

Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in effect after its 16th meeting

This list of Decisions has been produced in accordance with Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) of the Conference of the Parties. It contains the Decisions (other than Resolutions) adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013) as well as the Decisions adopted at previous meetings that remain in effect after the 16th meeting.

The Decisions in this section are grouped by subject, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16).

Every Decision that was adopted at CoP16 has a number starting with '16', e.g. Decision 16.1. Every Decision that was adopted at a previous meeting and remains valid is included here with its original number, e.g. Decision 15.64. If the Conference of the Parties amended a Decision at a meeting after the one at which it was adopted, the original number of that Decision is followed by the indication '(Rev. CoPXX)', where 'XX' represents the number of the meeting at which the amendment was adopted. For example, Decision 14.28 (Rev. CoP15) was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting and amended at its 15th meeting.

In addition to the present compilation, there remains a number of Decisions from CoP15 that were not officially deleted at CoP16 but that are now superseded. The Secretariat has compiled those in a separate document, available on the CITES website, and will propose their deletion at CoP17.

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Administrative matters

Financing and budgeting of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Credentials Committee

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.1 The Secretariat shall develop, for consideration at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee, draft guidance to Parties on the submission of credentials for a meeting of the Conference of the Parties taking note of the CoP16 Credentials Committee Chair's recommendations that this guidance should address, *inter alia*, the following:
- a) submission of original credentials only and not copies of credentials;
 - b) use of stationery with an official letterhead which indicates the relevant country and government office;
 - c) signature of credentials by the head of State, head of government or minister of foreign affairs;
 - d) the acceptability of alternative signatories (in a temporary or acting capacity), if their authority to sign is clearly indicated;
 - e) provision of the name and title of the signatory; and
 - f) translation into one of the three working languages of the Convention.

When the draft guidance has been endorsed by the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall make it available to Parties through the CITES website.

Access to Global Environment Facility funding

A financial mechanism for CITES

The Conference of the Parties has decided to defer consideration of a financial mechanism for CITES, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to its 17th meeting, taking into account the progress achieved under the following Decision.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.2 The Secretariat shall:
- a) in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and in consultation with the GEF Secretariat, explore the necessity and feasibility as well as the legal and other implications of the GEF becoming a financial mechanism for CITES;
 - b) report on progress on its findings at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee, for consideration of the risks, benefits, necessity and implications, in order to get further guidance in preparation for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - c) convey Resolution Conf. 16.2 and Decision 16.2 to the GEF Council, through the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the GEF;
 - d) continue, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, to explore a closer working relationship with the GEF to enhance its biodiversity strategy in GEF-6 by strengthening the species-based component; and
 - e) convey CITES priorities to the GEF for it to take them into account when developing the biodiversity strategy in GEF-6, consistent with the mandate of the GEF.

Access to other sources of funding

Directed to Parties

- 16.3 All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are invited to provide financial or technical assistance for ensuring the effective implementation of the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
- 16.4 Parties are invited to second staff to the CITES Secretariat. The salary of such seconded personnel shall be covered by the Party. All seconded personnel shall remain under the administrative authority of the sending Party and shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the mandate of the CITES Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.5 Subject to the availability of external funding, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions, cooperation agencies and potential donors, shall organize a Wildlife Donor Roundtable to:
- a) share information on existing funding programmes on wildlife;
 - b) understand the long-term financial needs of developing countries to implement the Convention; and
 - c) explore the potential for scaled-up financial resources to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and to tackle wildlife crime.
- 16.6 The Secretariat shall present a report of its findings and recommendations at the 66th and 67th meetings of the Standing Committee, as necessary, and at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made with regard to the implementation of Decision 16.5.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.7 The Standing Committee shall review the progress of implementation of Decisions 16.5 and 16.6 at its 66th and 67th meetings, as necessary.
- 16.8 The Standing Committee shall continue its intersessional working group on *Access to finance, including GEF funding and innovative mechanisms*. This group shall provide guidance on how to secure funding to support the provision of technical assistance to CITES Parties and the Secretariat.

Strategic matters

Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.9 The Standing Committee shall, at its 65th meeting and on the basis of a review from the Secretariat, assess the functioning of the conflict of interest policy set out in paragraph c) under *Regarding representation in the Animals and Plants Committees* of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16), and make recommendations for refining the definition of conflict of interest, if appropriate, and for a mechanism to deal with such conflicts, having reference to such mechanisms developed in other multilateral environmental agreements or relevant international organizations and bodies, for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.10 The Secretariat shall compile examples of conflicts of interest procedures under other relevant agreements and organizations, and shall prepare a report for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.11 The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore further options to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels, including through their respective programmes of work and Secretariats.
- 16.12 The Standing Committee shall further pursue this work and report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Directed to the Parties

- 16.13 a) Parties should consider promoting actions to reinforce linkages between IPBES and CITES and to strengthen the science-policy interface at the national and international levels, including through the governing body of IPBES, as appropriate; and
- b) bearing in mind that IPBES consolidation remains in process, Parties are invited to provide inputs to the Secretariat in order to provide timely responses to IPBES in regard to CITES involvement.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.14 At its 64th meeting, the Standing Committee shall establish a Working Group on IPBES, including the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to assist its efforts to ensure that:
- a) there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES as well as a contributor to IPBES;
- b) communication between CITES and IPBES for the conveyance of government requests is effective;
- c) the development of the work programme for IPBES takes into account the needs of national scientific and management authorities to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment and legal acquisition findings, and related trade decisions; and
- d) CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines, particularly the deadline of 5 May 2013 for requests to and suggestions for the initial IPBES work programme.

The intersessional working group shall report to the Standing Committee at its 65th and 66th meetings.

Any inputs to IPBES developed by the intersessional working group shall, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee, be conveyed to IPBES by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee shall consider at its 66th meeting the need for drafting a resolution which specifically recognizes the relationship between CITES and IPBES.

The Standing Committee shall report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 16.15 The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees shall:
- a) assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of Decision 16.14;
- b) subject to external funds, participate as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and thereby reinforce linkages between the MEP and the CITES scientific committees; and

- c) report regularly to the Standing Committee on their activities under paragraph a) above.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.16 The Secretariat shall:

- a) under the policy guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, and in cooperation with the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on IPBES, established pursuant to Decision 16.14, continue to track and contribute to the intersessional and regular work of IPBES bodies;
- b) subject to external funds, participate as an observer in the governing body of IPBES and thereby reinforce linkages between that body and the governing bodies of CITES;
- c) explore with other biodiversity-related conventions possible means for facilitating cooperation between the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the IPBES Secretariat, once the latter is established;
- d) seek external funding to support attendance at IPBES meetings by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat; and
- e) report regularly to the Standing Committee, as well as at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the results of this work.

Cooperation between Parties and promotion of multilateral measures

Directed to Parties

14.28 Parties with stricter domestic measures and reservations should review them, as and when (Rev. appropriate, in order to determine whether they are effective and necessary in order to CoP15) achieve the objectives of the Convention to ensure that trade in wild fauna and flora species is not detrimental to their survival.

Directed to the Standing Committee

14.29 The Standing Committee shall continue its Working Group on Multilateral Measures until the (Rev. 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Operating by electronic means, the Working CoP16) Group should:

- a) review and, if necessary, revise any consultancy report produced under Decision 14.30 (Rev. CoP15)¹;
- b) organize, with the help of the Secretariat, if external funds are made available for the purpose, a meeting with representation from all CITES regions to discuss the above report; and
- c) based on the report of the meeting mentioned above, consider the need to draft for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties any revised or new resolutions.

CITES and livelihoods

Directed to Parties

16.17 Exporting and importing countries are invited to carry out voluntary rapid assessments of the impact of implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities and to mitigate negative impacts.

16.18 Parties are encouraged to develop case studies and facilitate exchange visits between relevant stakeholders from the different ongoing conservation and sustainable use programmes which address issues related to CITES and livelihoods in order to stimulate the

¹ Note from the Secretariat: Decision 14.30 (Rev. CoP15) was repealed at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. See Annex 1 to these Decisions for the "Terms of Reference for the consultancy envisaged in Decision 14.30 (Rev. CoP15) on Cooperation between Parties and promotion of multilateral measures".

exchange of lessons learnt regarding CITES-listed species living in similar environments and/or social conditions.

- 16.19 Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and public and private donors/investors are encouraged to support rapid assessments of the impact of the implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities, the implementation of activities which mitigate any negative impacts, and cooperation agreements between relevant national government agencies and rural communities.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.20 The Standing Committee shall continue the operation of its Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods so that the Working Group can review the comments on the toolkit and guidelines submitted by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.
- 16.21 The Working Group shall continue to work electronically through a forum available on the CITES website. The Working Group may, subject to availability of external funding, recommend to the Standing Committee that a meeting of the working group be required.
- 16.22 The Standing Committee shall review at its 65th and 66th meetings the progress made with regard to CITES and livelihoods.
- 16.23 The Standing Committee shall present a report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made on this work.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.24 The Secretariat shall, via a Notification, invite Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations to provide comments on document CoP16 Inf. 21. The comments shall be made available for consideration by the Working Group.
- 16.25 Subject to the availability of external funds, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations, facilitate the organization of workshops and side-events to showcase successful livelihood experiences, and create a section on the CITES website to publish experiences and case studies related to CITES and livelihoods submitted by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations.

Wildlife trade policy reviews

Directed to the Parties

- 16.26 As envisaged under Resolution Conf. 15.2 on *Wildlife trade policy reviews*, Parties that undertake wildlife trade policy reviews on a voluntary basis are requested to provide the Secretariat with relevant details of their reviews and lessons learnt, so that these may be shared with other Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.27 The Secretariat shall:
- a) compile and make available on the CITES website information provided voluntarily by Parties on wildlife policies or wildlife trade policies they have adopted, and wildlife trade policy reviews they have undertaken;
 - b) subject to external funding, assist interested Parties in undertaking wildlife trade policy reviews and provide necessary technical cooperation to those Parties;
 - c) subject to external funding, organize a regional or subregional workshop in another region which builds upon the *Regional Workshop for Arabic-Speaking Countries on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews* (Kuwait City, March 2009); and
 - d) report at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee and at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the work above and other progress made with regard to implementation of Resolution Conf. 15.2.

Capacity building

Directed to Parties

16.28 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) support and provide financial and in-kind resources for capacity-building activities, particularly those in support of Goals 1 and 3 of the *CITES Strategic Vision*;
- b) use the CITES Virtual College to support capacity-building activities;
- c) participate in reviewing the contents of the CITES Virtual College through their Management and Scientific Authorities, as appropriate; and
- d) translate the contents of the CITES Virtual College into national languages.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.29 The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding, where needed:

- a) undertake a review of capacity-building activities found in Resolutions and Decisions to assess whether and how they could be rationalized and consolidated, and report its findings and recommendations at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, and report on proposed revisions to Resolutions and Decisions, and, if considered appropriate, present a draft resolution on capacity building at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- b) collaborate with the Animals and Plants Committees on relevant capacity-building activities, *inter alia* to improve and expand the Secretariat's training materials on the making of non-detriment findings, including those available through the CITES Virtual College;
- c) within the mandate of Goals 1 and 3 of the *CITES Strategic Vision*, provide targeted capacity-building support to CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, Customs and law enforcement entities, the judiciary, legislators and other stakeholders, particularly in new Parties and Small Island Developing States;
- d) assist and support the Parties' own capacity-building efforts to implement the Convention at the national level;
- e) deliver general and specialized training through regional workshops and the CITES Virtual College;
- f) develop and further enhance partnerships with institutions and organizations providing Parties with capacity-building assistance of relevance to CITES, for example through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the International University of Andalusia;
- g) provide guidance to Parties on accessing financial resources to support the implementation of CITES (such as the Global Environment Facility and the African Elephant Fund); and
- h) undertake needs assessments and gap analyses to improve CITES capacity-building efforts.

Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES

Directed to the Secretariat

16.30 The Secretariat shall, before the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65):

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties containing a questionnaire on the needs identified in the Annex to document CoP16 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1), entitled *Technological, Logistical and Equipment Needs Assessment to Strengthen the Implementation of CITES in Developing Countries*. The Secretariat shall seek input from all Parties, revise the questionnaire, and report its findings at SC65;

- b) subject to the availability of external resources, and in order to assist Parties in determining how best to access and utilize new technologies, undertake a study of new and appropriate information and communication technologies needed to implement the Convention, including but not limited to, the use of hand-held devices and tablets, and off-the-shelf or ready-made electronic permitting systems that are affordable, such as UNEP-WCMC's Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX); and
- c) report the results of the study, with recommendations as appropriate, for consideration at SC65.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.31 The Standing Committee shall, taking account of the results of the questionnaire and the report on the *Technological, Logistical and Equipment Needs Assessment to Strengthen the Implementation of CITES in Developing Countries*:

- a) with assistance from the Secretariat, using information provided by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 16.30, and subject to the availability of external resources, develop a mechanism by which the technological, logistical and equipment needs of all Parties to implement the Convention can be assessed on a regular basis, and prepare a draft decision on such a mechanism for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- b) establish a working group on the development of the mechanism, and organize, subject to the availability of external resources, an intersessional meeting to discuss development of the mechanism and the challenges faced by non-English speaking countries regarding translation and interpretation.

Directed to Parties

16.32 All Parties are urged to consider, as a priority, the identified needs of developing countries when implementing capacity-building, fund-raising and budget-allocation programmes to strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species

Directed to the Secretariat

12.91 The Secretariat is encouraged to continue to develop and refine its capacity-building (Rev. programme dealing with the scientific basis for development, establishment and CoP16) implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Review of Resolutions

Review of Resolutions

Directed to the Standing Committee

14.19 The Standing Committee should review any proposals from the Secretariat to correct non-substantive errors or minor editorial faults in current Resolutions and decide whether they should be referred to the Conference of the Parties. In cases where the Committee agrees with the proposals and considers that they need not be referred to the Conference, it may instruct the Secretariat to republish the Resolutions with the necessary corrections.

Compliance and enforcement

National laws for implementation of the Convention

Directed to Parties

- 16.33 By the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66), Parties whose legislation is in Category 2 or 3 under the National Legislation Project and which have been party to the Convention for more than five years as of March 2013 should submit to the Secretariat, in one of the working languages of the Convention, appropriate measures that have been adopted for effective implementation of the Convention.
- 16.34 For any Party affected by Decision 16.33 that has been party to the Convention for less than 20 years, should exceptional circumstances prevent them from adopting appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention, that Party should advise the Secretariat in writing of those exceptional circumstances by SC66.
- 16.35 Parties whose legislation is in Category 1 under the National Legislation Project are encouraged to provide technical or financial assistance to one or more Parties whose legislation is in Category 2 or 3 under the National Legislation Project.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.36 The Standing Committee shall review at its 65th, 66th and 67th meetings the progress of Parties in adopting appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention.
- 16.37 At its 66th meeting, the Standing Committee shall recommend a suspension of commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those Parties affected by Decision 16.33 that have failed to adopt appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the Convention. This recommendation shall take effect 60 days after the conclusion of SC66. Should exceptional circumstances prevent any Party affected by Decision 16.33 that has been party to the Convention for less than 20 years from enacting legislation by SC66, the Standing Committee shall review the situation and determine appropriate measures for addressing it. Any Party affected by Decision 16.33 that has been party to the Convention for 20 years or more and has failed to adopt appropriate measures or agree an appropriate legislative timetable with the Secretariat by SC66 will be subject to recommendations to suspend trade. The Standing Committee will not make recommendations to suspend trade where a Party has submitted its final draft or an appropriate legislative timetable to the Secretariat by the SC66 deadline and it is pending action from the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.38 The Secretariat shall:
- a) compile and analyse the information submitted by Parties on measures adopted before the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to fulfil the requirements laid down in the text of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15);
 - b) subject to external funding, provide legal advice and assistance to Parties on the development of appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention, including legislative guidance for and training of CITES authorities, legal drafters, policymakers, the judiciary, parliamentarians and other relevant government officials responsible for the formulation and adoption of CITES-related legislation;
 - c) cooperate, in the provision of legislative assistance, with the legal programmes of United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNEP, the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as regional organizations such as the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Secretariat, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Association of South East Asian Nations, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
 - d) report at the 65th, 66th and 67th meetings of the Standing Committee on Parties' progress in adopting appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention and, if necessary, recommend the adoption of appropriate compliance measures, including recommendations to suspend trade;

- e) identify for the Standing Committee any countries that require attention as a priority under the National Legislation Project; and
- f) report at CoP17 on progress made with regard to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) and Decisions 16.33-16.38.

Enforcement matters

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.39 At its 65th meeting, the Standing Committee shall initiate a process to assess implementation and enforcement of the Convention as it relates to the trade in species listed in Appendix I. The Committee shall report its findings at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.40 Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) in cooperation with partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, establish Wildlife Incident Support Teams (WISTs) consisting of enforcement staff or relevant experts. WISTs shall be dispatched at the request of a country that has been affected by significant poaching of CITES specimens, or that has made a large-scale seizure of such specimens, to assist it, and guide and facilitate appropriate follow-up actions in the immediate aftermath of such an incident. The Secretariat shall report on progress in this regard at the 65th or 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, as appropriate; and
- b) seek invitations from Parties that have carried out significant seizures of CITES specimens, for the Secretariat, or relevant experts, to conduct assessments of the circumstances of such seizures and the follow-up actions that were taken, so that lessons may be learned and disseminated. The Secretariat shall report its findings in this regard at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Pangolins (*Manis* spp.)

Directed to the range States

16.41 All range States for Asian pangolin species are requested to compile information on the conservation of and illegal trade in Asian pangolins, and their efforts to address such trade, and to report at the 65th meeting of Standing Committee, subject to available resources for the purpose.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.42 The Standing Committee, at its 65th meeting, shall review the information provided by Asian pangolin range States and develop recommendations, as appropriate, to address the illegal trade in pangolin species and report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants

Directed to the Secretariat

14.39 The Secretariat shall, subject to available funding, in consultation with the UNEP World (Rev. Conservation Monitoring Centre:
CoP16)

- a) conduct a survey of reporting practices of Parties relating to trade in artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II, e.g. regarding the degree of completeness and detail;
- b) identify cases where the compilation of trade data pertaining to artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II has contributed to a significant extent to the detection of illegal trade or to any other analysis related to the conservation of wild flora;
- c) taking into consideration the results of paragraphs a) and b) above, analyse the Convention text and Resolutions in order to identify binding and non-binding elements

of reporting, with special emphasis on artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II. The Secretariat shall list options for streamlining such reporting; and

- d) report on its findings to the Plants Committee prior to its 21st meeting.

Directed to the Plants Committee

14.40 The Plants Committee shall, after considering the report of the Secretariat:

(Rev.

CoP16) a) determine whether there are any taxa of Appendix-II plants artificially propagated for which detailed reporting is less valuable; and

- b) report its findings to the Standing Committee at its 65th meeting.

Directed to the Standing Committee

14.41 The Standing Committee shall:

(Rev.

CoP16) a) taking into consideration the findings of the Plants Committee, determine whether it is possible to streamline the reporting of trade in artificially propagated Appendix-II plants; and

- b) report on its findings at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and submit draft wording to amend Resolutions concerned, where appropriate.

Review of reporting requirements

Directed to Parties

16.43 Parties should:

- a) submit the report for 2013-2014 using the revised format agreed at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65) for reporting under the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 7 (b), of the Convention; and
- b) submit a special report by 30 June 2014, using a format provided by the Secretariat, which provides statistical information for the calendar year 2013 on: administrative measures (e.g. fines, bans, suspensions) imposed for CITES-related violations; significant seizures, confiscations and forfeitures of CITES specimens; criminal prosecutions or other court actions; and disposal of confiscated specimens.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.44 The Standing Committee, with the assistance of its Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements and the Secretariat, shall undertake the following actions at its 65th meeting or, if necessary, its 66th meeting (SC65 and SC66):

- a) adopt a revised format for reporting under Article VIII, paragraph 7 (b) and ensure distribution of the revised format through a Notification to the Parties;
- b) review identified special reporting requirements and the results of related reviews undertaken by the Animals and Plants Committees in accordance with Decision 16.45;
- c) assess whether each special reporting requirement identified in paragraph b) above is still current and valid, or whether it is outdated or otherwise unnecessary and can be considered for deletion, taking account of advice from the Animals and Plants Committees as appropriate;
- d) consider how best to assist Parties with the preparation and submission of national reports, including the opportunities offered for using information technology to capture information using online or electronic report formats;
- e) consider appropriate means for collecting statistical information on illegal trade through the annual report, taking into account the data fields contained in the INTERPOL Ecomessage or other relevant reporting formats;
- f) consider the linkages between the *CITES Strategic Vision*, and its indicators, and the Aichi Targets, including how best to report CITES input to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and related global biodiversity indicators;

- g) consider whether any *CITES Strategic Vision* indicators should be amended, deleted or added;
- h) provide advice to the Secretariat on the publication of the outcomes resulting from implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision* indicators; and
- i) prepare a report for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work and its future recommendations, if any.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 16.45 The Animals and Plants Committees, with the assistance of the Standing Committee Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements and the Secretariat, shall undertake the following actions at their 27th meeting (AC27) and 21st meeting (PC21), respectively:
- a) review the special reporting requirements identified by the Standing Committee Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements which relate to animals and plants, respectively;
 - b) assess whether any of these reporting requirements are still current and valid, or whether they are outdated or otherwise unnecessary and can be considered for deletion; and
 - c) advise the Standing Committee Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements of the results of the review and assessments mentioned in paragraphs a) and b) above, in a timely manner, so that it can provide a collated report on valid reporting requirements for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65).

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.46 The Secretariat shall:
- a) continue to collaborate with the Secretariats of other conventions, UNEP and other bodies in order to facilitate the harmonization of knowledge management and streamlining of reporting, including ways to reduce the burden of reporting on Parties;
 - b) identify potential financial and other resources for publishing the outcomes resulting from implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision* and its indicators;
 - c) support the work of the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, including their efforts to ensure that the graphic presentation of information on implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision* indicators is published on the CITES website by the end of 2015 and then updated as resources allow, and as new information becomes available;
 - d) develop a special report format for use by Parties under Decision 16.43 to provide statistical information for the calendar year 2013 on: administrative measures (e.g. fines, bans, suspensions) imposed for CITES-related violations; significant seizures, confiscations and forfeitures of CITES specimens; criminal prosecutions or other court actions; and disposal of confiscated specimens;
 - e) collate for the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee a list of the currently valid reporting requirements under the Convention and advise on appropriate mechanisms for their implementation; and
 - f) report at the 65th and 66th meetings of Standing Committee and at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.

Review of Significant Trade

- 13.67 The Conference of the Parties has adopted the *Terms of Reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade* contained in Annex 2 to these Decisions.
(Rev. CoP14)

Disposal of illegally-traded and confiscated specimens of Appendix-I, -II and -III species

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.47 The Standing Committee shall review Resolutions Conf. 9.9, Conf. 9.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) with a view to determining whether to consolidate any of their provisions or simplify their provisions, and shall report its conclusions and recommendations at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Trade control and marking

Introduction from the sea: chartering

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.48 The Secretariat shall report at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee on the implementation of the Convention by the Parties concerned in relation to the provision on chartering arrangements provided for in Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16).

