

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

Trade control and traceability

Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the United States of America as Chair of the Standing Committee Working Group on the definition of the term "appropriate and acceptable destinations".*
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17; Johannesburg 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on the definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations':

Directed to the Secretariat

17.178 *The Secretariat shall, subject to available resources, report to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee on the history and implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations', and Article III, paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b), regarding findings that recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to house and care for them.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

17.179 *The Animals Committee shall, at its 29th meeting:*

- a) *consider the report of the Secretariat regarding Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations', and make recommendations and develop guidance, as appropriate, for consideration of the Standing Committee and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*
- b) *consider the report of the Secretariat regarding implementation of the requirements in Article III, paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b), regarding findings that recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to house and care for them, and make recommendations and prepare guidance, as appropriate, for consideration of the Standing Committee and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

* *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.*

17.180 *At its 69th meeting, the Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the report of the Secretariat, including any information from the Animals Committee, regarding Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations', and make recommendations and develop guidance, as appropriate, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*
- b) *consider the report of the Secretariat, including any information from the Animals Committee, regarding implementation of the requirements in Article III, paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b), regarding findings that recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to house and care for them and make recommendations and develop guidance, as appropriate, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. At its 69th meeting (SC69; Geneva 2017), the Standing Committee revised the 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.

Discussion

4. In order to prepare the report called for in Decision 17.178, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2018/033, which invited Parties to submit relevant information on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations', and Article III, paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b) of the Convention. The Secretariat received responses from 11 Parties and five organizations and prepared a report for consideration of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC30; Geneva 2018) (see document AC30 Doc. 16).
5. The Animals Committee working group on the definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' considered the Secretariat's report, with a particular focus on developing non-binding best practice guidance for the required finding that the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it, consistent with paragraph 1, a) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) for specimens of Appendix-II species subject an annotation referring to 'appropriate and acceptable destinations', as well as Article III paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b) for Appendix-I specimens. The working group provided an oral report to AC30 summarizing its discussions.
6. At AC30, the Animals Committee established an in-session working group on 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' with the following mandate:

Taking into account discussions in plenary and any information from the Animals Committee's intersessional working group on the definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations', the in-session working group shall:

- a) review the information contained in document AC30 Doc. 16 (Rev. 2) and its Annex, particularly paragraphs 36 to 40;
- b) develop (the outline) of a non-binding checklist similar to that outlined in paragraph 40; and

- c) make recommendations, including draft decisions, as appropriate, for the Committee's consideration and submission to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, in accordance with Decision 17.179.
7. Based on the outcome of the in-session working group, the Animals Committee agreed to recommend the following outline of non-binding guidance for determining whether recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to house and care for them:

Factors that should be recommended under the guidance for evaluation when considering whether the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it may include, but are not limited to:

- a) Physical housing (size and space [adequate space to display normal behaviour; to expand as the animal grows; availability of indoor/outdoor housing; and if animal is on public display, availability of private, off exhibit area], construction materials, shelter from sun/rain, safety and security measures, suitable arrangements for quarantine, substrate type);
 - b) Species-specific enclosure furnishings (for example provisions of pools, climbing equipment, hides, nest boxes, plants and hiding places);
 - c) Animal care & husbandry (climate conditions, including correct temperature and light; water quality parameters for aquatic species);
 - d) Dietary needs (species-specific food and nutritional requirements, access to potable water)
 - e) Adequate provisions of suitable veterinary and animal care (sufficient numbers and expertise of staff who care for the animals, disease considerations, preventative medicine);
 - f) Wildlife laws (comply with all relevant wildlife laws and/or regulations and possess all appropriate permits and licenses for the species involved);
 - g) Social well-being and animal behaviour (appropriate social groupings for the species, methods of integration, appropriate social and behavioural enrichment, ability to separate the group where needed);
 - h) Management (facility's adequate record-keeping);
 - i) Any other taxon-specific considerations.
8. The Animals Committee further recommended that the following set of draft decisions be considered for submission to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18; Colombo 2019):

Directed to the Secretariat

18.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) create and maintain a dedicated webpage on the CITES website to make available the guidance [contained in document CoP18 Doc. XX] and to compile reference materials, published references, best practice examples, examples of Parties' appropriate and acceptable destination findings and suitably equipped to house and care for living specimens' findings, and other relevant information;
- b) issue a notification within 90 days of the close of CoP18 containing the non-binding guidance [contained in document CoP18 Doc. XX] on the provisions of paragraph 1, a) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) for living specimens of Appendix-II species subject to an annotation referring to "appropriate and acceptable destinations", as well as Article III paragraphs 3(b) and 5(b) for living Appendix-I specimens; and inviting Parties to submit relevant material for the CITES webpage created under paragraph a);
- c) source additional relevant information for inclusion on the dedicated webpage created under paragraph a); and
- d) issue a notification within 30 days of the close of SC73 inviting Parties to provide feedback on experience with using the guidance [contained in document CoP18 Doc. XX] as well

as the information provided on the CITES webpage created under paragraph a) and report this to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee for their consideration and recommendations, as appropriate.

Directed to the Parties

18.BB Parties are:

- a) invited to use the non-binding guidance [contained in document CoP18 Doc. XX] on how to assess whether proposed recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix I listed species are suitably equipped to house and care for them and
- b) encouraged to submit relevant information for the webpage created under Decision 18.AA paragraph a).

Directed the Animals Committee

18.CC The Animals Committee shall:

- a) prepare non-binding best practice guidance on how to determine whether “the trade would promote *in situ* conservation”, in line with the provisions of paragraph 1, b) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17), in consultation with the Secretariat;
- b) building on the existing non-binding guidance [contained in document CoP18 Doc. XX], prepare more detailed species-specific guidance for living specimens of African elephants and southern white rhinoceros, in consultation with relevant experts (including species and zoological facility experts) and the Secretariat;
- c) make the guidance and any recommendations available for consideration and endorsement by the Standing Committee; and
- d) review the report from the Secretariat on feedback from Parties called for in Decision 18.XX paragraph d) and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.DD The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report of the Animals Committee regarding the non-binding guidance developed under Decision 18.CC paragraphs a) and b), and the guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. XX and make recommendations, as appropriate, including possible revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) and any other relevant resolution, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- b) review the report from the Secretariat and any comments and recommendations coming from the Animals Committee on feedback from Parties called for in Decision 18.AA paragraph d) and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendations

9. The Standing Committee working group had little time to consider the outcomes from AC30 but recognized that the expertise in determining whether the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it lies with the Animals Committee. Therefore, the working group recommends that the Standing Committee agree to the outline of non-binding guidance included in paragraph 7 above and submit it as working guidelines for consideration at CoP18, to be further refined in accordance with Decisions 18.AA to 18.DD.
10. The Standing Committee working group also concurred with the draft decisions agreed by the Animals Committee and recommends that they be submitted for consideration to CoP18.