

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

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS COMMITTEES

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee.*
2. This document is complementary to document [CoP18 Doc. 13](#), on the revision of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of Committees*, in particular to its paragraph 7.

Mandate

3. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 16.9 (Rev. CoP17) and 16.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees* as follows:

16.09 (Rev. CoP17) Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall continue to compile examples of conflicts of interest procedures under other relevant agreements and organizations, and shall prepare a report for consideration at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.

16.10 (Rev. CoP17) Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, at its 69th and 70th meeting and on the basis of a review from the Secretariat, assess the functioning of the conflict of interest policy set out in paragraph c) under Regarding representation in the Animals and Plants Committees of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on Establishment of committees, and make recommendations for refining the definition of conflict of interest, if appropriate, and for a mechanism to deal with such conflicts, having reference to such mechanisms developed in other multilateral environmental agreements or relevant international organizations and bodies, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Implementation of the Decisions

4. Pursuant to Decision 16.9 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat compiled examples of conflict of interest rules and procedures under other relevant agreements and organizations and reported them to the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee in [document SC69 Doc. 12](#).
5. At its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017), the Standing Committee considered the functioning of the conflict of interest policy set out in paragraph 5 c) of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of Committees* based on document [SC69 Doc. 12](#) prepared by the Secretariat. As a result of its deliberations, the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to develop and submit to its 70th meeting

* *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.*

a standard disclosure form for declarations of interest as a means of promoting a standardized approach to such declarations.¹ The Standing Committee made other relevant recommendations that have been incorporated into the revision of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17).

6. At its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018), the Standing Committee approved the standard disclosure form contained in Annex 1 to the present document, which is to be filed by candidates before their election by the Conference of the Parties and by the elected members, including the Chairs, before every meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees, as part of the conflict of interest policy set out in paragraph 5 c) of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17).
7. Information disclosed on the declaration shall reside within the Secretariat and shall be made available to the Chair of the relevant Committee, as deemed appropriate.

Cases of conflict of interest

8. The current CITES conflict of interest policy is being applied diligently and there has been no conflict of interest either reported or alleged.

Recommendations

9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to note this document.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat agrees with the recommendations of the Standing Committee and invites the Conference of the Parties to delete Decisions 16.09 (Rev. CoP17) and 16.10 (Rev. CoP17), as they have been completed.

¹ See SC69 summary record, p.11.

Standard disclosure form for CITES declarations of interest
(First page)

A “conflict of interest” refers to any current financial interest which could significantly impair the individual’s impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a member of the Committee. A candidate’s employment by itself does not automatically constitute a conflict of interest.

1. Do you or an immediate family member have any financial interest in the subject matter of the meeting or work in which you will be involved, which may be considered as constituting a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest?

Yes: No: If yes, please provide details:

2. Do you have, or have you had during the past four years, an employment or other professional relationship with any company, organization or institution directly involved in the harvesting, breeding, propagation, domestic or international trade of specimens of CITES-listed species or directly representing the interests of any such entity?

Yes: No: If yes, please give details in the box next page.

I hereby declare that the disclosed information is correct and that no other situation of real, potential or apparent conflict of interest is known to me. I undertake to inform you of any change in these circumstances, including if an issue arises during the meeting or work itself and that I shall conduct myself in full compliance with the conflict of interest policy set out in paragraph 5 c) of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17).

Signature

Date

Name

Region

Standard disclosure form for CITES declarations of interest
(Second page)

1. Type of interest (e.g. investments, research support, advocacy, intellectual property, financial interest (including details on any compound, work, etc.))	2. Name (of company, organization or institution)	3. Owned by (e.g. you, a family member, employer, research unit or other?)	4. Current interest? (or year ceased)

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

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided 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 implementation of the CITES conflict of interest policy does not have budgetary or significant workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees.