

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Opening of the meeting..... No document

The Chair of the Plants Committee (PC) and the Chair of the Animals Committee (AC) welcomed the participants to the joint sessions of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee.

6./7. Review of Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17)..... AC29 Doc. 6 / PC23 Doc. 7

The Committees endorsed the suggested approach for implementing Decision 17.9 in paragraphs 11 to 14 of document AC29 Doc. 6 / PC23 Doc. 7 and established an intersessional working group on the review of the terms of reference of the Animals and Plants Committee with the following terms of reference:

1. Review Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), and other aspects relevant to the functioning of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17);
2. Take into account previous deliberations, and documents CoP17 Doc. 10.2.1 and AC29 Doc. 6/PC23 Doc. 7, as well as Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee; and
3. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: AC Chair (Mr. Lörtscher) and PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair);

Members: AC representatives of Asia (Mr. Ishii), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Calvar Agrelo), Europe (Mr. Fleming), North America (Ms. Gnam), and the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk); the PC representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach) and the PC nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);

Parties: Canada, China, European Union, Georgia, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Humane Society International.

7./8. CITES Strategic Vision..... No document

The Committees agreed to request the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees (and the Vice-Chairs of each Committee if the Chairs are not available) to participate in the Standing Committee Strategic Vision working group when it is established by the Standing Committee.

8./9. Appendix I-listed species..... AC29 Doc. 8 / PC23 Doc. 9

The Committees established an informal advisory group that will draft, with the Secretariat, terms of references and methods for the consultancy called for in Decision 17.22

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming);

Parties: Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.

15./ Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA ..... AC29 Doc. 15 / PC23 Doc. 16

16.

The Committees established a drafting group to finalize the terms of reference for the study on specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA contained in the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 15 / PC23 Doc. 16.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming);

Parties: Canada, Mexico, South Africa, and United States of America.

17./ Transport of live specimens ..... AC29 Doc. 17 / PC23 Doc. 17

17.

The Committees noted the information contained in document AC29 Doc. 17 / PC23 Doc. 17.

36./ Annotations ..... AC29 Doc. 36 / PC23 Doc. 33

33.

The Committees noted document AC29 Doc. 36 / PC23 Doc. 33.

11./ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and

12. Ecosystem Services (IPBES)..... No document

The Committees noted the oral update provided by the Secretariat and the call from Mexico to provide financial and political support for the proposed IPBES thematic assessment on the sustainable use of wild species.

12./ Strengthening conservation and sustainable production of

13. selected Appendix II species in North America –

synergies with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation ..... AC29 Doc. 12 / PC23 Doc. 13

The Committees noted the synergies between the CITES North American Region and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), and in particular the action plans for the five priority species groups (summarized under paragraphs 5 and 6 and in the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 12 / PC23 Doc. 13).

34./ Appendix III listings..... AC29 Doc. 34 / PC23 Doc. 30

30.

In anticipation of the implementation of Decision 17.303, the Committees agreed to nominate the Chair of the Plants Committee, the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam) and the AC alternate representative of Oceania (Mr. Makan) as their leads for addressing the issue of Appendix-III listings, who could also represent the scientific Committees in any working group that the Standing Committee may establish on Appendix-III listings.

The Committees established a joint intersessional working group on Appendix III listings with the following terms of reference:

1. Taking account of document AC29 Doc. 34/PC23 Doc. 30, and discussions in plenary, explore ways to best advise the Standing Committee on characteristics of species for possible inclusion in Appendix III by:
  - a) identifying particular biological or trade characteristic for the species concerned, and

- b) making suggestions for amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP17) concerning guidance for range States on characteristics of species that may benefit from inclusion in Appendix III; and

2. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair), AC representatives of North America (Ms. Gnam) and Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the AC alternate representative of Oceania (Mr. Makan) and the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: Canada, China, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Switzerland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Born Free Foundation, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Humane Society International, Ornamental Fish International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

### 13./ Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

15.

13.4 Country-wide significant trade reviews.....AC29 Doc. 13.4 / PC23 Doc. 15.4  
15.4

The Committees established an intersessional working group on country-wide significant trade reviews with the following terms of reference:

1. Explore potential benefits and disadvantages of country-wide significant trade reviews drawing upon the lessons learned and existing information on outcomes and impacts and, if possible, the outcomes of the consultancy proposed in paragraph 6 of document AC29 Doc. 13.4/PC23 Doc. 15.4;
2. Taking into account discussions in the joint session, consider the issues mentioned in paragraph 7 of document AC29 Doc. 13.4/PC23 Doc. 15.4; and
3. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: AC representatives of Europe (Mr. Fleming) and North America (Ms. Gnam), PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair) and PC nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);

Members: AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson);

Parties: Canada, European Union, Madagascar, Norway, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

The Committees agreed to review the recommendations of the intersessional working group, the possible outputs of a consultancy on country-wide significant trade reviews, and progress with the implementation of Decision 17.111 at their next joint session in 2018.

