

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

Strategic matters

CITES and people

LIVELIHOODS

1. This document has been submitted by Peru and Zambia as Chairs of the Standing Committee Working Group on Livelihoods.*

Background

2. Pursuant to Decision 18.34 (Rev. CoP19), the Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on livelihoods with membership as found in the [list](#) of intersessional working groups established at SC76.

The mandate of the working group is as follows:

- i) review new case studies on CITES and livelihoods to draw best practices and lessons learned.
 - ii) review the draft *Guidance on maximizing benefits to Indigenous peoples and local communities from trade in CITES-listed species* and provide recommendations to the Secretariat and the Standing Committee.
 - iii) review the report on Exploring the use of registered marks of certification and other traceability mechanisms for products of CITES-listed species produced by indigenous peoples and local communities to enhance conservation and livelihood outcomes, and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee, including possible next steps, as appropriate.
3. Further, CoP Decision 18.35 (Rev. CoP19) directed to the Secretariat, subject to the availability of external financial resources, to organize a joint meeting of the intersessional working group on engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities and the intersessional working group on CITES and livelihoods to support the implementation of Decisions 18.31 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.34 (Rev. CoP19). The government of Peru host the meeting with the financial support from China and the Wildlife Conservation Society, the working group on engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities met in Urubamba, Cusco, Peru from August 29 to September 1, 2023.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Progress update

4. The working group initiated its work in May of 2023 through email exchanges. The Chairs suggest the process to fulfil the mandates and starts sending the template for new CITES and livelihoods case studies, the Working group members were invited to review and provide any new inputs and updates.
5. Members of the working group provided suggestions and include new items to the template and share their comments on how to better address the case studies, the template with the amendments and comments was consolidated and submitted to the Secretariat.
6. In preparation for the meeting, the chairs sent to the working group the documents of the mandate: the draft Guidelines on maximizing benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities from trades CITES-listed species; and the report on Exploring the use of registered marks of certification an other traceability mechanisms for products of CITES-listed species; and invited to make a review of them and register their comments.
7. The working member presented in the meeting were: Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, China, Colombia, Gabon, Germany, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Peru (co-Chair), Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zambia (coChair), Zimbabwe; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Conservation Force, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO), Species Survival Network (SSN), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
8. During the meeting, some new livelihoods cases, and experiences were presented by invited communities from Peru, community representatives and working group members this opened interesting discussions ahead for the work for the following days.
9. The working group discussed about its second mandate regarding the Guidance on maximizing the benefits to IPLCs from trade in CITES-listed species and agrees in principle that the Guidance will be a valuable tool for maximizing the benefits of the regulated trade in CITES-listed species to the livelihoods of IPLCs and the conservation and sustainable use of those species, which is in line with Resolution Conf. 16.6. The WG discussed in detail the six key strategies of the Guidance and agreed a set of amendments.
10. The WG will continue to provide inputs on the full guidance including, where possible, Parties consult with IPLCs within their country, other Parties and the IPLC WG; and propose recommendations to SC at its 78th meeting for consideration by the Conference of Parties at CoP20.
11. As for the third mandate regarding the use of registered marks of certification for products of CITES-listed species produced by IPLCs, the working group reviewed the five options described in Annex 4 of CoP19 Doc. 14 on Livelihoods regarding the use of registered marks of certification for products of CITES-listed species produced by IPLCs:
 - i. IPLC driven approach
 - ii. Government regulatory option
 - iii. Business driven option
 - iv. Multi-stakeholder voluntary sustainability standard option
 - v. A CITES-governed certification option.
12. The working group recognized the merits of the different options, the different levels of complexity as well as cost implications which will all affect their feasibility and eventual application. There is a general agreement among members of the WG that options 1 and 2 should be given priority as they empower IPLCs in the process. The WG felt options 3 and 4 require further study. Option 5 can be for future consideration. The WG recommends that the Conference of the Parties encourages Parties to share experiences, best practices and lessons learned in their use of certification systems for products of CITES-listed species from IPLCs, document best practices as case studies, and share such experiences with other Parties and the Secretariat.

Next Steps

13. The working group will continue its work through virtual meetings and electronic communications with the aim to provide its recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting.

Recommendations

14. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the progress and next steps for the working group on livelihoods.