

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

Bushmeat

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICA BUSHMEAT WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat.

Background

2. Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP16), regarding *Bushmeat*, are as follows:

***Directed to the Central African Bushmeat Working Group***

*Decision 14.73*

*The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group is encouraged to collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in its work, and is invited to draw to the attention of the Standing Committee and/or the Conference of the Parties to any matters relating to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.11.*

*Decision 14.74 (Rev. CoP16)*

*The Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group is encouraged to continue its work, also by collaborating with the Convention on Biological Diversity Liaison Group on non-timber forest resources, and to report to the Standing Committee on progress made in implementing national action plans relating to the trade in bushmeat and other initiatives it takes regarding this subject. A report on the subject of bushmeat should be submitted at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. Document CoP16 Doc. 70 (Rev.1), presented at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2013) and addressing these decisions, indicates that the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group comprises six Central African countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon). However, its current status, activities, *modus operandi* and contributions in the area of trade in bushmeat in Central Africa are unclear.

Implementation of Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP16)

4. The Secretariat notes that the Conference of the Parties directed decisions to the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group at its 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th meetings (Bangkok, 2004; The Hague, 2007; Doha, 2010; Bangkok, 2013) through Decisions 13.102, 14.74, 14.74 (Rev. CoP15) and 14.74 (Rev. CoP16) respectively, but these were not or not fully implemented.
5. The Secretariat contacted the CITES Management Authorities of the six member countries of the Working Group in a letter dated 16 March 2016, reminding them that the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group, pursuant to Decision 14.74 (Rev. CoP16), was expected to submit its report on the subject of bushmeat to the Secretariat for timely inclusion as a working document for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. At the time of writing (end of April 2016), no report from the Working Group had

been received. The Secretariat was also unable to confirm whether the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group remained relevant to the six countries concerned.

#### Recommendations

6. The proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*, as presented in document CoP17 Doc. 75.1, provides a new and broad framework for the Parties to CITES to address issues relating to trade in bushmeat (or 'wild meat') from CITES-listed species. In consequence, there seems less need for the regional approach as had been proposed in Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP16). These Decisions were directed at a body that may no longer be operational or in existence.
7. The Secretariat therefore recommends that Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP16) be deleted, and that no further decisions be directed to the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group.