

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

Species specific matters

SNAKES (SERPENTES SPP.):
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT AND OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee*.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 17.12 on *Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes*, as well as several Decisions, including the following that require attention from the Standing Committee at the present meeting:

17.276 Directed to Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo

Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo are encouraged to undertake the following actions:

- a) *Honduras: to ensure that measures are in place to address poaching of, and illegal trade in, the Cayos Cochinos boa constrictor (Boa constrictor imperator);*
- b) *Benin: to implement the following measures for the Ball python (Python regius):*
 - i) *Design and implement a management programme for the species;*
 - ii) *Make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and*
 - iii) *Strengthen national regulations relating to trade control and monitoring, including stricter control policies for production systems.*
- c) *Benin, Ghana and Togo: to implement the following measures for the Calabar ground boa (Calabaria reinhardtii):*
 - i) *Make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and*
 - ii) *Improve systems to monitor harvest, captive breeding, and trade in the species;*

* 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.

- d) *Indonesia: to improve enforcement of existing laws and take into account the recommendations provided in the document to more effectively regulate the collection of and trade in the populations of the wild green tree python (*Morelia viridis*) and the Boelen's python (*Morelia boeleni*); and*
- e) *Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo: to report to the Secretariat on the implementation of actions directed to them in this Decision, for transmission to, and review by the Animals Committee at one of its meetings between the 17th meeting and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequent reporting by the Animals Committee to the Standing Committee.*

17.278 Directed to Parties

Parties should eliminate the important illegal and unreported trade in specimens, whether live or parts and derivatives, of CITES-listed snake species by:

- a) *Ensuring that CITES permits and certificates are properly issued for trade in these specimens;*
- b) *Including information on trade in these specimens in their CITES annual reports;*
- c) *ensuring that their annual reports are following the most recent version of the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on National reports;*
- d) *Examining their enforcement efforts regarding trade in these specimens to ensure that adequate steps are taken to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade;*
- e) *undertaking education and outreach activities directed towards snake farms, buyers and sellers of live snakes, parts and derivatives, product manufacturers, shippers, brokers and staff from government agencies involved in controlling and monitoring this trade to ensure that snake specimens are traded in compliance with national laws and CITES provisions; and*
- f) *In the case of Parties in Asia, reporting on their efforts in all of these areas to the Secretariat in time for its reporting at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.*

17.279 Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall continue to review guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for the export of CITES-listed snakes, information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo provided in accordance with Decision 17.276 and new information on the trade in, and sustainable use and conservation of snakes, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.

17.280 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) *Consider the reports and recommendations from the Animals Committee submitted in accordance with Decision 17.279 and any other relevant information;*
- b) *Make recommendation to the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat as appropriate; and*
- c) *Report on the implementation of Decision 17.279 at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with recommendations for consideration by the Parties, including revisions to Resolution Conf. 17.12 on Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes, if deemed necessary.*

17.281 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall communicate bilaterally with relevant Asian Parties to invite them to report on the status of their implementation of Decision 17.278.

17.283 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall transmit the information provided by Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo in accordance with Decision 17.278 to the Animals Committee for consideration at one of its meetings between the 17th meeting and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

17.284 Decision directed to the Secretariat

The CITES Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:

- a) compile information and develop guidance that can assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings, management systems for wild populations and the establishment of export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade;*
- b) Conduct one or more interdisciplinary workshops for CITES authorities, and other relevant authorities and stakeholders, of range States of Asian snake species in international trade on:*
 - i) The use of guidance for monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems; and*
 - ii) The use of guidance for making non-detriment findings and establishing export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade; and*
- c) Report on the results of these activities to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate, before the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Implementation of Decisions 17.276, 17.279 and 17.283

