

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

SUMMARY

AFTERNOON

16. Livelihoods and food security..... SC69 Doc. 16

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 16 and established an intersessional working group on livelihoods and food security with a mandate to:

- a) take account of the options in paragraph 6 b) and c) of document SC69 Doc. 16; and
- b) make recommendations to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The membership of the intersessional working group on livelihood and food security was agreed as follows: Namibia (Chair), Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, South Africa, and the United States of America; and Animal Welfare Institute, Communal Rural Conservancy Communities & NASCO, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Humane Society International, Ivory Education Institute, Parrots Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Species Survival Network, and TRAFFIC.

37. Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates..... SC69 Doc. 37

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on purpose codes with a mandate to:

- a) focus on clearly defining purpose-of-transaction codes to encourage their consistent use, and consider the possible elimination of current codes or the inclusion of new ones;
- b) in evaluating the use and definition of purpose-of-transaction codes, take into account any difficulties of implementation by Parties and the potential resource implications of inclusion of any new codes or deletion of current purpose-of-transaction codes; and
- c) submit a report and any recommendations for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates*, or to any revision thereof, at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The membership of the intersessional working group on purpose codes was agreed as follows: Canada (Chair), Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America; and Alliance of Marine Mammals Parks and Aquariums, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Food and Agriculture Organization, Global Eye, Lewis & Clark – International Environmental Law Project, Parrots Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Pro Wildlife, Safari Club International, San Diego Zoo Global, Species Survival Network, and TRAFFIC.

39. Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations':  
Report of the Secretariat ..... SC69 Doc. 39

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 39 and the revised timeline for the implementation of Decisions 17.178 to 17.180 and established an intersessional working group on 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' with a mandate to:

- a) review the report undertaken by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 17.178 and any recommendations coming from the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee, and
- b) report to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee with its provisional recommendations for consideration by the Committee.

The membership of the intersessional working group on 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' was agreed as follows: United States of America (Chair), Argentina, Canada, China, Ethiopia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, South Africa, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Association of Zoos and Aquariums, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Fondation Franz Weber, International Elephant Foundation, MEA Strategies, Pro Wildlife, Safari Club International, San Diego Zoo Global, Species Survival Network, and World Animal Protection.

40. Electronic systems and information technologies ..... SC69 Doc. 40

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on electronic systems and information technologies with a mandate to:

- a) further collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on the development of the Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) system as a conduit for the exchange of CITES permits and certificates, and as a central registry to facilitate validation of CITES permit data by CITES Management Authorities and Customs officials;
- b) identify where the progress in the EPIX system, and the subsequent facilitation of the reporting requirements of Parties, may potentially affect the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on *National reports* and the amendment of *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* distributed by the Secretariat.
- c) work with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Bank, the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the context of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, and other relevant partners, to continue the development of joint projects that would facilitate Parties' access to electronic permitting services and their alignment to international trade standards and norms, such as the revision of the CITES e-permitting toolkit and the development of the eCITES module in ASYCUDA;
- d) work with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in the development of electronic trade documentation and learn from IPPC's efforts to develop electronic phytosanitary certificates;
- e) monitor and advise on Parties' work related to the development of traceability systems for specimens of CITES-listed species to facilitate their harmonization with CITES permits and certificates;
- f) make recommendations as necessary, including any suggestions for the revision of Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on *National reports* and the amendment of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* distributed by the Secretariat, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- g) review the information submitted by Parties under Decision 17. 156, and make recommendations as necessary, any suggestions for the revision of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates* to ensure the Resolution allows for electronic border clearance processes that are consistent with and incorporate the requirements of Articles III, IV, V and VI into any e-permitting system, examining in particular the issues of presentation and validation, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

h) report back to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The membership of the intersessional working group on electronic systems and information technologies was agreed as follows: Switzerland (Chair), Australia, Bahamas, Canada, China, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Viet Nam; and Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani, Environmental Investigation Agency, International Wood Products Association, Legal Atlas, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and United Nations Environment Programme.

The Standing Committee approved the work programme of the intersessional working group in Annex 1 of document SC69 Doc. 40.

The Standing Committee noted the availability of a low cost software solution for the automation of CITES processes; called upon interested Parties to evaluate whether an implementation of this system in their Management Authority can strengthen CITES permit control; and called upon donor agencies to take note of the interest of many Management Authorities from developing countries to adopt automated solutions and the need to provide funding for the implementation.

