

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

Regulation of trade

STOCKS AND STOCKPILES

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee.*
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.170, directed to the Standing Committee, as follows:

The Standing Committee shall, with the assistance of the Secretariat, review the existing provisions agreed by the Parties concerning controls on stocks of specimens of CITES-listed species. It shall consider their objectives and implementation and the resource implications for Parties and the Secretariat, and shall report its conclusions and recommendation at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. At its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November-December 2017) the Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on stocks and stockpiles, with the following mandate:
 - a) review the existing provisions agreed by the Parties concerning controls on stocks of specimens of CITES listed species provided in Annex 2 of document SC69 Doc. 43;
 - b) identify CITES conservation and enforcement objectives in the management of both government and privately held stocks and stockpiles of specimens;
 - c) suggest definitions of “stock” and “stockpile”;
 - d) consult with Parties affected by the measures in Annex 2 of document SC69 Doc. 43, through a Notification to them, to request information concerning the resources they use to implement these Resolutions and Decisions including any significant challenges they face in maintaining these stockpiles and using this information consider resource implications for Parties and the Secretariat;
 - e) consult with Parties, INTERPOL, World Customs Organization, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Trade Organization, museums, appropriate representatives of private industry and any other technical experts to identify best practices for robust stockpile management systems, identification of specimens (age and origin), inventory, corruption prevention, and disposal / destruction, with particular sensitivity to cost effectiveness required by developing countries;
 - f) explore the legal implications of a Party selling confiscated specimens;

* *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.*

- g) consider different approaches to managing stockpiles of legally acquired specimens, and stockpiles of confiscated specimens, as well as the different treatment of stockpiles containing species listed in Appendices I, II and III; and
 - h) on the basis of the discussions at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee and the results of paragraphs a) to g) above, report conclusions and recommendations to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.
4. The membership of the intersessional working group on stocks and stockpiles was agreed as follows: Israel (Chair), Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Mozambique, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, United States of America, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe; and Born Free Foundation, C.F. Martin & Co., Inc., Environmental Investigation Agency – US, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Ivory Education Institute, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund.
 5. The intersessional working group reported back to the Standing Committee, at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) in [document SC70 Doc. 41](#). The document:
 - a) reviewed the existing provisions agreed by the Parties concerning controls on stocks of specimens of CITES-listed species and reflected on responses from a consultation with Parties on the resources they use to implement these and any significant challenges they face in maintaining stockpiles;
 - b) identified the CITES conservation and enforcement objectives in the management of both government and privately held stocks and stockpiles of specimens;
 - c) suggested definitions of “stock” and “stockpile”;
 - d) contained views of INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime on this issue;
 - e) explored the legal implications of a Party selling confiscated specimens; and
 - f) considered different approaches to managing stockpiles of legally acquired specimens, and stockpiles of confiscated specimens, as well as the different treatment of stockpiles containing species listed in Appendices I, II and III
 6. In a range of areas the intersessional working group was not able achieve consensus. Standing Committee Members and Parties generally agreed that work on this subject should continue, but if this is agreed by the Conference of the Parties, the Committee’s future work should have a more defined scope that excludes discussions regarding the management of stockpiles.

Recommendation

7. The Standing Committee recommends to the Conference of the Parties that Decision 17.170 be continued as follows:

Decision 17.170 (Rev. CoP18)

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, with the assistance of the Secretariat, review the existing provisions agreed by the Parties concerning controls on stocks of specimens of CITES-listed species. It shall consider their objectives and implementation, and the resource implications for Parties and the Secretariat, and shall report its conclusions and recommendations at the ~~48~~19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the recommendation of the Standing Committee.
- B. The Secretariat also recommends that any future work by the Committee on this matter should more clearly focus on identifying the objectives of existing provisions agreed by the Parties concerning controls on stocks and stockpiles of specimens of CITES-listed species and the resources required by the Parties and the Secretariat to implement them. In this way, the Conference of the Parties can determine the cost-effectiveness and usefulness of these provisions and the best way to design any future provisions on this matter.

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 proposed revised Decision will have no direct financial cost, but will have workload implications for the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.