The report should focus in particular on the conditions under which non-detriment findings are made and permits and certificates are issued, as well as on the relationship between chartering States and States in which the vessel is registered, in performing those tasks. It should especially assess the capacity of chartering States and the States in which the vessels are registered to control compliance with the provisions of the CITES Convention.

In that regard, the report should pay special attention to the implementation of the provisions of the Resolution pertaining to the legality of the acquisition and landing of the specimens concerned.

The report shall also include any cases where Parties have been unable to take advantage of this provision, including in situations where at least one of the States involved is not party to a relevant Regional Fishery Management Organization/Arrangement (RFMO/A).

Between now and the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17), the Secretariat shall further communicate with the Secretariat of the relevant RFMO/A and other relevant international organizations, in particular regarding the implementation of the relevant obligations resulting from these RFMO/As or other international organizations, and share information provided with Parties on a timely basis.

Directed to Parties

- 16.49 Parties taking advantage of the provision on chartering arrangements provided for in Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) should provide in a timely manner all information that might be requested from them by the Secretariat in view of the establishment of its report on this issue at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.50 The Standing Committee shall assess the findings of the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Convention by the Parties concerned in relation to the provision on chartering arrangements provided for in Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16). On the basis of this report and any other information available, the Standing Committee shall provide an assessment on the implementation of this provision and, where relevant, propose amendments to this provision at CoP17.

Directed to Parties

- 16.51 On the basis of the assessment of the Standing Committee and any other relevant information, the Parties should review at CoP17 the provisions on chartering provided for in Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16).

Introduction from the sea: capacity building and special requirements of developing States

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.52 The Secretariat shall develop capacity-building tools and materials for use by Parties (e.g. a module in the CITES Virtual College) related to the implementation of the Convention for specimens taken from the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State.

Non-detriment findings

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.53 The Secretariat shall:
- a) invite Parties to submit their experiences and the results from workshops, projects or publications related to the making of non-detriment findings for inclusion in the CITES website; and
 - b) ensure this information is available in other formats (e.g. CD-ROM) where appropriate.

Electronic permitting

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.54 The Standing Committee shall extend the mandate of its Working Group on Information Technologies and Electronic Systems in order for it to perform the following tasks:
- a) collaborate with the CITES Secretariat in the drafting of funding proposals related to the development of CITES e-permitting systems;
 - b) work with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, the World Customs Organization and other relevant organizations to ensure that CITES e-permits are aligned with international trade standards and norms;
 - c) collaborate with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre to further develop the Electronic Permit Information eXchange to act as a clearing-house of CITES e-permits and certificates and to offer Parties in developing regions a ready-to-use electronic CITES permitting system;
 - d) work with the CITES Secretariat to ensure that the CITES toolkit is updated as necessary; and
 - e) support the participation in the Working Group of developing countries party to CITES.

Decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.55 The Standing Committee shall:
- a) with the assistance of the Secretariat, propose for approval at the latest at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) a decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties;
 - b) at its 64th meeting, establish a working group, composed of the Chair of the Standing Committee, specified key Party stakeholders and the Secretariat, to implement the instruction in paragraph a) of the present Decision. The working group shall work intersessionally and take into consideration relevant documents submitted at previous meetings of the Standing Committee and the findings and comments in document CoP16 Doc. 36 (Rev. 1), and consult additional experts or stakeholders, if considered necessary. The Standing Committee shall consider the findings and recommendations of the working group at its 65th meeting, decide on further actions as required, and agree on a final proposal at its 66th meeting for submission at CoP17; and

- c) conduct its work on the development of a decision making mechanism in consultation with all African and Asian elephant range States and, to the extent possible, in both English and French.

Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates

Directed to the Standing Committee

14.54 The Standing Committee shall re-establish an intersessional joint working group to review the use of purpose-of-transaction codes by Parties, with the following terms of reference: (Rev. CoP16)

- a) the working group shall be composed of Parties from as many of the six CITES regions as possible, and appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with expertise in the issuance of CITES documents and use of purpose-of-transaction codes for evaluation within the permit issuance process and trade data analysis;
- b) the working group shall, communicating through electronic media, focus on clearly defining purpose-of-transaction codes to encourage their consistent use, and consider the possible elimination of current codes or the inclusion of new ones;
- c) in evaluating the use and definition of purpose-of-transaction codes, the working group shall take into account any difficulties of implementation by Parties and the potential resource implications of inclusion of any new codes or deletion of current purpose-of-transaction codes; and
- d) the working group shall submit a report and any recommendations for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16), or to any revision thereof, at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, which shall report, with its recommendations, at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Use of taxonomic serial numbers

Directed to Parties

16.56 Parties, particularly those engaged in the development of Single Window environments, are encouraged to consider the usefulness of incorporating taxonomic serial numbers in their domestic systems for management of data on authorization of trade under CITES, and alternatives to such numbers that they might use or be using, and to provide comments to the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.57 The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding, compile information voluntarily provided by the Parties in accordance with Decision 16.56, make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting and make this information available to Parties at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Physical inspection of timber shipments

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.58 By the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall:
- a) obtain information and materials from those Parties that have reported that they have developed tools and procedures for the identification and measurement of CITES-listed tree species, and the physical inspection of timber shipments;
 - b) publish the information on the CITES website so that it can be accessed by CITES plant inspection and enforcement authorities; and
 - c) incorporate this information into its capacity-building activities related to timber trade.

Identification of CITES-listed corals in trade

Directed to the Animals Committee

15.64 The Animals Committee shall:

- a) identify existing coral reference materials that could be adopted as standard nomenclatural references for CITES-listed corals; and
- b) update its list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level is acceptable, but which should be identified to species level where feasible, and provide the updated list to the Secretariat for dissemination.

Directed to the Secretariat

15.65 The Secretariat shall, upon receiving the updated list from the Animals Committee, transmit this information to the Parties through a Notification to the Parties, and by publishing the list on the CITES website.

Identification Manual

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat

16.59 The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) form an intersessional working group comprising at least one representative from each region of both Committees to assist in identifying CITES-listed taxa, taking account of existing CITES identification and guidance material as well as other material produced by Parties, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations;
- b) determine, in collaboration with Parties, the current availability of identification and guidance material (printed and electronic) to increase accessibility to Parties;
- c) consult with Parties to assess the need for additional identification material, including material under production by Parties and requested in Decisions;
- d) compile a list of outstanding Decisions directing the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees, and the Secretariat to produce identification and guidance material for CITES-listed taxa;
- e) review, in collaboration with the Secretariat, and, taking into account new Web-based technologies, make recommendations, including amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*, to promote accuracy and availability of identification and guidance material; and
- f) report progress at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Parties

16.60 The Parties are encouraged to support the efforts of the Working Group by:

- a) providing to the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance material that is used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspections officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention;
- b) evaluating the status of pending identification material and identify difficulties associated with the completion of this material; and
- c) consulting with enforcement and inspection officials to assess current needs with regard to identification materials and guidance needs, and possible improvements to meet those needs.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.61 The Secretariat is directed to issue a Notification to the Parties within six months of the close of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties requesting information on available identification and guidance materials for compilation by the Secretariat and report on its contents at the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 21st meeting of the Plants

Committee to assist in the establishment of the Working Group and in the implementation of Decision 16.59.

E-commerce of specimens of CITES-listed species

Directed to Parties

15.57 Parties are urged to:

- a) submit information to the CITES Secretariat on best practices and on websites adhering to codes of conduct for posting on the CITES website;
- b) publish results of scientific research on correlations between use of the Internet and the rate of wildlife crime, and share these results with the CITES Secretariat;
- c) assess the extent of and trends in commerce of CITES-listed species via the Internet, and submit such information to the Secretariat for analysis; and
- d) submit information to the CITES Secretariat for analysis on any changes in trade routes and methods of shipment that have been observed as a result of increased use of the Internet to promote trade in wildlife.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.62 The Standing Committee shall, in collaboration with the Secretariat, liaise with the World Customs Organization with regard to the inclusion of CITES-listed species in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

Exemptions and special trade provisions

Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species

Directed to the Secretariat

15.52 The Secretariat shall:

- a) contingent on the availability of external funds, contract an appropriate expert to prepare a guide to advise the Parties on the appropriate use of source codes;
- b) provide a draft of this guide to the Animals and Plants Committees for review and comment; and
- c) prepare and distribute the final product, incorporating the feedback of the Animals and Plants Committees, to inform the Parties on the appropriate use of source codes.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

15.53 The Animals and Plants Committees shall review and provide feedback to the Secretariat on the draft guide to advise the Parties on the appropriate use of source codes.

Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens

Directed to the Secretariat

16.63 The Secretariat shall:

- a) contingent on the availability of external funds, contract an appropriate expert or experts to:
 - i) evaluate the concerns identified in the examples in document SC62 Doc. 26, Annex, regarding trade in specimens claimed to be derived from captive breeding or ranching;
 - ii) review CITES annual report data for specimens recorded using source codes C, D, F and R;
 - iii) identify problems with CITES implementation associated with these examples;

- iv) consider ways to more effectively share available information on captive-breeding and ranching operations;
 - v) evaluate the utility of a captive-breeding database (including wider application of the existing UNEP-WCMC Captive-Breeding Database being developed for the European Union);
 - vi) prepare a report on its findings and recommendations, taking into consideration the report and recommendations of the working group on implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens presented at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee; and
 - vii) develop draft checklists or guides for the inspection of captive-breeding and ranching facilities and review of permit applications for captive-bred and ranched specimens;
- b) provide a draft of this report and additional materials to the Animals Committee at its 27th meeting, for review; and
 - c) distribute final report and materials to the Parties if endorsed by the Animals and Standing Committees.
- 16.64 The Secretariat shall report at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee on significant cases where it has taken initiatives or entered into a dialogue with Parties on trade in specimens declared as bred in captivity or ranched where there is serious doubt about the identified source of the specimens in trade.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 16.65 The Animals Committee, at its 27th meeting, shall review the report and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.66 The Standing Committee, at its 65th meeting, shall:
- a) review the report and the recommendations of the Animals Committee and make its own recommendations to the Parties concerned and the Conference of the Parties; and
 - b) consider proposing amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) or Resolution Conf. 14.3, or proposing a new resolution to provide a process for reviewing the implementation of CITES for specific examples of trade in specimens that are claimed to be produced via captive breeding or ranching.

Species trade and conservation

Fauna

Great apes (Hominidae spp.)

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.67 The Standing Committee, assisted by the Secretariat, and in consultation with interested Parties, GRASP, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Animals Committee and other bodies as appropriate, review Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16), with a view to establishing an illegal trade reporting mechanism, and present a summary of its consultations and its recommendations at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

Directed to the Parties, especially Appendix-I Asian big cat range States

- 16.68 All Parties, particularly Appendix-I Asian big cat range States, are encouraged to:

- a) support the activities to be conducted in compliance with Decision 16.70, paragraph c), to enable the Secretariat to prepare a report with findings and recommendations, including reporting on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16) (*Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*), at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee; and
- b) provide information on incidents of poaching of and illegal trade in all Asian big cat species, including their parts and derivatives, which will enable the compilation of a report for the law enforcement community, in compliance with Decision 16.70, paragraph d).

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.69 The Standing Committee shall review the conservation of and trade in Appendix-I Asian big cat species at its 65th and 66th meetings, and determine any actions deemed necessary to combat illegal trade in Asian big cats.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.70 The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funds, in cooperation with partner organizations in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and, as appropriate, other experts and organizations:

- a) arrange national seminars in Appendix-I Asian big cat range States, involving all relevant enforcement agencies, to promote a multi-disciplinary approach that will facilitate improved coordination and cooperation in the detection, investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime offences;
- b) develop a leaflet containing simple illustrations and guidance, to increase awareness of illegal trade in Asian big cats and the endangered status of the species amongst front-line law enforcement staff and border control staff;
- c) in consultation with Appendix-I Asian big cat range and consumer States, conduct a review of implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16) in relation to all Asian big cats and prepare a report providing its findings and recommendations for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee; and
- d) gather information on incidents of poaching of and illegal trade in all Asian big cats since the beginning of 2010, undertake an analysis of the information, and prepare a report for the law enforcement community to be circulated in a restricted fashion to relevant enforcement agencies and range States.

