

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Strategic matters

Committee reports and recommendations

Standing Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

1. This document has been submitted by Ms. Carolina Caceres as representative of Canada, Chair of the Standing Committee.\*

Background

2. Canada was elected as Chair by the Members of the Standing Committee at its 68th meeting (SC68, Johannesburg, October 2016), following the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016). China was at the same meeting elected to serve as Vice-Chair. These Parties continued to fill the posts concerned during the intersessional period between the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016) and the present meeting.

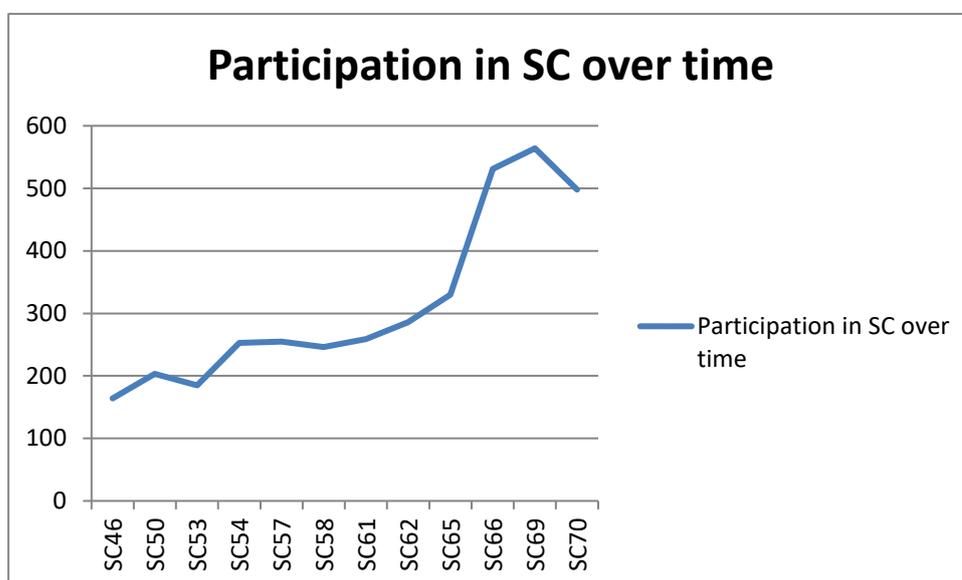
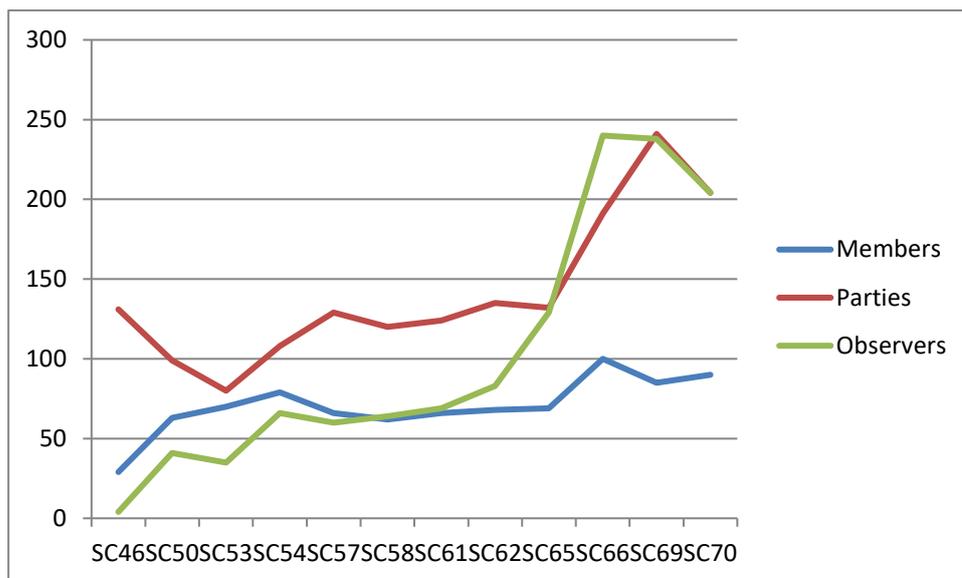
Summary of the Committee's workload between CoP17 and CoP18

3. The Committee has held three meetings since CoP17: the 68th meeting (SC68) was held in October 2016 in Johannesburg, immediately after CoP17. The 69th (SC69) and 70th (SC70) meetings were held in Geneva, Switzerland in November-December 2017 and SC70 in Sochi, Russian Federation in October 2018 respectively. The 71st meeting (SC71) is scheduled to take place in Colombo on 22 May 2019, immediately prior to the present meeting.
4. The Standing Committee meetings since CoP16 have been characterized by an unprecedented volume of work for the Committee and equally by record participation at Committee meetings by Members and observers from Parties and organizations.
5. Concerning participation at meetings of the Standing Committee, SC65 attracted 330 participants and SC66 drew no less than 531 participants. The attendance at SC69 with 564 participants was the largest ever at a CITES Standing Committee meeting and is almost double the number of people who attended the equivalent meeting between CoP15 and CoP16. The increase in participation is shown graphically in Figure 1 below.