3. In March 2017 and April 2018, the Secretariat wrote to the Management Authorities of Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo to remind them of the species- and country-specific measures concerning certain snake species they are directed to implement in Decision 17.276. It asked the Parties to report to the Animals Committee, through the Secretariat, on these measures. Additionally, the Secretariat advised Benin, Ghana and Togo to coordinate the requested conservation efforts and management activities to the extent possible, and offered the five Parties assistance within the Secretariat's technical and financial means.
4. The Secretariat reported progress in the implementation of Decision 17.276 at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC30, Geneva, July 2018) in document AC30 Doc. 27.2.
5. Indonesia submitted a report to the Secretariat on the measures it had taken concerning trade in *Morelia viridis* and *Morelia boeleni*, as directed in Decision 17.276, paragraph d) (its report is shown in the Annex to document AC30 Doc. 27.2), but no information was received from the other four Parties.
6. At AC30, the Animals Committee noted the information provided by Indonesia. The Animals Committee also noted document AC30 Doc. 27.2, in which the Secretariat had expressed its view that several of the instructions in Decision 17.276 were similar to the specific species-range States recommendations that the Animals Committee would make under the Review of Significant Trade process.
7. Concerning Benin, Ghana, Honduras and Togo, the Animals Committee requested the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to pay particular attention to trade in *Boa constrictor imperator* from Honduras, *Python regius* from Benin, and *Calabaria reinhardtii* from Benin, Ghana and Togo when performing, after the next Conference of the Parties, its initial analysis of trade data in the context of the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species, and the review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity. Furthermore, the Animals Committee expressed its concern with processes that are parallel to the process of the Review of Significant Trade (RST), without the RST structure.

Implementation of Decisions 17.278 and 17.281

8. The Secretariat reported to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017) on the implementation of Decision 17.278 by relevant Parties in Asia. Responses to its requests for information were received from Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Thailand, which were noted by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee encouraged the Secretariat to liaise with the five remaining

countries (Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam) that had not yet reported to the Secretariat, and to report back to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting. In compliance with Decision 17.281, the CITES Secretariat wrote in June 2018 to these five Parties, inviting them to report on the status of their implementation of Decision 17.278.

9. At the time of writing (late July 2018), the Secretariat had received a response from Bangladesh for which it is particularly grateful (see Annex). Bangladesh does not issue any CITES permits for snakes. Bangladesh reported that it established a wildlife Crime control unit in 2012, which is working closely with other law enforcement; and that it continued to organize several awareness campaigns annually.
10. The Secretariat notes that Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam all actively participated in the snake workshop in Bogor mentioned in paragraph 11, which addressed many aspects of the management and control of trade in Appendix-II listed snakes, and where they demonstrated their efforts in areas mentioned in Decision 17.278. The Lao People's Democratic Republic informed the Secretariat in July 2018 that it has no intention of resuming trade in the following snake species that are currently under trade suspension: *Ptyas mucosus*, *Python reticulatus* and *Naja* spp.

Implementation of Decision 17.284

11. The Secretariat reported on its implementation of Decision 17.284 to AC30 in document AC30 Doc. 27.1. The Animals Committee noted the activities that the Secretariat had conducted in compliance with this Decision. These include: a) the production of guidance for the making of non-detriment findings, involving *inter alia* a technical workshop in Malaysia in 2017; and b) the conducted of an interdisciplinary workshop for CITES authorities and other stakeholders of range States of Asian snake species in international trade (Bogor, Indonesia, May 2018), with training in using guidance for monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems for snakes, and applying the guidance on non-detriment findings. The Secretariat is grateful for the support it received from the European Union, the United States of America and Switzerland for undertaking the actions called for in the Decision, and to Indonesia and Malaysia for hosting highly successful snake workshops. With the present report to the Standing Committee on the results of these activities, the Secretariat considers that it completed the implementation of Decision 17.284.

Recommendations

12. The Standing Committee is invited to implement Decision 17.280 by:
 - a) considering the reports and recommendations of the Animals Committee in paragraphs 3 to 7 above concerning the implementation of Decision 17.276 by Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo, and the suggestion from the Animals Committee to examine the relevant species/range States combinations under the Review of Significant Trade process as appropriate;
 - b) considering the information on the implementation of Decision 17.278 by relevant Asian Parties, presented in paragraphs 8 to 10 above;
 - c) considering the information on the implementation of Decision 17.284 by the Secretariat in paragraph 11 above;
 - d) making recommendation to the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat, as appropriate; and considering reporting to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Subject: Reply: Implementation of CoP17 Decision concerning snakes (Serpentes Spp.)