Illegal trade in cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*)

Directed to the Secretariat

16.71 The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, contract independent consultants to undertake a study of the legal and illegal trade in wild cheetahs, and to assess the impact of this trade on the species conservation in the wild. The study should aim to determine the source of cheetahs in illegal trade, and the transit routes of illegally trafficked cheetahs, and should document the measures taken by Parties to deal with or dispose of confiscated live specimens. All range States must be fully consulted as stakeholders. The Secretariat shall make the results of the study available to the Animals and Standing Committees for their consideration.

Directed to the Animals Committee

16.72 The Animals Committee should review the study undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.71 and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.73 The Standing Committee should consider the recommendations of the Animals Committee made in accordance with Decision 16.72, and make its own recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties or for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties and donors

- 16.74 All relevant Parties are urged to assist those commissioned to undertake the above-mentioned study in any way possible, including through the provision of necessary information about legal and illegal trade in wild cheetah specimens.
- 16.75 Parties and donors are encouraged to provide funding to the Secretariat to finance the study on cheetah trade.

Reporting on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use*

Directed to Parties

- 16.76 Parties shall, by the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, submit a report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the system as set out in paragraphs c) to j) of Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16), including details of any problems with the processing of CITES documents, the management and tracking system in general, and the system in place to replace lost or damaged tags.

Directed to Secretariat

- 16.77 The Secretariat shall, at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, and subject to the availability of funds:
- a) provide a summary report to the Standing Committee based on the reports supplied by the Parties concerned in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16); and
 - b) on the basis of experience gained with the operation of the tagging system set out in paragraphs c) to j) of Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16), make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee regarding the feasibility and appropriateness of extending the system for use with other CITES-listed species.

Elephant conservation (Elephantidae spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

- 14.78 In preparation for the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee, pending the (Rev. CoP16) necessary external funding, the Secretariat shall:
- a) produce an updated analysis of MIKE data, pending the availability of adequate new MIKE data;
 - b) invite TRAFFIC to submit an updated analysis of ETIS data and UNEP-WCMC to provide an overview of the latest elephant trade data;
 - c) invite the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Elephant Specialist Groups to submit any new and relevant information on the conservation status of elephants, and on pertinent conservation actions and management strategies; and
 - d) invite the African elephant range States to provide information on progress made in the implementation of the *African elephant action plan*.

On the basis of the information specified above, the Secretariat shall recommend actions for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens (Elephantidae spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.78 The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:
- a) convene a CITES Ivory Enforcement Task Force, consisting of representatives from China (including Hong Kong SAR), Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam, in cooperation with

partner organizations in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and, as appropriate, other Parties and experts, to:

- i) review existing strategies and develop new strategies to combat illegal trade in ivory; and
 - ii) propose measures to African and Asian enforcement authorities to promote long-term collaboration between them, for example through exchange programmes or the secondment of law enforcement officers from destination or transit countries to source countries and vice versa;
- b) examine and advise about existing DNA-based and forensic identification techniques for sourcing and ageing ivory, identify relevant forensic facilities and research institutions, and consider the need for further research in these areas;
 - c) convene a workshop for Parties on the use of controlled deliveries, in collaboration with ICCWC partner organizations, with the aim of expanding the application of this investigation technique, particularly in Africa and Asia; and
 - d) develop, in cooperation with the World Bank and other ICCWC partners, an anti-money-laundering and asset recovery manual with a specific focus on wildlife crime, that can be used for the training of investigators, prosecutors and judges.

The Secretariat shall report on progress on the implementation of the present Decision at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee, with recommendations as necessary.

16.79 The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:

- a) contact each Party identified in document CoP16 Doc. 53.2.2 (Rev. 1) (*ETIS report of TRAFFIC*) as being of 'secondary concern' (Cameroon, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique and Nigeria) to seek clarification on their implementation of CITES provisions concerning control of trade in elephant ivory and ivory markets;
- b) based on its findings and in consultation with the Parties of 'secondary concern', develop country-specific actions and deadlines focused on ensuring significant progress by the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee on the implementation of measures to effectively control trade in ivory and ivory markets; and
- c) report its findings and recommendations at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee.

16.80 The Secretariat shall contact each country identified in document CoP16 Doc. 53.2.2 (Rev. 1) (*ETIS report of TRAFFIC*) as being of 'importance to watch' (Angola, Cambodia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates) to seek clarification on their implementation of CITES and other provisions concerning control of trade in elephant ivory and ivory markets, and report its findings and recommendations at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

16.81 The Secretary-General of CITES, subject to any guidance from the Standing Committee, shall cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime regarding:

- a) the levels of illegal killing of elephants in Africa and the related illegal trade in elephant ivory; and
- b) the national security implications for certain countries in Africa of this illegal killing and trade.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.82 The Standing Committee shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decisions 16.78-16.81 and Decision 16.83 at its 65th and 66th meetings, and determine whether any further actions are necessary.

Directed to the Parties

16.83 Parties involved in large scale ivory seizures (i.e. 500 kg or more) should collect samples from the ivory seized within 90 days of the seizure and, if possible, from all large seizures

from the past 24 months. They should submit the samples for analysis to begin immediately to appropriate forensic-analysis facilities capable of reliably determining the origin of the ivory samples, with the aim of addressing the entire crime chain.

Rhinoceroses (*Rhinocerotidae* spp.)

Directed to all Parties

16.84 All Parties should:

- a) immediately bring every seizure of illegal rhinoceros specimens made within their territories to the attention of authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination, as applicable, and to the attention of the Secretariat. Information on the seizure should be accompanied by available associated information, to enable follow-up investigations to take place;
- b) notify the CITES Secretariat of seizures of rhinoceros horn for which the origin cannot be determined. Such a notification should include information describing the circumstances of the seizure;
- c) enact legislation or use existing legislation to:
 - i) facilitate the use of specialized investigation techniques such as controlled deliveries and covert investigations in the investigation of wildlife-crime-related offences, as appropriate, in support of conventional investigation techniques;
 - ii) maximize the impact of enforcement actions by using other tools and regulations, such as anti-money laundering and asset forfeiture legislation, in support of wildlife legislation; and
 - iii) prosecute members of organized crime groups implicated in rhinoceros related crimes under a combination of relevant legislation which carry appropriate penalties that will act as effective deterrents, whenever possible;
- d) submit rhinoceros horn samples from specimens subject to criminal investigation, to designated accredited forensic laboratories as described in document CoP16 Doc. 54.2 (Rev. 1), for DNA analysis, in accordance with relevant legislation regulating the exchange of such specimens;
- e) prior to issuing permits or certificates, including pre-Convention certificates, authorizing the movement of specimens of rhinoceroses, consult with the country of destination, so that the true nature of the trade may be confirmed and monitored;
- f) introduce national measures, as appropriate, in support of CITES implementation, to regulate internal trade in specimens of rhinoceros, including any specimen that appears from an accompanying document, the packaging, a mark or label, or from any other circumstances, to be a rhinoceros part or derivative; and
- g) consider introducing stricter domestic measures to regulate the re-export of rhinoceros horn products from any source.

16.85 All Parties implicated in the illegal trade of rhinoceros horn as a range or consumer State, where applicable, should:

- a) develop and implement long-term demand reduction strategies or programmes and immediate actions aimed at reducing the illegal movement and consumption of rhino horn products, taking into consideration the draft demand-reduction principles included in the Annex to document CoP16 Doc. 54.1 (Rev. 1), to achieve measurable change in consumer behaviour;
- b) develop and implement strategies or programmes to enhance community awareness with regard to the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife crime, and to encourage the general public to report illegal activities related to wildlife trade to appropriate authorities for further investigation. Such strategies or programmes and immediate actions could include the involvement of local communities that live in the immediate vicinity of conservation areas, community policing projects or other strategies as may be appropriate; and

- c) provide information on the effectiveness of strategies or programmes referred to in paragraph a) and b) of this Decision, to the Working Group on Rhinoceroses, by 31 January 2015, to assist the Working Group in identifying best practices and challenges experienced, with the aim of developing ideas to further enhance the effectiveness of demand-reduction strategies, and to report on its findings at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to Viet Nam

16.86 Viet Nam should:

- a) make progress with the development and implementation of the South Africa – Viet Nam 2012-to-2017 Joint Action Plan, including strengthening management of imported rhino horn trophies, and to improve investigations and prosecutions of Vietnamese nationals suspected of illegally possessing or trading in rhino horn, as referenced in document CoP16 Inf. 24; and specifically to include:
 - i) development of legislation on the domestic management of imported rhino horn trophies addressing the issue of alteration and transfer of rhino horn trophies pursuant to the national laws and CITES Resolutions; and
 - ii) establishment of a secure registration database to track legal rhino horn trophies;
- b) conduct consumer behaviour research to develop and implement demand reduction strategies or programmes aimed at reducing the consumption of rhino horn products; and
- c) provide a comprehensive report on progress made to the Secretariat by 31 January 2014, with regard to steps taken to effectively implement the requirements of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15), and include:
 - i) an update on arrests, seizures, prosecutions and penalties for offences related to illegal rhinoceros horn possession and trade in Viet Nam since CoP16;
 - ii) the effectiveness of Decision 11², reported in document CoP16 Inf. 24, to prevent illegal rhino horn trade; and
 - iii) any other on-going activities and measures implemented to combat illegal killing of rhinoceros and illegal rhinoceros horn trade.

Directed to Mozambique

16.87 Mozambique should:

- a) take steps to effectively implement the requirements of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15);
- b) give priority attention to the enactment and implementation of legislation with deterrent penalties to effectively combat wildlife crime, prevent illegal killing of rhinoceroses and illegal possession of and trade in rhinoceros horn, taking into consideration the content of Decision 16.84, paragraphs a)-g); and
- c) assist the Working Group on Rhinoceroses to implement its mandate by providing a comprehensive report on measures implemented, as specified in paragraph a) and b) of this Decision, and on any other activities conducted. This report should be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 January 2014.

Directed to Mozambique and South Africa

16.88 Mozambique and South Africa should further enhance bilateral cooperation with each other and with their neighbouring States, to enhance current efforts to combat illegal killing of rhinoceroses and illegal trade in rhinoceros horn, and should provide a comprehensive

² Note from the Secretariat: In January 2013, the Prime Minister of Viet Nam issued Decision 11 on the "Prohibition of the export, import, selling and buying of specimens of some wild animals listed in the CITES Appendices". See document CoP16 Inf. 24 for further information.

report to the Secretariat, by 31 January 2014, with regard to activities conducted in this regard.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.89 The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, convene a CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force consisting of representatives from Parties affected by rhinoceros poaching and illegal trade in rhinoceros horn, the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime partner organizations, EUROPOL and, as appropriate, other Parties and experts. The Task Force should develop strategies to improve international cooperation, taking into consideration ongoing initiatives [such as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between South Africa and Viet Nam], and promote similar MoUs as appropriate;
- b) subject to external funding, develop, in conjunction with relevant institutions and experts, a manual containing guidelines on best practices, protocols and operational procedures, that will promote the use of wildlife forensic technology;
- c) examine the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) in those range States where the illegal killing of rhinoceros poses a significant threat to the populations of these species, particularly South Africa and Zimbabwe, and share its findings with the Working Group on Rhinoceroses;
- d) examine progress with curtailing illegal trade in rhinoceros parts and derivatives by citizens of implicated States, particularly Viet Nam;
- e) seek external funding to undertake a technical mission to the Lao People's Democratic Republic to assess current enforcement activities relevant to illegal trade in wildlife, in particular in rhinoceros parts and derivatives, and the implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15);
- f) revise Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15), taking into consideration the contents of Decisions 16.84 and 16.85 and submit this revised version for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- g) report at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee on progress with regard to the implementation of paragraph a) to e) of this Decision.