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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.*

Figure 1. Participation in meetings of the Standing Committee, by category and in total.



6. In addition to the instructions to the Committee in 29 Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties, CoP17 also directed 79 Decisions to the Standing Committee. The reporting burden of the Standing Committee has substantially increased compared to the last CoPs as illustrated in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Numbers of Decisions directed to the Animals Committee, Plants Committee, Standing Committee and the Secretariat adopted during the last three meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Decisions directed to	CoP15	CoP16	CoP17
AC	15	19	31
PC	20	12	26
SC	30	49	79
Secretariat	61	60	129

7. This in turn generated a very substantial volume of documentation for the Committee to discuss, with a sharp increase at SC70, as illustrated in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Numbers of pages and working documents considered by the Standing Committee at SC65, SC66, SC69 and SC70

SC meeting	Number of pages	Number of working documents
SC65	1,311	70
SC66	2,672	96
SC69	1,390	95
SC70	3,290	102

8. To fully undertake the work charged to it by the Conference of the Parties, for the first time ever, the Standing Committee, at SC70, was required to add two night sessions to its programme of work. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to extend our gratitude to the Russian Federation for hosting SC70 and for providing the additional resources necessary to have extended sessions.

#### Activities undertaken by the Chair pursuant to the MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

9. In January of 2018, the past CITES Secretary-General, Mr. John Scanlon, announced to the Standing Committee his intention to leave his post in April 2018. The Committee extended its heartfelt thanks to Mr. Scanlon for his leadership of the Secretariat over the past eight years. Thus, in accordance with the [2011 MoU](#) between the Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP, I acted as the Committee's representative to UNEP throughout the recruitment process. I provided advice for the consideration of UNEP's leadership at the various preliminary stages of the process and, in June 2018, I travelled to Geneva to act as a panel member for the interviews of candidates. Throughout this assessment process, I ensured the Committee was informed of the process, and stressed to UNEP the importance of a timely process, noting that it was the responsibility of the Executive Director of UNEP to determine the final recommended candidates. While the recruitment process was underway, Mr. David Morgan was appointed Officer-in-Charge and the Committee also extends their sincere thanks to Mr. Morgan for supporting what was ultimately a seamless transition. In October 2018, UNEP announced the appointment of Ms. Ivonne Higuero as the new Secretary General for CITES. The Committee welcomes Ms. Higuero and congratulates her for taking on this important role!

#### Work undertaken between CoP17 and CoP18

10. A brief summary of the Committee's discharge of all the instructions from the Conference of the Parties in 29 Resolutions and 79 Decisions is found in Annex 1 to the present document. For the most substantive issues, the Committee has submitted a working document for the present meeting. This report will provide further information on the activities of the Standing Committee to fulfil actions under the Resolutions and Decisions not reported elsewhere in a working document.
11. A key element of the mandate of the Standing Committee is to recommend compliance actions, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures* and associated Resolutions and Decisions. Annex 2 to the present document provides a summary of compliance matters resulting in a recommendation to suspend trade since CoP17. These recommendations arose as a result of the application of Article XIII (see document CoP18 Doc. 27), of Resolution Conf. 12. 8 (Rev. CoP17) on the *Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* (linked to obligations under Article IV of the Convention), of Resolution Conf. 11.17 on *National reports* (linked to obligations under Article VIII) and Resolution Conf. 8.4 on *National laws for the implementation of the Convention* (linked to obligations under Article VIII and IX of the Convention).
12. Pursuant to Decision 17.2, during SC69, the Committee adopted revised Rules of Procedure aligned as closely as possible to the CoP Rules of Procedure and which included the elimination of the position of Alternate Vice-Chair. The Committee further struck an intersessional working group to, among other activities, review its Rules of Procedures and recommend further revisions as necessary. During SC70, the Committee agreed further amendments to its Rules of Procedure, notably clarifications on the application of the postal procedure for making decisions in between meetings of the Committee (see document SC70 Doc. 3). The current Standing Committee Rules of Procedure can be found on the CITES website. Based on the activities described above, the Chair of the Standing Committee recommends deletion of Decision 17.2.
13. On the issue of community awareness on wildlife trafficking, the Committee noted the report of the Secretariat and the developments in the implementation of Decision 17.86. The Standing Committee

encouraged Parties to take into account the findings outlined in document SC70 Doc. 18 when preparing and implementing strategies to engage rural communities in the fight against poaching and illegal trade in wildlife, and when preparing draft documents for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

