

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Strategic matters

ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY

1. This document has been prepared by the Animals and Plants Committees.
 2. Decision 13.6 directs the Animals and Plants Committees to:

identify those principles and guidelines of most relevance to CITES, taking account of case studies provided by the Parties on how these could be used in specific cases of exports of specimens of Appendix-II species, and report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 3. At the 21st meeting of the Animals Committee and 15th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, May 2005) it was pointed out that the Standing Committee was also working on synergy between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and that the scientific committees should therefore be careful not to duplicate this work. In addition, concern was expressed about the risk to duplicate the discussion that had led to the adoption of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity by CBD and to address each one of them separately while they were interlinked. Therefore it was agreed that the debate should not focus on the principles which had already been adopted but on obtaining case studies from Parties.
 4. Consequently the Committees decided or clarified *inter alia* the following:
 - a) The point of the exercise was to assess whether the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines were relevant in the context of CITES and not to provide a series of examples where these Principles and Guidelines had been applied to trade in CITES-listed species;
 - b) The exercise was voluntary and it was hoped that Parties would respond positively to the invitation to participate in it; and
 - c) *Cyclamen* spp., *Galanthus* spp., *Hoodia* spp. and *Panax quinquefolius* were proposed as candidate plant species for case studies, and black corals (study to be conducted by the United States), the African elephant (Namibia), crocodiles (representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean) and butterflies were proposed as candidate animal taxa.
- Nevertheless, this list was not considered exhaustive and the Secretariat still issued Notification to the Parties No. 2005/052 of 1 September 2005 requesting additional case studies.
5. At the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee and 16th meeting of the Plants Committee (Lima, July 2006), a compilation of case studies and replies from range States was presented and although the conclusions were based on a relatively small number of case studies, the Committees adopted the recommendations contained in the Annex to the present document as a basis for their report for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in compliance with Decision 13.6.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Animals and Plants Committees naturally focussed on the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the context of the requirement for a non-detriment finding under Article IV of the Convention. The Secretariat concurs with the Committees that not all of the principles and guidelines are directly relevant in this instance. Nevertheless the Secretariat believes that all of the principles and guidelines are of pertinence in the implementation of CITES in a wider sense.
- B. The Secretariat agrees with the principle of the suggestion of the Animals and Plants Committees in paragraph 5 of the Annex to this document and proposes the following text for an amendment to Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity):

RECOMMENDS that Parties take full account of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the implementation of the Convention;

- C. In accordance with Decision 13.7, the Secretariat distributed a copy of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity to all Management and Scientific Authorities in September 2005 and published them on its website. It also incorporated consideration of the principles and guidelines into its work plan, with reference to CITES non-detriment findings and capacity building, in particular for Scientific Authorities. Now that the Animals and Plants Committees have reported on the matter, the Secretariat will, in cooperation with the Chairmen of the scientific committees, incorporate relevant principles and guidelines as identified by them into its capacity-building programme for Scientific Authorities.
- D. The Secretariat considers that Decisions 13.6 and 13.7 have been fulfilled.

Recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees concerning
the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

1. Whereas CBD provides general guidance to Parties on how to address a broad range of biodiversity issues through national implementation, CITES is regulatory in nature, species-specific, and focuses on international trade in wildlife.
2. Although CITES does not have a definition of sustainable use, the case studies show that the elements of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity that are generally relevant to CITES are either already implicit in the language of CITES or are promoted by CITES. This for instance, refers to practical Principles 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 and 12, elements of which are incorporated in the *Checklist to assist in making non-detriment findings for Appendix-II exports*.
3. From the case studies presented at AC22/PC16 it is evident that the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines are not always immediately applicable to the decision-making process under CITES, particularly with respect to making non-detriment findings (NDF).
4. It is recognized that the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines are, on a case-by-case basis, relevant to the work of CITES (in addition to the Principles referred to in paragraph 3, e.g. Principles 5, 6, 8, 11), and may be considered for possible development of further taxa-specific NDF guidelines.
5. The Animals and Plants Committees propose the amendment of Resolution Conf. 10.4 to acknowledge the use of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity as a voluntary additional tool that can be used in making NDFs.
6. Additionally, questions were raised concerning the work still required by the scientific committees on this matter, and the possible complications of using socio-economic aspects of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines in the making of non-detrimental findings.
7. It was further noted that the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines could support the existing IUCN guidance for the making of non-detrimental findings, and would be valuable for the development of taxa-specific guidelines in this regard, for instance for tree species.
8. Finally it was recognized that the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines, which had been developed over many years and received broad international support, were of global importance but that not all principles were of relevance to CITES.