

Conf. 19.1

Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2023-2025

RECALLING that the financial amendment to the Convention, adopted in Bonn in 1979, entered into force on 13 April 1987;

ALSO RECALLING Resolution Conf. 18.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2020-2022* adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 2019);

HAVING NOTED the 2019-2021 actual expenditures incurred by the Secretariat (document CoP19 Doc. 7.3);

HAVING REVIEWED the proposed costed programme of work for the triennium 2023-2025, submitted by the Secretariat (document CoP19 Doc. 7.4);

ACKNOWLEDGING the Memorandum of Understanding between the Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) concerning Secretariat Services to and Support of the Convention, effective 1 September 2011;

NOTING the increase in the number of Parties to the Convention and species listed in its Appendices, as well as the growing level of interest in the Convention and FURTHER NOTING the need for greater assistance to the Parties to achieve more effective implementation, the necessity to provide adequately for implementation of all Decisions and Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties as well as the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* as adopted at the 18th meeting, and the resulting increasing expenditure incurred by and pressures placed on the Secretariat;

RECALLING paragraph 203 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (also known as Rio+ 20) entitled *The future we want*, highlighting the importance of CITES;

FURTHER RECALLING resolution 69/314 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on *Tackling Illicit trafficking in wildlife* recognizing the legal framework provided by and the important role of CITES as well as resolution 68/205, on *World Wildlife Day*, in which the UNGA proclaimed 3 March, the day of the adoption of CITES, as World Wildlife Day, and designated the CITES Secretariat as the facilitator for the global observance of this special day for wildlife on the UN calendar;

RECOGNIZING the value of and expressed need for enhanced financing for CITES implementation to assist Parties in more effectively meeting the objectives of the Convention;

REITERATING the *CITES Strategic Vision* and stressing the importance of full and effective implementation of CITES as a means of strengthening the Convention's contribution towards achieving the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets and any relevant goals and targets that are to be agreed as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the contribution that the full and effective implementation of CITES can make towards achieving relevant Goals and Targets adopted by the UN General Assembly through the Sustainable Development Goals;

NOTING that Decisions of the Parties directed to the Secretariat have an impact on the operation and expenditures incurred by the Secretariat;

WELCOMING the adoption by the UN Environment Assembly of resolution 2/18 on relationship between the UNEP and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements for which it provides Secretariat;

TAKING NOTE of General Assembly resolution 60/283, on *Investing in the United Nations for a stronger organization worldwide*, by which the Assembly approved the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by the United Nations; and

RECOGNIZING that the International Public Sector Accounting Standards require that full provision be made for doubtful debt in respect of debt for which there is more than four years of non-payment of contributions and that proportionate provision be made for recent non-payment of contributions and that, as a result, an amount, estimated at USD 631,595, will have to be deducted from the end 2021 fund balance of the Convention to cover doubtful debt and cannot be used for the benefit of all Parties during the triennium 2023-2025;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the Government of Switzerland as the Host Country for its support to the Secretariat, and NOTES its response to the invitation extended to it through Resolution Conf. 18.1 by providing enhanced support to the CITES Secretariat;
2. ACCEPTS and APPROVES the report of expenditures against the costed programme of work for the years 2019 and 2020, as endorsed by the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting in Lyon, March 2022;
3. ACCEPTS and APPROVES the report of expenditures against the costed programme of work for the year 2021;
4. APPROVES the use of USD 300,000 from the accumulated registration fee for observers and international visitors for the triennium 2023-2025 as was done in the last triennium;
5. TAKES NOTE of the evaluation of central administrative costs following the adoption of Umoja, in particular, the classification into core (indirect) and common (direct) administrative costs to be interpreted and applied in the new context;
6. NOTES that the outstanding invoices from UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) for administrative services provide for the period 2018-2021 amounting to USD 232,309 has been settled by UNEP Executive Director from the CITES unspent programme support fund balance at the closure of the financial year 2021;
7. DIRECTS the Secretariat to make payments for common (direct) costs to UNOG for administrative services provide and for Umoja charges during the triennium 2023-2025 from its portion of the programme support fund balance and to propose any necessary amendments to those policies for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
8. REQUESTS that UNEP provides in its report to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee any update to UNEP's current policy that restricts carrying forward positive balances at closure of biennial financial period to the detriment of MEAs and update the Committee on the new programme support cost allocation and usage policy;
9. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to use the format of the costed programme of work and the budgetary presentations for the triennium 2020-2022, as introduced by the Secretariat and endorsed by the Standing Committee, on the recommendation of its Finance and Budget Subcommittee, at its 62nd meeting, and to make any necessary adjustments, as needed, in line with the implementation of Umoja;
10. NOTES with appreciation the three budget proposals submitted by the Secretariat for the triennium 2023-2025 budget period and REQUESTS the Secretary-General to prepare budget proposals in the same format for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting, including, as a minimum, a zero nominal growth budget scenario¹ and a zero real growth budget scenario and, in consultation with the Standing Committee, if necessary, a third scenario;

