

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

Committee I

Totoaba - *Totoaba macdonaldi* –
Opportunities for international collaboration within the CITES framework

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This document has been prepared by Mexico as chair of the drafting group on this matter established in the second session of Committee I. It is based on matters arising from the discussion on document CoP17 Doc. 74 at the second and eighth sessions of Committee I (see documents CoP17 Com. I. Rec. 2 and Rec. 8).

Directed to the Parties

17.AA Parties acknowledge that Mexico, the United States of America and China are committed to collaborating and contributing towards the conservation of totoaba, and urge other parties to join them in this effort.

Directed to Parties that are range, transit or consumer countries of totoaba

17.BB The Parties should intercept illegal shipments, and, as appropriate and to the extent possible, share information on such illegal catch and illegal trade, with the Secretariat, as well as CITES authorities of relevant Parties;

17.CC The Parties should engage in awareness raising activities about the endangerment of totoaba and its grave implications for vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*, an endangered species threatened with extinction and listed under Appendix I), eliminate supply of and demand for totoaba, and increase law enforcement measures to prevent and address illegal fishing and trade; and

17.DD The Parties shall submit to the Secretariat information to be made available to the 69th and 70th meetings of the Standing Committee on the number and quantity of seizures of illegal totoaba products, arrests of those engaged in the illegal fishing and trade, results of any prosecutions, and actions taken to implement these decisions.

Directed to the Secretariat

17.EE Subject to availability of external resources and in consultation with relevant organizations (i.e. the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, etc.) as well as the range State, the Secretariat shall commission a report, to be submitted to the Standing Committee, on the current status of totoaba and vaquita, and ongoing conservation efforts, information on illegal trade and markets, and recommendations to guarantee the recovery of totoaba and vaquita and combat illegal trade.

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.FF The Standing Committee shall evaluate the data and information submitted by Parties at its 69th and 70th meetings and make recommendations for any additional actions

Directed to the Parties and other relevant stakeholders

17.GG Parties and other relevant stakeholders are urged to support efforts to stop illegal fishing, trafficking, and support activities benefitting the recovery of wild populations of totoaba.