

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

CITES AND LIVELIHOODS

1. This document is submitted by the Standing Committee* and has been prepared in consultation with the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 16.6¹ on *CITES and livelihoods*, recognizing, among other things, that the implementation of CITES is better achieved with the engagement of rural communities, especially those which are traditionally dependent on CITES-listed species for their livelihoods.
3. At CoP16, the Conference of the Parties also adopted Decisions 16.17 to 16.25 on *CITES and livelihoods* as follows:

Directed to Parties

- 16.17 *Exporting and importing countries are invited to carry out voluntary rapid assessments of the impact of implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities and to mitigate negative impacts.*
- 16.18 *Parties are encouraged to develop case studies and facilitate exchange visits between relevant stakeholders from the different ongoing conservation and sustainable use programmes which address issues related to CITES and livelihoods in order to stimulate the exchange of lessons learnt regarding CITES-listed species living in similar environments and/or social conditions.*
- 16.19 *Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and public and private donors/investors are encouraged to support rapid assessments of the impact of the implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities, the implementation of activities which mitigate any negative impacts, and cooperation agreements between relevant national government agencies and rural communities.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.20 *The Standing Committee shall continue the operation of its Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods so that the Working Group can review the comments on the toolkit and guidelines submitted by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations, and make recommendations 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.

¹ <https://cites.org/eng/res/16/16-06.php>

- 16.21 *The Working Group shall continue to work electronically through a forum available on the CITES website. The Working Group may, subject to availability of external funding, recommend to the Standing Committee that a meeting of the working group be required.*
- 16.22 *The Standing Committee shall review at its 65th and 66th meetings the progress made with regard to CITES and livelihoods.*
- 16.23 *The Standing Committee shall present a report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made on this work.*

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.24 *The Secretariat shall, via a Notification, invite Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations to provide comments on document CoP16 Inf. 21. The comments shall be made available for consideration by the Working Group.*
- 16.25 *Subject to the availability of external funds, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations, facilitate the organization of workshops and side-events to showcase successful livelihood experiences, and create a section on the CITES website to publish experiences and case studies related to CITES and livelihoods submitted by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations.*

Composition of the Working Group

4. In accordance with Decision 16.20, the Standing Committee established a Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods at its 65th meeting (SC65, Geneva, July 2014). The Working Group was co-chaired by China, Peru, and South Africa, consisting of the following members: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, the United States of America, Zimbabwe, International Trade Centre, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, IUCN, Conservation Force, International Fund for Animal Welfare, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Pro-Wildlife, RESP, Safari Club International Foundation, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and the CITES Secretariat.

Progress with regard to the implementation of Decisions 16.17 to 16.25

5. Detailed summaries of activities undertaken to implement Decisions 16.17 to 16.21 are available in the report of the Chair of the Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods, in documents SC65 Doc.19 and SC66 Doc.18.
6. In compliance with Decisions 16.17 to 16.19, a number of voluntary assessments of the impact of the implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities are being conducted by various Parties, with intergovernmental partners providing support.² Some of the outcomes of these studies may be available as information documents to this meeting.
7. With regard to Decisions 16.20 to 16.21, the members of the Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods have reviewed the toolkit and guidelines referred to in Decision 16.20, and developed a *Handbook for the application of CITES and Livelihoods toolkit and guidelines*. The handbook was prepared by the Organization of American States (OAS) in English and Spanish, and was launched at a side event during the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66, Geneva, January 2016). At the time of writing (April 2016), the CITES Secretariat is preparing the French translation of the handbook, which will be made available on the CITES website along with the versions in English and Spanish.³
8. In implementing Decision 16.22, the Standing Committee reviewed the progress made by the Working Group at SC65 and SC66. Committee members commended the Working Group on the progress made, and agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting the draft decisions on CITES and Livelihoods attached to this document.

² For the list of assessments underway, see SC66 Doc. 18 (<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/66/E-SC66-18.pdf>)

³ See the Livelihoods page on the CITES Website, at <https://cites.org/eng/prog/livelihoods>

9. With regard to Decision 16.24, the CITES Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2014/063 of 17 December 2014 on *Toolkit and guidelines on CITES and livelihoods*, inviting Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations to provide comments on document CoP16 Inf. 21 through a questionnaire. The Notification also called on Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations to submit information on experiences and case studies related to CITES and livelihoods, to be published on the CITES website. A tentative list of potential case studies was annexed to the Notification.
10. In implementing Decision 16.25, OAS and the CITES Secretariat co-organized an international workshop on CITES and livelihoods, which was held in Cispatá, Colombia, in February 2015⁴. The workshop was aimed at presenting case studies and exchanging experiences, including a visit to one of the case-study sites. The workshop also allowed the identification of practical cases to implement the toolkit and guidelines mentioned in Decision 16.20 and Resolution Conf. 16.6. At the time of writing, discussions are underway to organize a second workshop on CITES and livelihoods in South Africa, in 2016. An oral report of that workshop will be made by the Secretariat at the CoP as necessary.
11. The implementation of activities under this agenda item was supported by the generous funding of the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Recommendations

