

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

LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

1. This document has been submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Côte d'Ivoire and Namibia.\*

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

WHEREAS the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was established on 16 October 1945 to combat global hunger and has 197 Member States, two Associate Members and one Member Organization;

WHEREAS the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed on 3 March 1973 to promote the conservation of wild renewable resources and has more than 180 contracting Parties;

WHEREAS the United Nations estimates that the global population is expected to increase from 7.2 billion today – of which 870 million are designated as hungry - to 9.6 billion by

WHEREAS the FAO has as its vision, “A world in which the responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources makes an appreciable contribution to human well-being, food security and poverty alleviation”;

WHEREAS the FAO has as its mission, “To strengthen global governance and the managerial and technical capacities of members and to lead consensus building towards improved conservation and utilization of aquaculture resources”;

WHEREAS the FAO has as its mission, “To balance social and environmental considerations with the economic needs of rural populations living in forest areas”;

RECALLING that CITES has as its Strategic Vision to “Conserve natural resources and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna and flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss and making a significant contribution towards achieving the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets”;

RECALLING that CITES has as its Strategic Vision calls for the “Cooperation with relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations” to be “enhanced” and ask “Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, as

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\* *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.*

appropriate, in order to achieve a coherent and collaborative approach to species which can be endangered by unsustainable trade, including those which are commercially exploited.”

RECALLING that CITES states in its preamble, among other things, that it is “Conscious of the ever-growing value of wild fauna and flora from aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational and economic points of view”;

RECALLING the right of every person to an adequate standard of living including food as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

APPRECIATING the importance of food and nutrition security to the world’s poorest and the need to engage in responsible and sustainable management of wild renewable resources;

NOTING that the responsible and sustainable management of the terrestrial and marine living resources remains a critical objective to strengthen food and nutrition strategies within both developing and developed countries;

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 16.6 on Livelihoods adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2013);

RECOGNIZING that CITES and the FAO are cooperating since a long time, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on commercially-exploited aquatic species and are negotiating the establishment of a broader institutional agreement to cover other issues of common interest;

NOTING that at its 38th Conference held in Rome, in June 2013, the FAO adopted five Strategic objectives which CITES naturally adheres, namely;

- a) Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;
- b) Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable;
- c) Reduce rural poverty;
- d) Enable inclusive and efficient agriculture food systems; and
- e) Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters;

NOTING further that most CITES Parties are Members of the FAO;

RECALLING paragraph 158 of the UN Sustainable Development outcome document (Rio + 20 Future We Want);

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

REAFFIRMS Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stating the right of all persons to an adequate standard of living including food;

ENDORSES the five Strategic objectives established by the FAO;

URGES the Parties to take into account the need for inter alia, food and nutrition security, preservation of cultural identity and security of livelihoods when making proposed amendments to the Appendices;

RESOLVES to give due regards to the need to achieve food and nutrition security for many of the world’s populations when making its decisions; and

INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to forward this Resolution to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations with a request for increased exchange of information between the FAO and CITES, especially on, among others, the issues relating to food and nutrition security, preservation of cultural identity and security of livelihoods.

## COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat notes that, in the absence of an explanatory document, the intended purpose of the proposed resolution is not immediately clear. The proposed draft resolution appears to attempt at bringing into the CITES processes the elements related to food and nutrition security from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the strategic objectives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- B. CITES is an autonomous convention with its own governance processes and does not systematically incorporate into its work the outcomes of FAO or other processes unless otherwise stated in the Convention text or decisions or resolutions of the Conferences of the Parties.. However, the Secretariat was unable to find specific references to “food and nutrition security, preservation of cultural identity and security of livelihoods” (last operative clause of the proposed resolution) within the Strategic objectives of FAO.
- C. The proposed resolution makes reference to Resolution Conf.16.6 on *CITES and livelihoods*. The Secretariat notes that the following preambular clauses may have particular relevance to the proposed resolution on livelihoods and food security:

RECOGNIZING ALSO that implementation of some listings (particularly Appendix-I listings) may impact livelihoods of rural communities by restricting access to income, employment and other resources, such as food, materials and medicines, but that it need not always do so if appropriate implementation strategies are adopted;

RECOGNIZING that livelihoods issues and the present Resolution do not pertain to the criteria for the amendment of the Appendices or the requirement to make non-detriment findings;

- D. However, Parties may wish to note that the operative clauses in Resolution Conf.16.6 consist mostly of raising awareness, strengthening partnerships and promoting empowerment among rural communities to enhance the effective implementation of the Convention and to mitigate negative impacts.
- E. The Secretariat would also like to remind Parties that the issue of food security of rural communities is also highlighted in Resolution Conf. 13.11 on Bushmeat, the review of which is being discussed in the present meeting (agenda item 75.1). The following preambular and operational clauses may have particular implication to the present proposed resolution:

CONSIDERING that illicit trade in bushmeat increases poverty and the food deficit among rural communities using bushmeat as their main source of animal protein;

NOTING the resolution of the European Parliament regarding the non-sustainable exploitation of wildlife and the illicit trade in bushmeat as a major threat to the survival of wildlife species, including apes, and also as a threat to the food security of the rural communities living in forested areas and depending on bushmeat in their diet;

ADVISES all relevant Parties to:

- a) prohibit the offtake of Appendix-I species for consumption as food and to encourage sustainable levels of offtake for species in Appendix II and III of the Convention;

[...]

- g) identify alternative sources of protein and take other measures to reduce the demand for bushmeat and particularly the consumption of specimens of Appendix-I species;

- F. The Secretariat therefore suggests that the proposed resolution be discussed bearing in mind the discussions under the agenda item on CITES and Livelihoods under agenda Item 16, and on Bushmeat under agenda item 75.1.
- G. Furthermore, there is no reference as to whether the proposed resolution is intended to change the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II in Resolution conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) or is intended to propose a new mechanism as an additional matter for consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

- H. Regarding the detail of the operative section of the proposed resolution, the Secretariat observes the following:
- a. The proposed resolution urges the Parties to “take into account, inter alia, food and nutrition security, preservation of cultural identity and security of livelihoods when making proposed amendments to the Appendices”. In the absence of an explanatory statement with the draft resolution, it is not clearly obvious how “preservation of cultural identity and security of livelihoods” is related to the issue of food and nutrition security.
  - b. The proposed resolution also resolves to “give due regards to the need to achieve food and nutrition security for many of the world’s populations when making its decisions”. The definition of “the world’s populations” seems to be somewhat open-ended. This may create a potential contradiction in the interpretation of this proposed resolution, since certain species may be harvested from the wild and traded at unsustainable levels due to increased demand in food use, or there may be cases where food and nutrition security needs of different populations of the world – rural and urban, in developed and in developing countries – may be in direct conflict with each other.
  - c. For both of the above-mentioned paragraphs, there is no specific guidance as to how this issue would be factored into the discussion on making amendments to the CITES Appendices, or into the CITES decision-making process.
- I. The Secretariat would propose other editorial changes to any revision of this proposed resolution.
- J. In this regard, the Secretariat recommends that Parties do not adopt the proposed resolution, unless there is clear understanding of the specific CITES processes that are expected to take into account the needs for food and nutrition security-related matters.