14. With regards to Decisions regarding sturgeon, the study requested in Decision 16.136 (Rev. CoP17) was not completed and thus the Committee did not review and provide its recommendations pursuant to Decision 16.138 (Rev. CoP17). The Committee invited the Secretariat to propose revised decisions to the present meeting. The Committee, at SC69, reviewed Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*. The Standing Committee encouraged all CITES Parties bordering the Black Sea and Danube river to collaborate on research to address knowledge gaps regarding the distribution and migration of stocks of sturgeon species in their respective jurisdictions, in particular molecular and genetic studies, to establish the basis for science-based delimitation of stocks in the Danube and Black Sea. The Standing Committee agreed that, in case no clear research results become available, the interpretation of shared sturgeon stocks in the table in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* remains as it stands.
15. In addition to those activities deriving from an instruction from the Conference of the Parties, the Committee also engaged in discussions on some issues under its own initiative and in line with its terms of reference as found in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17).
16. During SC69, the Standing Committee noted the reports of the Secretariat and South Africa regarding the jointly organized CITES and Livelihoods workshop held in South Africa in November 2016 and the subsequent workshop planned to be held in China in 2018. The Standing Committee noted the recommendations of the CITES and livelihoods workshop and invited Parties to consider the recommendations of the CITES and livelihoods workshop and to consider bringing them forward to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting. Additionally, the Committee struck an intersessional working group, co-chaired by China, Peru and South Africa, to provide advice to Parties on the implementation of Decision 17.36 and to provide advice to and support the Secretariat in the implementation of Decision 17.40. The Secretariat's report on Decision 17.40 can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 18.1.
17. The Secretariat explained to the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee that it believed the vital role of Management Authorities needed better clarity and recognition. The Committee agreed and struck an intersessional working group, chaired by Norway, to assist the Secretariat in their preparation of a draft resolution on Management Authorities for consideration at the 70th meeting of the Committee. During SC70, the Standing Committee welcomed the submission to CoP18, by the Secretariat of the draft resolution on *Designation and roles of Management Authorities* and invited Parties to provide their comments in writing to the Secretariat. The proposed Resolution can be found in CoP18 Doc. 38.
18. The Secretariat also reported on progress in their implementation of Decision 17.239 and 17.240 on pangolin. Based on this report, the Standing Committee provided recommendations to the Secretariat and to Parties. In particular, the Standing Committee noted the different interpretations of Resolution Conf. 13.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Implementation of Article VII, paragraph 2, concerning 'pre-Convention' specimens* as it applies to the transfer of a species from Appendix II to Appendix I. Given the differing interpretations, the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat prepare a document on this issue for consideration at CoP18 and provided interim advice on the treatment of specimens until a decision is made by CoP18. The Standing Committee additionally proposed draft decisions on pangolin management and conservation for consideration at CoP18. See document CoP18 Doc. 75.
19. The Secretariat reported on actions to improve access to annual report data by providing an option to download the annual reports in addition to the existing search functions. The Standing Committee welcomed the Secretariat's initiative to improve access to annual report data and noted that the Secretariat intends to work with the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre to implement a download of the CITES Trade Database that will include trade data on a per-shipment basis and will replace confidential permit numbers with a unique identifier.
20. The Standing Committee at SC70 received a report from the Plants Committee regarding the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 17.53 and 17.54 on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, including presentation of a number of draft decisions for its consideration. The Committee noted the progress and requested the Plants Committee present amended draft decisions to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Similarly, the Standing Committee noted the progress made by the Plants Committee in its implementation of Decisions 17.166 and 17.167, and the findings and recommendations that the Plants Committee intends to report for consideration by CoP18.

21. The Plants Committee invited the Standing Committee, at SC70, to submit revisions to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*, as found in document CoP18 Doc. 50. The Standing Committee further heard of the progress achieved by the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decision 17.234 on rosewood timber species and considered the draft decisions proposed by the Plants Committee. The Standing Committee requested the Plants Committee to submit to CoP18 the draft decisions with an additional draft decision directing the Standing Committee to consider any implementation and enforcement issues associated with the international trade in rosewood species (see document CoP18 Doc. 50).

