

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

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

COUNTRY-WIDE SIGNIFICANT TRADE REVIEWS

1. This document has been prepared by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat.\*
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decision:

***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

17.111 *The Animals and Plants Committee, with the assistance of the Secretariat, shall explore potential benefits and disadvantages of country-wide significant trade reviews, drawing upon the lessons learned, outcomes and impacts of the country-wide Review of Significant Trade of Madagascar as relevant.*

Implementation of Decision 17.111

3. At the joint session of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (AC29/PC23, Geneva, July 2017), the Secretariat submitted document [AC29 Doc. 13.4/PC23 Doc. 15.4](#) on *Country-wide significant trade reviews*. In support of the implementation of Decision 17.111, it proposed to organize a consultancy to analyse potential benefits and disadvantages of conducting country-wide significant trade reviews; and indicated that Madagascar's country-wide Review of Significant Trade could provide insights into the possibility of conducting further reviews of this nature. It also made suggestions for various aspects relating to country-wide Significant Trade Reviews that the Committees could examine independently of a supporting consultancy.
4. On the basis of the Secretariat's document and discussions in plenary, the Committees established an intersessional working group on country-wide significant trade reviews with the following terms of reference:
  - a) *Explore potential benefits and disadvantages of country-wide significant trade reviews drawing upon the lessons learned and existing information on outcomes and impacts and, if possible, the outcomes of the consultancy proposed in paragraph 6 of document AC29 Doc. 13.4/PC23 Doc. 15.4;*

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\* *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.*

- b) *Taking into account discussions in the joint session, consider the issues mentioned in paragraph 7 of document AC29 Doc. 13.4/PC23 Doc. 15.4; and*
- c) *Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.*
5. The membership of the intersessional working group was decided as follows: AC representatives of Europe (Mr. Fleming), North America (Ms. Gnam), and Oceania (Mr. Robertson), PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair) and PC nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough); Canada, European Union, Madagascar, Norway, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and World Wildlife Fund.
6. In support of the intersessional working group's mandate, the Secretariat contracted the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to produce a technical report on *Evaluation of the countrywide significant trade review process*, while working closely with the intersessional working group referred to in paragraph 3 above. The report was circulated to the intersessional working group for inputs and comments prior to their meeting and was presented at the joint session of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (AC30/PC24, Geneva, July 2018), as an Annex to document [AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3](#). It provides an overview of the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar, outlines successes and challenges, extracts lessons learned, and provides recommendations for future country-wide significant trade reviews.
7. During AC30/PC24, an in-session working group was established to undertake the following:
- a) *consider the outcomes of the report in the Annex to [AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3](#), and any other relevant findings;*
- b) *draft conclusions and recommendations as appropriate, and*
- c) *draft a way forward to bring the results of the implementation of Decision 17.111, and its conclusions, to the attention of the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and/or of the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.*
8. Based on the report of the in-session working group in document AC30/PC24 Com. 1 (Rev. by Sec.), the Animals and Plants Committees:
- a) welcomed the evaluation of the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar as outlined in Annex to [AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3](#) and noted the achievements, shortcomings, challenges and lessons learned and recorded in the Annex;
- b) noted that it would have been useful to have had available to the Committees a comprehensive assessment of the resources required to implement the process and, therefore, recommended that any decision on a future country-wide review process fully considers the resources required;
- c) concluded that a country-wide review process has significant merit but such 'reviews' are likely to be more effective if they address implementation of the Convention in its entirety than if restricted to Article IV alone;
- d) recommended that the development of a country-wide process be explored to support not only the science-based implementation of the Convention, in particular the making of non-detriment findings, but also wider implementation issues. These can be considered in the light of other relevant processes to enhance implementation of the Convention at national and/or regional level; and
- e) recommended that the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat, bring the conclusion in paragraphs c) and d) above to the attention of the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting with a proposed set of draft Decisions (seeking a mandate to explore whether the scientific issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar can be integrated into other existing mechanisms or whether a new mechanism should be developed) for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18).

9. Considering the progress achieved, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat, recommend that the following draft decisions be submitted for consideration to CoP18, as replacement of the current Decision 17.111:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

18.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) consider the 'Outlook and recommendations' regarding country-wide significant trade reviews, including the resources required for such reviews, as articulated in the Annex to document AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3 and provide advice as to whether the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar can be integrated into other existing CITES mechanisms or programme activities, or whether a new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties at a national level to address implementation of the Convention in its entirety rather than Article IV alone;
- b) determine how Parties might qualify or apply for support under a 'country wide review' under existing mechanisms or any new mechanism; and
- c) prepare a report on its findings and recommendations, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees, and subsequently for the Standing Committee.

***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

18.BB The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report by the Secretariat and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

18.CC The Standing Committee shall review the report and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees and, in consultation with the Secretariat, make recommendations for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which may include proposals for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* or other existing Resolutions, or a new resolution.

Recommendations

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the present document;
- b) review the draft decisions presented in paragraph 9 above; and
- c) invite the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, to further develop and submit the draft decisions, as appropriate, for consideration to CoP18, in replacement of Decision 17.111.