

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

Interpretation and implementation matters

Existing Resolutions and Decisions

REVIEW OF DECISIONS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In paragraph 4 b) of 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 Secretariat is directed:

to update the Decisions after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to contain all the recommendations (or other forms of decision) that are not recorded in Resolutions and that remain in effect.
3. In implementing this directive, after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties the Secretariat compiles a new list of the Decisions that are in effect.
4. Most of the Decisions in effect after CoP17 relate to subjects featured on the agenda of the present meeting, for which working documents have been submitted. The continuation, amendment or deletion of the related Decisions should be addressed during the discussion of these documents.
5. Decisions that are not the subject of recommendations in other documents are listed in Annex 1 to the present document, together with a brief summary of the activities carried out to implement them since CoP17 and a recommendation from the Secretariat concerning their continuation, amendment or deletion.

Recommendations

6. Taking into account its own recommendations, the Secretariat requests the Conference to decide on the appropriate action to take in relation to the Decisions listed in the Annex to the present document.
7. It should be noted that, in implementing paragraph 4 b) of Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat does not intend to include in the list of Decisions in effect after CoP18 any of the Decisions adopted at previous Conferences of the Parties that are not agreed for continuation, either in an existing or amended form, at the present meeting.

LIST OF DECISIONS TO BE RETAINED OR DELETED
WHICH ARE NOT COVERED IN OTHER CoP18 DOCUMENTS

Decision	Action undertaken	Recommendation of the Secretariat
<p>17.2, 17.4, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.8 Rules of Procedure <i>Directed to the Standing Committee</i> The Standing Committee shall review its Rules of Procedure and align them as closely as possible with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties <i>mutatis mutandis</i>. <i>Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees</i> Based on a proposal prepared by the Secretariat, the Animals and Plants Committees shall review their respective rules of procedure and align them as closely as possible with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee, taking into account the unique composition and role of the Scientific Committees. <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> In order to assist the review of the Standing Committee referred to in Decisions 17.2 and 17.3, the Secretariat shall prepare draft amendments for aligning the existing Rules of Procedure with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties in effect after its 17th meeting and recommend revisions, as appropriate, to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) to address possible inconsistencies and overlap between the Resolution and the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee, for consideration at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee. <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> In order to assist the review of the Animals and Plants Committees referred to in Decision 17.4 and 17.5, the Secretariat shall prepare draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Animals and Plants Committees and recommend revisions, as appropriate, to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) to address possible inconsistencies and overlap between the Resolution and the Rules of Procedure of the Animals and Plants Committees for</p>	<p>The whole set of Decisions on Rules of Procedure were fully implemented by the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees and by the Secretariat. The Chairs of the Committees report on the revision of their Rules of Procedure in their reports to the Conference of the Parties (see documents CoP18 Doc, 9.1.1, Doc. 9.2.1 and Doc, 9.3.1). In document CoP18 Doc. 4.2 on <i>Review of the Rules of Procedure</i>, the Secretariat recommends the deletion of Decision 17.1 and the Standing Committee recommends deletion of Decisions 17.3, 17.5 and 17.9 in document CoP18 Doc. 13 on <i>Revision of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on Establishment of committees</i>. At its 69th meeting (Geneva, November 2017), the Standing adopted revised Rules of Procedure based on a proposal of the Secretariat, in compliance with Decisions 17.2 and 17.6. At their 30th and 24th meetings respectively (Geneva, July 2018), the Animals and Plants Committees adopted revised Rules of Procedure based on a proposal by the Secretariat, in compliance with Decisions 17.4 and 17.7. During the intersessional period, the Secretariat maintained and published on the CITES website a list of active intersessional working groups, established by the Standing Committee, and the Animals and the Plants Committees, including Chairs and members of such groups. In document CoP18 Doc. 13, the Standing Committee is proposing to include this Decision in the revised resolution on <i>Establishment of committees</i>.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decisions 17.2, 17.4, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.8 be deleted as they have been implemented or incorporated in a resolution.</p>