Directed to the Working Group on Rhinoceroses

16.90 The Working Group on Rhinoceroses shall:

- a) evaluate the reports submitted in compliance with Decisions 16.86, paragraph c), 16.87, paragraph c), 16.88, and the findings of the Secretariat as per Decision 16.89, paragraph c); and report its findings and recommendations at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee; and
- b) evaluate the report submitted in compliance with Decision 16.85, paragraph c), and report its findings and recommendations at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.91 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) at its 64th meeting, extend the mandate of the Working Group on Rhinoceroses established at its 61st meeting, to continue to work, primarily through electronic means; and
- b) at its 65th and 66th meetings, consider the reports and recommendations of the Working Group on Rhinoceroses as required in Decision 16.90, and of the Secretariat, and determine further actions to be implemented by Parties to reduce illegal supply and demand, including any necessary measures pursuant to Resolution Conf. 14.3.

16.92 The Standing Committee shall review the definition of 'hunting trophy' provided in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16), in relation to rhinoceros horn hunting trophies, and consider whether any revision is needed in order to eliminate the possible abuse of the definition to facilitate illegal trade in rhinoceros horn.

Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*)

Directed to the Parties

- 16.93 All Parties should immediately bring every seizure of illegal Tibetan antelope wool and its products made within its territory to the attention of authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination, as applicable, and to the attention of the Secretariat. Information on the seizure should be accompanied by available associated information, to enable follow-up investigations to take place. The progress of follow-up investigations should also be reported to the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.94 The Secretariat shall report information on seizures made and on the progress of investigations referred to in Decision 16.93 at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*)

Directed to the range States of the saiga antelope (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)

- 14.91 In order to contribute to the effective implementation of CITES, all range States of *Saiga tatarica* should fully implement the measures directed to them that are contained in the (Rev. CoP16) *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015)* [MTIWP (2011-2015)], developed in support of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.)* and its *Saiga Action Plan*.
- 14.93 All range States of *Saiga* spp. should provide information on the measures and activities (Rev. CoP16) they undertook to implement the *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015)* via the online Saiga Resource Centre and its associated project database, managed under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- 16.95 All range States of *Saiga* spp. are encouraged to communicate their priorities for *in situ* conservation action to the CITES and CMS Secretariats, *inter alia*, to share such information with potential financial donors.

Directed to important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives

- 16.96 Important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives, as identified by the Secretariat on the basis of CITES trade data, are encouraged to collaborate in managing and controlling trade in saiga antelope and to implement the actions regarding *Sustainable Use and Trade* (Section 3) contained in the *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015)*, developed in support of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.)* and its *Saiga Action Plan*.
- 16.97 Important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives are encouraged to contribute financially towards the *in situ* conservation of saiga antelopes in current range States.
- 16.98 Important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives should provide, via the online saiga antelope database managed under the auspices of CMS, information on the measures and activities they undertook to implement the *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015)*.
- 16.99 Important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives are encouraged to reduce consumption in saiga products and derivatives, for example through the use of alternative products with similar medicinal properties, and to implement in this respect the recommendations of the Urumqi workshop on the conservation and sustainable use of the saiga antelope (September 2010).

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.100 Based on information submitted by the relevant range States and consumer and trading countries, and following consultation with the CMS Secretariat, the CITES Secretariat shall

report to and, as necessary, make recommendations at regular meetings of the Standing Committee regarding the implementation of:

- a) Decision 14.91 (Rev. CoP16) regarding the implementation of the MTIWP (2011-2015) by current range States; and
- b) Decision 16.98 regarding the implementation of the MTIWP (2011-2015) by major consumer and trading countries.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.101 The Standing Committee shall consider the reports submitted by the Secretariat, and, on their basis, propose its own recommendations for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Great whales

Directed to the Animals Committee

14.81 No periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the moratorium by the International Whaling Commission is in place.

Grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)

Directed to the range States of *Psittacus erithacus*

14.82 The range States of *Psittacus erithacus* should participate in the development and implementation of regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *P. erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*.

Directed to the Secretariat

14.83 Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall develop regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *P. erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*, in collaboration with the range States, relevant experts, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Issues to be addressed in these plans should include:

- a) development of biologically sustainable national export quotas in cooperation with neighbouring range States;
- b) development of standards for making non-detriment findings;
- c) providing details of the control measures in place or to be implemented to verify the origin of the specimens;
- d) cooperation on studies on the population status and demography of the species and the status of its habitat;
- e) cooperation on long-term monitoring efforts;
- f) actions to implement law enforcement programmes to combat poaching and illegal trade (both national and international) and report on the results of the programmes in terms of enforcement efforts, seizures and prosecutions;
- g) agreements on reliable methodologies for assessing population status and population monitoring;
- h) investigations of the possibility of establishing *in situ* captive-breeding facilities for the species;
- i) encouragement of the participation of all range States, enforcement authorities, importing countries, experts, the NGO community and the private sector in implementing these plans; and
- j) considering expanding the management plans to include other psittacine species in the region.

- 14.84 The Secretariat shall seek funding for and organize workshops in West and Central Africa to assist range States in the development and implementation of regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *P. erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*.
- 14.85 The Secretariat should identify cases where there has been a history of exports in excess of quotas and, as long as necessary, verify export permits issued to ensure that quotas are not exceeded.

Snake trade and conservation management (Serpentes spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.102 The CITES Secretariat shall, where appropriate in consultation with the Standing Committee:
- a) subject to external funding, hire independent consultants in liaison with local scientists, and local research and academic institutions to:
 - i) undertake a study of production systems for Asian snakes listed in CITES Appendix II and the use of source codes; and develop guidance to assist Parties in monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems, including information to assess their biological feasibility and, where possible, economic viability (i.e. whether it is financially viable for commercial facilities to produce and export specimens as permitted by national authorities);
 - ii) compile information and develop guidance that can assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings, management systems for wild populations and the establishment of export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade, by undertaking relevant research, consulting with relevant experts, examining suitable examples and case-studies, and building on the results of the International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings (Cancún, 2008) and recommendations on the making of non-detriment findings from the Conference of the Parties;
 - iii) undertake a study of one or more high-value snake species in the pet trade (e.g. unique colour or morphological forms, or range-restricted endemics) to determine the impacts on wild populations of legal and illegal harvest for international trade, and to provide information required for making non-detriment findings for trade in these species; and propose actions to enforce the Convention as it relates to trade in these species; and
 - iv) undertake a study on methodologies to differentiate between wild and captive-bred CITES-listed snakes in trade, including parts and derivatives, ensuring that the work is carried out in line with recommendations of the Standing Committee concerning source;
 - b) issue a Notification to the Parties encouraging Parties to engage with interested institutions to investigate the possibility of forensic identification of specimens of CITES-listed snakes in trade, and requesting Parties to inform the Secretariat about the results of such engagement;
 - c) inform Parties of the results of the International Trade Centre (ITC) study on trade in python snakes in Asia, the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative's Working Group on reptile skin sourcing, when these become available, and other relevant studies and information;
 - d) present the outcomes of the activities mentioned in paragraphs a) and b) above, together with its recommendations, to the Animals Committee for review at its 27th or, as appropriate, 28th meeting, and make the final results available on the CITES website following review and approval by the Standing Committee pursuant to Decision 16.105;
 - e) issue a Notification to the Parties requesting Asian Parties to report on their implementation of Decision 16.106 to the Secretariat, and submit a compilation of this information and its recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 65th meeting;

- f) subject to external funding, conduct one or more interdisciplinary workshops for CITES and other relevant authorities and stakeholders of range States of Asian snake species in international trade on:
 - i) the use of guidance for monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems, as agreed by the Standing Committee pursuant to Decision 16.105;
 - ii) the use of guidance for making non-detriment findings and establishing export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade; and
- g) report on the results of these activities to the Standing Committee before the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17).

Directed to the Animals Committee

16.103 The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the results of the activities indicated in Decision 16.102, paragraphs a) to c), as well as the results of the ITC study and other relevant studies on trade in python snakes in Asia and UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative's Working Group on reptile skin sourcing, when available; and, based on these studies and reports, develop guidance and recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- b) examine the study undertaken by the UNCTAD Biotrade initiative's Working Group on reptile skin sourcing mentioned in Decision 16.102, paragraph c), and any other relevant available information concerning:
 - i) existing marking and tracing systems and, where relevant, accompanying certification schemes of all kinds (and not necessarily limited to those currently in use for trade in wild species), which could provide best practices that might be applicable to snakes;
 - ii) a traceability system to confirm the legal origin of snake skins; and
 - iii) the economic feasibility of current technologies to implement such a traceability and marking system;
- c) advise the Standing Committee on the feasibility of implementing such a traceability system for snakes; and
- d) report on the status of this work at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee.

16.104 The Animals Committee shall, at its 27th meeting, consider the final IUCN red list assessments for Asian snake species and, if available, incorporate new information and data and make appropriate recommendations, including recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.105 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the reports and recommendations from the Animals Committee and the Secretariat provided in accordance with Decisions 16.102 and 16.103 and, as appropriate, the results of the ITC study on trade in python snakes in Asia, the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative's Working Group on reptile skin sourcing, and any other relevant available information;
- b) examine the study undertaken by the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative's Working Group on reptile skin sourcing, and any other relevant available information concerning:
 - i) the socio-economic implications of such a traceability system; and
 - ii) the potential costs of the system at all levels along the supply chain, from producers to consumers;
- c) make recommendations to the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat as appropriate; and

- d) report on the implementation of Decisions 16.102, 16.104 and 16.105 at CoP17, with recommendations for consideration by the Parties, if deemed necessary.

Directed to Parties

- 16.106 Parties should eliminate the important illegal and unreported trade in specimens, whether live or parts and derivatives, of CITES-listed snake species by:
- a) ensuring that CITES permits and certificates are properly issued for trade in these specimens;
 - b) including information on trade in these specimens in their CITES annual reports;
 - c) ensuring that their annual reports are following the most recent version of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP16);
 - d) examining their enforcement efforts regarding trade in these specimens to ensure that adequate steps are taken to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade;
 - e) undertaking education and outreach activities directed towards snake farms, buyers and sellers of live snakes, parts and derivatives, product manufacturers, shippers, brokers and staff from government agencies involved in controlling and monitoring this trade to ensure that snake specimens are traded in compliance with national laws and CITES provisions; and
 - f) in the case of Parties in Asia, reporting on their efforts in all of these areas to the Secretariat in time for its reporting for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee, in compliance with Decision 16.102, paragraph e).
- 16.107 In order to support the sustainable use of Asian snakes, Parties are as necessary invited to:
- a) in the case of range States with shared CITES-listed species in trade, develop comparable, or as far as possible standardized non-detriment finding methodologies, including the establishment of quota setting systems; and
 - b) establish voluntary conservative annual catch and export quotas for CITES-listed snake species in trade, and to communicate the export quotas to the Secretariat.

Directed to ICCWC and ASEAN-WEN

- 16.108 The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) are encouraged to take note of the concerns about the illegal and unreported trade in snakes and their parts and derivatives, and to take these into account when developing work programmes and, if funding is available, undertaking relevant activities.

Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.109 Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall contract independent consultants to undertake a study, taking into account the findings of the Cancún workshop on non-detriment findings and other pertinent sources of information, to identify and discuss factors that are of particular relevance to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles. These factors should include, but not be limited to, tortoise and turtle population status and dynamics, trade dynamics, production systems, and trade in parts and derivatives. This study should provide guidance to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles.
- 16.110 The Secretariat shall make the results of the study referred to in Decision 16.109 available to the Animals Committee for consideration, if possible, at its 27th meeting.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 16.111 The Animals Committee shall review the study undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.109 and make recommendations, as appropriate and, if possible, at its 27th meeting for consideration by the Standing Committee and the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.112 The Standing Committee shall review the study undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.109 and the Animals Committee recommendations, and make its own recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties or for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties

- 16.113 The Parties, particularly those of the Asian region, should collect data on seizures of CITES-listed live tortoises and freshwater turtles, and report these data annually to the Secretariat, along with the disposition of the specimens. The Parties should provide the data in conjunction with their annual report submission. These data should be reported for confiscations through the end of 2019.

The Parties should report, if possible, on the following parameters: species, numbers of specimens, destination (for exports) or source/re-exporting country (for imports), and disposition of the animals as per Resolution Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Disposal of confiscated live specimens of species included in the Appendices*.

- 16.114 Parties are encouraged to collect and report data voluntarily, in the same manner as indicated in Decision 16.113, on confiscations of international shipments of non-CITES freshwater turtle species, so that such data may shed light on illegal trade methods and provide useful information to Enforcement and Management Authorities.
- 16.115 Parties are encouraged to collect and report voluntarily comparable data on confiscations of specimens of CITES and non-CITES species of tortoises and freshwater turtles traded domestically. Parties are encouraged to provide the data annually in response to the invitation by the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.116 The Secretariat shall invite Parties to provide the information specified in Decisions 16.114 and 16.115, consider the information submitted under Decision 16.113, and report on its evaluation of the data received to the Standing Committee for its next regular meeting, and make recommendations for the implementation and enforcement of the Convention.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.117 The Standing Committee shall consider the reports submitted by the Secretariat and its recommendations, and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Directed to Parties

- 16.118 Considering the large-scale illegal and undocumented trade in parts and derivatives from CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles, the Parties should:
- a) take note of this problem and take steps to address it within their national systems to ensure that CITES permits are properly issued and the Convention is fully implemented and enforced;
 - b) examine their enforcement efforts regarding the trade in these parts and derivatives, and take adequate steps to deter and detect illegal and undocumented trade;
 - c) conduct education and outreach efforts directed towards turtle farms, buyers and sellers of turtle shell, bones, cartilage (calipee), and other parts, medicinal product manufacturers, shippers, brokers, and other key stakeholders to better ensure that turtle parts and derivatives are traded in compliance with national laws and CITES requirements; and
 - d) report their progress in these areas, via the Secretariat, at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.119 The Secretariat shall:
- a) forward the reports provided pursuant to Decision 16.118 to the Standing Committee, making any recommendations it deems appropriate;

- b) seek funding to establish and convene a CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force, which should undertake an exchange of intelligence and develop strategies to combat illegal trade. The members of the Task Force could include ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, and those Parties in Asia that are most affected by the illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles and their parts and derivatives; and
- c) report on the work of the Task Force at the 65th or 66th meeting of the Standing Committee and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.120 The Standing Committee shall consider at its 65th or 66th meeting all the information and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 16.119 and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Directed to the Parties

16.121 Parties, particularly those in the Asia region, are encouraged to:

- a) increase enforcement activities to deter, detect and address illegal and undocumented trade in CITES-listed live tortoises and freshwater turtles, and their parts and derivatives, *inter alia* by providing relevant training to national enforcement authorities, strengthening the enforcement and implementation of the Convention for these species, disseminating identification materials and increasing awareness amongst the judiciary; and
- b) provide relevant information on their progress in these areas to the Secretariat for reporting at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.122 The Secretariat shall:

- a) recognizing the ongoing prevalence of an illegal trade in live tortoises and freshwater turtles for the medicinal, food, and pet trades which is threatening the survival of some species in the wild and impacting the integrity of the Convention, seek external funding and, subject to its availability, hire a consultant to analyse reported data, identify species prevalent in illegal trade, and document illegal trade incidents, trade routes (including the Internet-based trade), methods of concealment, and other aspects relevant to enforcing CITES provisions concerning trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles;
- b) subject to external funding, contract a consultant to identify and evaluate tortoises and freshwater turtle identification and capacity-building materials, and assist with developing additional materials as deemed necessary, including the preparation and distribution of multilingual [Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Malaysia (Melayu), Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, English, Hindi, Khmer, Lao, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese and other languages as appropriate] identification materials focused on the shells and shell pieces of Asian tortoises and freshwater and terrestrial turtles; and
- c) report on progress on Decision 16.121, paragraph b), and paragraphs a) and b) above, including its recommendations, at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.123 The Standing Committee shall consider at its 65th and 66th meetings all information submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 16.122 and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

16.124 The Animals Committee shall, as a matter of priority, include *Cuora galbinifrons* and *Mauremys annamensis* in its Periodic Review of the Appendices.

Roti Island snake-necked turtle (*Chelodina mccordi*)

Directed to the Animals Committee

16.125 The Animals Committee shall include the Roti Island side-necked turtle (*Chelodina mccordi*) as matter of priority in the Periodic Review of the Appendices at its 27th meeting.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.126 The Secretariat shall liaise with the range States of the Roti Island side-necked turtle (*Chelodina mccordi*), Indonesia and Timor-Leste, to compile information relevant to the Periodic Review of the Appendices for review at the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee.

Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Directed to the Secretariat

16.127 The CITES Secretariat shall collaborate with the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. It shall encourage implementation of outstanding recommendations arising from the 2009 regional workshop on the hawksbill turtle in the wider Caribbean and western Atlantic region, taking into account the findings of the status update, as necessary, which shall be completed by 2014. The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of the present Decision at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Sharks and stingrays

Directed to the Secretariat

16.128 The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to Parties requesting that they provide to the Secretariat a summary of their domestic laws and regulations that prohibit or regulate the landing of sharks or trade in shark specimens, together with copies of or links to these instruments in order for the Secretariat to make this information available on the CITES website; and
- b) collaborate with the FAO Secretariat in the development of a single, regularly updated, source summarizing current Regional Fisheries Management Organization measures for shark conservation and management, with information on species, fisheries, Members and Contracting Parties, and the geographical areas covered and excluded.

Directed to Parties

16.129 Parties are encouraged to engage with the work of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), as appropriate, particularly for shark species listed in the relevant Appendices to CITES and CMS, recognizing that CMS Parties are required to strive towards strictly protecting species listed in Appendix I to CMS, to prohibit the taking of these species, and to implement other measures through the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks.

Freshwater stingrays (*Potamotrygonidae* spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

16.130 The Secretariat shall issue a Notification requesting the range States of freshwater stingrays (Family *Potamotrygonidae*) to report on the conservation status and management of, and domestic and international trade in the species.

Directed to the Animals Committee

16.131 The Animals Committee shall establish a working group comprising the range States of freshwater stingrays in order to evaluate and duly prioritize the species for inclusion in CITES Appendix II.

16.132 The Animals Committee shall consider all information submitted on freshwater stingrays in response to the request made under Decision 16.130 above, and shall:

- a) identify species of priority concern, including those species that meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II of the Convention;
- b) provide specific recommendations to the range States of freshwater stingrays; and
- c) submit a report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made by the working group, and its recommendations and conclusions.

Directed to Parties

- 16.133 Range States of freshwater stingrays are encouraged to provide information to the Working Group, the Animals Committee, and the Secretariat, as requested under Decision 16.130.
- 16.134 Range States are encouraged to cooperate in the development and implementation of research and monitoring programmes for the purpose of supporting evaluations of the conservation status and threats affecting populations of freshwater stingrays in their natural range.

Directed to the Parties, the Secretariat and interested organizations

- 16.135 Subject to external funding, the Parties, the CITES Secretariat and other interested organizations shall organize activities, including regional workshops, in order to facilitate the exchange of trade, conservation and management data on freshwater stingray species.

Sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.136 The Secretariat shall:
- a) subject to external funding and in consultation with the Animals Committee, organize a study to:
 - i) provide an overview of molecular, DNA-based and other forensic methods that could assist in identifying the species and populations of Acipenseriformes specimens in trade, determining the origin or age of specimens, and differentiating wild from captive-bred or aquacultured specimens;
 - ii) review relevant developments in this area, including the availability and reliability of uniform identification systems;
 - iii) evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the different methods (including practicality, costs, time-efficiency, reliability, technical requirements, etc.); and
 - iv) formulate relevant guidance for CITES Parties, enforcement agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders;
 - b) ensure consultation with Parties that authorize trade in specimens of sturgeons and paddlefish, appropriate experts, institutions and organizations, and the private sector in the conduct of the study;
 - c) make the results of the study available to the Animals Committee at its 27th or 28th meeting for its consideration; and
 - d) disseminate the recommendations formulated by the Standing Committee pursuant to Decision 16.138 in a Notification to the Parties.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 16.137 The Animals Committee shall assist the Secretariat in determining the specifications for the study referred to in Decision 16.136 and monitoring its conduct. It shall review the report of the study at its 27th or 28th meeting, and make recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.138 The Standing Committee shall review the study undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.136 and the recommendations that the Animals Committee formulated in compliance with Decision 16.137, and make its own recommendations, as appropriate, for

communication to Parties concerned or for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*)

Directed to Parties

16.139 To implement effectively the Appendix-II listing of the humphead wrasse, Parties should:

- a) use existing documents listed in paragraph 13 of document CoP16 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) in their implementation of the Appendix-II listing of the humphead wrasse; and
- b) investigate reported violations of the Convention and of related national laws in relation to trade in the humphead wrasse, and take appropriate enforcement actions in accordance with their national legislation; and

In addition, range States and importing Parties should strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation, including intelligence exchange and enforcement actions.

Directed to the Standing Committee

15.87 The Standing Committee shall:

(Rev.

- CoP16)
- a) review the actions taken by relevant Parties to implement the Appendix-II listing of the humphead wrasse;
 - b) consider whether it is necessary to ask range States and importing States to provide further information on their actions taken to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention regarding trade in this species;
 - c) develop, as appropriate, recommendations for improving the regulation of international trade in the humphead wrasse, and the enforcement of controls, to ensure the effectiveness of the Appendix-II listing of the species; and
 - d) report its conclusions and recommendations for any appropriate follow-up actions at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to IUCN

16.140 The IUCN Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group continue its support to Parties in achieving sustainable fishing of the humphead wrasse and in making non-detriment findings in compliance with CITES.

Regional cooperation on the management of and trade in the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

Directed to the range States of *Strombus gigas*

16.141 Range States of *Strombus gigas* are encouraged to adopt and, where applicable, move towards implementation of the recommendations made by the Queen Conch Expert Workshop (Miami, United States of America, 22-24 May 2012), as reviewed, amended and validated by the Working Group on Queen Conch of the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (CFMC), the *Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuicola del Istmo Centroamericano* (OSPESCA, Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), and expressed in the Declaration of Panama City (25 October 2012).