#### Reflections of the Chair

22. Over the past three years, and indeed over the past decade, international trade in wild fauna and flora has grown increasingly complex. CITES Parties have adopted many species listings with associated complex trade conditions in the form of annotations (particularly for plant species). We have seen changing patterns of global trade with new or increased demand for various wildlife products, shifts from wild to non-wild sources, emerging bio-technologies and new web-based methods for engaging in international trade. The Resolutions and Decisions adopted by CoP17 reflect this complex evolution and provide opportunities for CITES to respond to these challenges. However, maintaining CITES traditional activities as well as taking on emerging challenges has continued to create significant growth in the demands on the Standing Committee. To achieve progress on the 29 Resolutions and 79 Decisions directed to the Committee, it was absolutely necessary to have two extended (evening) sessions during the 70th meeting of the Committee. As Chair of these sessions, I aimed to balance the need to conclude the Committee's business in the time available, with ensuring the Committee, Parties and observer organizations all had opportunities to meaningfully contribute to the discussion. To achieve this balance in future, I believe it will be essential for Parties to think thoughtfully and critically about the tasks they are putting before the Committees, the Secretariat and themselves. For every decision before the Parties, I would invite them to consider the outcome they wish to achieve and the body best-placed to achieve that outcome (be it the Committee, the Secretariat or a matter for Parties themselves). Nonetheless, while the challenge of meeting the CoP's expectations was large, the work involved also brought with it an opportunity to reflect on the state of CITES. I believe this Convention retains its central and fundamental role as a conservation and sustainable use treaty. CITES, in my view, is in excellent shape. It benefits from an expert Secretariat, strong involvement by Parties with new Parties continuing to join, innovative new partnerships to address emerging challenges and significant increased financial support. I believe there remains a general sense of excitement around what we, collectively, have accomplished thus far and what the future holds for CITES.

#### Concluding remarks

23. As Chair for the past intersessional period, I know that our successes are due entirely to the ongoing hard work of many. I want to extend my sincere gratitude firstly to the members of the Committee and observer Parties, in particular those who took on chairing inter-sessional working groups and thus allowed the Committee to progress its large agenda. I would like to thank all the Committee members, the Chairs of the Plants and Animals Committees, Parties, observer organizations, partners including those in other MEAs and UN agencies, and various experts who collectively contributed to the Committee's robust decision-making. I would also like to thank Switzerland and the Russian Federation for hosting the meetings of the Committee and always making us feel welcome. Thank you also to Environment and Climate Change Canada for providing the resources necessary to undertake this role. Last, but far from least, my very special thanks go to the small yet mighty CITES Secretariat, under the leadership of John Scanlon, David Morgan and now Ivonne Higuero. The professional expertise and personal dedication of each member of the Secretariat team is without compare, as is their patience with my never-ending detailed questions.

#### Recommendations

24. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of the present document.

## COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The report of the Chair of the Standing Committee refers to specific activities and issues addressed by the Standing Committee. Many are the subject of separate agenda items, as also shown in Annex 1 to the present document. The Secretariat provides its comments on these issues under the corresponding agenda items. These separate documents also contain tentative budgets and sources of funding for the draft resolutions or decisions proposed by the Standing Committee.
- B. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties note the report from the Chair of the Standing Committee.

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS DIRECTED OR RELEVANT TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Resolution or Decision	Subject/title	Action undertaken
Conf. 17.1[NB connected to Decision 17.49 which directed the Secretariat to provide reports to each meeting of the Standing Committee]	World Wildlife Day	The Committee is charged with the selection of the theme for each year's observance of World Wildlife Day. For 2018, the Chair and Vice-Chair worked with the Secretariat to propose "Big Cats: predators under threat". The Committee noted the agreed theme of "Life below water" for 2019.
Conf. 17.2	Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2017-2019.	Through its re-established Finance and Budget Subcommittee (chaired by Norway) with amended Terms of Reference (see Annex 9 to document SC70 Doc. 6), the Committee maintained careful oversight of the administration of the CITES Trust Fund. The Committee approved the use of USD 70,000, on a one-time exceptional basis, from expected 2017 savings under the personnel component and to carry over this amount into 2018 for a 50 per cent co-funding of the 4th year extension of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Marine Species Officer. The Committee recommended that further review of the host country arrangements is not needed. Discussions were held over the potential costs and benefits of alternative administrative hosting arrangements for the CITES Secretariat. More details on the work of the subcommittee can be found in its reports to SC69 and SC70.
Conf. 17.6 [NB linked to Decision 17.85 b)]	Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention	The Committee took note of the reports of the Secretariat, including cooperative activities with other relevant agencies, noted the High Level Principles on Combating Corruption Related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products adopted at the G20 Leaders Summit held in Hamburg, Germany, in the annex to the G20 Leaders' Declaration, and addressed the issue of corruption as part of its application of Article XIII and of its work on stockpiles.
Conf. 17.7 [NB linked to Decisions 17.106 and 107]	Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity	The Committee heard the report of the Animals Committee and agreed a set of recommendations for countries selected as part of the review.
Conf. 14.3	CITES compliance procedures	Acting in accordance with instructions from and authority delegated by the Conference of the Parties, the Committee handled a wide variety of general and specific compliance matters. During the intersessional period the Committee made a total of seven recommendations to suspend trade and withdrew six such recommendations – full details can be found in Annex 2 of the present document.
Conf. 14.5	Dialogue meetings	The Committee did not call for any dialogue meetings during the past intersessional period.
Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)	Periodic Review of the Appendices	The Committee was kept informed about the conduct of periodic reviews.