<p>consideration at the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee respectively. <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall maintain and publish on the CITES website a list of active intersessional working groups, established by the Standing Committee, and the Animals and the Plants Committees, including Chairs and members of such groups.</p>		
<p>17.69 Compliance matters <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of Article XIII and Resolution Conf. 14.3 on <i>CITES compliance procedures</i> to the Standing Committee and at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>The Secretariat reports on compliance issues in document CoP18 Doc. 27. The Secretariat notes that, in paragraph 36 of Resolution Conf. 14.3 on <i>CITES compliance procedures</i>, the Secretariat is directed to the report to the Standing Committee and to the Conference of the Parties on compliance matters.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decision 17.69 be deleted.</p>
<p>17.85 Enforcement matters <i>Directed to the Standing Committee</i> The Standing Committee shall: a) examine mechanisms to facilitate the efficient international movement of samples for forensic or enforcement purposes, for consideration by the 18th Conference of the Parties</p>	<p>The Standing Committee has completed this activity and reports in document CoP18 Doc. 56.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decision 17.85, paragraph a), be deleted.</p>
<p>17.86 Community awareness on wildlife trafficking <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall subject to external funding: a) contract a consultant to: i) engage with Parties that reported against Decision 16.85 paragraph c)* and any other Parties as may be appropriate to identify best practices and challenges experienced by these Parties in their implementation of strategies or programmes to enhance community awareness about the economic, social and environmental impacts of trafficking in wildlife, and to encourage the general public to report wildlife trafficking to appropriate authorities for further investigation; ii) conduct a review of existing strategies or programmes to enhance community awareness; and iii) prepare a report on the basis of the findings made through the activities outlined in paragraphs i) and ii) in this decision, together with recommendations, on how to further enhance the effectiveness of such strategies or programmes to enhance community awareness; and b) report progress on the implementation of the present Decision at the 69th and 70th meetings of the Standing Committee.</p>	<p>The Secretariat contracted a consultant who conducted the review as requested by Decision 17.86 and prepared a report which was submitted to the Standing Committee at SC70 in document SC70 Doc. 18, Addendum. This work was therefore completed.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decision 17.86 be deleted.</p>

<p>* <i>China, Greece, South Africa and Zimbabwe – document CoP17 Doc. 68</i></p>		
<p>17.102 and 104 Captive-bred and ranched specimens <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, engage in a capacity-building project using materials prepared under Decisions 16.63 a) vii) and 15.52 a). This project should involve all regions and a variety of taxa. The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on the work undertaken under the present Decision. <i>Directed to the Animals Committee</i> Subject to available resources, the Animals Committee shall review the differences in the nature of non-detriment findings made for specimens with source code W, R and F and provide guidance for Parties, to be sent to the Secretariat for inclusion in the section for non-detriment findings on the CITES website referred to in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Non-detriment findings</i>.</p>	<p>The Secretariat has undertaken two regional training workshops under Decision 17.102 and has raised funds for further such events which complement and support implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.7 on <i>Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i>.</p> <p>No external funding was available for the work proposed in Decision 17.104. The Animals Committee has proposed to include this work as part of its work on non-detriment findings as described in the draft decisions proposed in document CoP18 Doc. 45.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decision 17.102 be retained, and that Decision 17.104 be deleted.</p>
<p>17.108 to 110 Review of Significant Trade <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat, within six months of the adoption of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</i> and building on the work done to date, shall develop, test and establish a Review of Significant Trade Tracking and Management database as an essential tool for the effective implementation and transparency of the process. <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat, subject to the availability of funds, within six months of the adoption of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), shall develop a user-friendly guide to the Review of Significant Trade that can also be included in the initial letter to range States. <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat, subject to the availability of funds, within nine months of the adoption of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), shall develop a comprehensive training module on the Review of Significant Trade (including case studies as appropriate).</p>	<p>As reported at the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC29, Geneva, July 2017) in document AC29 Doc.13.1, at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC30, Geneva, July 2018) in document AC30 Doc. 12.1, at the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC23, Geneva, July 2017) in document PC23 Doc. 15.1 and at the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC24, Geneva, July 2018) in document PC24 Doc. 13.1, activities related to the implementation of Decisions 17.108 to 17.110 remain ongoing.</p>	<p>The Secretariat proposes that Decisions 17.108 to 17.110 be renewed in a revised form, with the words “of the adoption of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</i>” being replaced by “of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties” in each of the three Decisions.</p>
<p>17.120 Reporting requirements <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall maintain a list of reporting requirements and continue to make the information available on the CITES website in a timely and easily accessible manner.</p>	<p>The Secretariat has maintained a list of reporting requirements as directed. See https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/resources/reporting/E-2017%20List%20of%20Reporting%20Requirements.pdf</p>	<p>The Secretariat would appreciate knowing from Parties whether the existing list of reporting requirements is of use – noting that its preparation and maintenance consumes staff resources.</p>

