

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

Species specific matters

SNAKE TRADE AND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (SERPENTES SPP.)

1. This document has been prepared by the Standing Committee.*

Background

2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of interconnected decisions on *Snake trade and conservation management (Serpentes spp.)*, as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

16.102 *The CITES Secretariat shall, where appropriate in consultation with the Standing Committee:*

- a) *subject to external funding, hire independent consultants in liaison with local scientists, and local research and academic institutions to:*
 - i) *undertake a study of production systems for Asian snakes listed in CITES Appendix II and the use of source codes; and develop guidance to assist Parties in monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems, including information to assess their biological feasibility and, where possible, economic viability (i.e. whether it is financially viable for commercial facilities to produce and export specimens as permitted by national authorities);*
 - ii) *compile information and develop guidance that can assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings, management systems for wild populations and the establishment of export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade, by undertaking relevant research, consulting with relevant experts, examining suitable examples and case-studies, and building on the results of the International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings (Cancún, 2008) and recommendations on the making of non-detriment findings from the Conference of the Parties;*
 - iii) *undertake a study of one or more high-value snake species in the pet trade (e.g. unique colour or morphological forms, or range-restricted endemics) to determine the impacts on wild populations of legal and illegal harvest for international trade, and to provide information required for making non-detriment findings for trade in these species; and propose actions to enforce the Convention as it relates to trade in these species; and*

* *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.*

- iv) *undertake a study on methodologies to differentiate between wild and captive-bred CITES-listed snakes in trade, including parts and derivatives, ensuring that the work is carried out in line with recommendations of the Standing Committee concerning source;*
- b) *issue a Notification to the Parties encouraging Parties to engage with interested institutions to investigate the possibility of forensic identification of specimens of CITES-listed snakes in trade, and requesting Parties to inform the Secretariat about the results of such engagement;*
- c) *inform Parties of the results of the International Trade Centre (ITC) study on trade in python snakes in Asia, the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative's Working Group on reptile skin sourcing, when these become available, and other relevant studies and information;*
- d) *present the outcomes of the activities mentioned in paragraphs a) and b) above, together with its recommendations, to the Animals Committee for review at its 27th or, as appropriate, 28th meeting, and make the final results available on the CITES website following review and approval by the Standing Committee pursuant to Decision 16.105;*
- e) *issue a Notification to the Parties requesting Asian Parties to report on their implementation of Decision 16.106 to the Secretariat, and submit a compilation of this information and its recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 65th meeting; and*
- f) *subject to external funding, conduct one or more interdisciplinary workshops for CITES and other relevant authorities and stakeholders of range States of Asian snake species in international trade on:*
 - i) *the use of guidance for monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems, as agreed by the Standing Committee pursuant to Decision 16.105;*
 - ii) *the use of guidance for making non-detriment findings and establishing export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade; and*
- g) *report on the results of these activities to the Standing Committee before the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17).*

Directed to the Animals Committee

16.103 The Animals Committee shall:

- a) *review the results of the activities indicated in Decision 16.102, paragraphs a) to c), as well as the results of the ITC study and other relevant studies on trade in python snakes in Asia and UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative's Working Group on reptile skin sourcing, when available; and, based on these studies and reports, develop guidance and recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee;*
- b) *examine the study undertaken by the UNCTAD Biotrade initiative's Working Group on reptile skin sourcing mentioned in Decision 16.102, paragraph c), and any other relevant available information concerning:*
 - i) *existing marking and tracing systems and, where relevant, accompanying certification schemes of all kinds (and not necessarily limited to those currently in use for trade in wild species), which could provide best practices that might be applicable to snakes;*
 - ii) *a traceability system to confirm the legal origin of snake skins; and*
 - iii) *the economic feasibility of current technologies to implement such a traceability and marking system;*

- c) *advise the Standing Committee on the feasibility of implementing such a traceability system for snakes; and*
- d) *report on the status of this work at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee.*