16.142 Range States are encouraged to participate in the development of national, subregional and regional plans for the management and conservation of *S. gigas* and to share information and collaborate on:

- a) best practices and guidance for the making of non-detriment findings for trade in *S. gigas* in compliance with Article IV of the Convention;
- b) relevant national, subregional and regional legislation; and

- c) enforcement issues, including illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU).
- 16.143 Range States of *S. gigas* should:
- a) in coordination with the Working Group on Queen Conch mentioned in Decision 16.141, develop conversion factors at different levels of processing of *S. gigas* for standardization of data and reporting instruments on the catch and trade in meat and other products;
 - b) adopt these conversion factors by the end of 2015 and report them to all range States of *S. gigas*, FAO and the CITES Secretariat; and
 - c) by the end of 2016, apply the agreed conversion factors in their *S. gigas* fishery management and national, regional and international reporting, and include the degree of processing of *S. gigas* products in the description field of the export permit.
- 16.144 Range States of *S. gigas* should collaborate in exploring ways to enhance the traceability of specimens in international trade, including, but not limited to, catch certificates, labelling systems and the application of genetic techniques.
- 16.145 Range States of *S. gigas* should collaborate in developing and implementing joint research programmes at subregional level to support the making of non-detriment findings and public education programmes.
- 16.146 Range States of *S. gigas* should provide information to the Secretariat to allow it to report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with Decision 16.148.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.147 The Secretariat shall:
- a) invite FAO and other relevant international and regional bodies to provide assistance to range States of *S. gigas* in order to enhance the capacity of their Scientific Authorities to make non-detriment findings, through the provision of training, technical support, the establishment and promotion of best practices and standards, and research support;
 - b) make existing examples of best practices, guidance and other relevant information for the making of non-detriment findings for trade in *S. gigas* available on the CITES website, and notify Parties accordingly;
 - c) communicate conversion factors and guidance for reporting on trade in *S. gigas* to the Parties, encouraging them to specify these conversion factors in their annual reports; and
 - d) collaborate with FAO to assist range States and Parties as necessary in applying conversions factors, and in improving harmonization of reporting to CITES and FAO.
- 16.148 On the basis of information provided in accordance with Decision 16.146, and in consultation with the range States of *S. gigas*, the Working group on Queen Conch mentioned in Decision 16.141 and FAO, the Secretariat shall report on the progress in the implementation of these Decisions at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Bushmeat

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.149 The Standing Committee, assisted by the Secretariat, and in consultation with interested Parties, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, relevant United Nations programmes, relevant Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees as appropriate, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other experts and stakeholders shall:
- a) review Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*, taking into consideration the decisions and guidance developed under the CBD, the outcomes of the joint CITES/CBD meeting on bushmeat and other relevant sources of information; and

- b) submit the results and its recommendations for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group

- 14.73 The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group is encouraged to collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in its work, and is invited to draw to the attention of the Standing Committee and/or the Conference of the Parties to any matters relating to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.11.
- 14.74 The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group is encouraged to continue its work, also by collaborating with the Convention on Biological Diversity Liaison Group on non-timber forest resources, and to report to the Standing Committee on progress made in implementing national action plans relating to the trade in bushmeat and other initiatives it takes regarding this subject. A report on the subject of bushmeat should be submitted at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Flora

***Hoodia* spp.**

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.150 The Working Group on Annotations should review the annotation to the listing of *Hoodia* species with a view to its standardization and amendment, as appropriate.

Ginseng (*Panax ginseng* and *P. quinquefolius*)

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.151 The Working Group on Annotations should review the annotation to the listing of *Panax ginseng* and *P. quinquefolius* with a view to its standardization and amendment, as appropriate.

Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and Malagasy palissanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)

- 16.152 The Conference of the Parties has adopted the Action Plan attached as Annex 3 to these Decisions to facilitate adequate implementation of the Appendix-II listings of *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar) and *Dalbergia* spp. (populations of Madagascar).

East African sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*)

Directed to the Plants Committee and the Eastern African range States of *Osyris* species

- 16.153 The Plants Committee and Eastern African range States of *Osyris* species shall:
- review and gather further information on the conservation status of, trade in and use of *Osyris* species within the region and internationally;
 - assess the impact of such trade on the conservation status of *Osyris* species in Eastern Africa;
 - assess the impact of such trade extending to populations not covered by the Appendix-II listings;
 - assess the data required to make non-detriment findings following the existing guidance;
 - identify mechanisms to help build capacity to carry out non-detriment findings for currently-listed populations; and
 - report on their work at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, if necessary, prepare proposals to amend the Appendices for submission at that meeting.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.154 The Secretariat shall work with the Plants Committee to seek the external funding required for the implementation of Decision 16.153.

Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.)

Directed to exporting and importing countries of agarwood-producing taxa

- 16.155 To facilitate the implementation of the annotation to agarwood-producing taxa, based on document CoP16 Inf. 3 and further information available, exporting and importing countries of agarwood-producing taxa should produce an identification manual for agarwood products and communicate it to the Secretariat.

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 16.156 The Plants Committee shall consider the current production systems of tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations, and assess the applicability of the current definitions of artificial propagation in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) respectively, and report back at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 16.157 The Plants Committee shall monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 (*Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*) to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, and shall report on these issues at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 15.95 Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in cooperation with the agarwood range (Rev. States and the Plants Committee, organize a workshop to share experiences, discuss CoP16) management of wild and plantation-source agarwood, identify and agree on strategies that balance the conservation and use of the wild populations, while relieving the pressure on these by using the planted material.
- 16.158 The Secretariat shall, upon receipt of the identification manual mentioned in Decision 16.155, make it available to Parties via the CITES website.

Neotropical tree species

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 16.159 The Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species shall work under the auspices of the Plants Committee.
- During its 21st meeting, the Plants Committee shall define the membership and the terms of reference of the Working Group.
- The Working Group shall preferably work through electronic means in order to reduce costs and speed up information exchange and progress in the activities included in its terms of reference.
- The Working Group shall report on its progress at the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee. In turn, the Plants Committee shall prepare a report on work completed for submission at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 15.93 The Secretariat, within the scope of its cooperation with the International Tropical Timber (Rev. Organization and other bodies, shall seek external funding to support the work of this CoP16) Working Group, if necessary.

Amendment of the Appendices

Review of Resolution Conf. 10.9 on *Consideration of proposals for the transfer of African elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II*

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.160 The Standing Committee shall establish a working group to review Resolution Conf. 10.9 as appropriate, and present its proposals at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The working group shall work in collaboration and consultation with all African elephant range States. To the extent possible, the working group will operate in English and French.

Review of the Appendices: Felidae

Directed to the Animals Committee

13.93 The Animals Committee shall complete its Review of the Appendices for Felidae. The (Rev. Animals Committee shall provide a report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the CoP16) Parties on the result of the review of all Felidae.

Annotations

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.161 Acknowledging that, at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Parties agreed to include definitions of terms in annotations in the *Interpretation* section of the Appendices as an interim measure until a final decision is reached, the Standing Committee shall examine the issue of where definitions of terms in annotations should be included permanently and make a recommendation in that regard.

Directed to the Standing Committee, Animals Committee and Plants Committee

16.162 The Standing Committee shall form a working group on annotations, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees, recognizing that the Animals and Plants Committees are an important source of expertise and advice to Parties on such scientific and technical issues. The group shall be chaired by a member of the Standing Committee and shall include, but not be limited to, members from the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee, observer Parties, CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, enforcement authorities, including Customs, and industry representatives. The terms of reference for the working group shall be:

- a) to explore the shared understanding among Parties of annotations, both their meaning and function, and the adoption of appropriate and reasonable procedures for crafting plant annotations;
- b) to evaluate and address issues related to the drafting, interpretation and implementation of annotations, and assist Parties in drafting future annotations, drawing on appropriate expertise from within and outside its membership;
- c) initially, to focus its efforts on evaluating the existing annotations for plant taxa listed in Appendices II and III, with an emphasis on ensuring that such annotations are clear as to the types of specimens to be covered by a listing, can be readily implemented, and focus on those parts and derivatives primarily exported from the range States and those commodities that dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource;
- d) based on the results of the timber trade study directed to the Secretariat in Decision 15.35 (Rev. CoP16), to review the existing annotations for tree species and, if appropriate, draft amendments to those annotations and prepare clear definitions for the terms used in the annotations in order to facilitate their use and understanding by CITES authorities, enforcement officers, exporters and importers;
- e) to review the appropriateness and practical implementation of the annotation(s) of the agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), taking into consideration the previous work done by the range and consumer States of these species;

- f) to review outstanding implementation challenges resulting from the listings of *Aniba rosaeodora* and *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in the Appendices, and propose appropriate solutions at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- g) to draft definitions of terms included in annotations, in cases where the terms are not easily understood or where there has been difficulty in implementing the listing as a result of confusion about what commodities are covered, and submit them to the Standing Committee for adoption by the Conference of the Parties and subsequent inclusion in the *Interpretation* section of the Appendices;
- h) to consider the effectiveness of including definitions of terms in annotations in the *Interpretation* section of the Appendices instead of elsewhere (e.g. in Resolutions) and, based on the determination, draft a proposal to include all definitions in a single location;
- i) to conduct any work related to annotations directed to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee; and
- j) to prepare reports on progress made in addressing the issues tasked to it and submit them for the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee.

Directed to Parties

16.163 At its 17th meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall review the outcomes of the work undertaken by the working group called for in Decision 16.162 and evaluate the need for continuing such a working group. If agreed, the Parties shall maintain Decision 16.162 and make changes to the terms of reference, as appropriate.

Annotations for tree species included in Appendices II and III

Directed to the Standing Committee and Plants Committee

- 14.148 a) Based on the results of the timber trade study, the Standing Committee and Plants Committee, via the working group called for in Decision 16.162, shall review the annotations for tree species listed in Appendices II and III and, if appropriate, draft amendments to the annotations and prepare clear definitions for the terms used in those annotations in order to facilitate their use and understanding by CITES authorities, enforcement officers, exporters and importers.
- (Rev. CoP16)
- b) The amended annotations shall focus on specimens that appear in international trade as exports from range States and those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource.
 - c) As appropriate, the Standing Committee, in close cooperation with the Plants Committee, shall draft a proposal to amend any annotation in the Appendices and any amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15).
 - d) The Standing Committee, in close cooperation with the Plants Committee, shall request that the Secretariat submit on its behalf any proposal to amend Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17). The Plants Committee shall request that the Depositary Government submit on its behalf any proposal to amend the annotations in the Appendices for consideration at CoP17.

Directed to the Secretariat

14.149 Subject to the availability of external funding, the Secretariat shall prepare a glossary with definitions and training materials to illustrate the content of the amended annotations, the terms used and their practical implementation when applying the law and controls.

15.35 The Secretariat shall commission a trade study, subject to available funding, to be conducted by an external consultant in cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization, to review the trade in timber species listed in Appendices II and III to determine the types of specimens that initially appear in international trade or are exported from range States and regarding those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource. Once the specimens that meet these criteria have been determined, the study should also determine which six-digit universal HS codes and associated definitions are

applicable to these specimens. The Secretariat shall provide the results of this study to the Plants Committee.

Extinct or possibly extinct species

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

16.164 The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* as they apply to species that are either extinct or possibly extinct and report to the Standing Committee on their findings.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.165 The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Animals and Plants Committees referred to in Decision 16.164 and make recommendations for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Annex 1

Terms of Reference for the consultancy envisaged in Decision 14.30 (Rev. CoP15) on *Cooperation between Parties and promotion of multilateral measures*³

1. Assessment as to whether the Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties are implemented by all Parties as consistently as possible and whether there is a need to clarify, revise or repeal them.
 - a) identification of the Resolutions that are implemented inconsistently and the reasons for deviations from the provisions of the Resolutions.

Recommended approach: The consultant to be appointed by the CITES Secretariat will analyse biennial reports submitted to the Secretariat and identify Resolutions that are implemented inconsistently or provide challenges in terms of implementation. The following key issue must be identified by the consultant:

- i) reasons for deviation from the provisions of the Resolutions;
- ii) challenges experienced in terms of implementation; and
- iii) reasons for implementing stricter domestic measures.

Where required, further consultation with CITES Parties relating to the above will be undertaken.