		<p>If it is the wish of the Parties to maintain this task, the Secretariat suggests that this be done by deleting the Decision and adding a new paragraph 4 c) bis in Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties</i>:</p> <p><i>4. c) bis to prepare, following each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a list of reporting requirements and make this information available on the CITES website in a timely and easily accessible manner.</i></p>
<p>17.123 Reporting requirements <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall continue to collaborate with the secretariats of other conventions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other bodies in order to facilitate the harmonization of knowledge management and streamlining of reporting, including ways to reduce the burden of reporting on Parties.</p>	<p>The Secretariat continues, as part of its regular work, to collaborate with the secretariats of other MEAs, conventions and organizations with a view to facilitate the harmonization of knowledge management and streamlining of reporting.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decision 17.123 be deleted.</p>
<p>17.124 to 130 Illegal trade in cheetahs (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>) <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, and in consultation with relevant experts, commission the development of a CITES cheetah trade resource kit that compiles relevant information and tools to assist in implementing the Convention with regard to trade in cheetahs, and addresses inter alia: identification of live cheetahs and parts and derivatives thereof; advice on procedures to be followed in case of seizures including handling, DNA sampling, guidance on the immediate and long-term disposal of live animals (e.g. decision trees based on relevant CITES Resolutions, veterinary care, contact details of experts or potential rescue centres, advice on procedures, reporting on disposal activities); and</p>	<p>In document CoP18 Doc. 60, the Secretariat proposed the deletion of Decisions 17.124 to 130 as it anticipated their completion. Since publication of that document, however, the Standing Committee's intersessional working group agreed that they could not review the CITES cheetah trade resource kit in time for the 71st meeting of the Standing Committee. They agreed that they would review the resource kit for the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decision 17.124, 126, 127, 128 and 130 be deleted as they have been implemented. The Secretariat further recommends that Decisions 17.125 and 17.129 be revised as follows:</p> <p>17.125 (Rev. CoP18) <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall submit a draft CITES cheetah trade resource kit, together with</p>

lists of suitable housing facilities for long-term placement of live cheetahs; and other relevant materials.

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall submit a draft CITES cheetah trade resource kit, together with recommendations on the languages in which it should be made available, and the formats in which it should be made available (e.g. hard copy, smart phone application, web-based), to the Standing Committee at its 69th or 70th meeting for its consideration. The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, make the final version of the kit available in the languages and formats agreed by the Standing Committee, and subject to available resources, revise it as may be necessary to ensure that it remains accurate, up to date and reflecting best practice.

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat, subject to available resources, is invited to assess the feasibility of creating a forum on the CITES website for Parties, experts, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to exchange and share information on cheetahs.

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on progress on all of the recommendations in Standing Committee document SC66 Doc. 32.5, paragraphs 17 and 18, and progress in halting illegal trade in cheetahs.

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall keep the Standing Committee informed about its actions to implement Decisions 17.124 - 127 and report on their implementation and its efforts to halt illegal trade in cheetahs at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review the draft CITES cheetah trade resource kit produced in compliance with Decision 17.125 at its 69th or 70th meeting, and formulate comments and recommendations to the Secretariat for its finalization and dissemination.

Directed to Parties and donors

Parties and potential donors are encouraged to provide funding support to the Secretariat for the implementation of the Decisions regarding Illegal trade in cheetahs (Decisions 17.124 - 130), where needed.

17.162 to 163 Identification (ivory)

Directed to the Secretariat

recommendations on the languages in which it should be made available, and the formats in which it should be made available (e.g. hard copy, smart phone application, web-based), to the Standing Committee at its ~~69th or 70th~~ 73rd meeting for its consideration. The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, make the final version of the kit available in the languages and formats agreed by the Standing Committee, and subject to available resources, revise it as may be necessary to ensure that it remains accurate, up to date and reflecting best practice.

17.129 (Rev. CoP18)

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review the draft CITES cheetah trade resource kit produced in compliance with Decision 17.125 (Rev. CoP18) at its ~~69th or 70th~~ 73rd meeting, and formulate comments and recommendations to the Secretariat for its finalization and dissemination.

The Secretariat contracted a consultant to revise an updated version of the *Identification Guide for Ivory and Ivory*

The Secretariat recommends that Decisions 17.162 and 17.163 be deleted.

<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funds, prepare a revised and updated version of the <i>Identification Guide for Ivory and Ivory Substitutes</i>, taking into account modern forensic methods such as DNA analysis, for circulation to the Parties. <i>Directed to Parties and donors</i> Parties and donors are encouraged to provide voluntary funding to the Secretariat to finance the activity called for in Decision 17.162.</p>	<p><i>Substitutes</i>, taking into account modern forensic methods. The revised guide will be made available at CoP18.</p>	
<p>17.164 to 165 Identification (tiger skins) <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) issue a Notification to the Parties, to request the tiger range States to inform the Secretariat whether they have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins, and if so, the contacts of the relevant National focal points or agencies; and b) inform the Parties which tiger range states have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins, and the contacts of the relevant National focal points or agencies; c) subject to external funding, contract a qualified expert or body to assess the feasibility of establishing, to aid enforcement efforts, a central repository of photographs of wild tigers and seized tiger skins. Such feasibility study shall examine the potential hosts, costs, data management and related issues of such a repository. All tiger range States must be fully consulted as stakeholders; d) report on the implementation of this Decision to the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee. <p><i>Directed to the Standing Committee</i> The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and present its recommendations at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>As directed, the Secretariat issued Notifications to the Parties No. 2017/038 of 15 May 2017 and No. 2017/058 of 10 August 2017 and received three responses from Parties. A dedicated section on the CITES website on identification materials for tiger skins has been developed to serve as the source of information-sharing (see https://cites.org/eng/imp/identification_materials/index.php)</p> <p>No external funding was secured to implement Decision 17.164, paragraph c), to undertake a feasibility study. Considering that there are only two photographic databases of tigers (India and Thailand) and limited Party interest, the Secretariat sees little merit in keeping the Decision calling for a feasibility study for the establishment and maintenance of a central repository of photographs of wild tigers and seized tiger skins.</p> <p>In the meantime, such information can still be shared through the dedicated section on the CITES website on identification materials (see https://cites.org/eng/imp/identification_materials/index.php), or through the existing secure channel of communication among the CITES enforcement authorities.</p> <p>As directed, the Secretariat reported to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting in document SC69 Doc. 44.1 and at its 70th meeting in document SC70 Doc. 42.1. The Standing Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties that Decisions 17.164 to 165 can be considered completed.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decisions 17.164 to 165 be deleted.</p>
<p>16.58 (Rev. CoP17) Physical inspection of timber shipments <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> By the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall:</p>	<p>At the previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat had proposed to delete this Decision as there had been little interest from the Parties in its implementation (see</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decision 16.58 (Rev. CoP17) be deleted.</p>

