

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

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

Disposal of confiscated specimens

REPORT OF THE CO-LEADS

1. This document has been prepared and submitted by Israel and Switzerland identified by SC68 as co-chairs for the working group on the disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of appendix-I, -II and -III species to be established at the present meeting.*
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.47, which directed to the Standing Committee as follows:

The Standing Committee shall review Resolutions Conf. 9.9, Conf. 9.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) with a view to determining whether to consolidate any of their provisions or simplify their provisions, and shall report its conclusions and recommendations at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. At its 65th meeting (SC65, Geneva, July 2014), the Standing Committee agreed to form a working group, chaired by Switzerland with the mandate as described in Decision 16.47.
4. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted a new Resolution, Res. Conf. 17.8 on "Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species" merging and appealing Resolutions Conf. 9.9, Conf. 9.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15).
5. The Conference of the Parties also adopted the following decisions:

Decision 17.118 directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat is requested to:

- a) *subject to the availability of external funding, 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 guidelines contained in three annexes to the Resolution Conf. 17.8 on Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species for Parties in disposal of confiscated live animals and plants as well as evaluate current practice;*

* *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.*

- b) *subject to the availability of external funding, 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*
- c) *submit this information to the Standing Committee for its consideration*

and

Decision 17.119 directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee should consider how and to which extent the content of the new, merged Resolution Conf. 17.8 should be adapted at its 69th meeting. It should also evaluate the results of the activities conducted by the Secretariat under Decision 17.118 and consider how to incorporate these results into the guidelines (included in the Annexes of Resolution Conf. 17.8). The Standing Committee should propose amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.8, including the annexes, accordingly, and report on its work to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- 6. In the Secretariat's document on Disposal of confiscated specimens submitted to the present meeting, the Secretariat is reporting on its implementation of Decision 17.118 regarding the questionnaire on the use and usefulness of the guidelines, contained in the annexes to Resolution Conf. 17.8 and current practices
- 7. In April 2017, Switzerland and Israel met as co-chairs of the working group in order to discuss the mandate and the tasks that will need to be done before SC69. This included collaborating with the Secretariat to prepare the questionnaire, discussion points to be reviewed by the working group to be created at SC69 and preparing the present document.

Recommendations

- 8. The Standing Committee may wish to formally establish a Working Group on Disposal of Confiscated Specimens to assist in its implementation of Decision 17.119 directed to the Standing Committee with the following Terms of Reference:

The Working Group shall:

- Analyze the results of the questionnaire and other activities undertaken by the CITES Secretariat under decision 17.118.
- Based on this analysis, the Working Group shall prepare a report to SC70, containing recommendations on the following topics, as appropriate and necessary:
 - possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.8 and its Annexes
 - the possibility of the creation of a list of rescue centers for the disposal of live specimens which might be published on the CITES Secretariat website
 - the different options for disposal of confiscated specimens under the Convention and the legal questions related to these options
 - the use of the term of “disposal” and considerations of possible alternative terms that might be more appropriate

The Working Group may invite external partners to contribute to this process, such as the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group or existing rescue centers