Existing documents to be reviewed by the consultant include document CoP14 Doc. 17. Based on information contained in document CoP14 Doc. 17, the following Resolutions have been identified by the members of the Working Group and should form part of the assessment to be conducted by the Consultant:

Resolutions
Resolution Conf. 4.22 (<i>Proof of foreign law</i>)
Resolution Conf. 6.7 (<i>Interpretation of Article XIV, paragraph 1 of the Convention</i>)
Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) (<i>Specimens of animal species bred in captivity</i>)
Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) (<i>Traditional medicines</i>)
Resolution Conf. 10.20 (<i>Frequent cross-border movements of personally owned live animals</i>)
Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP15) (<i>Compliance and Enforcement</i>)
Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) (<i>Regulation of trade in plants</i>)
Resolution Conf. 11.18 (<i>Trade in Appendix-II and -III species</i>)
Resolution Conf 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) (<i>Permit and certificates</i>)
Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) (<i>Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I species in captivity for commercial purposes</i>)
Resolution Conf. 13.6 (<i>Implementation of Article VII, paragraph 2, concerning 'pre-Convention' specimens</i>)
Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP14) (<i>Control of trade in personal and household effects</i>)

³ Note from the Secretariat: Decision 14.30 (Rev. CoP15) was repealed at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16). These Terms of Reference, reproduced here for historical information, were accepted by the Standing Committee at its 62nd meeting (Geneva, July 2012) and amended at CoP16.

In instances where Working Groups have been established to discuss specific matters, for example the Working Group on personal and household effects, the consultant should obtain all relevant information from the Chairperson of the Working Group.

- b) Identification of the Resolutions that require clarification, revision or repeal and make recommendations relating to the appropriate action to be taken. Substantiation of the recommendations made relating to clarification, revision or repeal.

Based on the assessment referred to in subparagraph a) above and the key challenges identified by the Working Group, Resolutions that require clarification, revision or repeal will be identified by the consultant and recommendations made relating to the appropriate action to be taken.

The Working Group identified the following challenges relating to the uniform application or implementation of Resolutions:

- i) lack of knowledge about existing Resolutions and the provisions contained in Resolutions;
- ii) complex issues and concepts are difficult to understand and interpret, especially in the absence of definitions or interpretation guidelines;
- iii) difficulties experienced by Parties to implement provisions contained in Resolutions due to limited resources available;
- iv) different interpretation of provisions or requirements by Parties. Some Parties may interpret a provision in a strict manner, while another may interpret it with greater leniency, resulting in differences in implementation; and
- v) conflicting provisions in different Resolutions; or non-alignment between separate Resolutions that address similar matters.

2. Assessment as to whether the scope for multilateral CITES processes that reduce the need by Parties for recourse to stricter domestic measures and reservations should be further developed.

- a) Give examples of stricter domestic measures, i.e. legislation, directives and policies. Solely for purposes of the consultancy, and not for the purpose of serving as a definition of the measures provided for under Article XIV, paragraph 1(a), of the Convention, 'stricter domestic measures' means:

Domestic measures (legislation, regulations, decrees, policies, directives, notices, etc.) adopted by a Party regarding conditions or restrictions for international trade, taking, possession or transport of specimens of species included in the Appendices, or the complete prohibition thereof, which extend over and above the requirements of the Convention for that species.⁴

- b) Identify current stricter domestic measures

A list of Parties which do / do not accept certificates of ownership (in relation to frequent cross-border movements of personally owned live animals); and, various Notifications to the Parties contain detailed descriptions of Parties' stricter domestic measures. However, a comprehensive list of stricter domestic measures is not available on the CITES website. The consultant should provide information or recommendations which could assist the Secretariat to initiate in the future a portal or Web-based system for Parties to provide information on their stricter domestic measures on a voluntary basis.

- c) Use of a case study approach to determine stricter domestic measures currently in place in selected countries and the scope and rationale for these measures, including divergence and convergence in stricter domestic measures between different countries.

⁴ This definition is intended to encompass only those stricter domestic measures with strong relevance to the conservation of the species through the mitigation of impacts resulting from international trade in those species.

The consultant will conduct case studies relating to stricter domestic measures currently in place. The Working Group recommended that at least two case studies be conducted, one involving a major importing country's stricter domestic measures, and one involving a major exporting country.

- d) Review of current information on reservations entered by Parties (e.g. available on the CITES website).

Consultant to analyse information on the CITES website relating to reservations entered by Parties and collate a report relating to the Reservations currently in place. Other sources of information and relevant studies conducted should also be referenced.

- e) Analysis of current multilateral measures and their appropriateness / potential to address Parties requirements that currently result in stricter domestic measures or reservations.

Based on the information contained in various documents relating to stricter domestic measures and discussions in the Working Group, it seems as if the existing measures, especially Resolutions and the process to review and amend these, assist in providing the means to obtain uniform implementation, but the provisions in the Resolutions must be aligned with the basic requirements in the text of the Convention (and not add additional burdens on Parties); Resolutions must be clear (unambiguous); definitions should be provided, where appropriate; guidelines should be developed, where needed (complex matters); capacity building should be provided in some instance; consistent alignment between Resolutions are required; and bilateral discussions should take place to address different interpretation of provisions.

Special care / consideration should be given to stricter domestic measures that result in complete / nearly complete closure of markets AND may conflict with processes already agreed in CITES (Periodic Review / Review of Significant Trade, etc).

With due consideration of information collated through the process, including Notifications and reports, the consultant should analyse the current multilateral measures and make recommendations relating to their potential to address Parties challenges relating to uniform implementation of the Convention.

- f) Recommendation, if appropriate, of the amendment of current, or the development of alternative, multilateral measures that could assist or facilitate cooperation between Parties and reduce the need for stricter domestic measures or reservations.

Recommendations to be developed, if required, based on the analysis to be done in terms of paragraph v. It is anticipated that the amendment of current measures and development of new measures will be continuous processes as already observed in terms of the Resolutions adopted by the Conference of Parties to CITES.

Annex 2

Terms of Reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade⁵

Objectives

1. The objectives of the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade are to:
 - a) evaluate the contribution of the Review of Significant Trade to the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a);
 - b) assess the impact over time of the actions taken in the context of the Review of Significant Trade on the trade and conservation status of species selected for review and subject to recommendations, taking into consideration the possible effects of these measures on other CITES-listed species;
 - c) formulate recommendations in view of the results and findings of the evaluation and the impact assessment; and
 - d) prepare a document on the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade and the resulting conclusions and recommendations for consideration at the first appropriate meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Process

2. The evaluation will commence immediately after the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, contingent on the availability of sufficient funds to ensure its completion.
3. The Animals and Plants Committees will oversee the evaluation, which will be administered by the Secretariat. Consultants may be engaged to assist it in this regard.
4. A working group composed of members of the Animals and Plants Committees, Parties, the Secretariat and invited experts will be responsible for advising on the evaluation process, reviewing the findings of associated research and developing recommendations for wider consideration by the Parties.
5. The Secretariat will regularly report on the progress of the evaluation at meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees.
6. A final report, which may include proposed amendments to existing Resolutions or Decisions, or other recommendations, and which will incorporate the comments of the Animals and Plants Committees and of range States addressed in the report, will be submitted by the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees for consideration at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chairman of the Animals or Plants Committee may submit an interim report to the Standing Committee when appropriate and considered useful.

Content of the evaluation

7. The evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade should include the following activities:
 - a) assess:
 - i) the process used to select species for review (including the reliance on numerical data), and the species selected as a result;
 - ii) the process and means used to compile and review information concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a), for the selected species (including communications with the range States), and the subsequent use of this information by the Animals and Plants Committees for the categorization of species and the issuance of recommendations;

⁵ Note from the Secretariat: this Annex was adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- iii) the types and frequency of recommendations made;
 - iv) the nature and rate of responses to recommendations, and problems identified;
 - v) the use of the recommendations by range States as guidance for managing target species and other CITES-listed species with similar characteristics;
 - vi) the nature and scale of the support provided to range States for implementing the recommendations, including field projects, financial aid and assistance in building local capacities;
 - vii) the ongoing process to monitor and review the implementation of recommendations, having regard to differing points of view as to where this responsibility should lie; and
 - viii) the impacts of the process on other aspects of CITES implementation, including how problems identified in the course of the review but not directly related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a), were addressed;
- b) conduct case studies of a representative range of species and countries subject to recommendations to assess subsequent short- and long-term changes, and whether these could be attributed to the process, in:
- i) conservation status of the target taxa in the range States;
 - ii) trade volumes and patterns of the target taxa, considering trade involving the range States subject to recommendations, other range States and non-range States;
 - iii) production or management strategies for the target taxa;
 - iv) market developments of conservation relevance (such as shifts in supply or demand);
 - v) costs and benefits associated with the management of and trade in the target taxa (such as the effects of trade suspensions and export quotas, shift in trade to non-CITES species or increased illegal trade);
 - vi) protection status of the target taxa within range States, and regulatory measures outside range States;
 - vii) trade patterns, conservation status and management for other CITES-listed species that might be suitable 'substitutes' for the target taxa; and
 - viii) changes in conservation policies in range States; and
- c) analyse the information to assess the effectiveness, costs and benefits⁶ of the Review of Significant Trade as implemented so far, by reference to the cost of the process and the time it takes, and identify means to improve the contribution it makes to the objectives of the Convention by reducing the threats to wild species.

⁶ *The phrase 'effectiveness, costs and benefits' is intended to address issues such as whether or not the funds spent on the process give value for money comparable to that for other CITES activities, and whether the time-scale envisaged in the process is too long for species that are in rapid decline.*

Annex 3

Action plan for *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp.

Madagascar shall:

1. Establish, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, a science-based precautionary export quota for the listed taxa where an adequate non-detriment finding can be undertaken and clearly documented for any species planned for export;
2. Establish, as appropriate, and with key partners [including the CITES Secretariat, CITES Plants Committee, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), main importing countries, and national and international research/conservation organizations] a process (research, information gathering and analysis) to identify the main species to be exported. Workshops should be organized for selected species to establish the adequate non-detriment findings required in paragraph 1;
3. Collaborate, as appropriate, and with key partners, as indicated in paragraph 2 above, to prepare identification material and tests for use in CITES enforcement to identify main taxa as they are traded;
4. Put in place an embargo on export of stocks of these timbers until the CITES Standing Committee has approved the results of a stockpile audit and use plan to determine what component of the stockpile have been legally accumulated and can be legally exported;
5. Collaborate, as appropriate, and with key partners, as indicated in paragraph 2 above, to establish enforcement mechanisms to assist in implementation of any export quota, stockpile control and opening of any legal and sustainable trade utilizing timber tracking systems and other technology as appropriate;
6. Provide written reports on progress with the implementation of the plan to the Secretariat and Plants Committee, in compliance with document deadlines for meeting of that Committee; and
7. Provide a document outlining progress with the implementation and any required adjustments to the Action Plan at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Plants Committee shall:

1. Work with Madagascar to implement this Action Plan and provide a format for and guidance on reporting on progress at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
2. Receive reports from Madagascar on the implementation of the plan, analyse and assess these, and assist and advise on same at its 21st and 22nd meetings; and
3. Recommend and facilitate the preparation of a standard reference for the names of *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar) and *Dalbergia* spp. (populations of Madagascar) to be adopted, if appropriate, at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Importing countries, especially developed country Parties, shall:

1. Work with Madagascar to implement this Action Plan, make recommendations on sources of funding when necessary, and provide funding and technical support to implement the plan on a voluntary basis.

The Secretariat shall:

1. Subject to available resources, assist Madagascar in the preparation of a stockpile audit and use plan, consistent with the Convention and relevant Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, for presentation to the CITES Standing Committee;
2. Seek external funding from interested Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, exporters, importers and other entities directly interested in supporting this Decision;

3. Inform relevant Parties of the management of funds that have been raised, of technical assistance available and how they may access these resources;
4. Request technical assistance of ITTO in the framework of Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber*, and
5. Promote, facilitate and assist capacity building in Madagascar and in importing countries, including as appropriate transit countries, through workshops, training and other activities considered relevant between the 16th and 17th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.