



Reviews of progress in implementing the Convention: the experiences of CITES

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General review obligations

Treaty provides that:

1) Secretariat shall communicate to the Management Authority concerned if:

- App. I or II species adversely affected by trade; or
- Provisions not being effectively implemented.
- Party shall provide facts and suggest remedial action and may request an inquiry.

COP shall review information provided by the Party or resulting from inquiry and may make recommendations

2) COP shall review implementation of the Convention at meetings



Implementation reviews

External reviews authorized by Parties

- *Study on How to Improve the Effectiveness of CITES* (Environmental Resources Management/Price Waterhouse 1996)
- 23 recommendations. Most accepted and implemented. First Strategic Vision and Action Plan for the Convention arose from this process.

Strategic vision review

- CITES Strategic Vision indicators for SV objectives adopted (2008)
- Concern over reporting burden, so existing reporting obligations adapted to provide information required for Strategic Vision indicators
- Indicators developed by Standing Committee
- Together with mapping of CITES Strategic Vision, and its indicators against Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Targets
- Review of achievement of SV objectives by CoP

Ad hoc reviews established by CoP

- Implementation of CoP Resolutions (2000, 2013)



Implementation reviews

Principle sectoral regular reviews established by COP

- **Periodic Review:** Level of protection afforded particular species: Scientific subsidiary bodies
- **Review of Significant Trade:** Biological sustainability of trade being allowed: Scientific subsidiary bodies
- **National Legislation Project:** Adequacy of implementing legislation: Secretariat
- **Reporting:** Fulfilment of reporting obligations: Secretariat
- **Wildlife Trade Policy Review:** Governance systems: Parties



Implementation reviews

Other sector regular reviews established by COP

- Actions taken by Parties to implement the Convention for elephants: Standing Committee
- Status of Asian big cats in the wild, their conservation, trade controls and on measures by Parties to comply with related Resolution and Decisions: Standing Committee
- Progress on shark and ray activities: Animals Committee
- African and Asian rhinoceros species: conservation status, trade, horn stocks, illegal killing, enforcement, conservation actions and management strategies and measures by States to end the illegal use and consumption of parts and derivatives: IUCN/TRAFFIC/Secretariat



Implementation reviews

Compliance

Resolution COP 14.3 - non-legally binding Guide to CITES compliance procedure to:

- facilitate consistent, fair, effective, quick and transparent handling of compliance matters
- draw particular attention to the compliance with strict provisions contained in the Convention
- establish the COP and Standing Committee as principal bodies for handling compliance matters
- ensure that a supportive and non-adversarial approach is taken
- establish national reports, etc. as primary but not exclusive source for initiating compliance procedures
- provide for a range of compliance measures to be taken by the Standing Committee in no particular order



Summary

- No one mechanism but a variety of tools: Policy reviews, scientific reviews, action plans, targeted recommendations
- Several review bodies: COP, Standing Committee, Scientific Committees, Secretariat
- Compliance procedures: COP, Standing Committee,
- Costs are budgeted for each review / compliance tool
- Cooperation with many partners in review and compliance

