

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Strategic matters

CITES AND LIVELIHOODS: REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by China, Peru and South Africa^{*}, as co-Chairs of the Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 16.6 on *CITES and livelihoods* as well as Decisions 16.17 to 16.25 on livelihoods:

Directed to Parties

- 16.17 *Exporting and importing countries are invited to **carry out voluntary rapid assessments** of the impact of implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities and to mitigate negative impacts.*
- 16.18 *Parties are encouraged to **develop case studies** and **facilitate exchange visits** between relevant stakeholders from the different ongoing conservation and sustainable use programmes which address issues related to CITES and livelihoods in order to stimulate the exchange of lessons learnt regarding CITES-listed species living in similar environments and/or social conditions.*
- 16.19 *Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and public and private donors/investors are encouraged to **support rapid assessments** of the impact of the implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities, the implementation of activities which mitigate any negative impacts, and cooperation agreements between relevant national government agencies and rural communities.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.20 *The Standing Committee shall **continue the operation of its Working Group** on CITES and Livelihoods so that the Working Group can review the comments on the toolkit and guidelines submitted by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.*
- 16.21 *The Working Group shall continue to work electronically through a forum available on the CITES website. The Working Group may, subject to availability of external funding, recommend to the Standing Committee that a meeting of the working group be required.*
- 16.22 *The Standing Committee shall review at its 65th and 66th meetings the progress made with regard to CITES and livelihoods.*

^{*} *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.*

- 16.23 *The Standing Committee shall present a report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made on this work.*

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.24 *The Secretariat shall, via a **Notification**, invite Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations to provide comments on document CoP16 Inf. 21. The comments shall be made available for consideration by the Working Group.*

- 16.25 *Subject to the availability of external funds, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations, **facilitate the organization of workshops and side-events** to showcase successful livelihood experiences, and create a section on the CITES website to publish experiences and case studies related to CITES and livelihoods submitted by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations.(emphasis added)*

3. The Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods has been in operation since the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61, Geneva, August 2011), is co-chaired by China, Peru, and South Africa, consists of the following members: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, the United States of America, Zimbabwe, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, IUCN, Conservation Force, IFAW, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Pro-Wildlife, RESP, Safari Club International Foundation, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and the CITES Secretariat.
5. The CITES Secretariat sent a Notification to the Parties [No. 2014/063](#) of 17 December 2014 on *Toolkit and guidelines on CITES and livelihoods* inviting Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations to provide comments on document [CoP16. Inf.21](#) through a questionnaire. The Notification also called on Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations to submit experiences and case studies related to CITES and livelihoods, to be published on the CITES website, with an annexed tentative list of potential case studies.
6. In February 2015, the Working Group held an international workshop in Cispatá, Colombia, to identify practical cases to implement the toolkit and guidelines mentioned in Decision 16.20 and Resolution Conf. 16.6. The workshop, organized by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), allowed for an exchange of successful experiences in the evaluation of both positive and negative impacts of implementing the CITES-listings. It also analysed how to enhance those positive impacts on the livelihoods of poor rural communities and how to mitigate negative impacts.
7. The Working Group also discussed the revision of the *Handbook for the application of CITES and Livelihoods toolkit and guidelines*, developed by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the CITES Secretariat, and validated it. The Handbook is considered as a user-friendly accompaniment material to the *CITES and Livelihoods Toolkit and Guidelines* (CoP16 Inf.21). The finalized format of the handbook is currently available in English and Spanish, and will be launched on the side-lines of the present meeting.
8. The members of the Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods are currently implementing a number of pilot studies with these tools to assess the utility and practicality of the handbook, with a view to make improvements:
 - Colombia, in cooperation with OAS, is undertaking a case study on the population recovery of the American Crocodile (*Cocodylus acutus*) and livelihoods;
 - Costa Rica, in cooperation with OAS, is undertaking a case study on CITES shark listings and livelihoods of small-scale fisheries;
 - Guatemala, in cooperation with OAS, is undertaking a case study on rosewood and livelihoods of rural communities; and
 - The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) is undertaking a case study on bushmeat and livelihoods of rural communities. This activity is supported through the EU-CITES CoP16 Decisions project.

9. A number of organizations have also shared information with the Working Group on their respective activities that may be of relevance to the work of the Working Group. These include the following:
- The IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods specialist group (SULi) organized a workshop entitled “Beyond enforcement – the role of communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade”, which featured a number of case studies.
 - The International Trade Center (ITC) has informed the CITES Secretariat about ongoing work that may contribute to the list of case studies identified by the group, including python farming and its livelihood benefits in Viet Nam, and wild collected python and its livelihood benefits in Malaysia.
 - IUCN-SULi and ITC published *the Trade in Wildlife - a Framework to Improve Biodiversity and Livelihoods Outcomes* in May 2015, which provides an analytical framework to analyse the impact of the wildlife trade on conservation and local livelihoods. (see [http://www.intracen.org/uploadedFiles/intracenorg/Content/Publications/2014-2015-76_Low%20Res%20PDF_Trade%20in%20Wildlife\(4\).pdf](http://www.intracen.org/uploadedFiles/intracenorg/Content/Publications/2014-2015-76_Low%20Res%20PDF_Trade%20in%20Wildlife(4).pdf))
10. As found in Annex 2 of Notification No. 2014/063, the members of the Working Group had identified other potential species-specific and thematic case studies that they believe would contribute to the continued improvement of the *Handbook for the application of CITES and Livelihoods toolkit and guidelines*, and to bringing the discussion of CITES and livelihoods forward. These are:

Species specific cases

- African grey parrots and livelihoods of rural communities;
- *Amazona aestiva* and livelihoods of indigenous people;
- Markhor and Livelihoods of rural communities;
- Pangolins and livelihoods of rural communities;
- Polar bears and livelihoods of indigenous peoples;
- Snakes and livelihoods of rural communities; and
- Snow leopard and livelihoods of rural communities.

Thematic cases

- Criteria to determine a successful livelihood experience;
- Non-timber forest products and livelihoods of rural communities;
- Sustainable tourism and livelihoods of rural communities; and
- Wildlife crime and livelihoods of rural communities.

11. The Working Group is currently in discussion to hold another workshop of the WG in early 2016 in South Africa, to monitor the progress in the current work on practical cases to implement the toolkit and guidelines, and to continue exchanging successful experiences in the evaluation of both positive and negative impacts of implementing the CITES-listings.
12. In July 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 69/314 on *Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife* ([A/RES/69/314](https://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2015/201507/20150714.res69314.html)), which included a reference to the importance of working with local communities in the fight against illegal wildlife trade:
8. [The General Assembly] *Strongly encourages Member States to support, including through bilateral cooperation, the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities affected by illicit trafficking in wildlife and its adverse impacts, with the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use, enhancing the rights and capacity of the members of such communities to manage and benefit from wildlife and wilderness; ...*
13. The above and other relevant information can be accessed through a new, dedicated portal that has been developed in the CITES website, at <https://cites.org/eng/prog/livelihoods>. The Working Group co-Chairs thank the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their generous financial support to this work.

Recommendations

14. The Chair of the Working Group recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - a) note the progress reported in the present document;
 - b) welcome the upcoming workshop of the CITES and Livelihoods Working Group; and
 - c) encourage Parties and other organizations to undertake the case studies mentioned in paragraph 10 above, or adapt their ongoing work to apply the Handbook for the application of CITES and livelihoods toolkit and guidelines, and share their experience with the CITES and Livelihoods Working Group.