16.104 *The Animals Committee shall, at its 27th meeting, consider the final IUCN red list assessments for Asian snake species and, if available, incorporate new information and data and make appropriate recommendations, including recommendations to the Standing Committee.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.105 *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the reports and recommendations from the Animals Committee and the Secretariat provided in accordance with Decisions 16.102 and 16.103 and, as appropriate, the results of the ITC study on trade in python snakes in Asia, the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative's Working Group on reptile skin sourcing, and any other relevant available information;*
- b) *examine the study undertaken by the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative's Working Group on reptile skin sourcing, and any other relevant available information concerning:*
 - i) *the socio-economic implications of such a traceability system; and*
 - ii) *the potential costs of the system at all levels along the supply chain, from producers to consumers;*
- c) *make recommendations to the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat as appropriate; and*
- d) *report on the implementation of Decisions 16.102, 16.104 and 16.105 at CoP17, with recommendations for consideration by the Parties, if deemed necessary.*

Directed to Parties

16.106 *Parties should eliminate the important illegal and unreported trade in specimens, whether live or parts and derivatives, of CITES-listed snake species by:*

- a) *ensuring that CITES permits and certificates are properly issued for trade in these specimens;*
- b) *including information on trade in these specimens in their CITES annual reports;*
- c) *ensuring that their annual reports are following the most recent version of the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP16);*
- d) *examining their enforcement efforts regarding trade in these specimens to ensure that adequate steps are taken to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade;*
- e) *undertaking education and outreach activities directed towards snake farms, buyers and sellers of live snakes, parts and derivatives, product manufacturers, shippers, brokers and staff from government agencies involved in controlling and monitoring this trade to ensure that snake specimens are traded in compliance with national laws and CITES provisions; and*
- f) *in the case of Parties in Asia, reporting on their efforts in all of these areas to the Secretariat in time for its reporting for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee, in compliance with Decision 16.102, paragraph e).*

16.107 *In order to support the sustainable use of Asian snakes, Parties are as necessary invited to:*

- a) *in the case of range States with shared CITES-listed species in trade, develop comparable, or as far as possible standardized non-detriment finding methodologies, including the establishment of quota setting systems; and*
- b) *establish voluntary conservative annual catch and export quotas for CITES-listed snake species in trade, and to communicate the export quotas to the Secretariat.*

Directed to ICCWC and ASEAN-WEN

16.108 *The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) are encouraged to take note of the concerns about the illegal and unreported trade in snakes and their parts and derivatives, and to take these into account when developing work programmes and, if funding is available, undertaking relevant activities.*

3. The Secretariat, the Animals Committee and Switzerland, as Chair of the Standing Committee Working Group on Snake Trade and Conservation Management, provided reports on the implementation of Decisions 16.102 to 16.108 to the Standing Committee at its 65th and 66th meetings (SC65, Geneva, July 2015; SC66, Geneva, January 2016) (see documents SC65 Doc. 44, SC66 Doc. 54.1 and SC66 Doc. 54.2).

Implementation of Decisions 16.102 to 16.108

4. At SC65 and SC66, the Standing Committee considered the reports and recommendations concerning snakes, and agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties, at the present meeting, a draft resolution on the conservation, sustainable use of, and trade in snakes, which is contained in Annex 1 to the present document.
5. The Standing Committee further agreed to submit a number of draft decisions for consideration at the present meeting, to address outstanding issues regarding the implementation of the decisions listed in paragraph 2 above. The draft decisions are contained in Annex 2 to the present document. Switzerland, in collaboration with the Secretariat, has made minor editorial changes to these draft decisions.
6. A brief overview of the status of implementation of Decisions 16.102 to 16.108, with an indication of outstanding issues, is given below.

