

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

SUMMARY

AFTERNOON

32. Enforcement matters

32.2 Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of Appendix-I, -II and -III species: Report of the working group ..... SC66 Doc. 32.2

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the consolidated Resolution in Annex 1 of document SC66 Doc. 32.2 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting with the following amendments:

In the preamble:

*ALSO RECOGNIZING that Parties have experienced problems with the disposal of ~~dead~~ specimens of Appendix-I species that have been obtained as a result of confiscation, accidental death or otherwise;*

Under **Regarding the disposal of confiscated and accumulated dead specimens**

- b) *as a general rule, confiscated dead specimens, including parts and derivatives, of Appendix-II and Appendix-III species be disposed of in the best manner possible to achieve the purposes of the Convention, and steps be taken to ensure that the ~~person~~ Party responsible for the offence does not receive financial or other gain from the disposal and that such disposal does not stimulate further illegal trade*

Under **Regarding costs associated with confiscated specimens**

- b) *Where such legislation does not exist and the country of origin or last re-export wishes a confiscated live specimen to be returned, that country shall cover the cost of return or shall seek financial assistance to facilitate the return ~~and shall not automatically assume liability for the costs of confiscation, custody, storage and destruction or other disposal;~~ and*

In the last operative paragraph:

*REPEALS the Resolutions, or parts thereof, listed hereunder:*

- a) ~~Resolution Conf. 2.15 (San José, 1979) — Exchange of Confiscated Appendix I Specimens;~~  
b) ~~Resolution Conf. 3.9 (New Delhi, 1981) — International Compliance Control — paragraph c) ii);~~  
c) ~~Resolution Conf. 3.14 (New Delhi, 1981) — Disposal of Confiscated or Accumulated Specimens of Appendix I Species;~~  
d) ~~Resolution Conf. 4.17 (Gaborone, 1983) — Re-export of Confiscated Specimens;~~

- ~~e) Resolution Conf. 4.18 (Gaborone, 1983) – Disposal and Return of Illegally Traded Appendix II Specimens;~~
- ~~f) Resolution Conf. 5.14 (Buenos Aires, 1985) – Improving the Regulation of Trade in Plants – paragraph f); and~~
- ~~g) Resolution Conf. 7.6 (Lausanne, 1989) – Return of Live Animals of Appendix II or III Species.~~
- ~~a) Resolution Conf. 9.9 – Confiscation of specimens exported or re-exported in violation of the Convention;~~
- ~~b) Resolution Conf. 9.10 – Disposal of confiscated and accumulated specimens; and~~
- ~~c) Resolution Conf. 10.7 – Disposal of confiscated live specimens of species included in the Appendices.~~

The Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the two draft decisions directed to the Secretariat and the Standing Committee in Annex 3 of document SC66 Doc. 32.2 as follows:

**Directed to the Secretariat**

*The Secretariat is requested to:*

- *Develop a questionnaire to be distributed to Parties or gather information by other means, such as a workshop or oral interviews, which would review the use and usefulness of the annexes for Parties in disposal of confiscated live animals and plants as well as evaluate current practice;*
- *Conduct an analysis of available data on the disposal of confiscated live animals and plants collected through inter alia the biennial reports or other special reports; and*
- *Submit this information to SC 69 for its consideration.*

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee, at its 69th meeting, should evaluate the results of the activities conducted by the Secretariat under decision 17.xx and consider revising Resolution 17.xx accordingly.*

The Standing Committee invited the Conference of the Parties to decide on the continuation and mandate of the working group at its 17th meeting.

46. Ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and rosewoods and palisanders (*Dalbergia* spp.) from Madagascar

46.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC66 Doc. 46.1

and

46.2 Report of Madagascar ..... SC66 Doc. 46.2

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to consolidate the recommendations proposed by the Secretariat and by the European Union and circulate them as an in-session document.

32. Enforcement matters

32.5 Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) – illegal trade:

Report of the working group ..... SC66 Doc. 32.5

The Standing Committee adopted the following recommendations:

### **Regarding public awareness and education**

- a) Cheetah range States and Parties implicated in the illegal trade in cheetahs are encouraged to urgently develop and launch national public awareness campaigns to reduce illegal offer of, and demand for illegally traded cheetahs, using the communication tools and approaches most effective for their communities and by, *inter alia*: publicizing law enforcement outcomes; explaining the conservation impacts of the illegal trade; mobilizing social media; using key occasions (e.g. World Wildlife Day) and engaging key influencers; and establishing partnerships with NGOs as appropriate.