Conf. 13.3	Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	The Committee noted the successful collaboration between CITES and CMS under the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative and activities on eels, elephants, marine turtles, saiga antelope and sharks.
Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16) [NB linked to Decision 17.233]	Conservation of and trade in great apes	The Committee's report on the implementation of this Resolution and recommendations for further action is found in document CoP18 Doc. 73.
Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17)	Control of trade in personal and household effects	No Party informed the Committee of difficulties in the application of the Resolution.
Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) [NB linked to Decision 17.227]	Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species	The Committee received relevant reports from the Secretariat pursuant to this Resolution. Recommendations for further action are found in document CoP18 Doc. 71.1.
Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) [NB linked to Decisions 17.184 and 17.185]	Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish	Besides, the issue of the definition of the country of origin of caviar addressed under Decision 17.185, the Committee was not informed of any new development or problem.
Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17)	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species.	The Committee took action in instances where the Secretariat reported that it was not satisfied that a range State had implemented recommendations made by the Animals or Plants Committee to resolve problems concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) [non-detriment findings]. Further details can be found in the Summary Records to SC69 and SC70. In consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals or Plants Committee, the Committee reviewed its recommendations to suspend trade that had been in place for longer than two years and took measures to address the situation where appropriate.
Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15)	Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes	The Committee was not required to resolve any case relating to the registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes.
Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) [NB linked to Decision 17.3]	Establishment of committees	A summary of the activities taken pursuant to the Standing Committee's terms of reference are found within the present document.
Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17)	Compliance and enforcement	The Committee acted on issues drawn to its attention in the Secretariat's reports on compliance and enforcement matters made at SC69 and SC70. The Committee also heard reports on the activities under the auspices of the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime. In relation to Article XIII of the Convention in particular, the Committee heard reports from the Secretariat regarding their correspondence with a number of Parties and is currently acting on information concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria and Japan. Annex 2 of the present document contains details of recommendations to suspend trade made and withdrawn during the intersessional period.
Conf. 11.4 (Rev. CoP12)	Illegal trade in whale meat	No information was received from the International Whaling Commission in this regard.

Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17) [NB linked to Decision 17.132]	Conservation of and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope.	On the basis of a report from the Secretariat, the Committee reviewed the enforcement measures taken by the Parties in eliminating the illicit trade in Tibetan antelope products. Its resulting report to the present meeting can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 78.
Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17)	National reports	On the basis of reports by the Secretariat, the Committee determined, which Parties had failed, for three consecutive years and without having provided adequate justification, to provide the annual reports required under Article VIII, paragraph 7 (a) and took action as appropriate in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17). Further information can be found in the summary records of SC69 and SC70 as well as in Annex 2.
Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16)	Identification Manual	The Committee was informed by the Secretariat on progress made and noted the proposal by the Secretariat to prepare draft decisions to revise or replace this Resolution.
Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP16) [NB linked to Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP17)]	Use of annotations in Appendices I and II	Challenges with the interpretation of annotation #15 were considered and advice provided by the Standing Committee. No other significant differences in the interpretation of terms in annotations among trading countries were drawn to the attention of the Committee.
Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14)	Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity	The Committee asked the Secretariat to transmit relevant information to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
Conf. 10.9 [NB linked to Decision 16.160 (Rev. CoP17)]	Consideration of proposals for the transfer of African elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II.	The Committee established a working group chaired by Germany and proposed the repeal of this Resolution in document CoP18 Doc. 104.
Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) [NB linked to Decision 17.73]	Trade in elephant specimens	The Committee requested the Secretariat to report to the present meeting on actions taken by Parties to implement the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Trade in elephant specimens</i> . Its report can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 69.1.
Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) [NB linked to Decision 17.117]	Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use	The Secretariat did not report any deficiencies of the system or specific instances of concern to the Standing Committee.
Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16)	Transport of live specimens	The Committee noted the activities of the Secretariat on this issue.
Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) [NB linked to Decisions 17.140 to 17.144]	Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses	The Standing Committee continued to pursue actions aimed at ending illegal trade in rhinoceros parts and derivatives. It decided to make some resulting recommendations to the present meeting and these are conveyed in a joint report with the Secretariat in document CoP18 Doc. 83.1.
Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16)	Species is transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to an export quota or special measure approved by the CoP.	No relevant cases needed to be considered by the Committee.
Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) [NB linked to Decisions 17.58 to 17.64]	National laws for implementation of the Convention	Parties which have not adopted appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention were identified and appropriate compliance measures adopted at SC69 and SC70.