Decision 16.102

7. The Secretariat reported on its implementation of Decision 16.102 to the Animals Committee in documents AC27 Doc.19.1, AC27 Doc.19.2, AC28 Doc.14.1 and AC28 Doc.14.2.1. The Secretariat and the Animals Committee also reported jointly on the implementation of Decision 16.102 to the Standing Committee in document SC66 Doc. 54.1.
8. Based on its consideration of the Animals Committee's review and recommendations regarding the studies on the commercial production of CITES-listed snake species in China and Viet Nam [cf. Decision 16.102, paragraph a), i)] and on the impact of the pet trade on five snake species included in Appendix II [cf. Decision 16.102, paragraph a), iii)], the Standing Committee invites the Conference of the Parties to adopt draft decision 17.AA and 17.BB.
9. Based on its consideration of the Animals Committee's review and recommendations regarding the study on making non-detriment findings for trade in snakes [cf. Decision 16.102, paragraph a), ii)], the Standing Committee invites the Conference of the Parties to adopt draft decisions 17.EE, and 17.FF. These draft decisions propose to extend the mandates of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee respectively to develop, review and disseminate information and guidance that can assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings, the sustainable use and management of, and the establishment of export quotas for, Appendix-II snake species in trade. In support of the implementation of these draft decisions, the Secretariat would be able to conduct a workshop on the making of non-detriment findings for the export of CITES-listed snake species. Switzerland and the European Union are willing to support such a workshop, which could be held in Indonesia in November 2016.

10. At SC66, the Standing Committee further considered the Animals Committee's review and recommendations regarding the study on methodologies for differentiating between wild and captive-bred CITES-listed snakes [cf. Decision 16.102, paragraph a), iv)].
11. Concerning Decision 16.102, paragraph e) [Notification to Asian Parties to request them to report to the Secretariat on their implementation of Decision 16.106], the Secretariat reported at SC 66 that it had received no information from Parties before that meeting. The Standing Committee therefore invites the Conference of the Parties to adopt Decision 17.GG, directing the Secretariat to communicate bilaterally with relevant Asian Parties, and to invite them to report on the status of their implementation of Decision 17.DD.
12. Concerning Decision 16.102, paragraph f), the Secretariat intends to conduct an interdisciplinary workshop for CITES authorities, and other relevant authorities and stakeholders of range States of Asian snake species in international trade, on the guidance for monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems, and the guidance for making non-detriment findings and establishing export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade. The Secretariat has secured some funding for this purpose.
13. Concerning Decision 16.102, paragraphs b), c), d) and g), at SC66 the Standing Committee considered the Secretariat's report on the implementation of these paragraphs. In compliance with the instructions in Decision 16.102, paragraph b), the Secretariat reported to the Committee that it had issued Notification to the Parties No. 2014/024, of 2 June 2014, which encouraged Parties to engage with interested institutions to investigate the possibility of forensic identification of specimens of CITES-listed snakes in trade, and requested Parties to inform the Secretariat about the results of such engagement. At the time of writing of the present document (April 2016), no such information from Parties had been received by the Secretariat.
14. In accordance with Decision 16.102, paragraph d), and after review and approval by the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, the Secretariat made the final results of the activities in Decision 16.102, paragraphs a), i), iii) and iv), and b) available on the [CITES website](#).

Decision 16.103

15. At SC66 and SC65, the Standing Committee considered the reports of the Animals Committee on the implementation of Decision 16.103 and, at SC66, included recommendations on these matters in the proposed draft resolution contained in Annex 1 of the present document. Following a broader consideration at SC66 of the matters regarding traceability systems, the Standing Committee agreed to submit for consideration at the present meeting a number of draft decisions on traceability systems for CITES-listed species more generally under agenda item 45 on traceability.

Decision 16.104

16. At SC66, the Animals Committee informed the Standing Committee that it considered that Decision 16.104 had been completed (see document SC66 Doc.54.1). In light of the recommendations of the Animals Committee on this matter, the Standing Committee invites the Conference of the Parties to adopt draft decision 17.CC.

Decision 16.105

17. The Standing Committee reviewed Decision 16.105 at SC65 and SC66. With the explanations in paragraphs 4 to 15 above, and the submission of the draft resolution and draft decisions in the Annexes to the present document, the Standing Committee considers that it has completed the tasks directed to it in this Decision.

Decision 16.106

18. The Standing Committee invites the Conference of the Parties to adopt draft decision 17.DD, which extends the reporting requirements for Parties in Asia as had been envisaged in Decision 16.106, paragraph f), until the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee considered that all other parts of Decision 16.106 are reflected in the draft resolution in Annex 1 to the present document.

