

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 9.24 (REV. COP17)

1. This document has been submitted by China.\*

Background

2. The Preamble emphasizes that peoples and States are and should be the best protectors of their own wild fauna and flora.
3. Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13) on *Recognition of the Benefits of Trade in Wildlife* recognizes that implementation of CITES-listing decisions should take into account potential impacts on the livelihoods of the poor.
4. Resolution Conf. 16.6 on *CITES and Livelihoods* recognizes the potential benefits of legal and sustainable trade to both the conservation of the species and the livelihoods of rural communities that live alongside with wildlife.

Benefits

5. Livelihood benefits directly and indirectly from trade in CITES species are very significant, including but not limited to: food security, health, income, resilience to climate change, capacity building, and etc.
6. Because of aforementioned livelihood benefits, in return, legal trade from the wild in CITES species can support and be beneficial for wildlife conservation through:
  - 1) reducing poaching and illegal trade,
  - 2) promoting more positive attitudes toward conservation and conservation agencies,
  - 3) reducing deforestation,
  - 4) reducing incentives to hunt other species,
  - 5) conserving habitat of the “used” species, and
  - 6) reducing reliance on more damaging livelihood.

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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.*

7. However, trade in CITES species could be as beneficial as it could be detrimental without it.

#### Problems

8. Trade regulation decisions that do not carefully consider how they affect livelihoods along the trade chain can have unintended negative conservation impacts.
9. Alternative livelihood, switching away people from reliance on wildlife use, is a popular terminology but it often adds to rather than substitute for the livelihoods detrimental to conservation.
10. Ex-situ production could be created through trade regulations, inside or outside the range state, and it gives further disincentives to livelihoods of people living with the species.
11. Appendix listing without consideration of livelihood would encourage pressures to close the market in the end of the trade chain, hampering both the sustainable trade and the consumers' recognition of the role played by the livelihoods in the range states, as well as that by the themselves in the market.
12. There is little evidence of livelihood being dutifully implemented in CITES decision makings due to a lack of implementable mechanism.

#### Solutions

13. An implementable mechanism could be established by amending Section C. *Supporting Statement* in Annex 6. *Format for proposals to amend the Appendices* of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* by adding several critical analyses of livelihood:

- 1) Impact on Beneficial Livelihood

How and to what extent the proposed listing would impact livelihoods which are beneficial for the conservation of the species in each and every range state, and in the whole trade chain;

- 2) Potential to Detrimental Livelihood

How and to what extent the proposed listing would create the opportunities to divert livelihoods to a way detrimental to the conservation of the species in each and every range state, and in the whole trade chain; and

- 3) Overall Analyses and Remedy Measures

How the proposed listing would impact through livelihoods in the whole trade chain to the conservation of wildlife. If the overall livelihood impact is negative and the listing is still preferred, please articulate what remedy measures would be taken to overcome it after the listing to ensure the long term survival of the species and the livelihood of people live with it.

#### Recommendation

14. Annex 1 to this document contains proposed amendments to Annex 6 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and the Parties are invited to consider the adoption.

#### COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. 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.
- B. This document and document CoP18 Doc. 17.2 both have an objective to encourage consideration of the impacts of measures on rural communities proposed at the Conference of the Parties, which they consider could be achieved by amending Annex 6 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*.

- C. The Secretariat does not recommend adopting the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) in the present document, as there are many elements that may require further consideration on mandate and how to address them in practical terms. Instead, the Secretariat suggests the adoption of the proposal in document CoP18 Doc. 17.2 to amend Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *Submission of draft resolution, draft decisions and other documents to the Conference of the Parties* and Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).
- D. 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.
- E. In order to bring these documents together, the proposed decisions contained in Annex 1 to 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.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 9.24 (REV. COP17)  
(to add the underlined text in Section C of Annex 6 of Resolution Conf. 9.24)

Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II

[...]

Annex 6 : Format for proposals to amend the Appendices

[...]

C. Supporting Statement

[...]

11. Livelihood analyses

11.1 Impact on beneficial livelihood

Specify how and to what extent the proposed listing would impact livelihoods which are beneficial for the conservation of the species in its range states and in the whole trade chain, both the supply side and demand side;

11.2 Potential to detrimental livelihood

Specify how and to what extent the proposed listing could create the opportunities to divert livelihood from a beneficial one into a way detrimental to the conservation of the species in its range states and in the whole trade chain, both the supply side and demand side; and

11.3 Overall analyses and remedy measures

Specify how the proposed listing would impact through livelihoods in the whole trade chain to the conservation of wildlife. If the overall livelihood impact is negative and the listing is still preferred, please articulate what remedy measures would be taken to overcome it after the listing to ensure the long term survival of the species and the livelihood of people live with it.

[...]

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. The authors of this document propose the following tentative budget and source of funding.

The proposed revised resolution will have no direct financial cost for the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees, or for the Secretariat.