

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

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee.*
2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), adopted Decisions 17.26 and 17.27 on *Youth engagement*, as follows:

17.26 directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *review the reports of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife and South Africa's Youth Conservation Programme and evaluate the recommendations put forward; and*
- b) *provide a report to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting that addresses the feasibility of implementing these recommendations and provides recommendations on how CITES Parties can increase youth engagement.*

17.27 directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider the report submitted by the Secretariat and its recommendations, and make any recommendations it deems appropriate to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. The Standing Committee noted at its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017) that the Secretariat in document [SC69 Doc. 23](#) responded to all the recommendations of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife that were submitted to CoP17. The Standing Committee also thanked South Africa and the Youth for Wildlife Conservation for the further information they submitted for consideration by the Standing Committee, as well as the efforts made the Secretariat in youth engagement, including proposing youth engagement as the theme of World Wildlife Day 2017. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to encourage other Parties to inform the Secretariat of progress made to implement Resolution Conf. 17.5 on *Youth engagement*.
4. Following SC69, the Secretariat sent out Notification to the Parties [No. 2018/047](#) of 7 May 2018, requesting all Parties to communicate progress made to implement Resolution Conf. 17.5, to the Secretariat, including efforts made or plans to inform and engage the youth in the preparation of and participation in CoP18.

* *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.*

5. The Secretariat provided information on the responses received from Parties and a report on the Secretariat's observations and activities to promote youth engagement in document [SC70 Doc. 24](#) for the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70, Sochi, October 2018).
6. The Standing Committee noted the report of the Secretariat and commended the Parties that have reported on progress made in youth engagement and empowerment. The Standing Committee further agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting the proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 17.5 on *Youth engagement*. These are found in Annex 1 to the present document.

Recommendation

7. In fulfilment of Decision 17.27, the Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the revisions to Resolution Conf. 17.5 on *Youth Engagement* as found in Annex 1 to the present document and delete Decisions 17.26 and 17.27.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat agrees to the changes made at SC70 to the proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 17.5 and recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the revisions to Resolution Conf. 17.5.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 17.5

Resolution Conf. 17.5 (Rev. CoP18) on Youth engagement
(new text is underlined; deleted text appears in ~~strikeout~~)

~~WELCOMING the efforts of the Youth Forum for People and Wildlife and South Africa's Youth and Conservation Programme to engage young people and serve as examples of ways to integrate youth in wildlife conservation, including CITES matters;~~

NOTING that the United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 as youth without prejudice to other definitions by Member States;

ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth will one day be in decision-making positions and that CITES Parties ~~organizations responsible for wildlife conservation decisions~~ must engage these people now to equip them to be stronger leaders in the future;

RECOGNIZING that by welcoming today's youth into species conservation and wildlife trade conversations, our decision makers will add a rich diversity of ideas and solutions;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth have come of age in a generation very different than those before it, including great technological advancement, and that the skills held by younger colleagues can be valuable tools to ensure that wildlife trade is legal and sustainable;

WELCOMING the designation of youth engagement as the theme of World Wildlife Day 2017; and

FURTHER NOTING that the engagement and empowerment of the youth is high on the agenda of the United Nations and that this objective is being achieved through the youth programmes of various UN system organizations as well as the dedicated UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ENCOURAGES Parties to explore opportunities to engage today's youth in CITES and other wildlife conservation issues, for example through internship or mentoring programmes;
2. INVITES Parties and the CITES Secretariat to work with universities, youth groups, and other relevant associations and organizations, to create educated and engaged youth networks that can inform and influence conservation decisions;
3. INVITES Parties and observer organizations to include youth delegates on official delegations and provide learning opportunities at CITES meetings;
4. INVITES the Secretariat to collaborate with relevant UN organizations and conventions as well as the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth on youth engagement initiatives;
5. ENCOURAGES Parties to use the annual World Wildlife Day as an opportunity to incentivise wildlife conservation awareness among younger generations and to provide platforms for them to engage with one another on conservation issues; and
6. ENCOURAGES Parties to establish long term youth engagement and empowerment strategies to ensure the participation of the youth in wildlife conservation issues and CITES decision-making processes.

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 Standing Committee proposes that the resource implications of the implementation of this amended resolution can be absorbed within the current financial and human resources of the Secretariat.