Decision 16.107

19. The Standing Committee has received no information on the implementation by Parties of Decision 16.107, paragraph a). As mentioned in paragraph 12 above, the Secretariat is ready to conduct an interdisciplinary workshop for CITES authorities, and other relevant authorities and stakeholders of range States of Asian snake species in international trade, which may assist range States with shared CITES-listed species in trade to develop comparable or, as far as possible, standardized non-detriment finding methodologies, including the establishment of quota-setting systems.
20. A number of Parties communicated to the Secretariat voluntary export quotas for CITES-listed snake species in trade between 2014 and 2016. The Standing Committee is of the opinion that the workshop indicated in paragraph 16 above, and the general provisions in the draft resolution in Annex 1 to the present document, will provide guidance to Parties on the establishment of voluntary annual export quotas, as had been envisaged in Decision 16.107, paragraph b).

Decision 16.108

21. At SC65 and SC66, the Standing Committee learned about the inclusion of snakes and their parts and derivatives as targets for Operation COBRA II and Operation COBRA III. These two one-month-long global operations to combat illegal wildlife trade, in 2014 and 2015 respectively, were coordinated by a number of networks, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), and supported by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC). The operations resulted in a substantial number of seizures of snake specimens (see documents SC65 Doc. 44 and SC66 Doc. 54.2).

Recommendations

22. The Standing Committee recommends that the Parties adopt the draft resolution contained in Annex 1 and the draft decisions contained in Annex 2 to the present document.
23. Consequently, the following Decisions are recommended for deletion: 16.102, 16.103, 16.104, 16.105, 16.106, 16.107 and 16.108.

COMMENTS BY SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat generally supports the Standing Committee's recommendation contained in paragraphs 22 and 23 above. It offers some observations and recommendations concerning the draft resolution and draft decisions in Annexes 1 and 2.
- B. The draft resolution in Annex 1 could benefit from the consolidation or merging of certain paragraphs (for example the various instructions to the Parties under the section "Regarding monitoring and trade controls", and the two first paragraphs under ENCOURAGES in the section "Regarding traceability systems for snake skins"). In paragraphs C and D below, the Secretariat proposes some further amendments to the draft resolution. In order to consider these suggestions and the related editorial changes they would require, the Conference of the Parties may wish to establish a working group at the present meeting. The Secretariat would be ready to assist such a working group in its tasks.
- C. The guidance on the making of non-detriment findings, as proposed in draft decisions 17.EE and 17.FF, may need to be reflected in the section "Regarding non-detriment findings (NDFs)" of the draft resolution. This could be anticipated by amending the last paragraph in this section as follows:

"URGES Parties and the Secretariat to use the general NDF guidance contained in Resolution Conf. 16.7, and any further guidance recommended by the Animals and Standing Committees, in capacity-building workshops and relevant training materials".
- D. The Secretariat notes that draft decision 17.AA, as currently worded, does not contain reporting provisions, and that its timely implementation may therefore be difficult to assess. As the recommendations in the draft decision are general in nature and potentially applicable to all Parties involved in the snake trade, the Secretariat suggests that they could be incorporated into the draft resolution under the section "Regarding monitoring and trade controls". The same suggestion applies to the actions directed to Parties in draft

decision 17.DD, paragraphs a) to e), which seem to partly overlap with several provisions proposed in the draft resolution. Furthermore, draft decision 17.AA, paragraph a), should refer to any specimens traded, not merely (live) animals. The Secretariat therefore suggests the draft decision to read as follows:

Directed to Southeast Asian Parties

17.AA Southeast Asian Parties involved in the snake trade are recommended to:

- a) verify the origin of ~~animals~~ specimens traded between countries in the region; and
- b) ensure the appropriate use of source codes.