42. Traceability: Report of the Secretariat ..... SC69 Doc. 42

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on traceability with a mandate to:

- a) recommend a working definition of 'traceability' to assist Parties in work related to the implementation of traceability systems;
- b) encourage Parties that are developing traceability systems to ensure they are complementary, mutually supportive and standardized, as appropriate, and that they are adapted to the unique conditions relating to trade in CITES-listed species;
- c) provide general guidance on a mechanism to coordinate and oversee the development of traceability systems using lessons learned from the development of the global CITES permits and certificates system, global information and traceability systems, and other relevant initiatives;
- d) subject to the availability of external resources, and as appropriate, develop and make use of umbrella guidelines, and recommend standards, to develop traceability systems for different species that are mutually supportive and that generate standardized data;
- e) subject to the availability of external resources, analyse examples that describe CITES supply chains, including but not limited to those using Unified Modelling Language, and identify points throughout the supply chain where specimens should be located, verified, and its application defined, bearing in mind a wide range of production systems and life forms;
- f) take into account the work on e-permitting to ensure links between CITES permits and certificates and traceability identifiers;
- g) collaborate with United Nations and other relevant organizations that have experience in the development and use of traceability standards and systems; and
- h) draft a resolution on traceability, as deemed necessary, to be submitted to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting, taking into account any relevant conclusions and recommendations of the report resulting from Decision 17.154, as appropriate, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The membership of the intersessional working group on traceability was agreed as follows: Mexico and Switzerland (co-Chairs), Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Japan, Malaysia, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Viet Nam; and Americas Fur Resources Council, Environmental Investigation Agency, GS1 Switzerland, Humane Society International, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Wood Products Association, Lewis & Clark – International Environmental Law Project, MEA Strategies, TRAFFIC, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme, and World Wildlife Fund.

The Standing Committee approved the work plan of the intersessional working group in Annex 1 of document SC69 Doc. 42.

43. Stocks and stockpiles of specimens of CITES-listed species..... SC69 Doc. 43

The Standing Committee requested Canada, Hungary, Israel and South Africa to review the terms of reference for the proposed intersessional working group on stocks and stockpiles in Annex 1 of document SC69 Doc. 43 and report back later in the meeting.

45. Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*): Report of the Secretariat..... SC69 Doc. 45

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on cheetahs with a mandate to:

- a) review the draft CITES cheetah trade resource kit and the recommendations of the Secretariat as outlined in Decision 17.125;
- b) formulate comments and recommendations on the finalization and dissemination of the CITES cheetah trade resource kit for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting; and
- c) provide advice to the Secretariat to support their fulfilment of Decision 17.127.

The membership of the intersessional working group on cheetahs was agreed as follows: Kuwait (Chair), Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates; and Born Free Foundation, Convention on Migratory Species, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Professional Hunters Association, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Zoological Society of London.

The Standing Committee encouraged all Parties, in particular cheetah range States and Parties affected by the illegal trade in cheetahs, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to use World Wildlife Day 2018 to initiate public awareness campaigns to promote the conservation of cheetahs, and reduce illegal offer of, and demand for illegally traded cheetahs.

The Standing Committee noted the efforts of the CITES and CMS Secretariats, with the support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, to implement CITES Decisions 17.124 to 17.130 on *Cheetahs* through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative.

46. Sturgeons and paddlefish (*Acipenseriformes spp.*)

46.1 Definition of country of origin of caviar ..... SC69 Doc. 46.1

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on country of origin of caviar with a mandate to:

In support of the implementation of Decision 17.185,

- a) discuss the issue of definition of the country of origin of caviar, taking into consideration the draft definition proposed by the majority of the Standing Committee's working group on sturgeons and paddlefish, which reads "country of origin of caviar: country in which a registered processing plant harvests roe of *Acipenseriformes* species to process caviar", the recommendations adopted by the Animals Committee at its 29th meeting and the discussion at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee on the proposed amendments in document SC69 Doc. 46.1; and
- b) develop recommendations, as appropriate, to report to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The membership of the intersessional working group on country of origin of caviar was agreed as follows: Japan (Chair), Canada, China, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America; and Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Caviar Importers Association, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, TRAFFIC, and World Wildlife Fund.

46.2 Stocks shared by range States and the respective species:

Report of the Animals Committee..... SC69 Doc. 46.2

The Standing Committee encouraged all CITES Parties bordering the Black Sea and Danube river to collaborate on research to address knowledge gaps regarding the distribution and migration of stocks of sturgeon species in their respective jurisdictions, in particular molecular and genetic studies, to establish the basis for science-based delimitation of stocks in the Danube and Black Sea.

