

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

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

COOPERATION WITH OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee.*
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 16.11 and 16.12 on *Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions*, as follows:

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.11 *The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore further options to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels, including through their respective programmes of work and Secretariats.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.12 *The Standing Committee shall further pursue this work and report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. On the basis of reports from the Secretariat (documents SC65 Doc. 16.7 and SC66 Doc. 16.2) the Standing Committee addressed this issue at its 65th and 66th meetings (Geneva, July 2014 and January 2016 respectively).
4. The Committee heard that cooperation, collaboration and synergies between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions could bring benefits particularly in the fields of reporting and capacity-building, and also offer the possibility of some cost-saving efficiencies. However, some members of the Committee cautioned that such cooperation must add value and not detract from the core work of the Secretariat. The need for better coordination at national level was emphasized.
5. The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting, the following draft decisions for consideration:

Directed to the Parties

17.XX The Parties are encouraged to participate in activities to strengthen synergies at the national level among biodiversity related conventions.

Directed to the Standing Committee

* *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.*

17.XX The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore, as appropriate, any options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies on activities related to the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, between CITES and the other biodiversity-related conventions members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, at all relevant levels, including through their respective programmes of work and the Standing Committee shall report, as necessary, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

6. The Standing Committee recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopts the two draft decisions in paragraph 5 of the present document.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat believes that the second proposed draft decision in paragraph 5 of the present document could be worded more clearly and suggests the following:

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.XX The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore, ~~as appropriate, any~~ options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels on activities related to the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, between CITES and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ~~This should involve the other biodiversity-related conventions~~ members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, at all relevant levels, including through their respective programmes of work. and The Standing Committee should report, ~~as necessary~~, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

With this change, the Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopts the two draft decisions proposed by the Standing Committee and consequently also recommends that Decisions 16.11 and 16.12 be deleted.

The Secretariat believes that most of the budgetary and workload implications of these proposals for the Secretariat and Standing Committee can be accommodated within existing resources, but if Secretariat staff were required to travel to meetings with other biodiversity-related conventions this would have budgetary implications.