<p>a) obtain information and materials from those Parties that have reported that they have developed tools and procedures for the identification and measurement of CITES-listed tree species, and the physical inspection of timber shipments;</p> <p>b) publish the information on the CITES website so that it can be accessed by CITES plant inspection and enforcement authorities; and</p> <p>c) incorporate this information into its capacity-building activities related to timber trade.</p>	<p>document CoP17 Doc.21). This situation is unchanged since CoP17.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the Plants Committee has proposed a new set of draft decisions on timber identification in document CoP18 Doc. 54.2. These draft decisions, if adopted, would replace current Decisions 17.166-17.169 on <i>Identification (timber)</i> and provide for a more comprehensive approach as to how timber identification tools can be made available to Parties, for the purposes of implementing the Convention.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that the CITES Tree Species Programme includes activities related to tree products identification and capacity-building (see document CoP18 Doc.16). The outputs of those activities will be made available on the CITES website.</p>	
<p>17.173 to 174 Simplified procedure for permits and certificates <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting Parties to report on their implementation of, and experiences with the simplified procedures to issue permits and certificates to facilitate and expedite trade that will have a negligible impact, or none, on the conservation of the species concerned, as agreed under Section XII of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Permits and certificates</i>, and submit a compilation of this information and its recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee prior to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. <i>Directed to the Standing Committee</i> The Standing Committee shall consider the report and recommendations from the Secretariat provided in accordance with Decision 17.173 and make recommendations for consideration by the Parties, if deemed necessary.</p>	<p>As directed, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2017/071 of 22 November 2017 on Simplified procedures for permits and certificates and submitted an oral report to 69th meeting of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee's resulting recommendations are submitted to the present meeting in document CoP18 Doc. 56.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decisions 17.173 to 174 be deleted.</p>
<p>16.53 Non-detriment findings <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) invite Parties to submit their experiences and the results from workshops, projects or publications related to the making of non-detriment findings for inclusion in the CITES website; and</p>	<p>Updates on the implementation of Decision 16.53 were provided by the Secretariat at the joint session of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, through document AC30 Doc. 10.1/PC24 Doc. 10.1. The Animals and Plants Committees agreed to new draft decisions on non-detriment findings, which are presented in Annex 1 of document CoP18 Doc 45.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decision 16.53 be deleted.</p>

<p>b) ensure this information is available in other formats (e.g. CD-ROM) where appropriate.</p>	<p>The Secretariat notes that, in paragraph 3 of Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Non-detriment findings</i>, the Conference of the Parties directs the Secretariat to “maintain a prominent section for non-detriment findings on the CITES website and to update it regularly with information from the Animals and Plants Committees, Parties and other sources.”</p>	
<p>17.182 to 184 Sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.) <i>Directed to range States for Acipenseriformes</i> All Range States of Acipenseriformes are invited to submit data relating to the content of the table contained in Annex 3 of Resolution 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish</i> to the Secretariat to be considered at the next meeting of the Animals Committee. <i>Directed to the Animals Committee</i> The Animals Committee shall, based on the information submitted by range states, discuss the content of the table contained in Annex 3 of Resolution 12.7 (Rev. CoP17), including possible amendments, and report to the Standing Committee. <i>Directed to the Standing Committee</i> The Standing Committee shall, based on the report of the Animals Committee, propose possible amendments to the table contained in Annex 3 of Resolution 12.7 (Rev. CoP17), as appropriate, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Standing Committee agreed that, in case no clear research results become available, the interpretation of shared sturgeons 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 (see document SC69 Summary record).</p> <p>The Standing Committee reports on the implementation of these Decisions in paragraph 14 of document CoP18 Doc. 9.1.1.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decisions 17.182 to 184 be deleted as they have been implemented.</p>
<p>17.190 and 191 Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae) <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to:</p> <p>a) issue a notification that invites precious coral range States and relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, on a voluntary basis, to complete a questionnaire/survey (Annex 2 of document CoP17 Com. I. 11) to report data on their precious coral resources (black, red, and pink coral species including species within the order Antipatharia, and family Coralliidae), especially current and historical abundance, biological status, management, and any known harvest for domestic or international trade; and</p> <p>b) compile range States’ and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations’ data into a report for submission to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee for its consideration. <i>Directed to the Secretariat</i></p>	<p>The Secretariat reported to the Animals Committee at its 29th meeting (Geneva, July 2017) in document AC29 Doc. 22 that, in compliance with Decision 17.190, the Secretariat had issued Notification to the Parties No. 2017/25, containing a questionnaire on precious corals, inviting Parties and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to provide, on a voluntary basis, information on precious coral resources. Decision 17.191 will be considered fully implemented when the study it refers to is presented as an information document. to CoP18. Document CoP18 Doc. 64 recommends that Decisions 17.192 and 17.193 be extended.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decisions 17.190 and 191 be deleted.</p>