12. The Standing Committee recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat believes that the first draft decision directed to the Parties, proposed by the Standing Committee in Annex 1 to the present document, would benefit from an addition to reinstate certain elements of Decision 16.18 and a reference to the ongoing Global Environment Facility projects. It recommends that proposed draft Decision 17.AA be amended as follows:

Directed to Parties

17.XX Parties are invited to:

- a) promote the use of the CITES and livelihoods toolkit, guidelines and handbook to carry out rapid assessments of the impact of the implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities, the implementation of activities which mitigate any negative impacts;
- b) encourage the conduct of new case studies on how legal and sustainable trade can generate economic incentives for the conservation of wildlife and improvement of livelihoods of indigenous and local communities; and
- c) incorporate issues related to CITES and livelihoods into their national socio-economic and development plans, as well as in relevant projects being developed for external funding, including funding by the Global Environment Facility.

- B. The Secretariat would like to point out that, although the Standing Committee did not discuss the possible revision of Resolution Conf. 16.6, the following two decisions were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly since CoP16, which may warrant additional reference points in the Resolution:

- 1) *The United Nations General Assembly, at its 69th session (New York, July 2015), adopted Resolution A/RES/69/314⁵ on Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife, which reflects a heightened level of political concern over the illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora.*

⁴ Workshop report is available in English (http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/ELPG/aboutELPG/Informe_taller_web.pdf) and Spanish (http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/ELPG/aboutELPG/Informe_taller_web.pdf) from the OAS Website.

⁵ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/314

Among other things, the Resolution strongly encourages Member States to support the livelihoods of rural communities through “the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use, enhancing the rights and capacity of the members of such communities to manage and benefit from wildlife”.

- 2) *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit (New York, September 2015). Many of the 17 Goals and 169 Targets in the SDGs are relevant to CITES, but in particular, Target 15.c urges member States to “enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities”.*

Currently, Resolution Conf. 16.6 refers only to the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference *The Future We Want*. The Secretariat would therefore suggest that Parties amend Resolution Conf. 16.6 with the addition of the following two paragraphs in the preamble, immediately after the paragraph that refers to the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference *The Future We Want*:

WELCOMING the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, which, among other things, strongly encourages Member States to support the livelihoods of rural communities through “the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use, enhancing the rights and capacity of the members of such communities to manage and benefit from wildlife”;

WELCOMING also the adoption of *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals*, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Target 15.c aimed to “enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities”.

- C. The Secretariat believes that Decisions 16.17 to 16.25 have been implemented and recommends that they be deleted.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

CITES and livelihoods

Directed to Parties

- 17.AA Parties are invited to:
- a) promote the use of the CITES and livelihoods toolkit, guidelines and handbook to carry out rapid assessments of the impact of the implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities, the implementation of activities which mitigate any negative impacts; and
 - b) incorporate issues related to CITES and livelihoods into their national socio-economic and development plans.
- 17.BB Developing country Parties are encouraged to communicate with their national Ministries of finance, development, or other relevant Ministries, to seek the provision of financial support to the work in 17.AA above.
- 17.CC Developed country Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and public and private donors/investors are encouraged to provide financial and in-kind resources in support of the work in 17.AA above.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.DD The Secretariat shall seek external funding from interested Parties, and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to support the work described in Decision 17.AA above.
- 17.EE Subject to the availability of external financial resources, the Secretariat shall:
- a) facilitate the organization of workshops and side-events to showcase successful livelihood experiences and exchange lessons learnt, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations;
 - b) continue to update the relevant section on the CITES website to publish experiences and case studies related to CITES and livelihoods submitted by Parties, stakeholders and interested organizations;
 - c) cooperate with relevant UN agencies, international and regional organizations to facilitate capacity-building activities that support Parties to implement the Convention as an important part of enabling livelihoods; and
 - d) report at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee and at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the work above and other progress made with regard to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.6.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.

Secretariat:

The Secretariat's support as outlined in draft Decisions 17.DD and 17.EE, could be accommodated within the daily work of existing Secretariat staff.

Committees:

Parties are expected to provide active inputs and undertake assessment studies, either on their own or with financial (see point 1. below) and technical support from the CITES Secretariat, and in partnership with other international and regional organizations.

Direct costs:

1. The use of the CITES and livelihoods toolkit, guidelines and handbook to carry out rapid assessments of the impact of the implementation of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities (Decision 17. AA) may require financial support to be provided to interested Parties and international agencies. From past experience the cost for such studies range between USD 25,000 and USD 40,000 per study (including translation costs), depending on the geographical scope and methodology.
2. The organization of workshops and side-events to showcase successful livelihoods experiences and exchange lessons learnt, in compliance with Decision 17.EE a), would also have cost implications. The level of financial support required would depend on the workshop size and venue as well as the availability of in-kind contribution from hosts and co-organizers, but would be in the range of USD 50,000-70,000 per workshop.
3. Updating the relevant section on the CITES website would require the hiring of an expert web consultant. The cost for the updating is estimated at USD 10,000.