



Sustainable trade: exploring reliable traceability systems for managing international trade of python skins

UNCTAD/CITES Roundtable on Traceability Systems at CITES COP 16

12 March 2013 - 12:00 to 14:00 hours
Room four - Queen Sirikit National Convention Center
Bangkok, Thailand

I. Background

The UNCTAD and CITES Secretariats have a long-standing cooperation in ensuring sustainable and regulated trade of CITES listed species. This cooperation, as defined by a common MoU, aims to ensure the conservation of species, enhance the livelihoods of poor people in remote and marginal areas, and promote business opportunities for entrepreneurs that fully comply with CITES requirements as well as with national regulations. Under this MoU, particular attention is given to the role of economic incentives for sustainable management of CITES Appendix II and III-listed species as well as on benefit sharing.

Currently, UNCTAD is supporting the CITES Secretariat to respond to CITES COP15 Decision 15.75, which instructs the Secretariat “... to consider the conservation priorities and management and enforcement needs related to the trade of snakes in Asia...”. One initial aspect of this support is to explore options for strengthening control and monitoring systems for international trade in python skins and furthering private sector engagement in sustainable sourcing and regulated trade of CITES listed species.

At the twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee (March 2012), a decision was taken to consider the results of the UNCTAD Working Group on the development of an International Traceability System for Snake Skins and make appropriate recommendations at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (March 2013). To fulfil this objective, and under the UNCTAD-CITES MOU, UNCTAD and CITES are commissioning a scoping study to provide the necessary analysis and detail to provide options for consideration by CITES Parties for the eventual design of a traceability system for python skins. Taking advantage of CITES COP16 in March 2013, a roundtable will be jointly organized by CITES and UNCTAD secretariats. The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) under the second phase of the BioTrade Facilitation Programme is financially supporting the event.

II. Objectives

The objective of this roundtable is to provide a platform to gather comments and inputs by a selected group of relevant stakeholders in preparation of the UNCTAD/CITES traceability scoping study for trade and sustainable sourcing reptile skins. The study will address issues such as sustainability concerns; traceability, tag and other technological options; compliance of standards and regulations; available institutional frameworks; the value of capacity building and guidance and manuals; and the need for increased engagement from the private sector and conservation organizations.

Ultimately, the study will serve as a base for discussions on the most adequate traceability system for the trade of snake skins within the Animals Committee and to make recommendations for the CITES Standing Committee. The roundtable will also serve as a space to promote higher levels of confidence over effective sustainable management systems for trade of CITES listed species.

III. Audience: This event is by invitation only.

IV. Provisional Agenda.

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Moderator: Mathias Lörtscher, Chairman of the Working Group on Snakes and the CITES Management Authority in Switzerland.

Opening remarks by CITES and UNCTAD – 10 min.

- **David Morgan, Head Scientific Unit, CITES**
- **Bonapas Onguglo, Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, UNCTAD**

A scoping exercise for traceability systems for trade and sustainable sourcing

- **Don Ashley, UNCTAD/CITES consultant** - 30 min.

Commentators:

- **Nandang Prihadi, Management Authority, Indonesia** - 7 min.
- **Ralph Arbeid, Expert** - 7 min.
- **Gucci/PPR Group (*name of speaker tbc*)** - 7min.

Q&A and comments by participants

Closing remarks and next steps