Decision 17.1	Rules of Procedure	The Committee established a working group chaired by Canada and reviewed the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and decided not to propose amendments (see document CoP18 Doc. 4.2).
Decision 17.2	Rules of Procedure	The Committee reviewed its Rules of Procedure as reported in the present document.
Decision 17.3	Rules of Procedure	The Committee reviewed Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Establishment of Committees</i> and proposed a new draft resolution (see document CoP18 Doc. 13).
Decision 17.16	Access to funding	The Committee reviewed the implementation of Decisions 17.12 through 17.15 by the Secretariat and Parties and provided guidance to the Secretariat. The Secretariat's resulting report is found in document CoP18 Doc. 7.5.
Decision 17.17	Sponsored Delegates Project	The Committee provided guidance to the Secretariat on the criteria used to select Parties for sponsorship and the practical arrangements for the provision of support. The Secretariat's resulting report is found in document CoP18 Doc. 7.6.
Decision 17.18	CITES Strategic Vision	The Committee established a working group chaired by Canada and proposed a new CITES Strategic Vision for 2021-2030 (see document CoP18 Doc. 10).
Decision 16.9 (Rev. CoP17)	Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees	The Committee assessed the functioning of the conflict of interest policy set out in paragraph c) under <i>Regarding representation in the Animals and Plants Committees</i> of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) and approved a standard disclosure form which is to be filed by candidates before their election by the Conference of the Parties and by the elected members before every meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees (see document CoP18 Doc. 14).
Decision 17.27	Youth engagement	The Committee considered the report by the Secretariat and proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.5 in document CoP18 Doc. 23.
Decisions 17.28 to 17.30	Rural communities	The Committee established a working group chaired by Namibia. The Committee's report on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 17.1.
Decision 17.35	Capacity building	The Committee reviewed the report of the Secretariat and the work of the Animals and Plants Committees and made recommendations on how capacity-building activities may be consolidated, rationalized and made more coherent in document CoP18 Doc. 21.2.
Decisions 17.41 to 17.43	Food security and livelihoods	The Committee established a working group chaired by Namibia. The Committee's report on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 19.
Decision 17.47	Demand reduction	The Committee agreed that there was a need for the development of CITES guidance on demand-reduction strategies. The Committee's report on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 20.

Decision 16.14 (Rev. CoP17)	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	The Committee established a working group chaired by Canada and agreed to propose a resolution on IPBES. The Committee's report on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 15.4.
Decision 17.56	Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions	The Committee provided guidance to the Secretariat on strengthening cooperation, collaboration and synergies with other biodiversity-related convention. The Standing Committee's resulting report is found in document CoP18 Doc. 15.1.
Decision 14.19 (Rev. CoP17)	Resolutions and Decisions	The Committee reviewed proposals from the Secretariat to correct non-substantive errors or minor editorial faults in current Resolutions and Decisions. Details can be found in the summary record of SC69.
Decision 17.57	Resolutions and Decisions	The Committee established a working group chaired by Namibia which advised the use of all three terms (rural, local and indigenous communities) in CITES Resolutions and Decisions. The Committee did not come to conclusion and thus does not provide a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties. See document CoP18 Doc. 17.1.
Decision 17.61 to 17.63	National laws for implementation of the Convention	The Committee reviewed the progress of Parties in adopting appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention and took compliance measures as instructed by the Conference of the Parties.
Decision 17.66	Compliance matters	The report on the Compliance Assistance Programme, prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Committee, can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 28. The Committee's report on legal acquisition findings can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 39
Decision 17.73	National ivory action plans process	The Committee determined in accordance with the <i>Guidelines to the NIAP process</i> whether Parties should continue to participate in the NIAP process. The Secretariat's report, prepared at the request of the Committee, is found in document CoP18 Doc. 69.1.
Decision 17.85	Enforcement matters	Pursuant to Decision 17.85 paragraph a), the Committee's report on its work on facilitating the efficient international movement of samples can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 32 (and is linked to Decision 17.174). The Committee also agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that Decision 17.85, paragraph b), has been implemented and can be deleted
Decision 17.88	Domestic markets for frequently illegally trade specimens	The Committee reviewed actions taken by Parties relating to domestic controls in ivory consumer markets. The Committee's report on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 31.
Decision 17.91	Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA	The Committee established a working group chaired by Mexico. The Committee's report on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 43.
Decisions 17.94 to 17.96	Combating wildlife cybercrime	The Committee established a working group chaired by Kenya. The Committee's report on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 33.2.