### **Regarding enforcement**

- b) Range states of cheetahs and countries involved in the illegal trade chain are encouraged to:
  - i) Further strengthen national and regional enforcement actions concerning the illegal trade in cheetahs involving all relevant enforcement agencies, and take them into account when developing work programmes and undertaking law enforcement operations;
  - ii) Make use of existing systems for exchange of information provided by INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, or as appropriate, establish mechanisms to ensure regular, timely and effective communication between these countries regarding illegal trade in cheetahs;
  - iii) As soon as appropriate bring information on poaching and illegal trade in cheetahs, including parts and derivatives, to the attention of relevant authorities in source, transit and destination countries for appropriate enforcement actions and follow-up;
  - iv) Request support from ICCWC partners and subject to available funding, conduct joint operations between East Africa and the Middle East, targeting known or suspected smuggling routes; and
  - v) Also request that ICCWC and other relevant partners encourage and support Parties in their enforcement operations targeting illegal trade in cheetah specimens conducted via e-commerce.

### **Regarding cooperation and information exchange**

- c) The Secretariat, subject to available resources and in cooperation with the World Customs Organization, is invited to explore the establishment of a closed cheetah user group for relevant national competent authorities in order to facilitate the exchange of non-nominal information on illegal trade in cheetah specimens.

### **Regarding disposal of confiscated live cheetahs**

- d) Range, transit and destination countries involved in the illegal trade in live cheetahs are encouraged to collaborate on the humane disposal of confiscated live cheetahs through the use of existing and, where required and as appropriate, the establishment of national or regional rescue centres, paying particular attention to maximizing the contribution of the specimens to conservation of the species in the wild; and
- e) Parties are requested to inform the Secretariat of facilities available for the disposal of confiscated live cheetahs to be published in the CITES cheetah toolkit and on the website.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

### **Directed to the Secretariat**

- 17.xx The Secretariat shall, pending the availability of external funding and in consultation with the Standing Committee and relevant experts, commission the development of a CITES cheetah trade resource kit that compiles relevant information and tools, and addresses *inter alia*: identification of live cheetahs and parts and derivatives thereof; monitoring and controlling

trade in cheetahs; protocols to be followed in case of seizures (e.g. handling, DNA sampling, reporting for data collection such as studbooks); guidance on the immediate and long-term disposal of live animals (e.g. decision trees based on relevant CITES Resolution, veterinary care, contact details of experts or potential rescue centres, advice on procedures, reporting on disposal activities); lists of suitable housing facilities for live cheetahs; and other relevant materials.

- 17.xx The Secretariat shall submit a draft CITES cheetah trade resource kit to the Standing Committee at its 69th or 70th meeting for its review and recommendations. The Secretariat shall make the final version of the kit available in relevant languages and various forms (e.g. hard copy, electronic, smart phone application, web-based), and regularly revise the web-based version to ensure that it remains accurate, up to date and reflecting best practice.
- 17.xx Where appropriate, the CITES Secretariat is requested, subject to available resources, to engage with relevant social media platforms, search engines and e-commerce platforms to address illegal international trade in cheetah through these platforms, and raise awareness of the conservation plight of cheetahs.
- 17.xx The Secretariat, subject to available resources, is invited to assess the feasibility of creating a forum on the CITES website for Parties, experts, NGOs and other stakeholders to exchange and share information on cheetahs.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

- 17.xx The Standing Committee shall review the draft CITES cheetah trade resource kit produced in compliance with Decision 17.xx at its 69th or 70th meeting, and formulate comments and recommendations to the Secretariat for its finalization and dissemination.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 17.xx The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of Decisions 17.xx and 17.xx, including its findings and recommendations, as appropriate, at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 17.xx The Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee on progress on all of the recommendations, and progress in halting illegal trade in cheetahs.

33. Introduction from the sea: chartering ..... SC66 Doc. 33

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 33 and agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the renewal of Decisions 16.48 to 16.51.