E. Concerning draft decision 17.BB, the Secretariat believes that several issues concerning the specified species and country combinations might be relevant to the Review of Significant Trade. This pertains in particular to *Python regius*/Benin; *Calabaria reinhardtii*/Benin, Ghana and Togo; and *Morelia viridis* and *Morelia boeleni*/Indonesia, where problems seem to relate to the making of adequate non-detriment findings and management of trade from wild populations. The proposed way forward could potentially create a process that would be somewhat parallel to the Review of Significant Trade, but without the benefit of involving the Animals Committee or Secretariat. The Secretariat therefore suggests that the Conference of the Parties consider the following amendments to the draft decisions, as well as an additional draft decision 17.II:

Directed to Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo

17.BB Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo are encouraged to undertake the following actions:

- f) Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo: to report to the Secretariat on the implementation of actions directed to them in this Decision, for transmission to, and review by the Animals Committee at one of its meetings between the 17th and 18th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Animals Committee

17.EE The Animals Committee shall continue to review guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for the export of CITES-listed snake species, information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo provided in accordance with Decision 17.BB, and new information on the trade in, and sustainable use and conservation of snakes, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

17.II The Secretariat shall transmit the information provided by Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo in accordance with Decision 17.BB to the Animals Committee for consideration at one of its meetings between the 17th and 18th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

F. The Secretariat notes that the implementation by the Parties of draft decision 17.CC, which relates to non-CITES-listed species, would mainly be assessed through the submission by Parties of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices. As the Conference of the Parties cannot direct Parties or range States to submit listing proposals, or undertake actions relating to non-listed species, the Secretariat recommends an amendment to draft Decision 17.CC, paragraphs 1 to 6, to invite Parties and range States to undertake these actions. In this regard, the following amendments are proposed:

17.CC Parties are invited to consider undertaking ~~encouraged to undertake~~ the following actions:

1. Range States, importing countries, and other Parties: to conduct more detailed assessments of those species indicated in Table 1 [of document AC28 Doc. 14.3], for which available information suggests that international trade is “likely to be a threat” (four species) or “may be a threat” (29 species);
2. Range States ~~are:~~

- a) to submit listing proposals for the four species categorized as “likely to be threatened by trade” and for the three species categorized as “may be threatened by trade” and have an IUCN status (CR, EN, VU), including *Euprepiophis perlacea*, *Enhydris longicauda*, and *Cryptelytrops rubeus*; and
 - b) to consider including the remaining species categorized as “may be threatened by trade” in the Appendices;
3. Range States of *Popeia buniana* (Malaysia), *Popeia nebularis* (Malaysia), *Cryptelytrops kanburiensis* (Thailand and probably Myanmar) and *Orthriophis moellendorfi* (China and Viet Nam) are:
- a) to assess whether existing legislation, protected areas and current levels of trade are compatible with the conservation of these species in the wild; and
 - b) to evaluate the possible listing of these species under CITES (including Appendix III);
4. Parties and range States are:
- a) to compile more information on the exploitation levels (i.e. direct harvest and as by-catch) of freshwater and marine aquatic snakes subject to high volumes of international trade, including all species of Elapidae (*Hydrophis* spp., *Kerilia* spp., *Lapemis* spp., *Laticauda* spp., *Thalassophina* spp.) and Homalopsidae (*Enhydris* spp., *Erpeton* spp., *Homalopsis* spp.) indicated in Table 1 [of document AC28 Doc. 14.3]; and
 - b) to evaluate the possible listing of these species under CITES (including Appendix III);
5. Exporting countries and other Parties: are to put in place precautionary management measures, such as establishing closed areas or seasons, daily seasonal catch quotas, restricting the use of certain types of fishing gear or imposing size-limits, and improved domestic monitoring and reporting mechanisms for aquatic (freshwater and marine) snakes, including all Elapidae and Homalopsidae species indicated in Table 1 [of document AC28 Doc. 14.3]; and
6. Parties: are to encourage research to improve the understanding of the ecology, biology and conservation needs of Asian snakes, *inter alia* through supporting relevant scientific institutions and promoting additional field studies.

