

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

Strategic matters

LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY:
REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Standing Committee Intersessional Working Group (WG) on Livelihoods and Food Security (Namibia).*
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted **Decision 17.41 to 17.43 directed to the Standing Committee:**
 - 17.41 *The Standing Committee shall consider the proposed resolution contained in document CoP17 Doc.17 on Food security and livelihoods.*
 - 17.42 *The Standing Committee shall invite the proponents of the resolution, in an effort to develop a revised version for consideration by the Standing Committee.*
 - 17.43 *The Standing Committee shall consider the work undertaken in Decisions 17.41 and 17.42, and make recommendations, as necessary, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. In order to review the proposed resolution referenced in Decision 17.41, the Secretariat submitted SC69 Doc. 16 for consideration of the Standing Committee (SC) during its 69th meeting proposing the formation of a WG with the following mandate:
 - a) **A stand-alone resolution on livelihoods and food security:** the working group recommendations will be a draft revised draft resolution text, which will be reviewed by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and submitted to CoP18.
 - b) **Incorporation into existing resolution(s):** the working group recommendations will consist of existing resolution(s) and proposed draft text elements to be incorporated, which will be reviewed by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and submitted to CoP18.
 - c) **Implementation through other means:** the working group may make recommendations on other ways to capture the general principles (e.g. conducting a study). The working group recommendations will consist of a draft decision on *livelihoods and food security*, which will be reviewed by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and submitted to CoP18.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

4. After thorough discussions of SC 69 Doc. 16, the Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on Livelihoods and Food Security to consider the contents of the draft resolution contained in CoP17 Doc. 17 with a mandate to take account of the two options presented in paragraphs 3 b) and 3 c), above, without the option in paragraph 3 a) of a stand-alone resolution.
5. The membership of the intersessional working group on Livelihoods and Food Security was agreed as follows: Namibia (chair), Antigua and Barbuda (original proponent), Brazil, Canada, Japan, Kenya, Indonesia, China, South Africa, United States of America, Animal Welfare Institute, NASCO, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Humane Society International, Ivory Education Institute, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Parrots Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Species Survival Network and TRAFFIC.
6. The working group conducted its work electronically.
7. To structure the debate and drawing upon the mandate of the working group, the Chair of the WG requested members of the WG to indicate which of the two options indicated under paragraph 4 (above) they preferred.
8. Two divergent views were expressed through the responses obtained. For better referencing, I will term the two views as Group 1 and Group 2, for the purpose of this report only and the numbering is done in no order of preference/importance.
9. **“Group 1”** feels that none of the options given in the mandate of this WG offer an acceptable solution for the following reasons:
 - a) The notion of Livelihoods and Food Security (LFS) is global and is not necessarily limited to rural communities while being the most important target of the initiative. Wild resources are an important source of LFS for a very large segment of the world population. To wit, professional hunting operations, the carving and processing industries, traders, carriers and now, of course, fisheries which either directly or indirectly concern the LFS of almost one billion human beings (Sustainable Development Goal SDG14.) and as a result global importance of LFS as well as its importance would be lost in the linkage with an existing resolution.
 - b) Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) does not include the promotion of legitimate/sustainable use and of legal trade as an important mechanism in the achievement of LFS. The recognition that legal and sustainable use/trade of wild resources is a primary source of LFS, will constitute the best incentive to conserve wild species for the sectors of population depending on them. In their opinion, that shall be an important component of a Resolution on LFS.
10. For the reasons mentioned above it is the view of this group that the Standing Committee should reconsider including Option a) to provide for the possibility of a stand-alone resolution.
11. **“Group 2”** considers that CITES, and CITES implementation, cannot take on all of the SDGs, as preferred by **“Group 1”**. This group feels that it is important to note that SDG target 15.7 states, “take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.” Since that relates specifically to international wildlife trade, and is the only target that does, Group 2 considers that target to be particularly relevant to CITES work. This group also considers target 15.5 (“Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species”) to be highly relevant to CITES implementation, both in its focus - the protection of threatened species - and its work to prevent their extinction. Its relevance is already recognized in Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) on CITES and Livelihoods. However, the Group considers the discussion of delivery of the relevant SDG goals and targets to be within the remit of the CITES Strategic Vision and associated WG, and not the WG on LFS.
12. Group 2 also considers that CITES already promotes food security through, 1) its objective to protect species from over exploitation through international trade, including possible depletion of species upon which rural communities depend, and 2) the livelihoods resolution, which comprehensively addresses livelihood and community concerns including the empowerment of rural communities in the context of CITES, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and promoting alternatives to enhance income generation, all of which contribute to food security. The group therefore does not consider that there is a need for further text elements as proposed in option b) or a stand-alone resolution as proposed in option a) of document SC69 Doc. 16 (option a) was previously excluded from consideration by the Standing Committee). However, in the spirit of cooperation Group 2 considers that a positive way forward would be to support option c), i.e.,

implementation through other means which could include the collection, for example, of case studies to inform implementation of the livelihoods resolution in this respect.

13. It is clear that there are two distinct divergent views and more work needs to be done to reach consensus.
14. In conclusion, the Chair of the WG proposed that the SC authorises the WG on LFS to continue its work with regard to implementation of Decisions 17.41 to 17.43 and report to the 71st SC meeting. A need to request CoP18 to renew the three above referenced Decisions might be necessary as well.

Recommendation

15. The Standing Committee is invited to endorse the recommendations of the WG:
 - a) to allow the WG to continue its work with regard to implementation of Decisions 17.41 to 17.43 and report to its 71st meeting; and
 - b) to request CoP18 to renew Decisions 17.41 to 17.43.