

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



Joint sessions of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and
23rd meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 July 2017

Strategic matters

APPENDIX I-LISTED SPECIES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on *Appendix I-listed species*:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.22 *Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall contract International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) or other consultants, as appropriate, to make a rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal in trade in species included in Appendix I, with an indication of conservation priorities based on levels of threats caused by trade and resource availability to address these threats, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees, following consultation with range States. The Secretariat shall make recommendations to the Animals and Plants Committees on how the findings can contribute to the implementation of Aichi Target 12.*

17.23 *The Secretariat shall assist Parties in leveraging funding for the recovery of those species included in Appendix I which have the highest risk of extinction and for which no funding of conservation projects is known to exist.*

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

17.24 *The Animals Committee and the Plants Committees shall review the report and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 17.22, and formulate recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties and consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.*

Directed to Parties

17.25 *Parties are encouraged to seek support from governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other bodies to provide financial assistance for the recovery of species included in Appendix I that are facing the highest extinction risk and for which no projects or funding are currently available.*

Background

3. Decisions 17.22 to 17.25 are linked to the implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020* and the contribution by CITES to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

4. The CITES vision statement is to:

Conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss and making a significant contribution towards achieving the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

[see Resolution Conf. 16.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020*].

5. In order to achieve the purpose of the Strategic Vision, a set of goals and objectives were identified. Goal 3 and its Objective 3.4 read as follows:

Goal 3: Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and to achieving relevant globally agreed goals and targets by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.

Objective 3.4: The contribution of CITES to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, the sustainable development goals set at WSSD, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.

6. The Aichi Targets defined in the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (COP10 Decision X/2) include Target 12 which states that “by 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained”.

Discussion

7. It is clear that the implementation of the set of Decisions in paragraph 2 of the present document will help fulfil the *CITES Strategic Vision for 2008-2020* and contribute to a number of global biodiversity goals and targets.
8. The Secretariat is working to identify donors that might be interested in contributing to such a large project. However, the necessary resources have not yet been secured. It is estimated that implementation of this Decision could cost anywhere between 100,000 and 300,000 USD. The level of detail that is possible in the analysis will be determined by the amount of funding provided. In this regard, donor Parties and stakeholders are invited to contribute the requisite financial support.
9. In addition, it is important to note that in order to be able to produce the output in time for CITES to make a meaningful contribution through these Decisions to the determination of whether or not the Aichi 2020 target has been achieved, it is vital that the analysis gets under way as soon as possible.

Recommendations

10. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to:
- a) assist the Secretariat in identifying potential funding sources and donors as a matter of some urgency; and
 - b) consider how the scope of the analysis might be adjusted in various budgetary scenarios.