

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

Implementation matters

Review of reporting requirements

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, March 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 14.39 (Rev. CoP16) on *Reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants* and Decision 16.46 on *Review of reporting requirements* as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

14.39 (Rev. CoP16) *The Secretariat shall, subject to available funding, in consultation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre:*

- a) *conduct a survey of reporting practices of Parties relating to trade in artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II, e.g. regarding the degree of completeness and detail;*
- b) *identify cases where the compilation of trade data pertaining to artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II has contributed to a significant extent to the detection of illegal trade or to any other analysis related to the conservation of wild flora;*
- c) *taking into consideration the results of paragraphs a) and b) above, analyse the Convention text and Resolutions in order to identify binding and non-binding elements of reporting, with special emphasis on artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II. The Secretariat shall list options for streamlining such reporting; and*
- d) *report on its findings to the Plants Committee prior to its 21st meeting.*

Directed to the Secretariat

16.46 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *continue to collaborate with the Secretariats of other conventions, UNEP and other bodies in order to facilitate the harmonization of knowledge management and streamlining of reporting, including ways to reduce the burden of reporting on Parties;*
- b) *identify potential financial and other resources for publishing the outcomes resulting from implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision and its indicators;*
- c) *support the work of the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, including their efforts to ensure that the graphic presentation of information on implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision indicators is published on the CITES website by the end of 2015 and then updated as resources allow, and as new information becomes available;*
- d) *develop a special report format for use by Parties under Decision 16.43 to provide statistical information for the calendar year 2013 on: administrative measures (e.g. fines, bans,*

suspensions) imposed for CITES-related violations; significant seizures, confiscations and forfeitures of CITES specimens; criminal prosecutions or other court actions; and disposal of confiscated specimens;

- e) *collate for the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee a list of the currently valid reporting requirements under the Convention and advise on appropriate mechanisms for their implementation; and*
- f) *report at the 65th and 66th meetings of Standing Committee and at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.*

3. The present document reports on the implementation of these Decisions.
4. Regarding Decision 14.39 (Rev. CoP16), thanks to generous funding provide by Switzerland, the Secretariat was able to present the report required under paragraph d) of the Decision at the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (Veracruz, Mexico, May 2014) in [document PC21 Doc. 16](#). Consequent actions undertaken by the Plants and Standing Committees are recorded in documents CoP17 Doc. 10.3.1 and CoP17 Doc. 35.1.
5. With regard to paragraph a) of Decision 16.46, the Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative, which involves a large number of UN bodies and global and regional convention secretariats, is ongoing and continues to support the development of online reporting systems for its members. The CITES Secretariat is the Co-Chair of the IKM initiative, with the other Co-chair being UNEP. An EU-funded project managed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will develop a portal on reporting available through the IKM [InforMEA website](#).
6. Knowledge management and reporting are also elements of a UNEP-managed project on “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies”, funded by the European Union under its thematic programme on Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (ENRTP). The ENRTP project was developed by UNEP, in consultation with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions. One product of this project is [The Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels](#), published by UNEP. It contains a chapter on information management and reporting, including key lessons learnt from case studies and a survey of national focal points from the biodiversity-related conventions.
7. Reporting issues were one of the key issues discussed during a meeting of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee (Paris, December 2013). With funds provided by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the CITES Secretariat was able to participate in the meeting and to share the experience on reporting and other compliance matters that has been gained under CITES. Secretariats for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (ITPGR), the Cartagena Protocol, the Kyoto Protocol, the London Protocol, the Montreal Protocol and the UNECE Espoo Convention also participated.
8. The Secretariat believes that cooperation with the Secretariats of other conventions, FAO, UNEP UNESCO and other bodies in the field of knowledge management and reporting can bring advantages for the Parties and consequently seeks a mandate to continue this activity through the following draft decision:

Directed to the Secretariat

Decision 17.XX: The Secretariat shall continue to collaborate with the secretariats of other conventions, FAO, UNEP, UNESCO and other bodies in order to facilitate the harmonization of knowledge management and streamlining of reporting, including ways to reduce the burden of reporting on Parties.

9. Concerning paragraphs b) and c) of Decision 16.46, the Secretariat has yet to obtain the resources required to publish a graphic presentation of information on implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision indicators on the CITES website. The Secretariat therefore requests the Conference of the Parties to adopt the following draft decision, to endorse the continuation of this effort:

Directed to the Secretariat

Decision 17.XX: Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall publishing the outcomes resulting from implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision and its indicators including through a graphic presentation on the CITES website.

10. Paragraph d) of Decision 16.46 is linked to paragraph b) of Decision 16.43 of the Conference of the Parties, which states that the Parties should:

submit a special report by 30 June 2014, using a format provided by the Secretariat, which provides statistical information for the calendar year 2013 on: administrative measures (e.g. fines, bans, suspensions) imposed for CITES-related violations; significant seizures, confiscations and forfeitures of CITES specimens; criminal prosecutions or other court actions; and disposal of confiscated specimens.

11. In consultation with the Standing Committee's Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements, the Secretariat developed the special report format required under part d) of Decision 16.46. This was subsequently published in Notification to the Parties No. 2014/050.
12. In relation to paragraph e) of Decision 16.46, the Secretariat collated a list of the currently valid reporting requirements under the Convention and presenting this to the Standing Committee to assist it with its work. This list is available on the [CITES website](#).

Recommendations

13. The Secretariat requests the Conference of the Parties to note this report and adopt the draft Decisions in paragraph 8 and 9 and the deletion of Decisions 14.39 (Rev. CoP16) and 16.46.
14. The Secretariat believes that the implementation of the draft decision in paragraph 8 of the present document can be accommodated within existing resources. The work indicated in the draft decision in paragraph 9 could be undertaken with a small consultancy, no external source of funding has been identified at the time of writing.