

MEA's Retreat – 1 September, 2010

Draft Strategic Plan and headline targets

CITES Secretariat comments

The CBD draft Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020 will be considered by CBD Parties at CoP10 in Nagoya in October 2010. The draft Plan seeks to involve others in the implementation of the Plan and the headline targets purport to extend beyond the Convention and to provide a set of targets for the UN system and other stakeholders.

General comments on the draft Plan:

The draft Plan to be considered in Nagoya could be further improved in several ways. Of particular relevance to CITES, it could be improved by:

- Inserting an additional preambular paragraph into the draft decision recognizing the contribution made by other biodiversity-related conventions and UN agencies towards achieving the three objectives of the CBD.
- Amending paragraph 16 of the draft Plan to reference partnerships with conventions at national and regional, as well as international level, and to highlight the role of biodiversity-related conventions.
- Amending paragraph 22 of the draft Plan to refer to a resource mobilization strategy for achieving the effective implementation of not only CBD but also other biodiversity-related conventions in support of the implementation of the Plan.
- Amending paragraph 23 of the draft Plan to refer to enhanced cooperation with biodiversity-related conventions, including through the Biodiversity Liaison Group¹ and the Environment Management Group. This could be footnoted after the words “collaborative mechanisms”.
- Amending operative paragraph 3 (c) of the draft decision to provide for the incorporation of obligations under other biodiversity-related conventions into NBSAPs, as appropriate.
- Deleting reference to a specific project in operative paragraph 13 (b) of the draft decision and footnote 10 of the draft Plan, in particular given there is no reference to other projects of equal or greater importance, such as the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative², and there is no specific reference to any intergovernmental biodiversity-related convention by name.

Specific comments on the draft Targets:

“Over-exploitation and destructive harvesting practices are at the heart of threats being imposed on the world’s biodiversity and ecosystems, and there has not been significant reduction in this pressure.” GBO-3 page 62.

The current focal areas, goals and sub-targets for the 2010 Biodiversity Target³ include:

Focal Area: Promote sustainable use

Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption.

Target 4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade.

Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (GBO-3) concluded that this target had not been achieved globally and that wild flora and fauna continue to decline as a result of international trade, but that successes have been achieved particularly through implementation of CITES. See page 18 of GBO-3.

¹ CBD Decision VII/26 and IX/27

² Alternatively, both projects could be referred to

³ Established by CBD in decision VII/30

At the 'Expert Meeting on Development of Post 2010 Global Biodiversity Targets', held in Nairobi from 2 to 3 October last year and at which CITES participated, an 'updated' version of this text for consideration during the post-2010 target debate was discussed and agreed:

A. Targets Addressing pressures on biodiversity:

2. All harvest of living resources is sustainable and causes no harm to natural habitats.

Since that meeting, this suggestion appears to have been lost and despite the fact that GBO-3 concluded that over-exploitation is one of the five principal pressures directly driving biodiversity loss – see GBO pages 55, 62 and 67 – the current text of the post-2010 targets⁴ mention direct use of biodiversity only in relation to fishing. See proposed target 6.

Hence, we have a situation where what is clearly acknowledged as one of the five principal pressures directly driving biodiversity loss is not fully covered by the revised targets⁵. In order to assist in finding a constructive way forward to remedy this anomaly, we offer the following more comprehensive target for consideration that better reflects the findings of GBO 3 and builds upon the previous target:

All harvest of living resources, for trade or other human activities, is sustainable, legal and traceable and causes no significant, long-term harm to natural habitats.

This could usefully be included under Strategic Goal B. *Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use* of the goals and targets in relation to the post-2010 period.⁶

Draft target 12 might be revised to state "...the extinction and decline of species whose survival is known to be at risk from overexploitation or other direct pressures has been prevented...".

Draft target 17 might be revised to state "...an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan which covers not only obligations under CBD but also other biodiversity-related conventions, as appropriate."

Draft target 20 states: "By 2020, capacity (human resources and financing) for implementing the convention has increased ten-fold"

All of the biodiversity-related conventions, the UN system, and organizations such as IUCN contribute towards achieving the three objectives of the CBD, and amongst the biodiversity-related conventions the CBD alone has a financial mechanism, the GEF. As the targets are intended to be system-wide, target 20⁷ should be expanded to read:

By 2020, capacity (human resources and financing) for achieving the three objectives of the convention has increased ten-fold.

⁴ Recommendation XIV/9 of SBSTTA14

⁵ Underlying causes of biodiversity loss identified in GBO 3 include: demographic change; economic activity; levels on international trade; and per capita consumption patterns.

⁶ Alternative options, which are not as comprehensive, include: Reinstitute Target 4.3: **No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade**, or insert the target, as agreed in Nairobi in October, 2009: **All harvest of living resources is sustainable and causes no harm to natural habitats.**

⁷ Para 22 of the draft Strategy may also need to be revised accordingly.