<p>The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to commission a study by species experts on CITES and non-CITES listed precious coral species (black, red, and pink coral species including species within the order Antipatharia, and family Coralliidae) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consideration of any responses received to the Notification issued in response to Decision 17.190; b) compilation of available data and information on the biology, population status, use and trade in each species, as well as identification of gaps in such data and information; c) comparison of the management and harvest regulation schemes for black and red and pink coral species; and d) preparation of a report for consideration at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee, on the conservation status and trade of precious corals, including guidance, if appropriate, on the actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of precious corals. 		
<p>17.219 to 221 Bread palms (<i>Encephalartos</i> spp.) <i>Directed to Parties</i> All Parties should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) immediately bring every seizure of illegal <i>Encephalartos</i> species specimens made within their territories to the attention of authorities in range States, countries of origin, transit and destination, as applicable, and to the attention of the Secretariat. Information on the seizure should be accompanied by available associated information to enable follow-up investigations to take place; b) notify the CITES Secretariat of seizures of specimens of <i>Encephalartos</i> species for which the origin cannot be determined. Such a notification should include information describing the circumstances of the seizure; c) submit samples from specimens of <i>Encephalartos</i> species confiscated and/or subject to criminal investigation, to designated forensic laboratories for DNA analysis on the basis of a standard protocol provided by South Africa; d) prior to issuing permits or certificates, including pre-Convention certificates, authorizing the import or re-export of specimens of <i>Encephalartos</i> species, consult with the country of origin, so that the true nature of the trade and source of specimens may be confirmed and monitored. 	<p>The Secretariat reported to the Standing Committee on the implementation of Decisions 17.219 to 17.221 as directed in document SC69 Doc. 52.</p> <p>Pursuant to Decision 17.221 the Standing Committee considered the report of the Secretariat on this matter at SC69 and agreed a number of recommendations as presented in document SC69 Sum. 9 (Rev. 1), as follows:</p> <p>The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to register nurseries producing artificially propagated specimens of <i>Encephalartos</i> spp. in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes</i>, and to ensure that the correct source codes are applied when exporting artificially propagated <i>Encephalartos</i> spp. specimens.</p> <p>The Standing Committee encouraged all range States of <i>Encephalartos</i> spp. to step up their measures to regulate the activities of exporters of artificially propagated <i>Encephalartos</i> spp. specimens, to ensure the legal origin of stocks and to</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decisions 17.219 to 17.221 be deleted.</p>

<p><i>Directed to the Secretariat</i> The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) subject to external funding, develop, in conjunction with relevant institutions and experts, a manual containing guidelines on best practices, protocols and operational procedures that will promote the use of wildlife forensic technology as it relates to plant material; b) prepare a questionnaire to assist Parties in compiling information on legal and illegal trade in <i>Encephalartos</i> spp. specimens, drawing upon the template for species-specific reporting adopted by the Standing Committee, and make this questionnaire available to Parties through a Notification to the Parties; and c) drawing upon the reports received from Parties in response to the Notification to the Parties mentioned in Decision 17.220 paragraph b), prepare a report on legal and illegal trade in <i>Encephalartos</i> spp. specimens, including recommendations, for consideration by the Standing Committee. <p><i>Directed to the Standing Committee</i> The Standing Committee shall at its 69th meeting, consider the report of the CITES Secretariat and determine further actions to be implemented by Parties in relation to the international trade in <i>Encephalartos</i> species.</p>	<p>prevent <i>Encephalartos</i> spp. from the wild from entering illegal trade.</p> <p>The Standing Committee further encouraged all Parties, in particular range States, to implement strict measures to regulate at national level the ownership and possession of <i>Encephalartos</i> spp.</p>	
<p>17.235 to 238 African wild dog (<i>Lycaon pictus</i>) <i>Directed to range and consumer States for African wild dog (Lycaon pictus)</i> Range States of African wild dog (<i>Lycaon pictus</i>) are encouraged to take measures to prevent illegal trade in African wild dog, and to consider including the species in Appendix III. <i>Directed to range and consumer States for African wild dog (Lycaon pictus)</i> Parties are encouraged to share information about trade in the species, including levels and sources of species in trade with Burkina Faso, assisted by the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and in the context of the Joint CITES-CMS Work Programme. <i>Directed to range States for African wild dog (Lycaon pictus) and interested organizations</i> Range States are encouraged to collaborate and exchange best conservation practices regarding the preservation and restoration of</p>	<p>Burkina Faso reported on the implementation of Decisions 17.235 to 17.237 to the Animals Committee in documents AC29 Doc. 28 and AC30 Doc. 24. These reports were noted by the Committee.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decisions 17.235 to 17.238 be deleted.</p>