Decision 17.98	Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa	The Secretariat's report, prepared at the request of the Committee, on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 34.
Decisions 17.106 and 17.107	Captive-bred and ranched specimens	The Committee's report on the application of Article VII is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 57 and its report on the first application of Resolution 17.7 is in document CoP18 Doc. 58.
Decision 17.117	Quotas for leopard hunting trophies	The Committee's report on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 46.
Decision 17.119	Disposal of confiscated specimens	The Committee established a working group co-chaired by Israel and Switzerland. The Committee's report on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 35.
Decision 17.122	Reporting requirements	The Committee's report on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 36.
Decision 17.129	Illegal trade in cheetahs ( <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i> )	The Secretariat informed the Committee that the draft CITES cheetah trade resource kit would be ready for the Committee's review during its 71st meeting (SC71, Colombo, May 2019).
Decision 17.132	Illegal trade in Tibetan antelope ( <i>Pantholops hodgsonii</i> )	The Committee reviewed the outcome of the workshop conducted by INTERPOL and Switzerland on illegal trade in Tibetan antelope and made recommendations to countries affected by this illegal trade.
Decision 17.140 to 17.144	Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)	The Committee established a working group chaired by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Committee's joint report with the Secretariat on this matter is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 83.1.
Decision 17.150	Totoaba ( <i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i> )	The Committee evaluated the data and information submitted by Parties and the Secretariat. The Secretariat's report on this matter, prepared at the request of the Standing Committee, is found in document CoP18 Doc. 89.
Decision 17.152	Traceability	The Committee established a working group chaired by Mexico and Switzerland. The joint report with the Secretariat on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 42.
Decisions 17.157 and 17.158	Electronic systems and information technologies	The Committee established a working group chaired by Switzerland. The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 41.
Decision 17.165	Identification (tiger skin)	At SC70, the Committee noted that the development of a central photographic identification database for tigers had not been possible due to lack of funds, but that there had already been some collaboration between range States that have national databases. The Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties that Decisions 17.164 to 17.165 can be considered completed.
Decision 17.170	Stocks and stockpiles (specimens of CITES-listed species)	The Committee established a working group chaired by Israel. The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 51.
Decision 17.172	Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory)	The Committee noted that the Secretariat intends to finalize the development and dissemination of practical guidance for the management of ivory stockpiles in time to report to SC71, prior to CoP18 and agreed to propose to CoP18 the replacement of Decision 17.172 by a new decision. These recommendations are included in

		the Secretariat's report in document CoP18 Doc. 69.1.
Decision 14.54 (Rev. CoP17)	Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates	The Committee established a working group chaired by Canada. The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 53.
Decision 17.174	Simplified procedure for permits and certificates	The Committee established a working group chaired by Australia. The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 56 (and is linked to Decision 17.85 paragraph a).
Decision 17.177	Definition of the term 'artificially propagated'	The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 59.2.
Decision 17.180	Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'	The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1.
Decision 16.50 (Rev. CoP17)	Introduction from the sea	The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 52.
Decision 16.138 (Rev. CoP17) and Decisions 17.184 and 17.185	Sturgeons and paddlefish ( <i>Acipenseriformes</i> spp.)	The Committee's activities on sturgeon identification materials and Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) are found within the present document. The Committee also established a working group on country of origin of caviar chaired by Japan. The Committee's report on this matter can be found in documents CoP18 Doc. 61.
Decision 17.189	Eels ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)	The Committee established a working group chaired by Spain. The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 63.
Decision 17.193	Precious corals (Order Scleractinia and family Scleractinidae)	The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 64.
Decision 15.87 (Rev. CoP17)	Humphead wrasse ( <i>Cheilinus undulatus</i> )	The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 67.
Decision 17.207	Malagasy ebonies ( <i>Diospyros</i> spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods ( <i>Dalbergia</i> spp.)	The Committee's report on this matter is found in document CoP18 Doc. 30.2.
Decision 17.216	Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)	The Secretariat as requested by the Committee prepared a report on this issue in document CoP18 Doc. 68.2.
Decision 17.221	Bread palms ( <i>Encephalartos</i> spp.)	The Committee considered the report of the Secretariat on this issue at SC69 and agreed a number of recommendations directed to Parties and range States as found in the summary record for SC69.
Decision 17.223	Hawksbill turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ) and other marine turtles (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae)	The Committee reviewed noted that the work in the Decisions could not be completed in the intersessional period and agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat to extend Decisions 17.222 and 17.223. The Secretariat's report on this matter can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 70.
Decision 17.227	Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)	The Committee considered the report and recommendation of the Secretariat and adopted recommendations as part SC70 summary record. The Secretariat's report on this matter can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 71.1.
Decision 17.233	Great apes (Hominidae spp.)	The Committee established a working group chaired by Canada. The Committee's report on this matter can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 73.
Decision 17.243	African lion ( <i>Panthera leo</i> )	At SC70, the Standing Committee noted that Decision 17.243 has not yet been fully implemented given the short time period to review the pertinent study, and recommended that it be further discussed at the second African