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Areas for collaboration

CITES Secretariat comments

General context

Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity*
Resolution Conf. 14.2 on *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*, in particular Goal 3 Objectives 3.1-3.5
1996 Memorandum of Co-operation between the CITES and CBD Secretariats and 2001 Amendment to the MoU and Annex containing Work Plan for the Implementation of Joint Activities (December 2000 – June 2002)
Proceedings of 2004 Vilm Workshop on Promoting CITES-CBD Cooperation and Synergy

Key collaboration areas

Access and benefit-sharing

- Lessons learned from CITES regulation of commercial and non-commercial international trade in biological resources (including derivatives)
 - legal provenance (legal acquisition findings)
 - permit/certificate procedures and conditions
 - e-permitting (taxonomic serial numbers)
 - tracking and reporting
 - compliance and enforcement measures
 - exemptions and special provisions
 - livelihoods of the rural poor
- Mutual supportiveness of and coherence between CITES and ABS regimes at national level (e.g. policy, legislation, authorities/institutions, documentation)

Sustainable use

- CITES non-detriment findings
- Regulation of international trade to ensure the sustainability of wildlife use
- Forestry/fisheries – request to participate in proposed Ad hoc technical expert group on sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture and forestry, including non-timber forest products (NTFPs)
- CITES cooperation with FAO (commercially-exploited aquatic species, timber, NTFPs and wildlife), UNECE and ITTO
- Trade controls for legal 'bushmeat' trade and prevention/penalization of illegal trade, particularly in Appendix I species
- Local level and community-based conservation; South-South cooperation; livelihoods and MDGs; possible participation in expert group on biodiversity for poverty eradication and development
- Addis Ababa guidelines/principles applied by CITES Parties, when appropriate
- Case studies, best practices and lessons learned regarding sustainable use of wild fauna and flora

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

- CITES Plants Committee, through Austria and South Africa, provided input for the preparation of the consolidated, updated GSPC (2011-2020)
- Proposed Objective III – Plant diversity is used in a sustainable and equitable manner
- Proposed retention of Target 11: No species of wild flora endangered by international trade – this target is unique as its implementation, monitoring and review is through synergy with CITES; collaboration with the CITES Plants Committee and strengthened linkages between GSPC and CITES national focal points are proposed as milestones towards 2020
- Proposed Target 12: All wild harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably - this target is relevant to CITES as well but there is no reference to the Convention in either the supportive text or the proposed milestones

Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

- CITES Secretariat is a member of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on IAS; attended first meeting
- Planned collaboration with CBD to explore additional means for addressing IAS of relevance to CITES trade via CITES' legally-binding regulatory scheme, trade database, national policy and legislative support, etc.
- CITES requirements for transport of live specimens

MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative

- Joint steering committee
- Enhanced interoperability and accessibility across participating MEAs (ICT strategy)
- Incorporation of TEMATEA and similar projects within the MEA IKM Initiative
- Partnerships with UNEP-WCMC and others
- Website development
- Online reporting with shared data platform
- Harmonization of national reporting
- Harmonization of taxonomy/nomenclature

Environmental governance - Biodiversity Liaison Group/Environment Management Group

- BLG meetings, task teams, decisions and actions
- Meetings of chairs of scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions
- EMG report on UN system contribution to biodiversity agenda; IMG on biodiversity
- Draft CoP10 decisions related to EMG
- Input to High Level Event on Biodiversity, including UN Policy Committee submission
- Financing and resource mobilization
- Consultation with governments to encourage integration and consistency between national strategies, plans or programmes under CITES and CBD, including the revision and updating of NBSAPs to cover obligations under CITES and other biodiversity-related MEAs, as appropriate¹
- Promotion of national level coordination between CITES and CBD authorities

Other collaboration areas

Linking site-based, thematic and species-based approaches

- Recovery of Appendix I species supported by CBD (e.g. thematic or site-based activities; ecosystem approach)
- Consideration of socio-economic as well as biodiversity conservation factors and issues
- Joint or coordinated research and monitoring activities

Outreach and education

- More sophisticated training with specialized knowledge, tools and skills for addressing and solving practical MEA implementation problems
- Communication strategies and educational activities that are mutually supportive

Economics, trade and incentive measures

- Provision for BLG task team
- Business and biodiversity; private sector engagement
- Environment/trade modules for capacity building (CITES has lead)
- CITES biennial reports to gather experience with incentive measures
- Use of CITES as government certification scheme
- TEEB inputs
- Cooperation with WTO, UNCTAD and WIPO

¹ Para 4 (a) of the CITES-CBD MOU states that "the secretariats will consult their Contracting Parties with a view to encouraging integration and consistency between national strategies, plans or programmes under the CBD and plans or programmes under the CITES". It is understood that enabling funds under the GEF of USD500,000 per country is available for revising NBSAPs (SP5)