

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

Maintenance of the Appendices

REVIEW OF RESOLUTION CONF. 10.9 ON CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS
FOR THE TRANSFER OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT POPULATIONS
FROM APPENDIX I TO APPENDIX II

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee.*
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties amended following Decision 16.160 as follows:

16.160 (Rev. CoP17) directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall establish a working group to review Resolution Conf. 10.9 on Consideration of proposals for the transfer of African elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II as appropriate. The working group could consider, inter alia, issues such as the scope of the Resolution; its relationship with Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II; and whether or how a more efficient and cost-effective mechanism to review elephant listing proposals could be developed. The Standing Committee will report its proposals at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The working group shall work in collaboration and consultation with all African elephant range States. To the extent possible, the working group will operate in English and French.

Implementation of Decision 16.160 (Rev. CoP17)

3. At its 69th meeting, the Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on Resolution Conf. 10.9, chaired by Germany. The mandate of the intersessional working group was to consider, *inter alia*, issues such as the scope of the Resolution; its relationship with Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17); and whether or how a more efficient and cost-effective mechanism to review elephant listing proposals could be developed; to work in collaboration and consultation with all African elephant range States; and to report to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018).
4. In this regard, the Chair of the intersessional working group put forward four possible options for the working group to consider, namely to: repeal Resolution Conf. 10.9; maintain Resolution Conf. 10.9 without amendments; amend Resolution Conf. 10.9; or merge Resolution Conf. 10.9 with another Resolution. The large majority of the members of the intersessional working group felt that Resolution 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) sufficiently covered the issues addressed by Resolution Conf. 10.9, and did not support amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.9.

* *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. Accordingly, the Chair of the intersessional working group presented document [SC70 Doc. 68](#) at SC70, noting that a large majority of the working group membership favoured the repeal of Resolution Conf. 10.9, based on the belief that Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* provided sufficient and adequate guidance.
6. On this basis, the Standing Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the repeal of Resolution Conf. 10.9 on *Consideration of proposals for the transfer of African elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II*.

Recommendations

7. The Conference of the Parties is invited to repeal Resolution Conf. 10.9 on *Consideration of proposals for the transfer of African elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II*.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties repeal Resolution Conf. 10.9, as proposed by the Standing Committee in paragraph 7.
- B. As the Standing Committee has fulfilled its mandate called for in Decision 16.160 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties agree to delete this Decision.