G. Further to paragraphs 9 and 12 of the present document, the Secretariat would like to suggest that the Conference of the Parties consider extending the mandate given to the Secretariat in Decision 16.102, paragraph a), ii) and paragraphs f) and g). The Secretariat therefore suggests the following amendments:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.JJ The CITES Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:

- a) compile information and develop guidance that can assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings, management systems for wild populations and the establishment of export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade;
- b) conduct one or more interdisciplinary workshops for CITES authorities, and other relevant authorities and stakeholders, of range States of Asian snake species in international trade on:
 - i) the use of guidance for monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems; and
 - ii) the use of guidance for making non-detriment findings and establishing export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade; and

- c) report on the results of these activities to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate, before the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**Draft resolution on the *Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes*
for consideration by the Conference of the Parties
[as contained in document SC66 Com. 6 (Revised by Secretariat)]**

Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes

AWARE that certain species of snakes are successfully bred in captivity, collected from the wild and traded in high numbers in and outside range States, *inter alia* to supply the demand for use as food, skins, traditional medicine, and for the pet trade;

AWARE that the harvesting of snakes, and in the case of some species the initial processing of their skins and other body parts, is of economic importance and contributes important revenue to local communities;

ACKNOWLEDGING that unregulated or unsustainable trade in snakes can pose significant threats to wild populations, and that international cooperation is needed to address these threats urgently;

OBSERVING that the collection of snakes is carried out through an extensive informal network of trappers, hunters and middlemen, and that collection efforts and trade volumes are considerable, especially in Asia;

ACKNOWLEDGING Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*;

ACKNOWLEDGING Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on the *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*;

NOTING Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas*;

NOTING Resolution Conf. 16.7 on *Non-detriment findings* and its concepts and non-binding guiding principles in considering whether trade would be detrimental to the survival of a species;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

Regarding non-detriment findings (NDFs)

ENCOURAGES range States that wish to export species of snakes listed in Appendix II to make use of available guidance, in particular the results of the Cancun workshop on NDFs in 2008, for making non-detriment findings for trade in snakes of wild origin, and guidance on other species as appropriate;

ENCOURAGES also Parties and stakeholders in snake conservation, sustainable use and trade to share their experiences and lessons learned with regard to making NDFs;

URGES Parties and the Secretariat to use the general NDF guidance contained in Resolution Conf. 16.7 in capacity-building workshops and relevant training materials;

Regarding management of wild snake populations

ENCOURAGES Parties to establish national harvest, trade and management policies for snake species;

INVITES Parties to identify those snake species that are impacted by international trade and, where appropriate, propose possible CITES listings and implement national management strategies including establishment of export and harvest quotas, size or season restrictions, among others, to further the conservation of the species concerned;

ENCOURAGES all Parties to explore ways to enhance the participation of the private sector in the conservation of and sustainable use of and trade in snake species;

ENCOURAGES Parties and stakeholders to increase public awareness of the ecosystem services provided by snakes, of the benefits and consequences of non-detrimental and legal trade and the threats to the survival of the species in the wild and livelihoods posed by illegal trade in snakes and their parts and derivatives;

Regarding monitoring and trade controls

ENCOURAGES Parties to use guidance developed for monitoring wild populations and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems;

ENCOURAGES Parties and stakeholders in snake conservation and trade to share their experiences and lessons learned with regard to the application of guidance developed for monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems;

ENCOURAGES range States to apply methodologies for differentiating wild and captive-bred specimens of CITES-listed snake species in trade;

URGES Parties to enhance and increase enforcement efforts with regard to existing legislation as a matter of urgency;

URGES Parties with trade in snake parts and derivatives to enhance efforts to better regulate such trade;

URGES Parties to enhance cooperation amongst wildlife-law enforcement agencies at national and international levels concerning control of trade in snakes, and between enforcement agencies and national CITES authorities;

ENCOURAGES Parties to test, and consider the introduction of innovative traceability and enforcement methods in range and consumer States and, as a matter of priority, to strengthen enforcement efforts;

URGES Parties that have snake captive-breeding or ranching facilities in their territories to engage in regular monitoring of such facilities, taking into account the origin of parental stock and whether they were obtained legally and without detriment to wild populations, as well as the practicality and capacity of producing the offspring claimed and, for those facilities that breed Appendix I species, to register those facilities with the CITES Secretariat in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15);

ENCOURAGES Parties to pursue the development and dissemination of forensic methods to assist Parties in the identification of snake parts and derivatives, and for examination of products labelled as containing parts and derivatives of snakes;

Regarding traceability systems for snake skins

ENCOURAGES Parties to share experiences in the use of traceability systems for specimens of CITES-listed snake species, including the use of identification technologies;

ENCOURAGES Parties to take into account lessons learned from projects on traceability implemented for other CITES-listed species;

RECOMMENDS:

- a) that Parties, prior to the implementation of a traceability system for python skins, inventory and tag those skins and provide this information to the Secretariat as a baseline;
- b) that Parties ensure that the tagging method used distinguishes between skins of the initial stockpiles and skins harvested at later points in time;
- c) that Parties ensure that the inventories of the initial stockpiles contain information on the species concerned, the stage of processing of the skins (crust, dried, etc.) and the corresponding quantities and tag numbers, and also the year of harvest for skins newly entering the stockpiles;
- d) the traceability systems commence as close to the point of harvest of the animal or production of the skin as possible. It should be made mandatory up to and including finished skins;
- e) the identification of skins make use of devices that are tamper-proof, affordable, uniquely serially numbered and contain the following minimum information: species, country of origin (where relevant regional code), year of harvest or production, unique serial number, and source code, or technologies that may accomplish the same requirements. In addition, Parties are encouraged to add other information they deem necessary;

f) the Secretariat should compile such information on available identification technologies and projects to make them available to Parties;

CALLS UPON governments and intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies, non-governmental organizations, the industry and other donors to provide financial support and other assistance to implement this Resolution; and

ENCOURAGES Parties to engage in the development of traceability systems and to explore ways to enhance the participation of the private sector and other stakeholders in this process.

Draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties

Directed to Southeast Asian Parties

- 17.AA Southeast Asian Parties involved in the snake trade are recommended to:
- a) verify the origin of animals traded between countries in the region; and
 - b) ensure the appropriate use of source codes.

Directed to Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo

- 17.BB Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo are encouraged to undertake the following actions:
- a) Honduras: to ensure that measures are in place to address poaching of, and illegal trade in, the Cayos Cochinos boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor imperator*);
 - b) Benin: to implement the following measures for the Ball python (*Python regius*):
 - i) Design and implement a management programme for the species;
 - ii) Make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and
 - iii) Strengthen national regulations relating to trade control and monitoring, including stricter control policies for production systems.
 - c) Benin, Ghana and Togo: to implement the following measures for the Calabar ground boa (*Calabaria reinhardtii*):
 - i) Make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and
 - ii) Improve systems to monitor harvest, captive breeding, and trade in the species;
 - d) Indonesia: to improve enforcement of existing laws and take into account the recommendations provided in the document to more effectively regulate the collection of and trade in the populations of the wild green tree python (*Morelia viridis*) and the Boelen's python (*Morelia boeleni*); and
 - e) Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo: to report to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting on the implementation of the elements of this Decision.

Directed to Parties

- 17.CC Parties are encouraged to undertake the following actions:
1. Range States, importing countries, and other Parties to conduct more detailed assessments of those species indicated in Table 1 [of document AC28 Doc. 14.3], for which available information suggests that international trade is "likely to be a threat" (four species) or "may be a threat" (29 species);
 2. Range States are:
 - a) to submit listing proposals for the four species categorized as "likely to be threatened by trade" and for the three species categorized as "may be threatened by trade" and have an IUCN status (CR, EN, VU), including: *Euprepiophis perlacea*, *Enhydryis longicauda*, and *Cryptelytrops rubeus*; and