9./ Capacity building and identification materials..... AC29 Doc. 9 / PC23 Doc. 10  
10.

The Committees established a joint intersessional working group on capacity building and identification materials with the following terms of reference:

1. Taking into consideration inputs and recommendations made in plenary, consider the work plan and activities outlined in paragraphs 7 to 33 of document AC29 Doc. 9/PC23;
2. Finalize and implement a workplan with timelines, in consultation with the Secretariat, that will result in a determination of the availability of materials and the enhancement of their accessibility, revision or guidance to revise select material, a review of the project proposals as described in part e) of Decision 17.32, and the review of Resolution Conf. 3.4 and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) and recommendations to promote accuracy and availability of materials; and
3. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee);

Members: AC representatives of Africa (Mr. Kasoma), North America (Ms. Gnam), and Oceania (Mr. Robertson); acting AC representatives of Asia (Mr. Ishii) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Lemus), AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk); and PC representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), Asia (Mr. Fernando), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), Europe (Ms. Moser), and North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno), and PC alternate representatives of Africa (Ms. Khayota) and Asia (Ms. Al Salem) ;

Parties: Australia, Canada, Kenya, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, Born Free USA, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

10./ Non-detriment findings ..... AC29 Doc. 10 / PC23 Doc. 11.1  
11.1

The Committees noted document AC29 Doc. 10 / PC23 Doc. 11 and asked the Secretariat to share the draft decisions mentioned in paragraph 9 of document AC29 Doc. 10 / PC23 Doc. 11 with the Animals and Plants Committees for their comments and review at their next meetings.

15./ Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA ..... AC29 Doc. 15 / PC23 Doc. 16  
16.

The Committees agreed that the terms of reference for the study on specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA should read as follows:

Pursuant to Decision 17.89 and drawing upon document CoP17 Doc. 27 (paragraphs 21 to 26) and other relevant documentation submitted by Parties and observers, the study should review relevant CITES provisions, resolutions and decisions, including Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) and taking into consideration past discussions on specimens covered by the Convention, e.g. ambergris, etc. to examine:

- How Parties have applied the interpretation of Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) to wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA;
- Under what circumstances wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA meet the current interpretation; and
- Whether any revisions should be considered, with a view to ensuring that such trade does not pose a threat to the survival of CITES-listed species.

### First part of the study

Describe in a very concise manner the different ways that DNA can be synthesized, cultured or otherwise produced artificially, in the context of CITES.

Collate existing definitions for the various term, including “cultured DNA”, “synthesized DNA”, “bioengineered” and other relevant terms for the purpose of determining what is covered by CITES,

Prepare case studies involving specimens of CITES-listed species, e.g. rhino horn, ivory, pangolin scales, medicinal plants, fragrances, etc.

### Second part of the study

Identify and differentiate relevant legal/regulatory/enforcement and scientific/technological interrelated elements that should be considered by the Standing Committee and the joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees.

#### **Elements that may be considered from a legal/regulatory/enforcement perspective:**

- a) Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) interprets the terms ‘readily recognizable’ but does not provide an operational definition for the terms ‘parts’ or ‘derivatives’. The study shall explore the pertinence and relevance of including operational definitions of the terms ‘parts’ and ‘derivatives’ in Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) in this context;
- b) The pertinence and usefulness of creating a new source code for “bioengineered” wildlife products as a separate category of specimens;

### Third part of the study

#### **Elements to be considered from a scientific/technological perspective:**

- c) Information on existing or potential tools to distinguish between synthetic and cultured DNA;
- d) Information on recent technological developments that produce substitutes for CITES-listed species within the field of synthetic biology; and
- e) Information on relevant risk management measures and best practices.

To ensure consistency and to avoid duplication, the consultant shall – in undertaking these tasks – take into account ongoing discussions and work carried out by other relevant international organizations, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols.

Closing remarks ..... No document

The Chair of the Plants Committee, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the CITES Secretary-General thanked the participants, the interpreters and all meeting organizers. The Chairs of the Committees then closed the joint session of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee.