

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

CANADIAN PRINCIPLES FOR THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED
SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)

1. This document has been submitted by Canada* in relation to all the agenda items of the seventeenth meeting of Conference of the Parties.
2. This document provides the Conference of the Parties with information on the principles that Canada follows as a Party to CITES.
3. Canada's principles-based approach provides a consistent, objective conceptual basis to guide the development of voting positions and participation in discussions at CITES meetings, and provides context for the development of Canadian CITES-related policies and decisions.
4. We submit this document in the spirit of openness and transparency so that other Parties may better understand the basis for our voting positions and participation.

Introduction and Context

5. Canada meets its legislative obligations under CITES through the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA; 1996), which is administered by Environment Canada. CITES is implemented in cooperation with other Canadian federal departments and the provinces and territories of Canada.
6. Canadian decisions, actions and positions with respect to CITES should clearly promote the conservation of the species, reflect Canada's philosophy of conservation, adaptive management and sustainable use and be based on best available science. Canadian activities should be consistent with obligations under other conventions or legislation, and should take into account Canada's domestic policy framework.
7. When participating in CITES deliberations and decision making, Canada will consider the long-term influence that decisions might have on the integrity and evolution of the Convention and international environmental governance. Canada will consider impacts or precedents for Canadian species, our management practices and our culture and economy.

Guiding principles

8. A principles-based approach provides a consistent, objective conceptual basis to guide the development of voting positions and participation in discussions at CITES meetings (including any national, regional and international meetings or workshops with a focus on the Convention), and provides context for the development of Canadian CITES-related policies and decisions. While acknowledging the need to maintain a flexible approach, the following Canadian principles are key:

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

- a. **Science-based:** CITES measures should be based on the best available scientific information. Actions and decisions will take into account other available sources of information such as Aboriginal traditional knowledge and local knowledge.
- b. **Maintain Appropriate Scope:** CITES measures should reflect CITES' central role of ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild. A species to be considered for listing on CITES appendices must meet CITES criteria, and implementation decisions should focus on the role of CITES as a tool to ensure the conservation of species that are threatened due to international trade.
- c. **Sustainable Use and Adaptive Management:** CITES measures should seek to conserve and protect the species under consideration, using adaptive management where applicable, while considering the economic, cultural and social role that the harvest of the species plays in the lives of people that depend on them.
- d. **Complementarity:** CITES measures should complement national and international species conservation and management measures and be shown to clearly benefit the conservation of the species.
- e. **Practical and Enforceable:** CITES measures should be practical and enforceable. Species' listings should be accompanied by effective mechanisms to review the science, track international trade, and enforce listing provisions.