

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

Summary record of the fourth session of Committee I

27 September 2016: 09h20 – 12h15

Chair: K. Gaynor (Ireland)

Secretariat: T. De Meulenaer  
D. Kachelriess  
M. Sosa Schmidt

Rapporteurs: F. Davis  
M. Groves  
C. Rutherford  
J. McAlpine

**Species specific matters**

65. Conservation of and trade in East African sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*)

Kenya introduced document CoP17 Doc. 65 on the implementation of Decisions 16.153 and 16.154, which recommended extending these decisions until the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18). They also indicated that reference to subparagraphs 6 i)-iii) of the document was intended to be incorporated into the revised Decisions.

The European Union and its member States, supported by Uganda and the United States of America, agreed with recommendations in the document and the incorporation of the text in subparagraphs 6 i)-iii) of the document into the draft decisions. They encouraged range States to continue to compile and share information in the making of non-detriment findings (NDF) for trade in this species, and to coordinate with the Plants Committee's Working group on African tree species.

In response to the Chair's request, Kenya agreed to work with the Secretariat to revise the Decisions by incorporating the text in subparagraphs 6 i)-iii) of document CoP17 Doc. 65 and present this for consideration at a subsequent session.

67. Harvesting of and trade in African cherry (*Prunus africana*)

The acting Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 67, which included three draft decisions (17.xx1, 17.xx2 and 17.xx3) regarding the organization of an international workshop on *Prunus africana*, together with suggestions for amendments to draft decisions 17.xx1 and 17.xx3 suggested by the Secretariat.

Cameroon, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union and its member States, Switzerland, Uganda and the United States of America all supported the draft decisions and the Secretariat's suggested amendments thereto. The European Union and its member States suggested that the workshop be held as soon as possible after the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee, noting that it could complement the Review of Significant Trade process.

The Committee agreed the draft decisions in document CoP17 Doc. 67, including the amendments suggested by the Secretariat.

76. Neotropical tree species

The Acting Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 76 on the implementation of Decision 16.159 on the establishment of a working group on Neotropical tree species under the auspices of the Plants Committee. The document contained a proposed amendment to this Decision, extending it to CoP18.

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama and the United States of America all recognized the importance and achievements of the working group and supported the extension of Decision 16.159.

In response from a request from Forest Based Solutions to join the working group, the Chair stated that membership of the group would be decided by the Plants Committee at its 23rd meeting.

The Committee agreed to the amendment to Decision 16.159 in document CoP17 Doc. 76. .

77. International trade in African tree species

Kenya, as Chair of the Plants Committee's Working group on African tree species, introduced document CoP17 Doc. 77 describing the background and work of this working group. Annex 1 of the document contained two draft decisions, 17.AA and 17.BB; the Secretariat had proposed amendments to 17.AA in the document.

The acting Chair of the Plants Committee, indicated that the working group would continue to work by electronic means, but drew attention to the budget implications of translation. She therefore suggested that draft decision 17.BB not be recommended for adoption. Instead she proposed an amendment to Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc.77 to include an estimated budget for a workshop and translation. The Secretariat suggested an estimated budget of USD 10,000 per year for translation (USD 30,000 for the intersessional period up to CoP18), recommending that the working group operate in a single language or manageable language clusters. The Secretariat indicated that a regional workshop would need a budget of USD 80,000. The European Union and its Member States suggested the group use the online CITES forum.

Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and the United States of America, all expressed support for draft decision 17.AA, with the Secretariat's proposed amendments. Senegal encouraged the working group to collaborate with regional groups, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Brazil highlighted the effectiveness of regional cooperation as demonstrated by the Working Group on Neotropical tree species. Angola asked to join the working group.

The Committee agreed draft decision 17.AA as amended by the Secretariat, and the amendments to Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc. 77 as proposed by the acting Chair of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat.

63. Guidelines to determine the possible impact of trade in lycaons (*Lycaon pictus*) on the conservation of the species

Burkina Faso introduced document Cop17 Doc. 63, describing the fragile state of lycaon (African Wild Dog) populations in the wild. The Annex to the document contained five draft decisions to examine the status of trade in lycaons and possible impacts on the conservation of the species.

Guyana, South Africa and Switzerland expressed concern that decisions concerning non-CITES listed species would be directed to CITES bodies. The European Union and its member States considered that the species was not a priority for CITES but would not block consensus.

Cameroon, Ethiopia, Niger and Senegal supported the document. The United States supported the draft decisions and encouraged range States to review domestic measures. They also suggested that range States may consider inclusion of the species in Appendix III; this was supported by Guyana, South Africa and Switzerland. Japan suggested replacing "urged" with "encouraged" in draft decision 17.EE.

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) noted that despite inclusion of the species in Appendix II of CMS in 2009, many Parties had not yet taken action to address problems in its conservation.

The Secretariat noted that the language in draft decision 17.AA, directing the Animals Committee to “order a study”, would need to be revised before it could be acted on.

The Chair established a small drafting group chaired by Burkina Faso and comprising Cameroon, the European Union, Japan, South Africa, and CMS, to produce a revised version of the proposed decisions and report back at a subsequent session.

#### 70. Saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.)

The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 70, containing eight draft decisions proposed by the Standing Committee for adoption, and recommending the deletion of Decisions 14.91 (Rev. CoP16), 14.93 (Rev. CoP16), and 16.95-16.101. The document also contained an additional two draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat in order to identify any potential problems the Parties might have with the implementation of Section XII of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16) on *Permits and certificates*. The Secretariat had also proposed amendments to draft decisions 17.CC, 17.EE and 17.GG.

The Russian Federation, the United States of America and CMS supported the recommendations, with the proposed amendments and additional draft decisions from the Secretariat. The United States of America, CMS and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) noted that illegal hunting remains a significant threat to the species. WCS supported the recommendations with the exception of the mention of “and *ex situ*” in draft decision 17.DD, emphasizing the priority that should be given to *in situ* conservation efforts. China highlighted the role of CMS in the protection of saiga and believed that enhancing cooperative efforts between the Secretariats of CITES and CMS was more important than increasing reporting burdens on Parties.

Supporting draft decisions 17.II and 17.JJ, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) noted the importance of this issue and offered its expertise to facilitate the movement of biological samples of this and other CITES-listed species, for example through its network of accredited laboratories.

The Committee agreed to the eight draft decisions set out in document CoP17 Doc. 70, with the proposed amendments from the Secretariat; to the additional two draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat; and to the deletion of Decisions 14.91 (Rev. CoP16), 14.93 (Rev. CoP16) and 16.95-16.101.

#### 71. Snake trade and conservation management (*Serpentes* spp.)

Switzerland, as Chair of the Standing Committee Working group on snake trade and conservation management, introduced document CoP17 Doc. 71 on the implementation of Decisions 16.102 to 16.108. Annex 1 contained a proposed draft resolution on the conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes; Annex 2 contained a series of draft decisions intended to replace Decisions 16.102 to 16.108, which could then be deleted. The document included amendments to the draft resolution and decisions suggested by the Secretariat.

Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) supported the draft resolution and decisions, with the proposed amendments from the Secretariat. Japan generally supported these, although did not believe that Parties should be obliged to tag snake skins. Malaysia stated that it would cooperate in research or fieldwork. The United States, supported by the European Union, supported the adoption of the draft resolution and draft decisions. They agreed with the proposed amendments from the Secretariat with the exception of that for 17.CC, believing this was unnecessary. The European Union further noted that the reference to traceability in the draft resolution had links to document CoP17 Doc. 45 on traceability and recommended that, if established, the Standing Committee Working group on traceability review the draft resolution and its provisions on traceability and propose any necessary improvements. Viet Nam supported the draft resolution, but noted the need for support from the international community to develop traceability systems. The United States acknowledged the need for funding for interdisciplinary workshops and said they would explore options for providing support in this area.

