

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November – 1 December 2017

Strategic matters

LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

Background

1. This document has been prepared jointly by China and the CITES Secretariat.\*
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.41 to 17.43 directed to the Standing Committee:
  - 17.41 *The Standing Committee shall consider the proposed resolution contained in document CoP17 Doc.17 on Food security and livelihoods.*
  - 17.42 *The Standing Committee shall invite the proponents of the resolution, in an effort to develop a revised version for consideration by the Standing Committee.*
  - 17.43 *The Standing Committee shall consider the work undertaken in Decisions 17.41 and 17.42, and make recommendations, as necessary, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. The Standing Committee may wish to recall that, while a few Parties supported the proposed draft resolution, others suggested either that the proponents<sup>1</sup> consider presenting a revised version for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or that a new resolution was not needed since relevant guidance was already provided in Resolution Conf. 16.6 on *CITES and livelihoods*.<sup>2</sup> Some Parties also expressed concerns about incorporating the objectives of other organizations into CITES resolutions.
4. China and South Africa were subsequently requested by the Chair of the Standing Committee to lead the discussion on the implementation of these Decisions.

Possible way forward to implement Decisions 17.41-43

5. In order to review the proposed resolution referenced in Decision 17.41, the Standing Committee should consider forming a working group on CITES Livelihoods and Food Security, including in particular Antigua and Barbuda and Namibia as the original proponents of the resolution at CoP17. The working group, in considering the interlinkages between food security and livelihoods, could request the Secretariat to increase exchange of information between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and CITES. The working group may also provide an opportunity to increase information exchange between social

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\* *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.*

<sup>1</sup> *The original authors of the document [CoP17 Doc. 17](#) were Antigua and Barbuda, Côte d'Ivoire and Namibia. Côte d'Ivoire subsequently withdrew as the co-proponent (see [CoP17 Com. II Rec. 5 \(Rev. 1\)](#)).*

<sup>2</sup> *See [CoP17 Com. II Rec. 7 \(Rev. 1\)](#).*

development international institutions and CITES, in the protection of livelihoods and in their contribution to food security.

6. In considering the terms of reference of the working group, the Standing Committee may wish, at the present meeting, to discuss and decide on the general approach for reviewing the proposed resolution. The Standing Committee may wish to guide the working group by requesting it to pursue one (or more) of the possible approaches as below, which will also help the working group in the timely delivery of its recommendations:
  - a) **A stand-alone resolution on *livelihoods and food security***: the working group recommendations will be a draft revised draft resolution text, which will be reviewed by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and submitted to CoP18.
  - b) **Incorporation into existing resolution(s)**: the working group recommendations will consist of existing resolution(s) and proposed draft text elements to be incorporated, which will be reviewed by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and submitted to CoP18.
  - c) **Implementation through other means**: the working group may make recommendations on other ways to capture the general principles (e.g. conducting a study). The working group recommendations will consist of a draft decision on *livelihoods and food security*, which will be reviewed by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and submitted to CoP18.
7. China and South Africa may wish to express their additional views on the subject matter through an oral intervention at the present meeting.

#### Recommendation

8. The Standing Committee is requested to:
  - a) take note of the present document;
  - b) establish a CITES livelihoods and food security working group with a mandate to:
    - i) consider the proposed resolution contained in document CoP17 Doc.17 on *Food security and livelihoods*;
    - ii) take account of the options in paragraph 6 of the above document as may be agreed by the Committee; and
    - iii) make recommendations to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee in the form of draft proposals for possible submission to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
  - c) invite the proponents of document CoP17 Doc.17 on *Food security and livelihoods* to participate in the work of the working group.