

Committee on Trade and Environment

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Note by the Secretariat

1. This Note provides Members of the Committee on Trade and Environment with an update of recent developments in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES took place in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 6-20 June 1997. The Conference adopted several Decisions and Resolutions at this meeting. In addition, a number of the Decisions agreed to at the Ninth Meeting remain valid.¹
2. As CITES is designed to regulate international trade in threatened species, all its Decisions and Resolutions are trade-related. The Decisions adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and those of the Ninth Meeting that remain valid, have been grouped into various categories. These can be summarized as follows: (i) Decisions regarding ivory; (ii) Decisions directed to the CITES Parties; (iii) Decisions directed to the various CITES Committees; (iv) Decisions directed to UNEP and the FAO; and (v) Decisions directed to the CITES Secretariat.
3. Whilst all CITES Decisions are trade-related, of the Decisions regarding ivory and of those directed to CITES Parties, the following most directly address trade²:
 - Decision 10.1 on "Conditions for the resumption of trade in African elephant ivory from populations transferred to Appendix II at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties";
 - Decision 10.2 on "Conditions for the disposal of ivory stocks and generating resources for conservation in African elephant range States";
 - Decision 10.11 "Regarding improvement in the effectiveness of the Convention"³;
 - Decisions 10.24-10.27 "Regarding the issuance of permits" [previously Decisions 9.6-9.9];
 - Decisions 10.28 and 10.29 "Regarding acceptance of permits" [previously Decisions 9.10 and 9.11];
 - Decisions 10.30 "Regarding the control and checking of shipments of CITES specimens";
 - Decisions 10.31-10.33 on "Illegal trade" [previously Decisions 9.12-9.14];
 - Decisions 10.40-10.43 on "Co-operation in monitoring illegal trade in whale parts and derivatives";

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¹All the Decisions and Resolutions of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties are available at the WTO Secretariat for delegations to consult.

²The Decisions and Resolutions that most directly address trade have been identified in cooperation with the CITES Secretariat.

³The Decision requests Parties to encourage coordination between the CITES and WTO Secretariats.

- Decision 10.44 on "Trade in bears";
- Decision 10.48 on "The biological and trade status of sharks";
- Decisions 10.49 and 10.50 on "Trade in plants" [previously Decisions 9.21 and 9.22]; and
- Decision 10.54 on "Trade in alien species".

4. In general, the above-mentioned Decisions address trade in species or species parts and their derivatives, the control and monitoring of the shipment of CITES specimens and of illegal trade, the issuance and acceptance of permits for trade, and cooperation between the CITES Secretariat and the WTO.

5. Similarly, whilst all CITES Resolutions are trade-related, the following most directly address trade:

- Resolution 10.2 on "Permits and certificates";
- Resolution 10.5 on "Shipments covered by ATA and TIR carnets";
- Resolution 10.6 on "Control of trade in tourist souvenir specimens";
- Resolution 10.8 on "Conservation of and trade in bears";
- Resolution 10.10 on "Trade in elephant specimens";
- Resolution 10.12 on "Conservation of sturgeons";
- Resolution 10.14 on "Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use";
- Resolution 10.15 on "Establishment of quotas for markhor hunting trophies";
- Resolution 10.18 on "Ranching and trade in ranched specimens"; and
- Resolution 10.20 on "Frequent transborder movements of personally-owned live animals".

6. In general, the above-mentioned Resolutions address trade in species or species parts and their derivatives, the shipment of specimens of species, the issuance of permits and certificates for trade, and the transborder movement of live animals.