

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**

Regional cooperation on the management of and trade in the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

DRAFT DECISIONS ON THE QUEEN CONCH (*STROMBUS GIGAS*)

*This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of document CoP17 Doc. 72 as agreed at the second session of Committee I (see document CoP17 Com. I Rec. 2).*

**Directed to the range States of *Strombus gigas***

17.AA The range States of *Strombus gigas* shall:

- a) following the endorsement of the Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan by all range States, collaborate to implement the Regional Plan, and develop national Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plans as appropriate;
- b) organize national level consultations to discuss the Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan, build awareness, increase buy-in of all stakeholders for implementing the measures, and contribute to future national, subregional and regional compliance;
- c) continue to collect data on weight of *S. gigas* by processing grade in order to update and improve the agreed regional conversion factors, and develop additional national conversion factors, taking into account the spatial variability and characteristics of the species;
- d) continue to collaborate in exploring ways to enhance the traceability of specimens of *S. gigas* in international trade, including, but not limited to, catch certificates, labelling systems and the application of genetic techniques, and consider sharing relevant experiences with the Secretariat, Parties and the Standing Committee, as appropriate, in the context of discussions on traceability systems for trade in CITES-listed species;
- e) collaborate in developing and implementing joint research programmes at subregional or regional level to support the making of non-detriment findings, and promote relevant research and capacity building activities through regional fisheries management bodies;
- f) promote and collaborate in developing and implementing public education and awareness programmes regarding the conservation and sustainable use of *S.gigas*; and
- g) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this decision to allow it to report at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with Decision 17.DD and, as appropriate, report to the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission on the implementation of the regional plan or national plans.

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

- 17.BB On the basis of reporting by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 17.DD, the Standing Committee shall review enforcement and traceability issues concerning international trade in queen conch, and make recommendations as appropriate.

**Directed to the Animals Committee**

- 17.CC If requested by range States of *S. gigas*, the Animals Committee shall provide advice regarding the making of non-detriment findings for trade in *S. gigas*, research in support of sustainable queen conch fishery and trade, and other technical matters.
- 17.DD The Animals Committee shall review the process for the setting of scientific quotas for queen conch, in particular where scientific quotas make up a large portion of the overall export quota.

**Directed to the Secretariat**

- 17.EE The Secretariat shall, pending the availability of external funding,
- a) continue to collaborate with FAO, the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch, WECAFC and other relevant international and regional bodies to provide assistance to range States of *S. gigas* in order to enhance the capacity of their CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, fisheries authorities and other stakeholders to implement the Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan and apply the NDF guidance;
  - b) monitor the development of traceability systems for queen conch; provide assistance, as appropriate, to FAO, the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch and others in reviewing options for the development of an auditable "chain of custody" procedure; and report relevant developments to the Standing Committee; and
  - c) continue to provide assistance to range States of *S. gigas* on relevant enforcement issues, and report new developments in this regard to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.
- 17.FF On the basis of information provided in accordance with Decision 17.AA g), and in consultation with the range States of *S. gigas*, the Working Group on Queen Conch of the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (CFMC), the Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA, Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and FAO, the Secretariat shall report on the progress in the implementation of these Decisions at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.