

FINDINGS

- Technology's effects on craftworkers and craft supplies are variable and sometimes inequitable.
- Traditional craftspeople more often are adversely affected by technological change; contemporary craftworkers more often benefit.
- U.S. concern is increasing about diminishing renewable resource availability for crafts and the concern appears justified.
- Precise data on the types and amount of resources involved are lacking; it may be several years before better data are available and compiling that data will be difficult.
- Undertaking a full-scale assessment of technology, renewable resources, and crafts seems unwarranted now.
- Development of more consistent Federal policies for managing renewable resources while supporting crafts need not await more information.

Craft and natural resource experts identified for OTA a number of important issues. Agencies exist that have the authority to address these concerns in the absence of further OTA involvement. Congressional action will continue to affect crafts that depend on renewable resources. The 1984 renewal of the Marine Mammal Protection Act is among the more relevant legislation (Buck, 1983), since it controls the availability of certain ivory to Alaskan natives and other craftworkers.

Important Issues Affecting the Craft Community

	Potential action agency (ies)
General Issues	
Health hazards of art/craft supplies	National Institutes of Health Bureau of Standards
Design theft	Justice Department
Economic contribution of crafts	National Endowment for the Arts General Accounting Office Interior, Commerce, Agriculture Departments
Industrial/craft cooperation	Commerce, Labor Departments
Role of craft cooperatives	Agriculture Department Small Business Administration
Legislative and governmental review.	Interagency Crafts Committee
Renewable resource issues	
Illegal traffic in wildlife	Interior, Commerce, State Departments
Resource supplies needed for crafts	Interior, Agriculture Departments
Resource losses in developing countries. . .	State Department/Agency for International Development Interior Department
Education and craft training	National Endowment for the Arts National Science Foundation

SOURCE Office of Technology Assessment