

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

Species specific matters

APPENDIX I-LISTED SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on *Appendix I-listed species*:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

17.22 *Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall contract International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) or other consultants, as appropriate, to make a rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal in trade in species included in Appendix I, with an indication of conservation priorities based on levels of threats caused by trade and resource availability to address these threats, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees, following consultation with range States. The Secretariat shall make recommendations to the Animals and Plants Committees on how the findings can contribute to the implementation of Aichi Target 12.*

17.23 *The Secretariat shall assist Parties in leveraging funding for the recovery of those species included in Appendix I which have the highest risk of extinction and for which no funding of conservation projects is known to exist.*

***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

17.24 *The Animals Committee and the Plants Committees shall review the report and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 17.22, and formulate recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties and consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.*

***Directed to Parties***

17.25 *Parties are encouraged to seek support from governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other bodies to provide financial assistance for the recovery of species included in Appendix I that are facing the highest extinction risk and for which no projects or funding are currently available.*

Background

3. Decisions 17.22 to 17.25 were linked to the implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020* and the contribution by CITES to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

4. The CITES vision statement, as adopted in [Resolution Conf. 16.3 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) on *CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020*, is to “conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss and making a significant contribution towards achieving the relevant *Aichi Biodiversity Targets*”.
5. In order to achieve the purpose of the Strategic Vision, three goals, with several objectives each, were identified, of which Goal 3 and Objective 3.4 read as follows:
 

*Goal 3: Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and to achieving relevant globally-agreed goals and targets by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.*

*Objective 3.4: The contribution of CITES to the relevant Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals set at WSSD [World Summit on Sustainable Development], the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.*
6. The Aichi Targets defined in the CBD Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 (see COP 10 Decision X/2) include, under Strategic goal C (“Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity”), Target 12, which states that “By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained”. This has also been incorporated in the 2030 Agenda, where target 15.5 under SDG 15 reads: “Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2030, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species”.

#### Implementation of Decisions 17.222 to 17.225

7. At the joint session of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and of the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (AC29/PC23, Geneva, July 2017), the Secretariat noted with regret that a lack of resources had prevented the implementation of Decision 17.22. Based on consultations with potential service providers, the Secretariat had provided a cost estimate of USD 100,000 to 300,000 for the rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and the legal and illegal trade in Appendix-I listed species called for in Decision 17.222 (see documents [CoP17 Doc. 79](#) and [AC29 Doc. 8/PC23 Doc. 9](#)).
8. In discussions on this agenda item at the meeting, Parties voiced concern about the lack of terms of reference for the work that would be required from the consultant, as well as the budget estimations for the consultancy. They suggested that information from Parties regarding the work already under way to improve Appendix-I species conservation status might be helpful in clarifying the role of the consultant.
9. The Committees established an informal advisory group to draft, in collaboration with the Secretariat, terms of reference and methods for the consultancy called for in Decision 17.22. The membership was decided as follows: Animals Committee representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming); Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.
10. Because the Secretariat was unable to identify any donors interested in partially or fully funding the large research project envisaged under Decision 17.22, it did not enlist the advisory group’s assistance in drafting the terms of reference for the consultancy.
11. At the joint session of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (AC30/PC24, Geneva, July 2018), the Secretariat presented document [AC30 Doc. 8/PC24 Doc. 8](#) and explained that no funding had been made available to implement the Decisions. The Secretariat proposed that a methodology for undertaking an initial assessment could utilise existing data sources, such as: the IUCN Red List and Sampled Red List Index for Plants (for conservation status, threats and trends), CITES Trade Database (level of legal trade), the Species+ database (range State distribution, published quotas, listings under the Convention on Migratory Species, etc.), and CITES illegal trade reports (for level of seizures). It could also collate ongoing national efforts to improve Appendix-I species conservation status. It was estimated that if this task were to be externally funded, it would require approximately USD 30,000.

12. The Secretariat also pointed out that conducting more detailed assessments would require extensive consultations with the relevant range States. Such consultations would help to identify which species could benefit from targeted action, according to their conservation status; availability of funding for conservation; development of recovery plans; and the extent to which they are legally or illegally traded. It was estimated that the consultations with the relevant range States would cost in the region of USD 70,000 to 100,000. The funding required to implement the measures required to achieve recovery of the species is difficult to determine before the assessment is carried out.
13. The Committees agreed that it was important to continue this work and requested the Secretariat to submit draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting in order to continue the work called for in Decisions 17.22 to 17.25, taking into account the steps outlined in paragraph 11 of document AC30 Doc. 8/PC24 Doc. 8.
14. As instructed, the Secretariat developed a draft set of draft decisions to continue this work, which was discussed and agreed with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and is presented in Annex 1 to this document. These new decisions take into account that it would not be possible to complete all of the work envisaged in Decisions 17.22 to 17.25 before the deadline of 2020 for the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 12, it is not possible to predict how many Appendix I-listed species might be identified that could potentially benefit from concerted action, and what the funding requirements would be in order to develop and implement recovery plans for those species. It is therefore proposed that the rapid assessment and the assessments in consultation with range States would be carried out following CoP18, with a view to presenting recommendations for further action under CITES to CoP19. It must be emphasized that the ability to implement these Decisions will be subject to the availability of external funding, which is outlined in Annex 2 to this document.

#### Recommendation

15. The Conference of the Parties is invited to delete Decisions 17.22 to 17.25 on Appendix I-listed species and replace them with the draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to this document.

### **Draft decisions on Appendix I-listed species**

#### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

18.AA *Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall*

- a) *contract consultants, as appropriate, to undertake the following:*
  - i) *conduct a rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal trade in, species included in Appendix I;*
  - ii) *in consultation with range States, produce detailed assessments on the conservation status, threats, relevance of trade, ongoing in situ and ex situ conservation strategies or recovery plans and funding/resources available or required for the species concerned and selected; and*
  - iii) *produce a report identifying and prioritising those Appendix-I species that could potentially benefit from future action under CITES; and*
- b) *produce a report with its recommendations to the Animals and Plants Committees for consideration at their 32nd and 26th meetings, respectively.*

#### ***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

18.BB *The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 18.AA paragraph b), and formulate recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the range States and consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.*

**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 Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.

While the administration of the externally funded activities proposed in decision 18.AA could be absorbed within the existing resources of the Secretariat, the required budget is estimated as follows:

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost implications (USD)</b>	<b>Source of funding</b>
18.AA a) i)	Undertake a rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal trade in, species included in Appendix I	30,000	Not identified
18.AA a) ii) and iii)	Consultation with range States and production of a report identifying and prioritising those Appendix-I species that could potentially benefit from future action under CITES	70,000 - 100,000	Not identified