

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Geneva (Switzerland), 17 - 28 August 2019

Summary record of the fourth session for Committee II

19 August 2019: 14h10 - 16h50

Chairs: C. Hoover (United States of America)

Secretariat: I. Higuero  
Y. Liu  
D. Morgan  
H. Okusu

Rapporteurs: A. Caromel  
E. Jennings  
R. Mackenzie  
C. Stafford

17.2 Proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP17) and Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) (contd.)

and

18.3 Proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) (contd.)

South Africa noted its support for the proposed decisions contained in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 18.1 (Rev. 1) revised by the Secretariat to reflect recommendations found in documents CoP18 Doc. 17.2, 17.3, 18.2, and 18.3.

Bangladesh and Eswatini supported additional engagement of local communities in CITES processes. China supported the creation of an in-session working group to discuss further amendments to both documents. New Zealand and Indonesia did not support the amendments suggested in either document CoP18 Doc. 17.2 or CoP18 Doc. 18.3. Though they recognised the importance of consulting rural communities, they echoed earlier comments by Burkina Faso, Colombia, Gabon, Israel, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria that socioeconomic impacts of proposed listings should best be determined at the national level. New Zealand and Indonesia instead supported the suggestion by the United States of America to create guidance to support the engagement processes outlined in Resolution Conf. 8.21 (Rev CoP16) on *Consultation with range States on proposals to amend Appendices I and II* and Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*.

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) expressed its belief that rural community consultation in CITES processes had so far been poor. The Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Forum, Conservation Force, Namibia Nature Foundation, and Ngamiland Council of NGOs noted their support for the amendments outlined in document CoP18 Doc. 17.2, emphasizing the need for rural communities to be given opportunities to participate in CITES decisions. The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (speaking on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, the Center for Biological Diversity, Fondation Franz Weber, Robin des Bois, Species Survival Network, and World Animal Protection), Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association and the Wildlife Conservation Society echoed previous comments highlighting the importance of consultation with rural communities,

but urged Parties to reject the proposed amendments outlined in documents CoP18 Doc. 17.2 and CoP18 Doc. 18.3.

The Chair suggested adding the proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) as outlined in CoP18 Doc. 17.2 to the mandate of the working group, including the amendments proposed by the European Union and Mexico and the draft decision put forward by the United States of America. This draft decision could be considered as an addition or alternative to the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) in document CoP18 Doc. 17.2.

### 17.3 Participatory mechanism for rural communities

Zimbabwe introduced document CoP18 Doc. 17.3, noting that he did so as president of the Zimbabwe National Council of Chiefs, which represented rural communities across the country. Zimbabwe argued that, though rural communities are essential stakeholders in conservation, their participation in CITES decision-making processes had been neglected.

Angola, Bangladesh, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia and Rwanda expressed their support for the recommendations and draft decisions proposed.

Argentina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the European Union, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and the United States of America opposed the recommendations. While acknowledging the importance of enabling inclusive decision-making, they considered this best achieved through national mechanisms or the participation of observers to the Convention, rather than through a permanent committee on rural communities. They warned against adding further complexity and demands on Convention resources, particularly without more information on financial implications; against affording rural communities a higher status than other stakeholders; and against the disproportionate promotion of socio-economic considerations.

Colombia, the European Union and the United States expressed support for addressing community representation in Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *CITES and livelihoods*, including through amendments proposed by the Secretariat in document CoP18 Doc. 17.1.

The Chair observed that there was no widespread support for the recommendations listed in paragraph 15 of document CoP18 Doc. 17.3, but that broad support for incorporating the views of rural communities should be reflected in the mandate of the intersessional working group on rural communities described in document CoP18 Doc. 17.1. Zimbabwe expressed support for this approach and called for issues raised in agenda items 17.2 and 17.3 to be discussed in the intersessional processes of the working group.

### 18.2 Proposal by Peru

Peru introduced document CoP18 Doc. 18.2, highlighting the need to raise awareness on how legal and sustainable trade in wild animals and plants contributes to the conservation of species and livelihoods of rural communities. Regarding the draft resolution to declare an International Day for Livelihoods of Rural Communities, Peru agreed with the Secretariat's suggestion that such a day could be part of the celebrations of UN World Wildlife Day.

Argentina, Botswana, Chile, China, South Africa, and IWMC-World Conservation Trust supported the adoption of the recommendations contained in document CoP18 Doc. 18.2, but Liberia, supported by Burkina Faso, Kenya and Nigeria, expressed reservations with draft decision 18.AA to re-establish the working group on *CITES and livelihoods*. Canada and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation welcomed further discussion of the draft decisions.

Georgia supported draft decision 18.BB. This was opposed by Kenya, Liberia, Niger and Nigeria who raised concerns the report referred to could lead to the prioritisation of trade over conservation. Liberia also urged caution arguing that such an evaluation raised both financial and compliance issues. Mexico and the European Union suggested amendments to the decisions in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 18.2 to be further discussed in the working group.

