

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



Joint sessions of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and
the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 20-21 July 2018

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 and 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, as adopted in [Resolution Conf. 16.3 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) on *CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020*¹, 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*”.
5. In order to achieve the purpose of the Strategic Vision, three goals, with several objectives each, were identified, of which Goal 3 and 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 Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals set at WSSD [World Summit on Sustainable Development], 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 2011-2020 (see COP 10 Decision X/2) include, under Strategic goal C (“Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity”), 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”. This has also been incorporated in the 2030 Agenda, where target 15.5 under SDG 15 reads: “Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2030, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species”.

AC29/PC23

7. At the joint session of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and of the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (AC29/PC23, Geneva, July 2017), the Secretariat noted with regret in document [AC29 Doc. 8/PC23 Doc. 9](#) that a lack of resources had prevented the implementation of Decision 17.22. Based on consultations with potential service providers, the Secretariat had provided a cost estimate of USD 100,000 to 300,000 for the rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and the legal and illegal trade in Appendix-I listed species called for in Decision 17.222 (see documents [CoP17 Doc. 79](#) and AC29 Doc. 8/PC23 Doc. 9).
8. In discussions on this agenda item at the meeting, Parties voiced concern about the lack of terms of reference for the work that would be required from the consultant, as well as the budget estimations for the consultancy. They suggested that information from Parties regarding the work already under way to improve Appendix-I species conservation status might be helpful in clarifying the role of the consultant.
9. The Committees established an informal advisory group to draft, in collaboration with the Secretariat, terms of reference and methods for the consultancy called for in Decision 17.22. The membership was decided as follows: Animals Committee representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming); Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.
10. Because to date the Secretariat was unable to identify any donors interested in partially or fully funding the large research project envisaged under Decision 17.22, it has not yet enlisted the advisory group’s assistance in drafting the terms of reference for the consultancy.

¹ *The 69th meeting of the Standing Committee established a working group on the CITES Strategic Vision with a mandate to review progress in implementing the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 against the adopted indicators and develop a proposal for a Strategic Plan for the period after 2020, which will be submitted to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (SC70, Rosa Khutor, Sochi, October 2018).*

Implementation of Decisions 17.22 and 17.23

11. In the absence of a potential funding source and in view of the timeline contained in Decision 17.24, the Secretariat seeks the input of the Animals and Plants Committees on the way forward for undertaking the tasks outlined in Decisions 17.22 to 17.25. The Secretariat considers that the following steps would need to be taken:
 - a) agree on, and test a methodology for undertaking the assessments called for in Decision 17.22;
 - b) develop terms of reference for a consultancy to undertake the tasks outlined in Decision 17.22;
 - c) contract consultants and execute the assessments;
 - d) have the outcomes of the assessments reviewed by the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with range States; and
 - e) communicate recommendations to Parties and range States, and provide assistance with their implementation, if possible.
12. Regarding step a) above, the methodology could utilise existing data sources, such as: the IUCN Red List and Sampled Red List Index for Plants (for conservation status, threats and trends), CITES Trade Database (level of legal trade), the Species+ database (range State distribution, published quotas, listings under the Convention on Migratory Species, etc.), and CITES illegal trade reports (for level of seizures). It could also collate ongoing national efforts to improve Appendix-I species conservation status. It is estimated that if this task were to be externally funded, that it would require approximately USD 30,000.
13. The assessments in step c) would require extensive consultations with the relevant range States and could differentiate and prioritise species according to their conservation status, availability of funding for conservation, development of recovery plans, as well as the extent to which they are legally or illegally traded. The clustering could help to guide the allocation of funding and resources for recovery measures in consultation with the relevant range States. It is estimated that producing the assessment and consulting with the relevant range States would cost in the region of USD 70,000 to 100,000.
14. The Secretariat notes that the costs for the implementation of step e) are likely to be high.

Recommendation

15. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to consider the Secretariat's report and, if found appropriate, draft revised decisions concerning Appendix-I species for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (CoP18, Colombo, 2019).