



“Working within CITES for the protection and conservation of species in international trade”

Indicators for Objectives of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013

The Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 14.2 on the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013 at CITES CoP14 in June, 2007. Resolution Conf. 14.2 includes three goals and related objectives. The Strategic Vision Working Group at CITES CoP14 did not have sufficient time to develop indicators for all of the objectives; only a few indicators were agreed to by the Working Group at CITES CoP14. Decision 14.2 directs the Secretariat to circulate, by Notification, these indicators and Resolution Conf. 14.2 and request input on remaining indicators to be developed and agreed upon. Based on the comments received, the Secretariat will prepare a compilation of the suggested amendments and proposals for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting 14-18 July, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Species Survival Network (SSN) believes that the indicators should be easily measurable and not detract from resources needed to meet the objectives of the Strategic Vision.

SSN, as a member of the Strategic Vision Working Group, submits the following recommendations for indicators of the success of the CITES Strategic Vision (additions underlined, deletions strikethrough):

GOAL 1: ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH AND IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION

Objective 1.1 Parties comply with their obligations under the Convention through appropriate policies, legislation and procedures.

Indicators

~~–Increase in~~ the number of Parties that have appropriate policies, legislation and procedures in place to implement the Convention.

~~–Increase in~~ the number of Parties that have Management Authorities, and Scientific Authorities that have the skills and resources necessary to undertake their Convention obligations.

~~–Increase in~~ the number of Parties that have programmes for the conservation and sustainable management of CITES-listed species and the recovery of Appendix I listed species in the wild with the aim that they no longer satisfy the biological criteria for inclusion in that Appendix.

SSN believes that the aims of conservation and management should not be specifically related to status in the Appendices, though successful programmes may affect that status; a successful conservation and management programme may have many objectives.

Objective 1.2 Parties have in place administrative procedures that are transparent, practical, coherent and user-friendly, and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.

Indicators

~~–The number of Parties that have adopted,~~ in consultation with the public and relevant stakeholders, ~~transparent,~~ standard procedures for the timely issuance of permits in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

–The number of Parties that have developed and implemented electronic systems for information management, permit issuance, marking of specimens and generating annual, biennial or other reports-; Parties that need assistance with implementing such systems have been provided with training and easily accessible technologies.

--Parties have adopted processes that allow civil society to have easy and transparent access to information on, and opportunities to provide input to, national CITES-related decision-making.

--Parties have facilitated public access to their national legislation, regulations, and policies relevant to their implementation of CITES by making said laws available electronically through government/agency websites.

Objective 1.3 Implementation of the Convention at the national level is consistent with decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Indicators

–Increase in t[The number of Parties that have implemented relevant resolutions through national law and/or regulations.

–Increase in t[The number of Parties that have implemented relevant decisions.

Objective 1.4 The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation needs of species.

Indicators

– The number of s[Species in the Appendices that are have been regularly reviewed by the Animals and Plants Committees, with support by the Parties and in accordance with any existing Resolutions and Decisions, to verify that they are appropriately listed on the basis of the agreed criteria, and for which amendment proposals may be prepared as appropriate.

– Decrease in t[The number of species that have not been reviewed.

– Increase in t[The number of recommendations from the periodic review which have been acted upon.

– Increase in t[The number of range countries participating in the review of their indigenous species.

– [The establishment of a transparent mechanism for the regular evaluation of trade and biological information on unlisted species subject to significant levels of international trade to determine whether they would benefit from inclusion in the Appendices.]

SSN strongly supports the retention of this statement. Article II of the Convention states clearly that the Appendices “shall include all species” (emphasis added) that qualify for inclusion in the Appendices; this language cannot be properly complied with unless unlisted species are subject to review.

– Increase in t[The number of cases where CITES regulation has had a positive impact on the status of species.

-- The number of cases where CITES regulation has had a positive Adoption of a process to review the impacts of CITES listings on the status conservation of species.

Objective 1.5 Best available scientific information is the basis for non-detriment findings.

Indicators

--Parties use the best available scientific information for the making of non-detriment findings and rely on the use of the Precautionary Principle when addressing scientific uncertainty.

--A process exists that allows Parties, the Secretariat and civil society access to information forming the basis of non-detriment findings.

--A mechanism exists for review by the Scientific and Standing Committees of the validity of non-detriment findings when these have been called into question.

--CITES decision-making, such as that under the Review of Significant Trade, is based on the best scientific information available and utilizes the Precautionary Principle.

--The scientific and Standing Committees address concerns that a non-detriment finding or export quota is not based on the best available scientific information.

--CITES-related studies and projects utilize scientifically sound methodologies and are based on the best available scientific information.

--CITES contributes to the distribution of best available scientific information by facilitating access to scientific resources and by providing translation and technical assistance for developing countries Parties to CITES.

Objective 1.6 Parties cooperate in managing shared wildlife resources.

Indicators

--Successful implementation of CITES is linked to participation in standing regional management agreements for CITES-listed species .

--Science-based, cooperative recovery plans have been developed for shared populations of species listed in Appendix I and Appendix II.

--CITES works together with the Bonn Convention and other appropriate bodies to assist and encourage joint management by Parties.