- b) to consider including the remaining species categorized as “may be threatened by trade” in the Appendices;
3. Range States of *Popeia buniana* (Malaysia), *Popeia nebularis* (Malaysia), *Cryptelytrops kanburiensis* (Thailand and probably Myanmar) and *Orthriophis moellendorfi* (China and Viet Nam) are:
 - a) to assess whether existing legislation, protected areas and current levels of trade are compatible with the conservation of these species in the wild; and
 - b) to evaluate the possible listing of these species under CITES (including Appendix III);
 4. Parties and range States are:
 - a) to compile more information on the exploitation levels (i.e. direct harvest and as by-catch) of freshwater and marine aquatic snakes subject to high volumes of international trade, including all species of Elapidae (*Hydrophis* spp., *Kerilia* spp., *Lapemis* spp., *Laticauda* spp., *Thalassophina* spp.) and Homalopsidae (*Enhydris* spp., *Erpeton* spp., *Homalopsis* spp.) indicated in Table 1 [of document AC28 Doc. 14.3]; and
 - b) to evaluate the possible listing of these species under CITES (including Appendix III);
 5. Exporting countries and other Parties are to put in place precautionary management measures, such as establishing closed areas or seasons, daily seasonal catch quotas, restricting the use of certain types of fishing gear or imposing size-limits, and improved domestic monitoring and reporting mechanisms for aquatic (freshwater and marine) snakes, including all Elapidae and Homalopsidae species indicated in Table 1 [of document AC28 Doc. 14.3]; and
 6. Parties are to encourage research to improve the understanding of the ecology, biology and conservation needs of Asian snakes, *inter alia* through supporting relevant scientific institutions and promoting additional field studies.
- 17.DD Parties should eliminate the important illegal and unreported trade in specimens, whether live or parts and derivatives, of CITES-listed snake species by:
- a) ensuring that CITES permits and certificates are properly issued for trade in these specimens;
 - b) including information on trade in these specimens in their CITES annual reports;
 - c) ensuring that their annual reports are following the most recent version of the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP16);
 - d) examining their enforcement efforts regarding trade in these specimens to ensure that adequate steps are taken to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade;
 - e) undertaking education and outreach activities directed towards snake farms, buyers and sellers of live snakes, parts and derivatives, product manufacturers, shippers, brokers and staff from government agencies involved in controlling and monitoring this trade to ensure that snake specimens are traded in compliance with national laws and CITES provisions; and
 - f) in the case of Parties in Asia, reporting on their efforts in all of these areas to the Secretariat in time for its reporting at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 17.EE The Animals Committee shall continue to review guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for the export of CITES-listed snakes, and new information on the trade in, and sustainable use and conservation of snakes, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.FF The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the reports and recommendations from the Animals Committee submitted in accordance with Decision 17.EE and any other relevant information;
- b) make recommendation to the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat as appropriate; and
- c) report on the implementation of Decision 17.EE at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with recommendations for consideration by the Parties, including revisions to Resolution Conf. 17.XX on the conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes, if deemed necessary.

Directed to the Secretariat

17.GG The Secretariat shall communicate bilaterally with relevant Asian Parties to invite them to report on the status of their implementation of Decision 17.DD.

17.HH The Secretariat shall make any relevant information on trade, sustainable use and conservation of snakes available to Parties and the Animals Committee through the CITES website.

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

In 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 decides 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 authors of this document propose the following tentative budget and source of funding.

Decision	Activity	Cost implications (USD)	Source of funding
17.JJ	Finalizing the development of guidance for making non-detriment findings; organization of an expert workshop	35,000	Switzerland, European Union
17.JJ	Organization of interdisciplinary workshop(s) for CITES and other relevant authorities and stakeholders of range States of Asian snake species in international trade on the guidance for monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems, and the guidance for making non-detriment findings and establishing export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade	50,000 (per workshop)	European Union Not identified

- Most of the costs relating to the activities directed to the Committees and the Secretariat in the draft resolution can probably be absorbed through core budgets. However, the Secretariat seeks guidance from the Parties regarding the scope of the work envisaged under the last RECOMMENDS, paragraph f) [*The Secretariat should compile such information on available identification technologies and projects to make them available to Parties*]. If this requires making direct contact with research institutions, businesses or organizations involved in traceability and identification technologies, and synthesising and disseminating this information on an ongoing basis, there would be cost implications that are difficult to estimate.