¹ A zero nominal growth budget scenario to be prepared at the same level as in 2023-2025 and a zero real growth budget scenario to be prepared by not adding new activities as compared to 2023-2025.

11. REQUESTS the Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to increase financial transparency by providing the following supplementary financial information in all future financial statements and budget requests:
 - a) categorization of income utilizing the following categories: Regular Resources, Other Resources and Cost Recovery in the Trust Fund budget (CTL);
 - b) to the greatest extent possible, the harmonized format, methodology, and terminology adopted by the UN Funds and Programmes; and
12. REQUESTS the Secretariat, as a means to further enhance efforts to foster transparency and accountability,
 - a) to identify, realize and report on cost savings from efficiency measures implemented by the Secretariat and provide indicative projections on potential efficiency gains for the next triennium; and
 - b) to maintain a section on the website of the Secretariat to publish or provide links to up-to-date information relevant to the governance of the Convention, including, *inter alia*, completed and accepted audit reports, applicable financial rules and regulations, and any other relevant budgetary and financial information;
13. DECIDES that the implementation of the costed programme of work for the triennium 2023-2025, Annex 1, shall be covered by the Trust Fund budget (CTL), Annexes 2 and 3, in the amounts of USD 6,345,108 for 2023, USD 6,443,302 for 2024 and USD 7,051,055 for 2025 and by the Support to CITES Activities Trust Fund (QTL), Annex 3, and ADOPTS the scale of contributions for 2023-2025 as contained in Annex 5;
14. AGREES to continue to fund two temporary positions for the period 2023-2025 – one Programme Management Officer (Marine Species), P-2 and one Research Assistant, (GS) funded through the Trust Fund (CTL) accumulated surplus (fund balance) and to be further reviewed at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
15. DECIDES that the Secretary-General, subject to the approval of the Standing Committee, and in urgent cases with the approval of the Chair of the Standing Committee alone, shall have the authority to use funds from the Trust Fund (CTL) accumulated surplus (fund balance) for the years 2023-2025 to cover any shortfall for staff salary costs funded from the core budget as UN standard salary costs for Geneva are not used for the triennium;
16. REQUESTS the Secretariat to carefully monitor exchange rate fluctuations and adjust levels of expenditure, where necessary; and DECIDES that the Secretariat, as a last resort, can request the Standing Committee to draw down from the Trust Fund Balance on an exceptional basis;
17. REQUESTS the Secretariat to maintain a working capital cash reserve of 15 % of the average annual budget to ensure financial liquidity and AUTHORIZES the Secretariat, with the approval of the Standing Committee, to draw additional funds from the CITES Trust Fund balance at the end of each year, including funds to cover any shortfall should the UN standard salary costs used to develop the budgets for 2023-2025 prove to be underestimated, provided that it is not reduced below the working capital reserve specified above;
18. TAKES NOTE of the funding estimates of the Trust Fund on Support to CITES Activities (QTL) for the 2023-2025 budget period and URGES the Secretariat, where activities that are to be externally funded are concerned, to seek funds, preferably non-earmarked, for the implementation of activities identified in the costed programme of work;
19. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to increase its efforts to strengthen its capacity building activities, including by conducting at least one training workshop for CITES Management Authorities/Scientific Authorities and Enforcement entities per region, upon request, between the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, intersessionally, depending on availability of resources;
20. APPROVES the Terms of Reference for the Administration of the Trust Fund, in Annex 6, for the budget period beginning on 1 January 2023 and ending on 31 December 2025;

21. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to continue to review the Terms of Reference for the Administration of the Trust Fund and make proposals for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for any necessary changes;
22. DECIDES that:
 - a) contributions to the Trust Fund (CTL) are based on the most recent United Nations scale of assessment², as amended periodically and adjusted to take account of the fact that not all members of the United Nations are party to the Convention;
 - b) any other basis of calculation of contributions shall not be used without the consent of all Parties present and voting at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
 - c) any change in the basic scale of contributions that would increase the expected contribution of a Party does not apply to that Party without its consent, and that any proposal to change the basic scale of contributions from that currently in use shall only be considered by the Conference of the Parties if notice of such proposal has been communicated by the Secretariat to all Parties at least 150 days before the meeting;
23. EXPECTS Parties to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund (CTL) in a timely manner and in accordance with the basic scale and ENCOURAGES them to make special contributions to the Trust Funds above their regular contributions whenever possible;
24. REQUESTS all Parties to pay their contributions as far as possible during the year prior to the one to which they relate or, otherwise, promptly by the beginning of the calendar year (1 January to 31 December) to which the contributions apply;
25. NOTES with deep concern that a number of Parties have pending contributions to the Trust Fund (CTL), thus affecting adversely the implementation of the Convention;
26. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to monitor Parties that have pending contributions to the Convention by:
 - a) sending reminders twice yearly, with copies to the permanent missions in Geneva; and
 - b) initiating talks with the permanent missions in Geneva of the Parties with pending contributions for three or more years;
27. URGES all Parties with pending contributions to cooperate with the Secretariat in arranging for the payment of their outstanding contributions without delay;
28. INVITES Parties, States not party to the Convention, other governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other entities to contribute to the Trust Fund in Support of CITES Activities (QTL) to ensure the effective implementation of the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and the efficient, effective and accountable administrative and financial management support of those activities;
29. DECIDES that the standard participation charge for all observer organizations other than the United Nations and its specialized agencies at meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall remain at a minimum of USD 600 for the first delegate and USD 300 for any additional delegate and that a standard charge is set at USD 100 for international visitors attending such meetings not applicable to host country visitors (except as otherwise decided by the Secretariat as required and following consultation with the Finance and Budget Subcommittee) unless a new standard charged has been determined for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties by the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting, and URGES such organizations to make a greater contribution, if possible, at least to meet their effective costs of participation;
30. FURTHER DECIDES that the standard participation charge for all observer organizations other than the United Nations and its specialized agencies at meetings of the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees shall be set at a minimum of USD 100 for each observer

² *United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/76/238*

participant (except as otherwise decided by the Secretariat as required and following consultation with the Finance and Budget Subcommittee);

31. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to review possible standard charge fees for observer organizations and international visitors attending electronic meetings of the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees;
32. AFFIRMS that:
 - a) all meetings of the Conference of the Parties and all regular meetings of the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee should be held in the Host country of the Secretariat unless a candidate host country pays the difference in costs between its proposed venue and the Host country; and
 - b) candidate host country is to sign the Host Country Agreement no later than 60 days after the decision is made by the Conference of the Parties or the Committees and to transfer the host contribution in a timely manner to the Secretariat for its additional costs to hold the meeting outside the host country of the Secretariat; and
 - c) no more than two regular meetings each of the Standing Committee, and the Animals and Plants Committees should be convened between regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
33. DIRECTS the Secretariat to make provision for the payment, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of members, including attendance at the relevant committee meetings, and other expenses of the Chairs of the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, other than members from developed countries;
34. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to keep under review the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP concerning Secretariat Services to and Support of the Convention;
35. REQUESTS the Secretariat:
 - a) to make provisions for all the costs the Secretariat incurs, including costs associated with the hiring of temporary staff and consultants, when seeking funds for the implementation of externally funded projects;
 - b) to seek the most cost effective translation and interpretation services;
 - c) in consultation with proponent Parties, when necessary, to advise the Conference of the Parties on proposals with budgetary implications, including staff costs; and
 - d) in consultation with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, to assign scientific consultants and define terms of reference for specific science-based projects. Such a process should be implemented in a fashion that would not have a negative impact on the budget, but rather effectively utilize the scientific expertise of the Parties which is available to the Secretariat via the Chairs of the technical committees;
36. ENCOURAGES the Secretary-General, in line with UN rules, to use opportunities provided by any upcoming vacancies to explore ways to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat within its assigned budget, including through structural change and report to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on any change implemented;
37. WELCOMES the efforts of the CITES Secretariat to raise Parties' awareness of Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for GEF-eligible projects relevant for CITES, including species-based projects, and INVITES the Secretariat to continue to closely collaborate with the GEF Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Biodiversity Liaison Group on the issue of gaining access to GEF funding for GEF-eligible projects relevant for CITES;