The Standing Committee agreed that, in case no clear research results become available, the interpretation of shared sturgeons stocks in the table in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* remains as it stands

50. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.): Report of the Secretariat..... SC69 Doc. 50

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on sharks and rays with a mandate to:

- a) consider the information in paragraphs 20 to 33 of document SC69 Doc. 50;
- b) review the following:
  - i) how to take account of measures and regulations agreed under Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Bodies, or other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), in the implementation of CITES;
  - ii) the role of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Bodies in supporting the making of non-detriment findings;
  - iii) identification and traceability issues, taking into consideration requirements that have been developed for the trade in specimens of other Appendix-II species, and their applicability to specimens of CITES-listed sharks and rays in trade; and
  - iv) legislative issues that might be hindering the implementation of the Convention for sharks and rays; and
- c) report on its deliberations and make recommendations to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee for its report to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The membership of the intersessional working group on sharks and rays was agreed as follows: Indonesia (Chair), Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, European Union, France, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America; and Convention on Migratory Species, Defenders of Wildlife, Food and Agriculture Organization, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Union for Conservation of Nature, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Natural Resources Defense Council, Save our Seas Foundation, Species Survival Network, The Pew Charitable Trusts, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund, and the Zoological Society of London.

58. African lion (*Panthera leo*)..... SC69 Doc. 58

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 58 and established an intersessional working group on the African lion with a mandate to:

- a) support the Secretariat or its consultants in undertaking a study on the legal and illegal trade in lion specimens called for in Decision 17.241, paragraph e), by, *inter alia*, sharing relevant information and facilitating research;
- b) review prior to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70) the study conducted in accordance with Decision 17.241, paragraph e), and the recommendations by the Animals Committee, and draft recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- c) review prior to SC70 other aspects of the report of the Secretariat to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (including implementation of paragraphs a), d) and f) of Decision 17.241) and the

recommendations by the Animals Committee, and draft comments and recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Standing Committee;

- d) consider and provide terms of reference and *modus operandi* for the CITES Task Force on African lions as directed in Decision 17.243, paragraphs c) and d);
- e) consider further actions to be taken, including the possible development of additional specific guidance on trade in and conservation of African lions by amending exiting Resolutions or through a dedicated resolution, and the appropriateness for organizing a second African lion range States' meeting, and draft recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- f) assess whether existing grants programmes and funding opportunities can support, or be strengthened to support, the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lions, as envisaged in Decision 17.243, paragraph e); and taking account this assessment, consider the need and challenges for establishing an additional multi-donor technical trust fund; and
- g) report on the results of these activities, including draft recommendations, at SC70.

The membership of the intersessional working group on the African lion was agreed as follows: Niger (Chair), Austria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, China, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe, and Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Born Free USA, Conservation Alliance of Kenya, Conservation Force, Convention on Migratory Species, Humane Society International, International Professional Hunters Association, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Safari Club International Foundation, The European Federation of Association for Hunting and Conservation, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Animal Protection, World Wildlife Fund, and Zoological Society of London.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to disseminate to the Parties relevant information on existing funding opportunities that can support the implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for the African lion, and the actions outlined in Decision 17.241, paragraphs a) to j).

The Standing Committee noted the efforts of the CITES and CMS Secretariats, with the support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, to implement CITES Decisions 17.241 to 17.245 on *African lion* through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and invited the CITES Secretariat to share relevant information on the implementation of the CITES Decisions on *African lion* to the CMS Secretariat.

66. CITES Appendix III ..... SC69 Doc. 66

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on CITES Appendix III with a mandate to:

- a) develop guidance for exporting and importing countries with respect to the effective implementation of Appendix III, including measures to address suspected illegal international trade in Appendix III-listed specimens;
- b) develop advice on characteristics of species that may benefit from inclusion in Appendix III, requesting and taking into consideration advice of the Animals and Plants Committee, and
- c) develop, in consultation with the Secretariat, as well as Parties, as appropriate, recommendations, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP17) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III*, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (2018), and its subsequent reporting to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as provided in Decision 17.304.

The membership of the intersessional working group on CITES Appendix III was agreed as follows: New Zealand (Chair), Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Germany, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Thailand, and the United States of America; and Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, United Nations Environment Programme, and World Wildlife Fund.