

# Workshop on Arctic User Knowledge

22 February 2021

- How CITES works to bring local knowledge into the decision making and advisory work?
- What are the plans of CITES to further strengthen the involvement of local knowledge in the future?



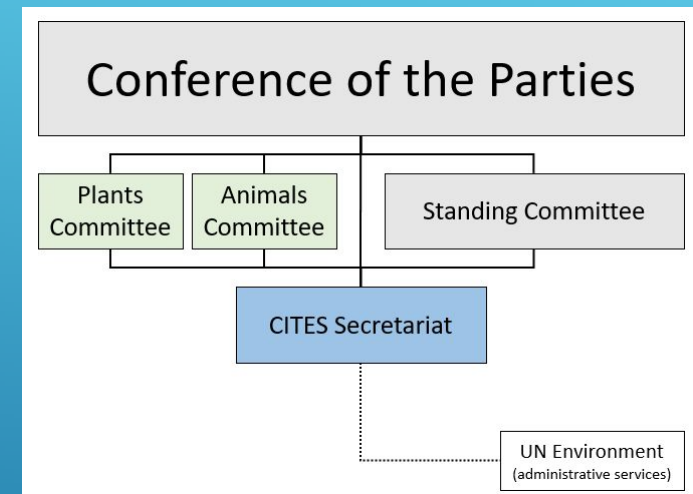
## Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)



- Fundamental international law on wildlife trade
- Entry into force in 1975
- 183 Parties (incl. European Union)
- Over 38,000 species
- 3 Appendices
- 97% of the species can be traded for commercial purpose
- Not an organization but a treaty

## How are decisions made in CITES?

- Decision-making bodies
  - Conference of the Parties
  - Standing Committee
  - Animals Committee, Plants Committee
- Decisions at CITES are collectively made by States that are Party to the Convention
- CITES is known as a Convention that often goes to a vote when consensus cannot be reached
- One Party has one vote



# How CITES brings IPLC knowledge in decision making?



## STRATEGY

- Resolution
- Strategic vision
- Guidance



## GLOBAL

- Participation in decision making at int'l level



## NATIONAL

- National law
- Participation in national decision-making



## LOCAL

- Involvement in trade in CITES species
- Decision-making at local level

# The guiding principles - texts of the Convention and Resolution

## The Preamble of the Convention recognises that

- “peoples and States are and should be the best protectors of their own wild fauna and flora”

## Resolution Conf. 16.6 on livelihoods (CoP16, 2013)

*“Regarding empowerment of rural communities*

ENCOURAGES Parties to work with key stakeholder groups to design, implement and monitor effective strategies with regard to the implementation of CITES listings, recognizing that:

- community and traditional knowledge should be considered, as appropriate and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and national laws, regulations and policies;

empowerment of rural communities should be encouraged through measures that may include, as appropriate:

- recognizing resource tenure and ownership, and traditional knowledge of or in rural communities associated with CITES-listed species, subject to any applicable national or international law;





## CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030

- Goal 2: Parties' decisions are supported by the best available science and information;
- In Goal 2, CITES Parties recognize the need to generate and have access to the best available science and information for supporting their trade risk assessments, listing proposals, permitting and enforcement decisions. Information might equally be held by national and international experts, including the relevant **knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities**.



## Major considerations

- Southern African countries proposed the establishment of a permanent Rural Communities Committee at CITES CoP17 in 2016 and at CoP18 in 2019 in order to give an advisory role to representatives of legally recognized organisations of Rural Communities or Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBRNM) organisations on issues pertaining to wildlife conservation
- Making local knowledge and socio-economic considerations part of the criteria for CITES species listings, i.e. amendment of CITES Appendices (CoP18)

## Feedback

- Many Parties believed that consultation with rural communities is the responsibility of the Parties at national level
- Budgetary and procedural concerns



## Outcomes (CoP18 resolution and decisions)

- engaging rural communities in national processes when preparing proposals to amend the Appendices, draft resolutions, draft decisions, and other documents for consideration at meetings of the Conference of Parties;
- considering including representatives of rural communities in the official national delegations to meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

## Mandates of Standing Committee Working Group on engagement of IPLCs

- consider how to effectively engage indigenous peoples and local communities in the CITES processes;
- develop non-binding guidance that proponent Parties may use, as appropriate, in consulting with indigenous peoples and local communities as part of the consultations that may take place on proposals to amend the Appendices.
- draft recommendations on the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in CITES processes that could be submitted to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.



## National level

### Best practices in bringing local knowledge in CITES

#### Botswana

- Local communities in Botswana have legal access to wild animals and plants
- Rural Development Policy of 1976 is in place to ensure that IPLCs are empowered
- involved in CITES processes at local, national and international level.

#### Canada

- IPLC rights recognized at Constitutional level & within Treaties and Land Claims Agreements
- The Species at Risk Act: "the traditional knowledge of the aboriginal peoples of Canada should be considered in the assessment of which species may be at risk and in developing and implementing recovery measures".
- Inuit contribute to species assessments through membership on COSEWIC's Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee
- Engagement of IPLCs within the context of making NDFs.

#### Mexico

- Coordinating Unit for Social Participation and Transparency re CITES CoP
- Examples of IPLC participation in trade in Morelet's crocodile, Bighorn sheep, mahogany through technical manager, consultation, aerial survey etc

#### Peru

- 2,434 indigenous communities + 7,267 peasant communities of which 5,137 are titled and recognized
- Regulation for Forest and Wildlife Management in Native Communities and Peasant Communities recognizes traditional knowledge, their ancestral practices and uses, and allows a differentiated treatment when the use is for subsistence
- IPLC carry out the management and trade of vicuña fiber in a sustainable way and many of them export their fiber directly with foreign importers.

#### United States

- Engagement through CITES Export Program (CEP) for furbearers, ginseng and alligators and also through harvest and trade in paddlefish and freshwater turtles
- public process (through Federal Register ) for preparing for CITES meetings and the development of U.S. negotiating positions



## Local level

- Participation in local decision-making
- Participation in CITES trade chain (artificial propagation/cultivation of plants, captive breeding or ranching of animals, collecting, harvesting, hunting, processing, storage transport, sale)
- CITES and livelihoods case studies from around the world demonstrate how well-regulated legal trade in CITES species contributes to species conservation and livelihoods of rural communities while using local knowledge

