

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

Species specific matters

HAWKSBILL TURTLE (*ERETMOCHELYS IMBRICATA*)
AND OTHER MARINE TURTLES (CHELONIIDAE AND DERMOCHELYIDAE):
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 Decisions 17.222 and 17.223 on *Hawksbill turtle* (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and other marine turtles (*Cheloniidae* and *Dermochelyidae*), as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.222 *The Secretariat shall collaborate with the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean South East Asia Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA) and other relevant organizations and multilateral agreements with mandates relating to the regional and global conservation, management and sustainable use of marine turtles, to:*

- a) *subject to external funding, undertake a study on the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, inter alia to research its status, scope and trends, conservation impacts and management options, and to identify areas where immediate mitigation efforts may be needed;*
- b) *encourage communication and coordination among CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Ramsar Convention, Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) and others agreements, as appropriate, to address relevant recommendations arising from the IAC study "Conservation Status of Hawksbill Turtles in the Wider Caribbean, Western Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Regions", published in 2014, and to ensure compatibility of activities, optimize resources and enhance synergies; and*
- c) *report on the implementation of the present decision to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and to the Conference of the Parties at its the 18th meeting.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.223 *The Standing Committee shall review the information and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 17.223, and formulate its own recommendations as appropriate.*

3. The Secretariat is pleased to announce that the United States of America has confirmed its financial support for the study called for in Decision 17.222, paragraph a), as part of a project entitled: "Strengthening CITES implementation for selected marine species". The Secretariat is further pleased to announce that additional

financial support has been provided by Australia through the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Fauna (CMS) for the implementation of this Decision. The Secretariat wishes to express its gratitude to the United States and Australia for their generous support.

4. There are clear linkages between the study on the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles called for in Decision 17.222, and the work stream on marine turtles under the project “Minimising the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species” (MIKES), which is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, funded by the European Union and implemented by the MIKE Programme team of the CITES Secretariat. The CITES Secretariat and its MIKE Programme team are therefore exploring possibilities to maximize synergies and deliver joint results.
5. At the time of writing, the CITES Secretariat is finalizing a work plan for the implementation of Decision 17.222, in close coordination with partners such as the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA) and CMS.

Recommendations

6. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of this document.