

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

MORNING

4. Credentials..... *No document*

The Standing Committee noted a report from the Secretariat that, at present, 55 out of the 84 Parties present had provided credentials including 14 of the 16 voting members of the Standing Committee.

64. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.): Report of the Secretariat..... SC69 Doc. 64

The Standing Committee agreed to the recommendations developed by participants to the CITES Tortoise and Freshwater Turtles Task Force as presented in paragraph 6 of document SC69 Doc. 64, including the amendments suggested by the Secretariat in paragraph 7 of the same document.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft revised version of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP13) on *Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles*, incorporating the revisions proposed in recommendation 4 d) i. to v. developed by participants of the CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force, and taking into consideration the other recommendations developed by the Task Force and discussions at the present meeting, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting.

The Standing Committee noted the success achieved during “Operation Save Kurma” initiated by India, and encouraged Parties affected by significant levels of illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles to consider undertaking similar operations in future.

65. Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*)

65.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC69 Doc. 65.1

and

65.2 Implementation of Decisions 17.145 to 17.151
on totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*)..... SC69 Doc. 65.2

The Standing Committee noted documents SC69 Doc. 65.1 and SC69 Doc. 65.2 and further noted the progress achieved by Mexico, China and the United States in the implementation of Decisions 17.145 to 17.151.

The Standing Committee encouraged China, Mexico and the United States of America to continue their collaboration, noting the urgency of the issue, to improve the conservation status of totoaba and vaquita, *inter alia* by implementing measures agreed at their trilateral meeting in August 2017.

Regarding Decision 17.149, which calls for a study to be developed by the CITES Secretariat in collaboration with relevant organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and the

International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Standing Committee further encouraged Parties and the wider CITES community to provide support for its full implementation.

67. Procedure for entering reservations with respect to the amendments to Appendices I, II and III SC69 Doc. 67

The Standing Committee agreed that reservations with respect to amendments to Appendices I or II must be made in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and within the 90-day deadline stipulated in paragraph 3 of Article XV.

The Standing Committee welcomed the intention of the Secretariat to submit a draft proposal to amend those relevant elements of Resolution Conf. 4.25 (Rev. CoP14) on *Reservations* to provide clear guidance in this regard to the Depositary Government.

68. Periodic review of the Appendices: Report of the Animals and Plants Committees SC69 Doc. 68

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 68 and encouraged Parties to allocate funds towards the Periodic review of the Appendices. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to look into the records in Annexes 1 and 2 of document SC69 Doc. 68, in consultation with the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre and relevant Parties as necessary, and to report back any issues of concern to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting.

38. Simplified procedure for permits and certificates: Report of the Secretariat *No document*

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on simplified procedures for permits and certificates with the following mandate to:

- a) review the Secretariat's compilation of responses to Notification 2017/071 inviting Parties and stakeholders to report on their implementation of, and experience with, simplified procedures to issue permits and certificates to facilitate and expedite trade that will have a negligible impact, or none, on the conservation of the species concerned;
- b) consider the scientific exchange provision outlined under Article VII, paragraph 6 of the Convention and further guidance on implementing that provision outlined in Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP12) on *Non-commercial loan, donation or exchange of museum and herbarium specimens*;
- c) take into account relevant work of the electronic systems and information technology working group;
- d) consider whether the provisions of Section XII of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates* are adequate to facilitate the international movement of:
 - i) samples of CITES-listed species (or samples suspected to contain CITES-listed species) for forensic or enforcement purposes, as requested of the Standing Committee in Decision 17.85 and canvassed in SC69 Inf. Doc. 18;
 - ii) the introduction from the sea of biological samples of CITES-listed species; and
 - iii) the urgent international movement of biological samples of CITES-listed species, including for diagnostic and other health and disease related purposes.
- e) if required, make proposals for amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates*, and Resolution 11.15 (Rev. CoP12) on *Non-commercial loan, donation, or exchange of museum and herbarium specimens*; and
- f) present its report and recommendations to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee for consideration.

The membership of the working group on simplified procedures for permits and certificates was agreed as follows: Australia (Chair), Canada, China, European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mozambique, Namibia, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe; and Association of Zoos and Aquariums,

Defenders of Wildlife, Food and Agriculture Organization, Humane Society International, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Ivory Education Institute, Lewis & Clark – International Environmental Law, San Diego Zoo Global, Society for Wildlife Forensic Science, TRAFFIC, and Wildlife Conservation Society.

55. Great apes (Hominidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat..... *No document*

The Standing Committee noted the oral report of the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to submit the report undertaken in accordance with Decision 17.232 to the Animals Committee for its consideration at its 30th meeting. The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on great apes with the following mandate to:

- a) review the report undertaken by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 17.232 and any recommendations coming from the Animals Committee, and
- b) report to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee with any draft recommendations.

The membership of the working group on great apes was agreed as follows: Canada (Chair), China, European Union, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America; and Born Free Foundation, Convention on Migratory Species, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Impact, and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

23. Follow-up of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife and South Africa's Youth Conservation Programme: Report of the Secretariat..... SC69 Doc. 23

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 23 and thanked South Africa and the Youth for Wildlife Conservation for the information they submitted.

The Standing Committee encouraged South Africa to integrate CITES in its Youth Conservation Programme and update the Secretariat on progress made in this regard, as well as on the implementation of the Programme; and requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to encourage other Parties to inform the Secretariat of progress made to implement Resolution Conf. 17.5 on *Youth engagement* so that the Standing Committee can report to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting in accordance with Decision 17.27.

18. Community awareness on wildlife trafficking: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 18

The Standing Committee noted the developments in the implementation of Decision 17.86 described in document SC69 Doc. 18.

