

## **CITES and livelihoods: an overview**

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### **Abstract**

An overview of CITES and livelihoods is given. The overview provides a reflection of the recommendations provided through the thoughts and discussions of some interested parties on the issue at a workshop. These recommendations are meant to make the amendment to CITES Resolution Conf 8.3 agreed during COP 13 in Bangkok, Thailand work effectively. Some implications of this to Botanic Gardens as they utilize decisions of CITES and CBD on aspects of livelihoods have been indicated.

### **Introduction**

In 2004 at the CITES COP 13 in Bangkok, Thailand, an amendment was agreed to Resolution Conf 8.3 ('Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife') The amendment was in the form of the addition of a new paragraph to the resolution. This states as follows

The Conference of the Parties

RECOGNIZES that the implementation of CITES-listing decisions should take into account potential impacts on the livelihoods of the poor

A workshop on CITES and livelihoods was organized to consider the implications of this new paragraph. The workshop took place in Cape Town, South Africa from 5-7 September 2006 and was hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute at the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden. The workshop, organized by a steering group of country and NGO representatives, was attended by 43 participants from 27 countries.

The workshop had the following objective and four goals:

Objective: To identify practical measures that will contribute to the operation of the new paragraph of CITES Resolution Conf 8.3 (Rev. COP 13)

- Goal 1: To assess options for recognizing and addressing the livelihood impacts of CITES trade regulations
- Goal 2: To assess tools for the rapid assessment of the potential livelihood impacts of implementation of CITES trade regulation
- Goal 3: To assess options for linkages with other CITES processes
- Goal 4: To assess options for linkages with processes outside CITES

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**Workshop Recommendations**

The following recommendations were agreed at the workshop after very extensive discussion:

- i. Guidance should be developed for Parties on how to implement CITES in way that mitigates negative impacts and supports positive impacts on livelihoods
- ii. Rapid assessment tools for livelihoods impacts should be developed to:
  - a. address both potential impacts of possible measures and actual impacts of existing measures
  - b. strike a balance between workability and reliability
  - c. ensure meaningful stakeholder consultation, and
  - d. look at the actors in the value chain and at others outside the value chain
- iii. Case studies of the livelihood impacts of the implementation of listing decisions should be carried out
- iv. Countries should determine whether livelihoods assessment tools are appropriate for their needs and priorities, and assess their capacity building needs on livelihoods issues
- v. Where livelihood concerns arise, the carrying out or facilitation of livelihood impact assessments should be under the control of national authorities
- vi. When appropriate tools and methodologies are available, integration of livelihood impact assessment into the capacity building programmes of CITES should be considered
- vii. Integration of work on livelihoods into ongoing CITES linkages, MoUs and MoCs with other agreements and organizations (eg. FAO, ITTO, ICCAT, CBD, CMS) should be considered , including through review of workplans
- viii. Development of linkages, synergies and MoUs between CITES and other organizations and agreements which address and/or have expertise in relevant livelihood issues (eg. UNFCCC, UNCCD) should be considered and explored
- ix. Consideration of livelihoods issues should be included in the Wildlife Trade Policy Review framework
- x. Ways of incorporating livelihoods issues into relevant CITES processes should be explored
- xi. CITES Strategic Vision for 2008-2013 should address livelihoods issues, making use of workshop outcomes
- xii. CITES implementation should be linked to other national initiatives focussing on poverty alleviation and livelihoods
- xiii. Research on livelihood impacts of implementation of CITES decisions should be carried out and mechanisms to address impacts should be explored
- xiv. Funding and resources should be mobilized to support implementation of these Recommendations

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## Implications for Botanic Garden Conservation International

Each of the 15 recommendations has its own requirement for implementation, though all of them are closely connected and implementation of one automatically reinforces the desire to accomplish the next. This is very important as we consider these recommendations along side other programmes, strategies and initiatives that have strong affinity towards livelihoods because of their declared goals. One such programme or strategy is the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC).

In adopting the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were being mindful of the following programmes which had already been adopted and which indirectly would ensure effective livelihood concerns in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. These programmes are:

- Applying provisions on Access and Benefit-sharing, drawing as appropriate on the Bonn Guidelines
- Building upon the knowledge, innovations and practices of the indigenous and local communities
- Applying the ecosystem approach
- Employing the *in-situ* conservation measures
- Adopting a multidisciplinary approach

The GSPC started from outputs from the Gran Canaria Declaration, a resolution of the XVI International Botanical Congress held in St. Louis Missouri, the International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation, the Global Invasive Species Programme and the Plants Programme of the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

The contribution of the Botanic Gardens to the development of this strategy was enormous and must therefore be the ultimate beneficiary from its application. The immediate and direct benefit to the Botanic Gardens is in the consideration of livelihoods in the achievement of targets ix through x to xiii of the Strategy. In target ix for example, the activities of Botanic Gardens together with other initiatives including the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are expected to ensure that 70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species are conserved and that all the associated indigenous and local knowledge is maintained. Proper attention to details of livelihood conditions especially as it relates to poverty alleviation among all stakeholders is all that is required in order to achieve the target ix.

The amendment to the CITES Resolution Conf 8.3 and the recommendations suggested by the workshop provide effective direction to organizations and initiatives that are interested in ensuring livelihoods in their activities. The Botanical Gardens fraternity working in tandem with CITES and CBD will ensure that livelihood issues are taken seriously in all conservation efforts.

## Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Fauna & Flora International which served as the secretariat for the Steering Committee of the CITES and Livelihood Workshop, for access and permission to use the recommendations of the workshop for this discussion. It is one way in which the recommendations can receive wider readership before COP 14 of CITES at which the issue will be fully discussed.

I am also grateful to BGCI for travel support to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Wuhan, China.