The Chair proposed that action on the draft decisions in Annex 1 of document CoP18 Doc. 18.2 be deferred until discussion of the Secretariat's amendments to document CoP18 Doc. 18.1.

## 18.1 CITES and livelihoods

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 18.1 and invited Parties to adopt the draft decisions in Annex 1 and to delete Decisions 17.36-17.40.

China, the European Union, Peru, South Africa, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and TRAFFIC, supported the draft decisions. Canada and the United States of America indicated that the draft decisions were a useful starting point and were happy to discuss them further in a working group. The United States, echoed by China, Peru and South Africa, supported deleting Decisions 17.36-17.40. The Republic of Korea suggested amendments to draft decision 18.AA.

Kenya and the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association opposed draft decisions 18.AA and 18.BB, with Kenya noting that the existing systems of certification as set out by Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates* were adequate.

The Chair suggested adding the revisions of the draft decisions in document CoP18 Doc. 18.1 to the mandate of the working group to address other aspects of agenda items 17 and 18 which had already been identified. Following a request for clarification by Peru, he explained that the International Day for the Livelihoods of Rural Communities would be addressed in the context of agenda item 22 on *United Nations World Wildlife Day*. This was accepted.

The Chair established a working group comprising: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Guyana, Hungary, Japan, , Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Peru, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe; Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP); Conservation Force; Fondation Franz Weber; International Professional Hunters Association (IPHA); Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada (ICC); Livelihood International; Species Survival Network; Wildlife Conservation Society; World Wildlife Fund (WWF); Zoological Society of London; Amboseli Ecosystem Trust; CAMPFIRE Association; China Biodiversity Conservation & Green Development Foundation; Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Forum; Conservation Alliance of Kenya; Dallas Safari Club; David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation; Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science; Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association; Makavik Corporation; Namibian Association for CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO); Natural Resources Defense Council; Ngamiland Council of NGOs (NCONGO); Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated; Pro Wildlife; San Diego Zoo Global; and World Leaders of Today.

The Chair indicated that further information about the Chair and meetings of the working group would be available as soon as possible. He noted that there was some support for livelihoods of rural communities to be the theme for a future United Nations World Wildlife Day.

## 19. Food security and livelihoods

Namibia, on behalf of the Standing Committee, introduced document CoP18 Doc. 19, inviting the Parties to renew Decisions 17.41 to 17.43.

Antigua and Barbuda supported the renewal of Decisions 17.41 to 17.43. Brazil, Burkina Faso, the European Union, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and the United States of America opposed the renewal of Decisions 17.41 to 17.43, the United States and the European Union noting that Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *CITES and livelihoods* already addressed livelihood and food security concerns.

It was agreed to delete Decisions 17.41 to 17.43.

## 21. Capacity building and identification materials

### 21.1 Capacity-building and identification materials

and

### 54.1 Identification manual

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 21.1, recommending deletion of Decisions 17.32-17.35 and consideration of new decisions contained in paragraph 10 of the document.

It was agreed to delete Decisions 17.32 to 17.35.

It was agreed to combine and consider together the proposed draft decisions presented in paragraph 10 of document CoP18 Doc. 21.1, with the proposed decisions under agenda item 54.1 on *Identification manual*.

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 54.1, which proposed review and possible replacement of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual* and draft decisions contained in Annex 1.

The Chair of the Plants Committee and the United States of America suggested editorial amendments to the following paragraphs of the draft decisions:

#### **Draft decision 18.AA**

- b) subject to the availability of external funding, and with input from the joint working group called for under Decision 18.CC, revise and redesign the CITES Virtual College in order to make the identification materials available in a more user-friendly manner.

#### **Draft decision 18.BB**

- b) ~~determine~~ consider whether Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) would best be revised or replaced with a new resolution on Identification of specimens of CITES-listed species, and prepare a draft text of the revised or new resolution;
- c) propose a revised ~~the~~ draft resolution in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and the Standing Committee; and

#### **Draft decision 18.CC**

The Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a joint working group on identification materials that are used by Parties to identify CITES-listed species and provide inputs to the Secretariat based on the outcomes of the following working group tasks ~~undertake the following tasks~~, in consultation with the Secretariat:

- a) review selected identification materials, including material compiled as per Decision 18.BB paragraph a), and assess the need for their revision and improvement, taking into account the materials that are being developed or have already been developed by Parties and materials requested in Decisions or Resolutions;
- b) review Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual* and, taking into account the review outlined in Decision 18.CC paragraphs a) and c) ~~make recommendations, including possible amendments to this Resolution if appropriate~~ provide inputs on the Secretariat's work in Decision 18.BB in accordance with their terms of reference, to promote accuracy and availability of identification materials;
- c) ~~provide input to the Secretariat~~ consider ways to improve the accuracy and availability of identification materials on CITES-listed species; and

With these amendments, the draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 54.1 were accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 16h48.