

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

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), adopted Decisions 17.36 to 17.40 on *Livelihoods* as follows:

Directed to the Parties and others

17.36 *Parties are invited to:*

- a) *promote the use of the CITES and livelihoods toolkit, guidelines and handbook to carry out 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;*
- b) *encourage the conduct of new case studies on how legal and sustainable trade can generate economic incentives for the conservation of wildlife and improvement of livelihoods of indigenous and local communities; and*
- c) *incorporate issues related to CITES and livelihoods into their national socio-economic and development plans, as well as in relevant projects being developed for external funding, including funding by Global Environment Facility (GEF).*

Directed to the Parties and others

17.37 *Developing country Parties are encouraged to communicate with their national Ministries of finance, development, or other relevant Ministries, to seek the provision of financial support to the work in Decision 17.36.*

Directed to the Parties and others

17.38 *Developed country Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and public and private donors/investors are encouraged to provide financial and in-kind resources in support of the work in Decision 17.36.*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.39 *The Secretariat shall seek external funding from interested Parties, and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to support the work described in Decision 17.36.*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.40 Subject to the availability of external financial resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) facilitate the organization of workshops and side-events to showcase successful livelihood experiences and exchange lessons learnt, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations;
- b) continue to update the relevant section on the CITES website to publish experiences and case studies related to CITES and livelihoods submitted by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations;
- c) cooperate with relevant UN agencies and programmes, international and regional organizations to establish ad hoc livelihoods funding and promote capacity-building activities that support Parties to implement the Convention as an important part of enabling livelihoods; and
- d) report at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee and at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the work above and other progress made with regard to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) on CITES and livelihoods.

Implementation of Decision 17.36

3. The Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2017/066 on *New case studies on CITES and livelihoods*, encouraging Parties to inform the Secretariat of completed or planned new case studies.

Implementation of Decision 17.39

4. The Management Authority of China has generously provided funding towards the organization of a workshop on CITES and livelihoods in China, which will likely take place in the first half of 2018. The Secretariat will continue to make efforts to raise additional funding to support new case studies.

Implementation of Decision 17.40

5. Immediately after CoP17, the Secretariat and the Government of South Africa jointly organized a workshop on CITES and livelihoods in George, South Africa from 23 to 25 November 2016. Representatives from 13 Parties in Africa, Asia and South America as well as international organizations attended the workshop. The workshop was a follow-up of previous workshops in Peru (2013) and Colombia (2015) with a focus on the implementation of decisions adopted at CoP17 on livelihoods. The report of the workshop will be presented by China, Peru and South Africa at SC69.
6. The Secretariat will work with the Management Authority of China to organize a workshop on CITES and livelihoods in 2018. The workshop aims to review new and existing case studies and provide capacity-building to Parties on conducting new case studies and using the *CITES and Livelihoods Handbook*.
7. The Secretariat has continued to update the section on livelihoods on the CITES website by publishing reports of workshops, new case studies and potential new case studies related to CITES and livelihoods submitted by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations.
8. The Secretariat has been working closely with its partners in the UN system, as well as other international and regional organizations, on livelihoods issues, including by inviting them to participate in CITES workshops and working together on new project proposals.

Other considerations

9. The Secretariat is of the opinion that many elements in part II of the *CITES and Livelihoods Handbook* that are recommended as measures to mitigate the effects of the application of CITES decisions on livelihoods of poor rural communities can in fact serve as useful ways to facilitate the contribution of legal and sustainable trade to the improvement of livelihoods of poor rural communities. For example, the Handbook has recommendations on designing incentives and developing marketing strategies to promote *in-situ* and *ex-situ* production, certifications for the sustainable use of species, formation of associations representing

harvesters from poor rural communities, market mechanisms and access to microcredit, consumer confidence, social and environmental certifications and inter-sectoral technical support.

10. In order to have an overall understanding of the level of involvement of rural communities in legal trade in CITES-listed species, a review of trade by the main exporting countries where there exist poor rural communities may be worth considering. The review, on basis of the CITES Trade Database, may focus on both the most traded species of wild animals and plants in different taxonomic groups and the species in which the trade is less significant, but may potentially benefit rural communities due to the pattern of harvesting, etc. Additional information will be needed from Parties in undertaking such reviews as the annual reports do not provide information on the role of rural communities in the trade.
11. The report of the Workshop on CITES and Livelihoods (George, South Africa, 2016) notes that while CITES Resolutions Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13) and Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) recognize the benefit of legal and sustainable trade, positive messages and initiatives that recognize the benefits of legal and sustainable trade, especially when it supports the livelihoods of rural communities and the conservation of species, are insufficient. Parties and other stakeholders could consider how to better educate consumers to differentiate between legal and sustainable trade and illegal trade in CITES-listed wildlife and wildlife products.

Recommendation

12. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to take note of the present document.