<p>African wild dog (<i>Lycaon pictus</i>) populations, and are invited to cooperate with the CMS, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other interested organizations in taking actions at the national and regional level, in particular with regard to: habitat conservation; the establishment of ecological corridors to address habitat fragmentation; the management of infectious diseases; the restoration of prey-basis; human-wildlife conflicts; and trade, including trade in captive bred specimens.</p> <p><i>Directed to range States for African wild dog (Lycaon pictus) and interested organizations</i></p> <p>Burkina Faso is invited to report to the Animals Committee on the implementation of Decisions 17.235 to 17.237 at the 29th or 30th Animals Committee meetings, as appropriate.</p>		
<p>16.153 (Rev. CoP17) to 16.154 (Rev. CoP17) East African sandalwood (<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>) <i>Directed to the Plants Committee and the Eastern African range States for <i>Osyris</i> species</i></p> <p>The Plants Committee and Eastern African range States of <i>Osyris</i> species shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) review and gather further information on the conservation status of, trade in and use of <i>Osyris</i> species and look-alike species and, assess their impact in the conservation status of <i>Osyris lanceolata</i>; b) assess the data required to make non-detriment findings following the existing guidance; c) identify mechanisms to help build capacity to carry out non-detriment findings for currently-listed populations; d) report to the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee on the outcomes and recommendations of the workshop organized under Decision 16.154 (Rev. CoP17) b); and e) report on their work at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. <p><i>Directed to the Secretariat</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Secretariat shall assist in obtaining external funding for the implementation of Decision 16.153 (Rev. CoP17); and b) Subject to the availability of funding, the Secretariat shall organize a consultative meeting of <i>Osyris lanceolata</i> range States to bring together relevant representatives of CITES Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities to share and exchange data, information, intelligence and law enforcement measures, in combating illegal trade in the species. 	<p>At its 23rd meeting (PC23, Geneva, July 2017), the Plants Committee established an intersessional working group on East African sandalwood. At its 24th meeting, the Committee received an oral report from the intersessional working group and subsequently agreed to consider Decisions 16.153 (Rev. CoP17) and 16.154 (Rev. CoP17) as completed.</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends Decisions 16.153 (Rev. CoP17) to 16.154 (Rev. CoP17) be deleted.</p>

<p>17.246 to 249 Freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae spp.) <i>Directed to range States of freshwater stingrays</i> Range States of freshwater stingrays (family Potamotrygonidae) are encouraged to continue to exchange information on the conservation and management of, and trade in these species. <i>Directed to range States of freshwater stingrays</i> Range States of freshwater stingrays (family Potamotrygonidae) are encouraged to include all species of concern*, as identified by the Animals Committee, in Appendix III, and consider options for including species in Appendix II. * Species of priority concern as identified by the Animals Committee in the Annex to document AC28 Doc. 18: – Paratrygon "aiereba" species complex (Amazon and Orinoco basins) – Potamotrygon leopoldi (Amazon basin) – Potamotrygon schroederi (Amazon and Orinoco basins) – Potamotrygon brachyura (other catchment basins) – Potamotrygon "motoro" species complex (all catchments) Note that the priority species identified include both undescribed species and clusters of species. <i>Directed to Parties and interested organizations</i> Parties and interested organizations are encouraged to conduct or promote research concerning the captive breeding and sustainable use of freshwater stingrays (family Potamotrygonidae) at the global level, including the species involved, the numbers produced, the source of parental stock, and the international trade dynamics and market developments, and the collaboration between Parties with ex situ breeding operations for freshwater stingrays and those with in situ conservation programs. <i>Directed to Parties, the Secretariat and interested organizations</i> The Secretariat, subject to external funding, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations [including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)] and Parties are encouraged to support range States in the mathematical modelling of population trends for freshwater stingrays (family Potamotrygonidae) and the Secretariat shall report any such activities to the Animals Committee as appropriate.</p>	<p>To facilitate implementation of Decisions 17.246 to 249, the Secretariat, prior to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC29, Geneva, July 2017) compiled an inventory of available data on freshwater stingray populations and invited experts, range States and interested organizations to submit relevant information. This information is compiled in the Secretariat's report in document AC29 Doc. 24.</p> <p>Based on the information, the Animals Committee made the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The working group considered the information compiled in the annexes and commended the Parties for this information. While this information is very useful, it was deemed insufficient as the basis for population modelling. 2. The Animals Committee encouraged Parties, organizations and other relevant stakeholders to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) identify data gaps and research required to support modelling of populations; ii) carry out field studies to gather additional data on key life history, population parameters, and international trade, as well as studies of the taxonomy of this group; iii) identify the type of population modelling that will inform whether harvest for international trade is detrimental to the species in the wild; and iv) provide financial assistance to the range States to undertake field studies and conduct research. 	<p>The Secretariat recommends Decisions 17.246 to 17.249 be deleted.</p>
<p>17.275 to 284 Snakes (Serpentes spp.) <i>Directed to Southeast Asian Parties engaged in the snake trade</i></p>	<p>The Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat reported on activities concerning the implementation of</p>	<p>The Secretariat recommends that Decisions 17.275 to 17.284 be deleted.</p>

