

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

Transport

REQUEST FOR ENGAGEMENT OF THE CEOS OF AIRLINES
AND MARITIME SHIPPING COMPANIES AND
EXECUTIVE BODIES GOVERNING THEIR ACTIVITIES

1. This document has been submitted by Zimbabwe.*

Introduction

2. The recent decisions of several airlines and maritime shipping companies to stop transporting/carrying legally acquired wildlife products and specimens are having undesirable and significant negative impact to the economy of Zimbabwe and other countries in southern Africa. Such decisions have also negatively affected the already fragile economy of our rural communities that rely on the legitimate and sustainable use of their wildlife resources for their livelihoods and other subsistence needs. Our government efforts to promote compatible livelihood options for local communities living with wildlife that are compatible with wildlife conservation are now being seriously affected

Recommendations

3. We recommend that the Chair of the Standing Committee engages the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Airlines and Maritime Shipping Companies and the Executive bodies governing their activities such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA) for Airlines and the World Shipping Council (WSC), for shipping companies. Such engagement can be in the form of a letter or any other applicable form of engagement
4. The Conservation and Tourism industry acknowledges the important role of Airlines and Shipping companies, hence the need to engage as stakeholders in the decision making processes that have implications for both conservation and the airline/shipping businesses

Implications

5. Kindly note that
 - a) The decisions of the Airlines and Shipping companies of not transporting legally acquired wildlife products is against the spirit, intent and objectives of CITES. Non-discernment actions by some Airline

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CEOs are already having serious negative consequences on the livelihoods of small rural communities depending on such resources for their survival as they are blocked from accessing markets.

- b) We believe CITES promotes sustainable and legal international trade in a way that ensures species survival.
 - c) Decisions of stopping transportation of wildlife products can be perceived as actions aimed at prejudicing the rural communities with vulnerable livelihoods, yet they have some resources in abundance.
 - d) Such decisions (of stopping transportation of legal wildlife products) will NOT have any conservation benefits and could even contribute to the increasing trend of illegal activities
 - e) Their decisions are circumventing CITES provisions authorising such trade
6. We request that the CEOs could consider modification of their instructions to clarify that wildlife conservation will not benefit from selective prohibition and transportation of any wildlife products
5. The Government of Zimbabwe requests that this item be added to the Agenda of the CITES SC69.