

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

Review of Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*

DRAFT REVISED RESOLUTION AND DECISION ON BUSHMEAT

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat, on the basis of document CoP17 Doc.75.1, as agreed at the fourth session of Committee I (see document CoP17 Com. I Rec. 4).

Resolution Conf. 13.11 (Rev. CoP17)

Bushmeat

CONCERNED that international trade in illegally or unsustainably harvested bushmeat may pose a threat to wild populations of CITES-listed species as well as to food security and livelihoods of wildlife-dependent communities;

RECOGNIZING that the harvest of and trade in bushmeat may be detrimental to the immediate survival of certain species and may be one of a number of pressures impacting an even greater number of species;

NOTING Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in great apes*, Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP13) on *Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles*, and other CITES Resolutions providing recommendations to better manage the conservation of and trade in species that may be impacted by the supply of and demand for bushmeat;

RECOGNIZING that indirect pressures such as forest fragmentation, improved road or other access, and natural resource exploitation, as well as increasing demand for and commercial supply of bushmeat, have the potential to increase levels of bushmeat harvest and trade to unsustainable levels;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that many countries in sub-Saharan Africa are particularly impacted by the scale of the harvest of and trade in bushmeat, and the challenges in ensuring that this trade is legal, sustainable and traceable, although the problem is prevalent in many countries around the world;

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 16.6 on *CITES and livelihoods*, where the Conference of the Parties recognized that the implementation of CITES is better achieved with the engagement of rural communities, especially those which are traditionally dependent on CITES-listed species for their livelihood;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity; Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines* provides a summary of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and urges the Parties to make use of the Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, also taking into account scientific, trade and enforcement considerations determined by national circumstances, as well as the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees when adopting non-detriment-making processes and making CITES non-detriment findings;

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13) on *Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife* which recognizes that commercial trade may be beneficial to the conservation of species and ecosystems, and to the development of local people when carried out at levels that are not detrimental to the survival of the species in question;

RECALLING Resolution Conf.16.7 on *Non-detriment findings*, where the Conference of the Parties provides recommendations and non-binding guiding principles to support CITES Scientific Authorities in considering whether trade would be detrimental to the survival of a species;

NOTING that legal, sustainable use of bushmeat has the potential to meet food security needs, while providing incentives for local communities to conserve biodiversity and combat illegal harvest and trade;

WELCOMING the adoption of Decision XI/25 (October, 2012) and Decision XII/18 (October, 2014) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management* by the 11th and 12th Meetings of Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity respectively;

RECOGNIZING that CITES aims to ensure the protection of listed species of wild fauna and flora against overexploitation through international trade;

NOTING that the international trade in bushmeat involves many species included in the Appendices of the Convention, but also species the trade in which is not regulated by CITES;

CONCERNED that the harvest and trade of CITES-listed species for bushmeat in violation of the Convention undermines the aim of CITES;

WELCOMING the establishment of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC); and

ALSO RECOGNIZING that CITES can promote the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species for bushmeat through trade in accordance with the requirements of the Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOGNIZES that many of the actions needed to ensure that the use of wildlife consumed as bushmeat is legal and sustainable are national in scope and thus ENCOURAGES all relevant Parties to:

- a) where appropriate, implement the *Revised recommendations of the Convention on Biological Diversity Liaison Group on Bushmeat* as found in Decision XI/25 on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management* adopted by the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Hyderabad, October 2012); and
- b) where appropriate, implement the relevant recommendations of Decision XII/18 on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management* adopted by the 12th Meeting of Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Pyeongchang, October 2014) such as, *inter alia*, recommendations aimed at differentiating among subsistence use, illegal hunting and trade of species as well as assessing and mitigating the impacts of illegal harvest on subsistence use of wildlife;

URGES all relevant Parties to take advantage of the guidance and other materials provided by the CPW in relation to the sustainable management and use of wildlife, and the coordinated support offered by ICCWC to national wildlife law enforcement agencies in order to strengthen national law enforcement efforts relating to the harvest and trade of bushmeat;

ALSO URGES all relevant Parties to review or establish strategies, policies, programmes or management systems (including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans) that support the legal and sustainable harvest and international trade of CITES-listed species used for bushmeat and facilitate participation of local communities in the design and implementation of such policies and programmes;

FURTHER ENCOURAGES all relevant Parties to identify the species and geographical areas or communities concerned by international trade in bushmeat and to cooperatively develop appropriate systems to monitor the status of wildlife populations harvested for bushmeat and the levels of harvest and the trade in these species, particularly across international borders, with special consideration given to CITES-listed species;

ENCOURAGES Parties to, as appropriate:

- a) raise the awareness of customs officials on the international trade in wild meat products derived from CITES-listed species;

- b) support the development and dissemination of identification tools for identifying CITES-listed species traded as bushmeat;
- c) adapt the CITES and Livelihood handbook and carry out appropriate education campaigns directed at both urban and rural communities to raise awareness of and provide guidance on means to ensure that trade in bushmeat is legal, sustainable and traceable under CITES;
- d) increase collaboration and information sharing among Parties to better understand and monitor the international trade in bushmeat;
- e) increase scientific knowledge and understanding of the impacts of commercial and subsistence use of CITES-listed species as bushmeat on the survival and regeneration of these species, in the context of growing human populations and pressures on wildlife resources and ecosystems; and
- f) provide adequate financial, technical and capacity support to ensure that the harvest of and international trade in CITES-listed species for bushmeat is legal and sustainable;

CALLS UPON all Parties and relevant international organizations to recognize the important role they can play in providing assistance, especially to range States, in regulating the trade in bushmeat and tackling the associated issues of poverty, habitat degradation, human population growth and overexploitation of natural resources; and

RECOMMENDS that the CITES Secretariat continue working with other partners in CPW and ICCWC to ensure that the harvest of and international trade in bushmeat products derived from CITES-listed species is legal, sustainable and traceable.

Draft decision

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.XX Subject to the availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), and other organizations as appropriate, develop guidance materials, activities and tools aimed at enhancing Parties' capacity to regulate bushmeat trade, and shall report on these efforts at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.