--CITES regularly facilitates the organization of regional meetings and intercessional regional discussions relating to species in or potentially in international trade among range States sharing such species.

Objective 1.7 Parties are enforcing the Convention to reduce illegal wildlife trade.

Indicators

--Parties have adequate legal mechanisms in place to prosecute trade that occurs in contravention of the Convention.

--Outstanding problems of illegal trade are regularly brought to the attention of the Secretariat and the CITES Standing Committee.

--Increase in the number of Parties participating in CITES-related enforcement workshops.

--A working group on wildlife crime and enforcement under the CITES Standing Committee has been established.

--Data on illicit trade has been collected at both the national and international level, the data have been analyzed and recommendations to address illegal trade have been developed under the guidance of the Standing Committee.

--Parties have developed national enforcement action plans designed to enhance enforcement of CITES, achieve compliance with its provisions, and enhance information gathering on illegal trade.

--The CITES Secretariat has a CITES enforcement training program which reflects regional enforcement priorities and targets countries sanctioned for not enforcing the Convention and developing countries as a priority.

--The CITES Secretariat is in regular communication with all Parties and is fully able to assist Parties in complying with the Convention.

Objective 1.8 Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity-building programmes in place.

Indicators

--A CITES capacity building and training workplan is developed by the CITES Secretariat and approved by the Parties.

--All Parties provide their staff responsible for implementing and enforcing CITES with access to adequate training and information resources.

--The CITES Secretariat facilitates access to training and information resources when requested.

--CITES capacity building and CITES outreach materials are made available to the Parties via the CITES website and via the distribution of paper material in countries where online access poses problems.

--CITES capacity building materials and training emphasize the importance of sound science in decision-making and transparency in the development of wildlife trade policies.

--CITES' communication methods with Parties are adapted to countries' access to technology.

--Inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations play an active role in assisting Parties and the Secretariat with capacity-building activities.

GOAL 2: SECURE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MEANS FOR THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

***Objective 2.1* Financial resources are sufficient to ensure operation of the Convention.**

Indicators

--The Standing Committee is empowered to take appropriate measures in relation to Parties that repeatedly fail or have failed to meet their obligations with regard to their assessed contributions to the Trust Fund.

***Objective 2.2* Sufficient resources are secured at the national/international levels to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.**

Indicators

--Parties are encouraged to establish cost recovery programs, for example user-pay procedures, to fund the implementation of the Convention.

***Objective 2.3* Sufficient resources are secured at the national/international levels to implement capacity-building programmes.**

Indicators

--CITES funding priorities for capacity-building are decided jointly by CITES Parties .

--CITES Parties make decisions on whether to fund, to seek funds or to ask the Secretariat to seek funds for capacity-building activities when approving the program proposed for capacity-building by the Secretariat.

--Funding decisions for capacity-building (including allocation of the sponsored delegate funding) are transparent and follow the priorities defined by the CITES Parties.

--A committee is created to oversee and guide the CITES Secretariat in its funding decisions for capacity-building including for the allocation of sponsored-delegate funding.

--Decisions on capacity-building are transparent and all CITES Parties requesting assistance with sponsorship, training and capacity-building have a clear understanding of the conditions defining their access to CITES capacity-building resources.

GOAL 3: CONTRIBUTE TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING THE RATE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS BY ENSURING THAT CITES AND OTHER MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENTS AND PROCESSES ARE COHERENT AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

***Objective 3.1* Cooperation between CITES and international financial mechanisms and other related institutions is enhanced in order to support CITES-related conservation and sustainable development projects, without diminishing funding for currently prioritized activities.**

Indicators

--The number and size of CITES-related conservation and sustainable development projects funded by international financial mechanisms and other related institutions have increased without diminishing funding for currently prioritized areas.

--Cooperative projects emphasize implementation and enforcement of the Convention, including the need for scientifically-based non-detriment findings.

***Objective 3.2* Awareness of the role and purpose of CITES is increased globally.**

Indicators

--Increase in the number of Parties to the treaty.

--CITES resources for outreach are made available to the public on paper and online.

--Relevant Intergovernmental and Non-governmental organizations have programmes to increase CITES awareness among the public, governments, and private industry.

Objective 3.3 Cooperation with relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations is enhanced.

Indicators

--CITES has developed Memorandums of Understanding, recognizing the primary role of CITES with respect to the regulation of international trade, for logistical and substantive cooperation with relevant international, trade and development organizations as appropriate.

Objective 3.4 The contribution of CITES to the relevant Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development goals set at WSSD is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.

Indicators

--No further species have become extinct as a result of unsustainable international trade.

--The Review of Significant Trade is supported and fully funded; shortcomings identified in the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade are addressed.

--Export and capture quotas are non-detrimental and based on the best available scientific information.

--Export quotas are not exceeded.

Objective 3.5 Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, as appropriate, in order to achieve a coherent and collaborative approach to species which can be endangered by unsustainable trade, including those which are commercially exploited.

Indicators

--As a result of efforts by CITES, other international organizations and agreements have confirmed CITES' leading role in ensuring that international trade in species is not detrimental to wild populations.

--The Parties, in their cooperation with other international organizations and agreements, have ensured that CITES requirements are recognized, implemented and enforced.