

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

CITES and livelihoods

PROPOSAL BY PERU

1. This document has been submitted by Peru*.

New mandates of the Working Group on Livelihoods

2. Resolution Conf. 16.6 on *CITES and livelihoods*, under *Regarding enabling policies*, invites Parties to explore the use of registered marks of certification and origin consistent with CITES provisions. Part II of the CITES and Livelihoods Handbook on *Addressing and mitigating the effects of the application of CITES decisions on livelihoods in poor rural communities*, contains detailed descriptions on existing standards and certifications for the sustainable use of species.
3. At the workshops on CITES and livelihoods held in George, South Africa, November 2016 and in Guangzhou, China, November 2018, concerns were raised regarding the misconception about CITES and the lack of confidence in importing countries as well as among consumers in specimens of CITES-listed species including products from rural communities, although they are included Appendix II for which international trade is allowed. It is recognized that there is an imperative need to analyse the feasibility of adopting or developing a certification system for products from rural communities. Such a mechanism may help address consumer concerns regarding social, environmental and ethical aspects of production.
4. Participants to the workshop in Guangzhou therefore recommended that the evaluation of the possibility of using registered marks of certification, existing and new, for products of CITES-listed species produced by rural communities should be included as one of the tasks of future CITES Standing Committee Working Group on Livelihoods, if it is to be re-established.
5. Participants to the workshop also recommended that the Working Group should analyse the need to draft a new resolution, or amend an existing resolution, on methods to avoid unintended negative conservation consequences of trade related measures that may result in livelihoods and incentive implications, and if deemed appropriate, draft such a Resolution or amendments to a resolution to be submitted to the Standing Committee for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as to explore the usefulness of developing an evaluation mechanism to consider the effects of CITES decisions on trade stakeholders, and the potential consequences of those decisions on the effective conservation of species and implementation of CITES.
7. The draft decisions prepared by the Secretariat were reviewed at the workshop in Guangzhou, which include a proposal to hire a consultant to develop a guidance on how to maximize the benefits of trade in CITES-

* 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.

listed species to rural communities and the conservation of the species. Participants to the workshop agreed that the guidance to be developed the consultant should also be reviewed by the working group.

International Day for Livelihoods of Rural Communities

8. Whilst it is widely recognized that rural communities must receive direct or indirect benefits from the conservation and sustainable use of wild animals and plants if their populations in the wild are to survive in the long run, both in the context of CITES and beyond, the issue of livelihoods and the nexus between livelihoods and wildlife conservation remain far from being fully understood, particularly among the general public, media and decision makers.
9. Participants at the CITES and Livelihoods Workshop in Guangzhou agreed that communications about livelihoods and wildlife conservation should be given priority and best efforts must be made 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 that live alongside wild animals and plants.
10. The CITES Standing Committee Working Group on Livelihoods considers that one of the best ways to raise awareness of the livelihoods issue in both the CITES context and beyond is to establish an international day on livelihoods which will provide a platform at the global level to address the issue.
11. It is suggested that Secretariat should set up a website for this new international day which will serve as the official portal for centralized information concerning this international day. The Working Group is fully aware of the constraint of resources and current workload of the Secretariat and is therefore not expecting the same level of inputs from the Secretariat as it provides to the global observance of the UN World Wildlife Day. Regular updates of the website, annual theme and promotional materials are therefore not foreseen.

Recommendations

12. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
 - a) adopt the draft decisions in Annex 1 of the present document; and
 - b) adopt the draft Resolution on International Day for Livelihoods of Rural Communities.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat notes that, at the workshop on CITES and livelihoods held in Guangzhou, China, 6 to 8 November 2018, the Standing Committee's working group on livelihoods agreed to submit a separate set of draft decisions on livelihoods directed to the Standing Committee which would be complementary to the draft decisions prepared by the Secretariat (see document CoP18 Doc. 18.1).
- B. The Secretariat is of the view that the implementation of CITES is better achieved with the engagement of rural communities, especially those which are traditionally dependent on CITES-listed species for their livelihoods. The Secretariat notes that many documents have been submitted to the present meeting touching upon the participation and the livelihoods of rural, local or indigenous communities (documents CoP 18 Doc.17.1, Doc.17.2, Doc.17.3, Doc.18.1, Doc.18.2, Doc.18.3 and Doc.19). Furthermore, some of these documents propose recommendations along similar lines.
- C. In order to bring these documents together, the proposed decisions contained in Annex 1 of the document CoP18 Doc. 18.1 (Rev. 1) have been revised to reflect the Secretariat's recommendations found in documents CoP18 Doc. 17.2, 17.3, 18.2, and 18.3, including the proposed amendment to the draft decisions proposed in the present document. Additional tasks have also been proposed to the Standing Committee to continue its discussion on how to move this issue forward in a coordinated manner during the next intersessional period.
- D. In combining the proposed draft decisions into Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc.18.1 (Rev.1), the Secretariat also proposes a number of changes as outlined below:

- E. The proposal to evaluate the possibility of using registered marks of certification for products of CITES-listed species produced by rural communities should be read in conjunction with the draft decision in document CoP18 Doc. 18.1 (Rev. 1) on this subject. The Secretariat suggests that the Standing Committee should review the report to be commissioned.
- F. The Secretariat notes that Parties have the opportunity, including through draft resolutions, to propose methods to avoid unintended negative conservation consequences of trade related measures that may result in livelihoods and incentive implications, as presented in draft decision 18.AA, paragraph b). For example, the proposed amendments to existing resolutions contained in document CoP18 Doc. 17.2 serve as an example of such practice and the Secretariat is recommending that the proposed amendments be accepted. The Secretariat therefore does not recommend the adoption of draft decision 18.AA, paragraph b).
- G. The Secretariat believes that the scope of the study as proposed in draft decision 18.AA, paragraph c), goes beyond the issue of livelihoods of rural communities, and does not recommend its adoption .
- H. To accommodate these changes, the Secretariat suggests that the draft decisions in Annex 1 to the present document be amended as follows. Text proposed to be deleted is in ~~strike through~~, and proposed new text is underlined. For ease of reference, the Secretariat has moved the draft decisions in the current document as amended by the Secretariat to Annex 1 of document CoP18 Doc. 18.1 (Rev. 1).

