CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA
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Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

Committee II

Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)

DRAFT DECISIONS ON TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES (TESTUDINES SPP.)

This document has been prepared by the United States at the request of the Chair, on the basis of document CoP17 Doc. 73, after discussion in the ninth session of Committee II (see document CoP17 Com. II Rec. 9).

Directed to the Secretariat

17.A   The Secretariat shall engage the government of Madagascar and other relevant stakeholders to provide urgent assistance to combat illegal collection and trade in the Ploughshare tortoise *(Astrochelys yniphora)* or Angonoka.

Directed to the Secretariat

17.WW   The Secretariat shall:

a)   with funding already provided, establish and convene a CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force (Task Force) to operate, as described in Decision 17.XX. The members of the Task Force could include the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, Madagascar and those Parties in Asia that are most affected by the illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles and their parts and derivatives and other individuals who the Secretariat determines may contribute to the work of the Task Force;

b)   seek funding to support the work and additional meetings of the Task Force through the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

c)   work to establish a secure electronic communications platform for the Task Force (i.e. the CENComm Environet of the World Customs Organization);

d)   transmit the findings and recommendations of the Task Force, under Decision 17.XX c), to the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee for its consideration, and make its own recommendations as appropriate; and,

e)   transmit to the Standing Committee, for consideration at its 70th meeting, a progress report on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations by the Parties, as described in Decision 17.ZZ c).

Directed to the Tortoise and Freshwater Turtles Task Force

17.XX   The Task Force shall:

   a) as it deems appropriate, exchange intelligence and other information on the illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater and terrestrial turtles;

   b) discuss enforcement and implementation issues related to the illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater and terrestrial turtles as outlined in document CoP17 Doc. 73 Annexes 1 – 4 and any other materials it deems relevant; and,

   c) deliver findings and recommendations, through the Secretariat, to the 69th meeting of Standing Committee to strengthen the enforcement and implementation of the Convention for these species by the Parties.

Directed to the Parties

17.YY   The Parties shall:

   a) take steps to strengthen implementation and enforcement of the Convention for tortoises and freshwater and terrestrial turtles, especially the recommendations of the Standing Committee under Decision 17.ZZ a) and b); and,

   b) report to 70th and 71st meetings of the Standing Committee, through the Secretariat, on steps taken to implement the Committee's recommendations, under Decision 17.ZZ a) and b).

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.ZZ   The Standing Committee shall:

   a) at its 69th meeting, consider the findings and recommendations of the Secretariat and the Task Force, under Decisions 17.WW d) and 17.XX c) and recommend actions by the Parties, as it deems appropriate, to strengthen enforcement and implementation of the Convention for these species;

   b) at its 70th and 71st meetings, evaluate the reports of the Parties under 17.YY b) and determine whether additional recommendations or measures are needed, including appropriate compliance measures in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3; and,

   c) report on actions and progress achieved by the Committee, Task Force and the Parties at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.