28. National reports

28.2 Improving access to annual report data SC69 Doc. 28.2

The Standing Committee welcomed the Secretariat's initiative to improve access to annual report data and requested the Secretariat to work with the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre, before the deployment of this initiative, to take into account the concerns expressed by Parties on making permit numbers publicly available. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to report back on this initiative at its 70th meeting.

31. Enforcement

31.1 Enforcement matters: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 31.1

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 31.1, and the Resolution on *Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife* adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 71st session; and further noted the *High Level Principles on Combating Corruption Related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products* adopted at the G20 Leaders Summit held in Hamburg, Germany, in the annex to the G20 Leaders' Declaration.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to continue to explore opportunities to progress the implementation of Decision 17.85 b).

31.2 International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC):
Report of the Secretariat..... SC69 Doc. 31.2

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 31.2 and welcomed the generous support of donors for the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme 2016-2020 in accordance with Decisions 17.52 c) and d).

36. Introduction from the sea: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 36

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 36 and invited the Secretariat to issue a Notification asking Parties to submit information on their challenges in implementing Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea*, drawing attention to the need to include a specific request regarding chartering issues, and to report back at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

33. Asian big cats in captivity: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 33

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 33 and invited the Secretariat to issue a Notification asking Parties to report on their implementation of Decision 17.226 in time for the information to be made available for its 70th meeting.

44. Identification of specimens in trade

44.1 Tiger skins: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 44.1

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 44.1; urged tiger range States to provide the Secretariat with information requested in Notification to Parties No. 2017/058; and invited Parties to provide financial support to the Secretariat for assessing the feasibility of establishing a central repository of photographs of wild tigers and seized tiger skins, in implementing Decision 17.164, paragraph c).

44.2 Identification Manual: Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 44.2

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 44.2.

54. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 54

The Standing Committee encouraged all Parties, in particular Asian big cat range States and Parties affected by illegal trade in Asian big cats, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 17.1, use World Wildlife Day 2018 to initiate or enhance public awareness campaigns to promote the conservation of Asian big cats, and reduce illegal offer of, and demand for illegally traded Asian big cat specimens, and to showcase any activities conducted to progress the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*.

52. Legal and illegal trade in Bread palms (*Encephalartos* spp.):
Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 52

The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to register nurseries producing artificially propagated specimens of *Encephalartos* spp. in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes*, and to ensure that the correct source codes are applied when exporting artificially propagated *Encephalartos* spp. specimens.

The Standing Committee encouraged all range States of *Encephalartos* spp. to step up their measures to regulate the activities of exporters of artificially propagated *Encephalartos* spp. specimens, to ensure the legal origin of stocks and to prevent *Encephalartos* spp. from the wild from entering illegal trade.

The Standing Committee further encouraged all Parties, in particular range States, to implement strict measures to regulate at national level the ownership and possession of *Encephalartos* spp.

53. Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and other marine turtles (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae): Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 53

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 53 and established an intersessional working group on marine turtles with the following mandate to:

- a) review the information and recommendations contained in the study undertaken by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 17.222 a); and
- b) formulate its own recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting for its reporting to the Conference of the Parties, at its 18th meeting, as appropriate.

The membership of the working group on marine turtles was agreed as follows: United States of America (Chair); Australia, China, Indonesia, and Japan; and the Food and Agricultural Organization, Humane Society International, International Union for Conservation of Nature, TRAFFIC, and the World Wildlife Fund.

61. Illegal trade in the helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*): Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 61 (Rev. 1)

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 61 (Rev. 1).

62. Snakes (*Serpentes spp.*): Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 62

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 62 and encouraged the Secretariat to liaise with the five remaining countries that did not report to seek any reporting on their implementation of Decision 17.278 and to report back at its 70th meeting.

63. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*): Report of the Secretariat..... SC69 Doc. 63

The Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 63, thanked the range States for the information that they submitted in response to the request by the Chair of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission; and encouraged range States that have not yet submitted such information to do so.

28. National reports

- 28.3 Annual illegal trade reports: Report of the Secretariat..... SC69 Doc. 28.3

The Standing Committee adopted the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report*, including a sample reporting format, in document SC69 Com. 1

Adoption of Executive Summaries

The executive summary of the fourth session in document SC69 Sum. 4 was adopted with the following amendments:

- Under agenda item 48, paragraph c), insert before “the Standing Committee” on the third line “consideration by”, and replace “s reporting” with “and onwards submission”;
- Under agenda item 57, paragraph b), replace “to” with “for” before “enforcement officers”, replace the second b) of the mandate of the in-session working group with c);
- Under agenda item 59, paragraph b), delete “to the Parties”;
- Under agenda item 60, in paragraph a) of the mandate of the intersessional working group, insert “the six” before “countries identified”;
- Under agenda item 69.3, in paragraph a) of the mandate of the in-session working group, after “language proposed by”, insert “the European Union, the United States of America, Japan, Norway, Guatemala, and Peru”;

- Under agenda item 10, on the fourth line of paragraph ii), delete the “s” at the end of “group”; in the membership of the working group; delete “United States” before “Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies”; and delete “s” at the end of “guidelines” on the last line of the agenda item;
- Under agenda item 12, in paragraph c), replace “Committee on I) in order to revise” with “Committees on the issue described in paragraph 5 I) of this document regarding potential revisions of; in paragraph d), at the end, add “, taking into account the report from the Animals and Plants Committees regarding this issue”; and at the end of paragraph f), add “for onward submission to the Conference of the Parties.

11. Rules of Procedure

11.1 Review of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.....SC69 Doc. 11.1

11.2 Review of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17):

Report of the Secretariat.....SC69 Doc. 11.2

and

12. Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees:

Report of the Secretariat SC69 Doc. 12

The Standing Committee agreed to include South Africa and Sri Lanka as members of the intersessional working group on Rules of Procedure.