Brazil, Costa Rica, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States America and Viet Nam expressed concern over the illegal snake trade. Brazil encouraged greater support from consumer Parties, including help with repatriation, while the Islamic Republic of Iran noted that the demand for venom, which was important, was not mentioned in the document.

The Chair established a drafting group chaired by Switzerland and also comprising China, Costa Rica, the European Union, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Japan, the United States of America, Viet Nam, and IUCN to revise the text of the draft resolution and decisions, taking into consideration the recommendations from the Secretariat and the interventions made on the floor, and report back to a subsequent session.

## 75. Bushmeat

### 75.1 Review of Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*

The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 75.1, on implementation of Decision 16.149, the Annex to which contained proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*. The document itself contained a draft decision directed to the Secretariat, along with a minor amendment to this suggested by the Secretariat. Decision 16.149 was recommended for deletion.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal, and Switzerland supported the document, noting human health concerns and the potential role of illegal, unregulated bushmeat trade in the spread of disease, including Ebola. The Democratic Republic of the Congo suggested the Secretariat, in conjunction with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), assist African countries in developing sustainable, legal, traceable and healthy trade in bushmeat across Africa.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) welcomed the document and its recommendations.

The revisions to Resolution Conf. 13.11 in Annex 1 of document CoP17 Doc. 75.1, along with the draft decision in the document, as amended by the Secretariat, and deletion of Decision 16.149 were agreed.

### 75.2 Report of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 75.2 and described a lack of implementation of Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP16) concerning the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group. The Secretariat noted that the proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*, as presented in document 75.1, provided a new broad framework for the Parties to address issues relating to trade in bushmeat from CITES-listed species. Consequently, it proposed that Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP16) be deleted and that no further decisions be directed to the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group.

Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo observed that bushmeat was still an important issue in the Congo Basin and urged continuance of the Working Group. Benin and Senegal noted that bushmeat was an Africa-wide issue and asked the Secretariat to “revive” the Working Group and extend it to other African regions.

The Secretariat reminded Parties that the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group had been established by the region and not CITES and as such, the Secretariat had no information on the activities or terms of reference for the group. It had received no response in its efforts to contact the group. It suggested reformulating Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP16) to make them more actionable.

The Chair suggested the Secretariat look at Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP16) and consider how they might be revised. Document CoP17 Doc. 75.2 was noted.

## 61. Great apes (Hominidae spp.)

The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 61 on the implementation of Decision 16.67 and Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in great apes*. In the document, the Secretariat had proposed two draft decisions and recommended deletion of Decision 16.67.

Uganda supported the draft decisions in the document.

The Secretariat noted that, regrettably, the first *World Wildlife Crime Report*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with the support of the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC), which included information on illegal trade in great apes, was not available until after the submission of document CoP17 Doc. 61. The report showed limited illegal trade in great apes, recording 208 live specimens in international and domestic seizures for 1999-2015. However, unconfirmed reports of illegal trade in CITES-listed species online had prompted the Secretariat to contact the Management Authorities of relevant Parties and INTERPOL. The Secretariat noted that it had also proposed that draft decision 17.C in document CoP17 Doc.49 [Illegal trade in cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*)], regarding the illegal trade of cheetahs via online platforms, be broadened to include all CITES-listed species.

UNEP [as a co-host of the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP)], Global Eye, and OI Pejeta Conservancy did not agree that there was only limited illegal trade in great apes, believing it to be greatly underreported.

The Chair of the Standing Committee agreed that there was insufficient information on illegal trade. However, the *World Wildlife Crime Report* should serve as a good basis on which to take policy decisions to combat illegal trade.

The draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat in document CoP17 Doc. 61 were agreed, as was the deletion of Decision 16.67.

The meeting was adjourned at 12h15.