<p>Southeast Asian Parties engaged in the snake trade are recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) verify the origin of specimens traded between countries in the region; and b) ensure the appropriate use of source codes. <p><i>Directed to Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo</i></p> <p>Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo are encouraged to undertake the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Honduras: to ensure that measures are in place to address poaching of, and illegal trade in, the Cayos Cochinos boa constrictor (<i>Boa constrictor imperator</i>); b) Benin: to implement the following measures for the Ball python (<i>Python regius</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) design and implement a management programme for the species; ii) make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and iii) strengthen national regulations relating to trade control and monitoring, including stricter control policies for production systems. c) Benin, Ghana and Togo: to implement the following measures for the Calabar ground boa (<i>Calabaria reinhardtii</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) make non-detriment findings based on studies of the species, basic demographics, harvest and trade in the species; and ii) improve systems to monitor harvest, captive breeding, and trade in the species; d) Indonesia: to improve enforcement of existing laws and take into account the recommendations provided in the document to more effectively regulate the collection of and trade in the populations of the wild green tree python (<i>Morelia viridis</i>) and the Boelen's python (<i>Morelia boeleni</i>); and e) Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo: to report to the Secretariat on the implementation of actions directed to them in this Decision, for transmission to, and review by the Animals Committee at one of its meetings between the 17th meeting and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequent reporting by the Animals Committee to the Standing Committee. <p><i>Directed to Parties</i></p>	<p>Decisions 17.276, 17.278, 17.279, 17.281, 17.283 and 17.284 in document SC70 Doc. 59.</p> <p>At AC30, the Animals Committee discussed the issue and due to the lack of response to the requests for information from the concerned Parties, expressed its concern with processes that are parallel to the process of the Review of Significant Trade (RST), without the RST structure. It therefore recommended to suggest to the Standing Committee that concerning Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo instead of extending Decision 17.276 after CoP18, it would request the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre to pay particular attention to <i>Boa constrictor imperator</i> from Honduras, <i>Python regius</i> from Benin, and <i>Calabaria reinhardtii</i> from Benin, Ghana and Togo when performing its initial analysis of trade data in the context of the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species, and the review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity after the next Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>At SC70, the Standing Committee noted the conclusions of the Animals Committee in document SC70 Doc. 59 in fulfilment of Decision of 17.280</p> <p>The AC Chair reports on the implementation of these Decisions in document CoP18 Doc. 9.2.1.</p>	
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- Parties are invited to consider undertaking the following actions:
- a) range States, importing countries, and other Parties to conduct more detailed assessments of those species indicated in Table 1 of document AC28 Doc. 14.3, for which available information suggests that international trade is “likely to be a threat” (four species) or “may be a threat” (29 species);
 - b) range States:
 - i) to submit listing proposals for the four species categorized as “likely to be threatened by trade” and for the three species categorized as “may be threatened by trade” and have an IUCN status (CR, EN, VU), including: *Euprepiophis perlacea*, *Enhydris longicauda*, and *Cryptelytrops rubeus*; and
 - ii) to consider including the remaining species categorized as “may be threatened by trade” in the Appendices;
 - c) range States of *Popeia buniata* (Malaysia), *Popeia nebularis* (Malaysia), *Cryptelytrops kanburiensis* (Thailand and probably Myanmar) and *Orthriophis moellendorfi* (China and Viet Nam):
 - i) to assess whether existing legislation, protected areas and current levels of trade are compatible with the conservation of these species in the wild; and
 - ii) to evaluate the possible listing of these species under CITES (including Appendix III);
 - d) Parties and range States:
 - i) to compile more information on the exploitation levels (i.e. direct harvest and as by-catch) of freshwater and marine aquatic snakes subject to high volumes of international trade, including all species of Elapidae (*Hydrophis* spp., *Kerilia* spp., *Lapemis* spp., *Laticauda* spp., *Thalassophina* spp.) and Homalopsidae (*Enhydris* spp., *Erpeton* spp., *Homalopsis* spp.) indicated in Table 1 of document AC28 Doc. 14.3; and
 - ii) to evaluate the possible listing of these species under CITES (including Appendix III);
 - e) exporting countries and other Parties to put in place precautionary management measures, such as establishing closed areas or seasons, daily seasonal catch quotas, restricting the use of certain types of fishing gear or imposing size-limits, and improved domestic monitoring and reporting mechanisms for aquatic (freshwater and marine) snakes,

