



SUBMISSION FROM CITES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE AWG-LCA IN DURBAN, NOVEMBER, 2011

CITES and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) would like to present a brief formal submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action at its meeting to be held in Durban on 29 November 2011.

As you are aware, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has linked the increased risk of extinction of species to climate change.

CITES regulates international trade in over 34,000 species of plants and animals, both terrestrial and marine, with commercial trade in 3% of these species being prohibited. For the other 97% of listed species trade is regulated to ensure it is legal, sustainable and traceable.

Many of the 11 million recorded transactions made under CITES have contributed to the decrease of poverty in rural areas that are heavily dependent on wildlife through improved wildlife management.

The impact of climate change on CITES-listed species that are in trade will affect both the conservation of the species and the livelihoods of local communities that are based on trade in species.

As such, it is critical to address the links between species and climate change. This includes the ability of the species to adapt to climate change, as well as the ability of people to adequately address the impacts of climate change on species that are in trade. And taking action on species will raise the adaptive capacity of local communities.

CITES has put into practice the concept of the sustainable use of biodiversity for the past 36 years – with significant benefits for local people and the global environment. National CITES Scientific Authorities address the impact of climate change, as necessary, when making the required scientific assessment.

Many Parties require further support to include the impacts of climate change into the necessary scientific finding under CITES. This involves extensive effort but is essential to ensure sustainability and to assist the adaptive capacity of local communities

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