		lion range States meeting in November 2018 (as part of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative). The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to work with the Chairs of the Animals and Standing Committees in preparing and submitting a report on this matter, which can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 76.1.
Decision 17.266	Helmeted hornbill ( <i>Rhinoplax vigil</i> )	The Committee's report on this matter can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 84.
Decision 17.273	Saiga antelope ( <i>Saiga</i> spp.)	The Committee's report on this matter can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 86.
Decision 17.280	Snakes (Serpentes spp.)	At SC70, the Standing Committee noted the conclusions of the Animals Committee and did not provide any further recommendations. In doing so, the Standing Committee did not deem it necessary to propose revisions to Resolution Conf. 17.12 on <i>Conservation, sustainable use and trade in snakes</i> .
Decision 17.286	Queen conch ( <i>Strombus gigas</i> )	The Committee welcomed the 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the joint CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM working group on queen conch but did not make specific recommendations on enforcement and traceability issues concerning international trade in queen conch. The Secretariat addresses these issues in document CoP18 Doc. 85
Decision 17.298	Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)	The Committee agreed a set of recommendations developed in part by the CITES Tortoise and Freshwater Turtles Task Force and will evaluate the reports submitted by Parties at SC71. The Committee's report on this matter, prepared jointly with the Secretariat, can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 88.
Decisions 17.303 and 17.304	Appendix-III listings	The Committee established a working group chaired by New Zealand. The Secretariat's report on this matter, prepared at the request of the Committee can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 100.
Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP17)	Annotations	The Committee established a working group chaired by Canada. The Committee's report on this matter can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 101.
Decision 17.319	Annotations for Appendix II orchids	The Committee's report on this matter can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 102.
Decision 16.160 (Rev. CoP17)	Review of Resolution Conf. 10.9 on <i>Consideration of proposals for the transfer of African elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II</i>	The Committee agreed to propose the repeal of Resolution Conf. 10.9. The Committee's report on this matter can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 104.

COMPLIANCE MATTERS RESULTING IN A STANDING COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION TO SUSPEND TRADE DURING THE PERIOD CoP17-CoP18.

<b>Party</b>	<b>CITES obligation involved</b>	<b>Suspension conveyed to Parties</b>	<b>Withdrawal conveyed to Parties</b>
Sao Tome and Principe	Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>National reports</i>	(16 March 2016)	20 January 2017
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Article XIII of the Convention [ <i>Dalbergia conchinchinensis</i> ]	1 February 2017	Still in force
Lesotho	Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>National reports</i>	(17 May 2013)	31 July 2017
Mozambique	Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species. [Hippopotamus amphibius only]</i>	(7 September 2012)	15 January 2018
Central African Republic	Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species. [Psittacus erithacus only]</i>	(15 March 2016)	15 January 2018
Equatorial Guinea	Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species. [Psittacus erithacus only]</i>	(22 August 2008)	15 January 2018
Guinea-Bissau	Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>National laws for implementation of the Convention</i>	(23 March 2016)	22 January 2018
Djibouti	Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>National reports</i>	30 January 2018	Still in force
Dominica	Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>National reports</i>	30 January 2018	17 May 2018
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>National reports</i>	30 January 2018	8 February 2018
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Article XIII of the Convention [stockpiled specimens of <i>Manis</i> spp.]	1 November 2018	Still in force
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Article XIII of the Convention [ <i>Dalbergia</i> spp.]	1 November 2018	Still in force
Nigeria	Article XIII of the Convention [ <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> spp.]	1 November 2018	Still in force