<p>including all Elapidae and Homalopsidae species indicated in Table 1 of document AC28 Doc. 14.3; and</p> <p>f) Parties to encourage research to improve the understanding of the ecology, biology and conservation of Asian snakes, inter alia through supporting relevant scientific institutions and promoting additional field studies.</p> <p><i>Directed to Parties</i> Parties should eliminate the important illegal and unreported trade in specimens, whether live or parts and derivatives, of CITES-listed snake species by:</p> <p>a) ensuring that CITES permits and certificates are properly issued for trade in these specimens;</p> <p>b) including information on trade in these specimens in their CITES annual reports;</p> <p>c) ensuring that their annual reports are following the most recent version of the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>National reports</i>;</p> <p>d) examining their enforcement efforts regarding trade in these specimens to ensure that adequate steps are taken to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade;</p> <p>e) undertaking education and outreach activities directed towards snake farms, buyers and sellers of live snakes, parts and derivatives, product manufacturers, shippers, brokers and staff from government agencies involved in controlling and monitoring this trade to ensure that snake specimens are traded in compliance with national laws and CITES provisions; and</p> <p>f) in the case of Parties in Asia, reporting on their efforts in all of these areas to the Secretariat in time for its reporting at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.</p> <p><i>Directed to the Animals Committee</i> The Animals Committee shall continue to review guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for the export of CITES-listed snakes, information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo provided in accordance with Decision 17.276 and new information on the trade in, and sustainable use and conservation of snakes, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Directed to the Standing Committee</i> The Standing Committee shall:</p>		
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- a) consider the reports and recommendations from the Animals Committee submitted in accordance with Decision 17.279 and any other relevant information;
- b) make recommendation to the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat as appropriate; and
- c) report on the implementation of Decision 17.279 at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with recommendations for consideration by the Parties, including revisions to Resolution Conf. 17.12 on *Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes*, if deemed necessary.

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall communicate bilaterally with relevant Asian Parties to invite them to report on the status of their implementation of Decision 17.278.

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall make any relevant information on trade, sustainable use and conservation of snakes available to Parties and the Animals Committee through the CITES website.

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall transmit the information provided by Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo in accordance with Decision 17.278 to the Animals Committee for consideration at one of its meetings between the 17th meeting and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

The CITES Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:

- a) compile information and develop guidance that can assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings, management systems for wild populations and the establishment of export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade;
- b) conduct one or more interdisciplinary workshops for CITES authorities, and other relevant authorities and stakeholders, of range States of Asian snake species in international trade on:
 - i) the use of guidance for monitoring and controlling captive-breeding operations and other production systems; and
 - ii) the use of guidance for making non-detriment findings and establishing export quotas for Appendix-II snake species in trade; and
- c) report on the results of these activities to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate, before the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

<p>17.302 African tree species <i>Directed to the Plants Committee</i> The Plants Committee shall form a working group on African tree species with the following terms of reference, as well as any other terms it deems appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The working group will work primarily via electronic means; b) The working group will seek to facilitate the circulation and exchange of experiences among the range States, importing countries and other stakeholders on the sustainable use and management of CITES-listed African tree species; c) The working group will seek to identify gaps and weaknesses in the capacity of range States of African tree species to effectively implement CITES for these species; d) The working group will examine how the processes currently used by countries to develop annual export quotas compare with the processes recommended under CITES and develop recommendations for reconciling them; e) The working group will explore the conversion factors used for different commodities (e.g., logs, sawn wood, bark) and develop recommendations for improving such processes; f) The working group will seek to identify other African tree species that may benefit from inclusion in the CITES Appendices; g) The working group will bring any issues related to implementation and enforcement of CITES listings for African tree species to the attention of the Plants Committee; and h) The working group will report its findings and recommendations to the Plants Committee. 	<p>At its 23rd meeting (PC23, Geneva, July 2017), the Plants Committee established intersessional working group on African tree species. At its 24th meeting, the Committee considered a report from the Secretariat on African tree species under document PC24 Doc. 21 (Rev. 1). Based on this, the Plants Committee agreed to propose the retention of Decision 17.302.</p>	<p>The Secretariat proposes that Decision 17.302 be maintained as agreed by the Plants Committee.</p>
<p>14.81 Great whales <i>Directed to the Animals Committee</i> No periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the moratorium by the International Whaling Commission is in place.</p>	<p>Since CoP17, the Animals Committee has not selected great whales for its periodic review of the Appendices, which it conducts in compliance with Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II</i>.</p>	<p>The Secretariat proposes that Decision 14.81 be maintained.</p>