

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

**Plenary**

Empowering the next generation: CITES and youth engagement  
Report of the Youth Forum on People and Wildlife

DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

*This document has been prepared by South Africa and the United States of America arising from discussion of document CoP17 Doc. 20 in the second session of the plenary.*

**Draft resolution Conf. 17.xx**

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

WELCOMING the efforts of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife and South Africa's Youth and Conservation Programme to engage young people and serve as examples of ways to integrate youth in wildlife conservation, including CITES matters;

ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth will one day be in decision-making positions and that organizations responsible for wildlife conservation decisions must engage these people now to equip them to be stronger leaders in the future;

RECOGNIZING that by welcoming today's youth into species conservation and wildlife trade conversations, our decision makers will add a rich diversity of ideas and solutions;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth have come of age in a generation very different than those before it, including great technological advancement, and that the skills held by younger colleagues can be valuable tools to ensure that wildlife trade is legal and sustainable;

**THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION**

ENCOURAGES Parties to explore opportunities to engage today's youth in CITES and other wildlife conservation issues, for example through internship or mentoring programs;

INVITES Parties and the CITES Secretariat to work with universities, youth groups, and other relevant associations and organizations, to create educated and engaged youth networks that can inform and influence conservation decisions;

INVITES Parties and observer organizations to include youth delegates on official delegations and provide learning opportunities at CITES meetings.

## DRAFT DECISIONS ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

17.CC The Secretariat shall:

- a) Review the reports of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife and South Africa's Youth Conservation Programme and evaluate the recommendations put forward;
- b) Provide a report to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting that addresses the feasibility of implementing these recommendations and provides recommendations on how CITES Parties can increase youth engagement.

### ***Directed to the Standing Committee***

17.CC The Standing Committee shall consider the report submitted by the Secretariat and its recommendations, and make any recommendations it deems appropriate to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18).