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.BB The Standing Committee shall, in collaboration with the Secretariat:

~~Re-establish the working group on CITES and Livelihoods, which will work in collaboration with the Secretariat to:~~

- a) ~~evaluate the possibility of using registered marks of certification, existing and new, for products of CITES-listed species produced by rural communities consistent with CITES provisions in order to enhance conservation and livelihood outcomes~~ review the report in Decision 18.DD on the possibility of using registered marks of certification for products of CITES-listed species produced by rural communities; and
- b) ~~analyse the need to draft a new resolution, or amend an existing resolution, on methods to avoid unintended negative conservation consequences of trade related measures that may result in livelihoods and incentive implications, and if deemed appropriate, draft such a Resolution or amendments to a resolution to be submitted to the Standing Committee for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; monitor the progress made by Parties in implementing Decision 18.AA to engage rural communities in CITES decision-making processes to better achieve the objectives of the Convention.~~
- c) ~~explore the usefulness of developing an evaluation mechanism to consider the effects of CITES decisions on trade stakeholders, and the potential consequences of those decisions on the effective conservation of species and implementation of CITES;~~
- d) ~~provide feedback on the Guidance to be prepared by the consultant, under Decision 18.BB, on how to maximize the benefits of trade in CITES-listed species to rural communities and the conservation of the species.~~

18.CC The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat on the progress made under Decision 18.EE in the development of the guidance by a consultant on how to maximize the benefits of trade in CITES-listed species to rural communities and the conservation of the species and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- I. The Secretariat does not recommend the declaration of an International Day for the Livelihoods of Rural Communities. Given the importance of livelihoods of rural communities, it should be a topic for existing international days dedicated to wildlife where relevant, including many international days dedicated to specific species. In this connection, the Secretariat proposes that livelihoods of rural communities be used as the theme of a future World Wildlife Day.
- J. The Secretariat supports the adoption of the draft decisions in Annex 1 as amended.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.AA The Standing Committee shall:

Re-establish the working group on CITES and Livelihoods, which will work in collaboration with the Secretariat to:

- a) evaluate the possibility of using registered marks of certification, existing and new, for products of CITES-listed species produced by rural communities consistent with CITES provisions in order to enhance conservation and livelihood outcomes;
- b) analyse the need to draft a new resolution, or amend an existing resolution, on methods to avoid unintended negative conservation consequences of trade related measures that may result in livelihoods and incentive implications, and if deemed appropriate, draft such a Resolution or amendments to a resolution to be submitted to the Standing Committee for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- c) explore the usefulness of developing an evaluation mechanism to consider the effects of CITES decisions on trade stakeholders, and the potential consequences of those decisions on the effective conservation of species and implementation of CITES;
- d) provide feedback on the Guidance to be prepared by the consultant, under Decision 18.BB, on how to maximize the benefits of trade in CITES-listed species to rural communities and the conservation of the species.

18.BB The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat on the progress made in the development of the guidance by a consultant on how to maximize the benefits of trade in CITES-listed species to rural communities and the conservation of the species.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

International Day for Livelihoods of Rural Communities

Aware that Resolution Conf. 16.6 on CITES and livelihoods recognize the importance of engagement and empowerment of rural communities and the contribution to legal and sustainable trade in wild animals and plants to the livelihoods of rural communities and the conservation of the species;

NOTING that workshop on CITES and livelihoods held in Guangzhou, China from 6 to 8 November 2018 highlighted the importance of enhanced communications about the nexus between livelihoods and wildlife conservation;

RECOGNIZING that for the purpose of this resolution, “rural communities” includes indigenous, local and coastal communities and “wildlife” means both wild animals and plants; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the contribution of best practices in CITES and livelihoods to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. DECLARES 8 November of each year as International Day for Livelihoods of Rural Communities;
2. INVITES Parties, the CITES Secretariat, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations with an interest in wildlife conservation and improvement of livelihoods of rural communities that live alongside wild animals and plants to observe the day and facilitate cooperation and information exchange in support of the global celebration of the day;
3. CALLS upon all Parties to use the International Day for Livelihoods of Rural Communities as an opportunity to raise the awareness of the importance of wildlife to the livelihoods of poor rural communities that live alongside wildlife as well as the contribution of rural communities to wildlife conservation when incentives, direct or indirect, from wildlife conservation is provided;
4. INVITES all Parties and non-party States, national and international organizations with an interest in wildlife conservation and engagement and empowerment of rural communities to associate celebrations of International Day for Livelihoods of Rural Communities to national, regional and international conservation events;
5. REQUESTS the Secretariat, when feasible, to facilitate the global celebration of the day and to maintain a website for this day; and
6. INVITES the United Nations General Assembly to consider declaring 8 November of each year as International Day for Livelihoods of Rural Communities.

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

According to 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 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.