by the upcoming meetings of SBSTTA, and, subsequently, CBD CoP 8.

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## Agenda Item 12.1.2 - Sustainable Use Principles and Guidelines (Committee II)

The draft Resolution annexed to Doc. 12.1.2 provides specific recommendations for increased synergy through the application within CITES of the CBD Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, including through actions by the Secretariat, Animals and Plants Committees. **The Parties should support adoption of the draft Resolution.**

## Agenda Item 13 - Economic Incentives and Trade Policy (Committee II)

**Both CITES and the CBD have highlighted the importance of better understanding and application of the economic incentives associated with use, trade and conservation of biodiversity.** There are clear opportunities to strengthen collaboration in the exploration of increased and more effective use of positive economic incentives with regard to wild species in trade, including through collection and analysis of case studies. **In reviewing the draft Decisions annexed to Doc. 13, the Parties should consider making specific reference to collaborating with the CBD in their implementation.** This might include, for example, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans within any review of national wildlife trade policies, co-organisation of any further workshops on economic incentives, and collaborating with CBD focal points in the preparation of GEF proposals.

## Agenda Item 18 - Reporting Requirements (Committee II)

**Implementation of CITES reporting requirements provides both a critical source of information and a substantial commitment of the Parties' resources.** Recommendations to modify the biennial reporting requirements are based in part on reporting experiences within other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and could serve to facilitate harmonisation of MEA reporting, including between CITES and the CBD. **The Parties should support the Secretariat's efforts to enhance harmonisation of reporting and ask that this goal is included in the amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.17.**

## Agenda Item 33 - Conservation of and Trade in Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles (Committee I)

**The CBD Revised Programme of Work on Inland Waters Biodiversity makes repeated reference to conservation and sustainable use of freshwater biodiversity, and calls on the CBD Secretariat to collaborate with other institutions, including CITES, in its implementation.** The 2003 CBD report *Status and Trends of Biodiversity of Inland Water Systems* includes a significant amount of information on freshwater turtles. These species would therefore seem a useful focus for co-engagement of the two Conventions with regard to freshwater species. **The Parties could request the CITES Secretariat, in conjunction with the Chair of the Animals Committee, to explore with the CBD Secretariat how CITES and CBD processes in relation to freshwater turtles might be better coordinated at the international level. Further, the Parties could recommend that specific attention be paid to freshwater turtles in designing and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans.**

## Agenda Item 62 - Bushmeat (Committee II)

Doc. 62.2 contains a draft Decision requesting the CITES Secretariat to inform the CBD of ongoing concern regarding unsustainable trade in the meat of wild species, and to request the FAO to consider convening an international workshop to facilitate the development of an action plan to address issues associated with this trade. **The CBD Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity calls for the formation of a liaison group on non-timber forest resources, with a particular focus on bushmeat.** The group includes the CITES Secretariat and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, among others, and is tasked with developing a joint work plan to bring harvest and trade within sustainable levels. A workshop intended to facilitate this process has been called for but not yet held owing to a lack of resources. **The Parties should therefore consider requesting the CITES Secretariat to work together with member governments and other IGOs, including FAO, and NGOs in supporting implementation of the relevant components of the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity, rather than recommending a parallel, but separate, process, and to report to CoP 14 on progress made within the CBD.**

The issues and suggestions outlined above reflect only some of the opportunities for enhanced synergy in the operations of CITES and the CBD at the international level. The Parties are encouraged to consider how these and other mechanisms can best be used to support national efforts to manage the trade in CITES-listed species and achievement of CITES and CBD objectives.

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**TRAFFIC**, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

For more information, please contact

TRAFFIC International  
219a Huntingdon Road  
Cambridge CB3 0DL  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 1223 277427

Fax: +44 1223 277237

Email: [traffic@trafficking.org](mailto:traffic@trafficking.org)

Website: [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org)

**TRAFFIC CoP13 Conference Room:**  
[www.traffic.org/cop13](http://www.traffic.org/cop13)

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