

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



Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2017

Species specific matters

Terrestrial species

Snakes (Serpentes spp.)

INFORMATION FROM
BENIN, GHANA, HONDURAS, INDONESIA AND TOGO

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties discussed the matter of snake trade and conservation management under agenda item 71. The Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 17.12 on *Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes*, as well as several Decisions.
3. The Decisions that pertain to Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo are the following:

Directed to Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo

17.276 *Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo are encouraged to undertake the following actions:*

- a) *Honduras: to ensure that measures are in place to address poaching of, and illegal trade in, the Cayos Cochinos boa constrictor (Boa constrictor imperator);*
- b) *Benin: to implement the following measures for the Ball python (Python regius):*
 - i) *design and implement a management programme for the species;*
 - ii) *make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and*
 - iii) *strengthen national regulations relating to trade control and monitoring, including stricter control policies for production systems.*
- c) *Benin, Ghana and Togo: to implement the following measures for the Calabar ground boa (Calabaria reinhardtii):*
 - i) *make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and*
 - ii) *improve systems to monitor harvest, captive breeding, and trade in the species;*

- d) *Indonesia: to improve enforcement of existing laws and take into account the recommendations provided in the document to more effectively regulate the collection of and trade in the populations of the wild green tree python (*Morelia viridis*) and the Boelen's python (*Morelia boeleni*); and*
- e) *Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo: to report to the Secretariat on the implementation of actions directed to them in this Decision, for transmission to, and review by the Animals Committee at one of its meetings between the 17th meeting and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequent reporting by the Animals Committee to the Standing Committee.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

17.279 *The Animals Committee shall continue to review guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for the export of CITES-listed snakes, information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo provided in accordance with Decision 17.276 and new information on the trade in, and sustainable use and conservation of snakes, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.280 *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the reports and recommendations from the Animals Committee submitted in accordance with Decision 17.279 and any other relevant information;*
- b) *make recommendation to the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat as appropriate; and*
- c) *report on the implementation of Decision 17.279 at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with recommendations for consideration by the Parties, including revisions to Resolution Conf. 17.12 on Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes, if deemed necessary.*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.283 *The Secretariat shall transmit the information provided by Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo in accordance with Decision 17.278 to the Animals Committee for consideration at one of its meetings between the 17th meeting and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

4. In March 2017, the Secretariat wrote to the Management Authorities of Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo to remind them of the species- and country-specific measures concerning certain snake species that had been agreed at CoP17, and asked them to report to the Animals Committee on these measures. The Secretariat also advised Benin, Ghana and Togo to coordinate their conservation efforts and management activities to the extent possible, and offered the five Parties assistance within its technical and financial means.
5. The information that the Secretariat receives from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia or Togo in accordance with Decision 17.276 will be conveyed to the Animals Committee for its review and in order to make recommendations to the Standing Committee. The Secretariat notes that this information can be submitted for either the 29th or the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee.

Recommendations

6. The Animals Committee is invited to note this document.
7. In accordance with Decision 17.279, the Animals Committee should review any information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia or Togo that is transmitted to it by the Secretariat, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.