35. Electronic permitting: Report of the working group ..... SC66 Doc. 35

The Standing Committee agreed to request the Conference of the Parties to instruct the Standing Committee to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Information Technologies and Electronic Systems to work in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat to:

- i) Further develop the Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) as a central registry of CITES permits and certificates to facilitate validation of CITES permit data by CITES Authorities and Customs officials;
- ii) Work with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in collaboration with the Secretariat, to continue development of and assist CITES Parties, through the establishment of joint projects, to use the CITES module in ASYCUDA;
- iii) Develop joint capacity building programmes with the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Bank, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the context of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation;

- iv) Work with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in the development of electronic trade documentation and learn from IPPC's efforts to develop an electronic phytosanitary certificate which is based on UN/CEFACT standards;
- v) Publish the results and lessons learned of the pilot project by France and Switzerland to make CITES trade fully electronic on the CITES website;
- vi) Communicate with national lead ministries responsible for the development of Single Window environments to raise awareness of CITES and to ascertain the availability of financial support to assist CITES Management Authorities to develop CITES e-permitting systems;
- vii) Monitor work related to the development of traceability systems for specimens of CITES-listed species to facilitate their harmonization with CITES permits and certificates; and
- viii) Continue to work with the UN/CEFACT and the WCO and other relevant organizations to ensure that CITES e-permitting toolkit continues to be aligned with international trade standards and norms.

36. Use of taxonomic serial numbers..... SC66 Doc. 36

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 36 and the Secretariat's oral report and requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties seeking the information called for in Decision 16.56 and to report back to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.

37. Purpose-of-transaction codes on CITES permits and certificates: Report of the working group..... SC66 Doc. 37

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 37.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the revised Decision 14.54 (Rev. CoP16) as follows:

*The Standing Committee shall re-establish an intersessional joint working group to review the use of purpose-of-transaction codes by Parties, with the following terms of reference:*

- a) *the working group shall be composed of Parties from as many of the six CITES regions as possible, and appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with expertise in the issuance of CITES documents and use of purpose-of-transaction codes for evaluation within the permit issuance process and trade data analysis;*
- b) *the working group shall, communicating through electronic media, focus on clearly defining purpose-of-transaction codes to encourage their consistent use, and consider the possible elimination of current codes or the inclusion of new ones;*
- c) *in evaluating the use and definition of purpose-of-transaction codes, the working group shall take into account any difficulties of implementation by Parties and the potential resource implications of inclusion of any new codes or deletion of current purpose-of-transaction codes; and*
- d) *the working group shall submit a report and any recommendations for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16), or to any revision thereof, at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, which shall report, with its recommendations, at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

38. Physical inspection of timber shipments..... SC66 Doc. 38

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 38.

39. Inclusion of CITES-listed species in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System..... SC66 Doc. 39

The Standing Committee noted document SC66 Doc. 39.

45. Bushmeat: Report of the working group ..... SC66 Doc. 45

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the revised Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat* to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting with the following amendments:

In the preamble:

RECOGNIZING that the harvest of and poaching and illicit trade in bushmeat constitute the may be detrimental greatest threat to the immediate survival of certain wildlife species and may be one of a number of pressures impacting an even greater number of species, for example the gorilla, chimpanzees, elephants and crocodiles, in Africa in general, but especially in Central Africa, and also in all other countries in the world;

RECOGNIZING that CITES aims to ensure the protection of listed species of wild fauna and flora against overexploitation through international trade;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines* provides a summary of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and urges the Parties to make use of the Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, also taking into account scientific, trade and enforcement considerations determined by national circumstances, as well as the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees when adopting non-detriment-making processes and making CITES non-detriment findings;

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 16.7 on *Non-detriment findings*, where the Conference of the Parties provides recommendations and non-binding guiding principles to support CITES Scientific Authorities in considering whether trade would be detrimental to the survival of the species;

In the final paragraph in the operative text:

RECOMMENDS that the CITES Secretariat continue working with other partners in the CPW and ICCWC to ensure that the harvest of and international trade in bushmeat products derived from CITES-listed species is legal, sustainable and traceable.

The Standing Committee agreed to submit the following revised draft decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting:

*Subject to the availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), and other organizations as appropriate, develop guidance materials, activities and tools aimed at enhancing Parties' capacity to regulate such trade, and shall report on these efforts at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

42. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

42.1 Registration of facility A-US-524 (Hyacinth Macaw Aviary, Inc.) for hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) ..... SC66 Doc. 42.1

The Standing Committee voted on a proposal to delete facility A-US-524 (Hyacinth Macaw Aviary, Inc.) for hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*). The deletion of this facility was approved by 5 votes in favor, 4 against and 6 abstentions.

42.2 Registration of the operation "Nouvelle découverte" breeding *Astrochelys radiata* ..... SC66 Doc. 42.2

The Standing Committee invited Madagascar and Mauritius to continue their deliberations with the support of the Secretariat and noted that this issue will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting.