

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

Trade control and traceability

DEFINITION OF THE TERM "APPROPRIATE AND ACCEPTABLE DESTINATIONS":  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'*:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

17.178 *The Secretariat shall, subject to available resources, report to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee on the history and implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations', and Article III, paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b), regarding findings that recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to house and care for them.*

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

17.179 *The Animals Committee shall, at its 29th meeting:*

- a) *consider the report of the Secretariat regarding Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations', and make recommendations and develop guidance, as appropriate, for consideration of the Standing Committee and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*
- b) *consider the report of the Secretariat regarding implementation of the requirements in Article III, paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b), regarding findings that recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to house and care for them, and make recommendations and prepare guidance, as appropriate, for consideration of the Standing Committee and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

17.180 *At its 69th meeting, the Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the report of the Secretariat, including any information from the Animals Committee, regarding Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations', and make recommendations and develop guidance, as appropriate, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*

b) *consider the report of the Secretariat, including any information from the Animals Committee, regarding implementation of the requirements in Article III, paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b), regarding findings that recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to house and care for them and make recommendations and develop guidance, as appropriate, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. The Secretariat reported to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, July 2017) that it had not had sufficient time and resources to produce a detailed report for the meeting as per Decision 17.178. It reported that the history of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev CoP17) on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* was being documented, and informed the Committee that it would consult with Parties on how the Resolution and Article III paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b) are currently being implemented, whether they have encountered any problems and if there are any cases where the provisions of the Resolution are found inadequate or abused. It asked the Committee to suggest what guidance might be required. The Secretariat informed the participants that it would make this information, together with its recommendations, available for consideration by the Animals Committee and suggested that this might best be achieved through the establishment of an intersessional working group.
4. During the discussions, Parties suggested that it would be important for the Secretariat to catalogue instances where the provisions of the Resolution have been successfully implemented, not only focusing on cases where they have been found inadequate or abused. Other Parties stressed that guidelines of what 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' means would be helpful, suggesting that a broad scope study that covered information on food, housing, safety and climate zone, etc. was required. Overall, Parties felt more time might be needed to assess the revised provisions in Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* and some voiced concern that this was essentially an animal welfare issue. Some observers recognised the importance of ensuring wildlife was delivered to facilities that are suitably equipped and suggested that broad scope guidance, as well as species-specific guidance on caring and housing wildlife, would be useful.
5. In order to make progress on the issue before the next meeting of the Animals Committee, the Committee established an intersessional working group on the implementation of Decision 17.179 and the requirements in Article III, paragraph 3 (b) and 5 (b) of the Convention with a mandate to review the study undertaken by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 17.178 and draft findings and recommendations for consideration at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC30, July 2018). This group, which will be co-chaired by the Animals Committee representatives of Africa (Mr. Mensah) and North America (Ms. Gnam), and the alternate representative of Asia (Mr. Ishii), has members from 18 Parties, one intergovernmental organization (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and 19 non-governmental organizations, including a number of associations of zoos and aquaria.
6. The Secretariat will issue a notification calling on Parties to provide information including how Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) is currently being implemented; what, if any impact the revised provisions of the Resolution have had; whether they have encountered any problems; if there are any cases where the provisions of the Resolution are found inadequate or abused; and to report on instances where the provisions of the Resolution have been successfully implemented. The notification will also call on Parties, as well as interested bodies and organisations to provide information on any existing guidelines and best practice in relation to the procedures for assessing whether "*recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to house and care for them*". The information provided in response to the notification will be incorporated into the Secretariat's report, which will be reviewed by the Animals Committee's intersessional working group referred to in paragraph 5 above. This report, as well as any recommendations from the intersessional working group, will be considered by the Animals Committee at its 30th meeting.
7. In view of the revised timeline for implementing Decisions 17.178 and 17.179, the report of the Secretariat, along with any information or recommendations coming from AC30, will now be submitted for consideration to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70, October 2018). The timeline for the implementation of Decision 17.180 by the Standing Committee should be amended to the 70th meeting, when the Committee will be tasked with making recommendations and developing guidance, as appropriate, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
8. As the period of time between AC30 and SC70 is extremely short, the Standing Committee may wish to consider forming an intersessional working group that could review the Secretariat's report and any recommendations coming from AC30, ahead of SC70, with a view to preparing draft recommendations for consideration at that meeting.

## Recommendations

9. The Standing Committee is invited to:
  - a) note the information contained in the document and the revised timeline for the implementation of Decisions 17.178 to 17.180 as outlined in paragraph 7;
  - b) agree to review the report of the Secretariat and any information coming from the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70, October 2018); and.
  - c) in the light of the suggestion in paragraph 8, consider establishing an intersessional working group to review the outputs from Decisions 17.178 and 17.179 after AC30 and draft recommendations and guidance, as appropriate, for consideration at SC70.