

Evaluation Abstract

Title, author and date of the evaluation report:

Evaluation of the IUCN SSC & TRAFFIC's Analyses of Proposals to Amend CITES Appendices, July 2000

Name of project, programme or organizational unit:

Analyses of Proposals to Amend CITES Appendices

Objectives of the project, programme or mandate of the organizational unit:

The main purpose of the Analyses is to bring science into the CITIES decision-making process and to facilitate the adoption of rational decisions. The objectives of the project Analyses of Proposals to Amend Cities Appendices are:

1. To produce a review of the CITIES proposals (except elephants)
2. To produce an English version of the Analyses eight weeks prior to the COP to be held in Nairobi; produce the French and Spanish version within five weeks of the English version; to make these available on the World Wide Web and to distribute the Analyses to the Parties' Management Authorities.

IUCN area of specialisation: Species Survival

Geographical area: Global

Project or programme duration, length of existence of organizational unit: 1987 – present

Overall budget of the project, programme or organizational unit: Not specified

Donor(s): Not specified

Objectives of the Evaluation:

1. To determine how effective the Analyses is in facilitating the CITIES decision-making process;
2. To determine the effectiveness of the design format and distribution system of Analyses and identify any opportunities for improvement in these areas;
3. To provide accountability to the project funder.

Type of evaluation: Project

Period covered by the evaluation: 2000

Commissioned by: IUCN-SSC & TRAFFIC

Audience: IUCN-SSC & TRAFFIC

Evaluation team: External

Methodology used:

Data sources for the evaluation included interviews, questionnaires and document review

Questions of the evaluation:

Not specified

Findings:

The evaluation produced 19 findings, summarized below:

- The Analyses are valued as an important source of information to aid delegates in their decision-making by providing data missing from the original proposals (particularly scientific);
- IUCN and TRAFFIC are uniquely qualified to produce the Analyses and no other alternative approaches to produce the Analyses to achieve the same goals were suggested;
- The new design format was welcomed by respondents, who also indicated that the language used is suitable for non-scientists.
- Availability of the Analyses on the WWW was welcomed;
- Distribution of the Analyses to country level Management Authorities only did not ensure that all delegates received a copy in time for COP; some delegates indicated that early receipt of the Analyses would assist in pre-COP negotiations.
- The Analyses are key to COP decision-making and future donor support should be sought.

Recommendations:

The evaluation produces the following recommendations:

- IUCN and TRAFFIC should seek funds to continue producing the Analyses.
- IUCN and TRAFFIC should investigate alternative distribution channels
- SSC should review its process of selecting reviewers and how its staff relate to Specialist Chairs to ensure that the review process is clearly communicated to all Chairs.
- IUCN and TRAFFIC should continue to produce the analysis in tabular format, but ensure that it can be easily reproduced by photocopy or printing of the WWW.
- IUCN requests that the CITIES Secretariat make the proposals available much earlier in advance of COP.
- IUCN should research how the Analyses are used as a resource to develop CITIES events, awareness, etc.
- IUCN and TRAFFIC should examine the preparation process in order to improve efficiency.

Lessons Learned: None specified

Language of the evaluation: English

Available from: M&E Initiative