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY BANGLADESH

From: Conservator of Forests <cfwildlifefd@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, 28 June, 2018 11:31 AM

To: Thomas De Meulenaer <tom.demeulenaer@un.org>

Cc: Dejana Radisavljevic <radisavljevicd@un.org>; ccf-fd@bforest.gov.bd; Mohammed Shafiul Alam Chowdhury <msalamchow.ccf@gmail.com>

Subject: Reply: Implementation of CoP17 Decision concerning snakes (Serpentes Spp.)

Dear Tom De Meulenaer,

Greetings from Bangladesh. Please find attached Legal and illegal trade report.

However, we do not issue any CITES export or import permit for snakes. Regarding implementation decision 17.278 specially paragraph d) and e):

d) Wildlife trade is being regulated under Wildlife (Protection and Security) Act, 2012. We have established wildlife Crime control unit (WCCU) in 2012 and WCCU is closely working with other law enforcing agencies like Police, Border Guard Bangladesh, Coast Guard, Rapid Action Battalion, Customs etc. Since 2012, WCCU had great success and seized 40460 wildlife and 440 trophies but very very few is relevant to snakes (Summary Report Attached). However, we need to conduct undercover survey with consultant/experts/ reputed NGO's that needs your Support.

e) We do not have any registered snake farm: two/three persons applied for farm registration but we could not registered them as we do not have Snake raring rules. Actually we have drafted " Snake Raring Rules and Send to Ministry for approval, we are waiting for approval. Human-Snake Conflict is one the highest in Bangladesh among South East Asian Countries and every year hundreds of people died and thousands of Snake in deed. No scientific study is available for conflict mitigation. Every year we conduct several awareness campaign to mitigate the conflict.

Thanks for your letter. Please don't hesitate to write me if you have further questions.

Jahidul

With regards

Md. Jahidul Kabir

Conservator of Forests

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**List of CITES enlisted flora and fauna exported and imported in 2016 by
Bangladesh**

SL	Species/Specimen details	Quantity	Remarks
01	Agar wood chips	84,889 kg	
02	Agar wood dust	36,091 kg	
03	Agar oil	151 lt	
04	Indian Bull Frog	20 no.	Research purpose
05	Rhesus macaque	5800 Fecal tubes; 200 Urine swab tubes	Research purpose
06	Baby crocodile (<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>)	100 no.	Import of Malaysia
07	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	150 no. skin	Import of South Africa
08	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	200 no. skin	Export to Japan
09	Bengal Tiger	02 no. (01 Male, 01 Female)	Import of Chattagram Zoo
10	Bengal Tiger	06 gm tissue; 30 gm skin	Research purpose

Wildlife Crime Control Activities in Bangladesh

June, 2012 to April, 2018

Year	Total wildlife offence	No. of case					No. Seized/ rescued wildlife				No. of offender	Present condition of cases
		P.O.R .	U.D.O.R .	Mobile court	Cases in Police station	Cases in RAB H.Q	Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Trophies		
2018	11	-	10	03	02	-	16	2330	06	-	09	In 03 case offenders get different ranges of punishment and fine, rests are under trial
2017	31	03	30	05	06	-	10	1490	20	-	04	In 05 case offenders get different ranges of punishment and fine, rests are under trial
2016	100	06	44	18	02	-	90	7,638	393	42	65	In 18 case offenders get different ranges of punishment and fine, rests are under trial.
2015	130	06	36	21	11	02	61	3897	8997	184	171	In 29 cases, offenders get different ranges of punishment and fine, rests are under trial.
2014	68	09	19	28	08	04	54	2230	5700	167	146	In 35 cases, offenders get different ranges of punishment and fine, rests are under trial.
2013	34	12	16	04	05	-	45	2253	3259	03	65	In 11 cases, offenders get different ranges of punishment and fine, rests are under trial.
2012	42	05	29	02	04	-	15	961	1010	40	119	In 08 cases, offenders get different ranges of punishment and fine, rests are under trial.
Total	416	41	184	78	36	06	276	20799	19385	440	579	

**** No Amphibian species have seized during this period.**

Total:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-------|
| ▪ Total case | : 325 | ▪ Police station case | : 36 |
| ▪ POR | : 41 | ▪ Cases in RAB headquarter | : 06 |
| ▪ UDOR | : 184 | ▪ Total offence | : 416 |
| ▪ Mobile Court | : 78 | ▪ Total offender | : 579 |
| ▪ Total seized wildlife | : 40460 | ▪ Seized trophies | : 440 |