38. ENCOURAGES Parties, in the revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to integrate CITES objectives and priorities in order to facilitate identification of opportunities for GEF-eligible projects relevant for CITES, including species-based projects;
39. INVITES the GEF Council to note relevant Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in the development of the next *GEF Biodiversity Strategy* consistent with the GEF's mandate and the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*, the *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* and any relevant goals and targets that are to be agreed as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
40. DECIDES to convey to the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP) the CITES objectives and priorities in support of the Aichi Targets and any relevant goals and targets that are to be agreed as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and INVITES the CBD CoP to take these into account in providing the broad strategic guidance to the GEF;
41. Within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*, the *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* and any relevant goals and targets that are to be agreed as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, CALLS upon Parties, established financing mechanisms, donors, international organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to provide adequate and timely support for the relevant CITES objectives and priorities;
42. DECIDES that:
 - a) the Secretary-General shall have the authority to make staffing decisions as necessary to implement the priorities of the Parties in accordance with the costed programme of work, provided they are within the overall budget and taken in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP concerning Secretariat Services to and Support of the Convention;
 - b) any change in the costed programme of work of the Secretariat deriving from a new Resolution or Decision shall be made only if the source of the necessary additional funds has been identified or if that programme is reprioritized at the time such a Resolution or Decision is adopted by the Conference of the Parties; and
 - c) the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, shall continue to explore a closer working relationship with the GEF to address CITES priorities within the context of its Biodiversity Strategy, and consistent with CITES' and the GEF's mandates;
43. REQUESTS the Executive Director of UNEP, in accordance with the existing Memorandum of Understanding, to have comprehensive audits undertaken on a regular basis by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and to ask for reports on UNEP from the United Nations Board of Auditors on CITES financial performance, and to have the reports submitted as part of the documentation for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, together with the management response; and
44. REPEALS Resolution Conf. 18.1 (Geneva, 2019) – *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2020-2022*, which, however, remains on the record as an indication of the expected levels of annual contributions for Parties that have not paid these amounts.

Annex 1 – [Costed programme of work of the CITES Secretariat for 2023-2025](#)

Annex 2 – [Operational budget under the general CITES Trust Fund \(CTL\)](#)

Annex 3 – [Operational budget under the general CITES Trust Fund \(CTL\) in UN Umoja format](#)

Annex 4 – [Indicative budget under the Support to CITES activities \(QTL\)](#)

Annex 5 – [CITES Trust Fund \(CTL\) scale of assessment for the triennium 2023-2025](#)

Annex 6

Terms of Reference for the Administration of the Trust Fund (CTL) for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

1. The Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (hereinafter referred to as the Trust Fund) shall be further continued for a period of three calendar years, which begins on 1 January 2023 and ends on 31 December 2025, to provide financial support for the aims of the Convention.
2. Pursuant to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with the approval of the Governing Council of UNEP and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, shall continue the Trust Fund for the administration of the Convention.
3. The appropriations of the Trust Fund shall be financed from:
 - a) the contributions made by the Parties by reference to the table attached in Annex 5, including contributions from any new Parties which are to be added to the table; and
 - b) a drawdown from the Fund balance upon decision of the Parties.
4. The estimates for each of the calendar years covered by a budget period shall be specified in a costed programme of work and shall be accompanied by such information as may be required by, or on behalf of, the contributors, and such further information as the Executive Director of UNEP may deem useful and advisable.
5. The proposed costed programme of work covering the income and expenditure for each of the calendar years constituting the financial period to which it relates, prepared in United States dollars, including all the necessary information, shall be dispatched by the Secretariat to all Parties at least 150 days before the date fixed for the opening of the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. The costed programme of work shall be adopted by a three-quarters majority of the Parties present and voting at the regular meeting.
7. In the event that the Executive Director of UNEP expects that there might be a shortfall in resources, over the year as a whole, he shall consult with the Secretary-General of the Convention, who shall seek the advice of the Standing Committee as to its priorities for expenditure.
8. The Secretary-General of the Convention is authorized, to the extent consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to:
 - a) transfer resources between main activity lines, as reflected in the costed programme of work, Annex 1 to present Resolution, up to a maximum of 10 % over and above the annual amount foreseen in the costed programme of work under any activity line. When any such transfers are made, these shall be reported to the Standing Committee at its following meeting. Any adjustments between main activity lines over and above the 10 % flexibility mentioned above may be made only after they have been agreed by the Standing Committee; and

- b) transfer resources between financial years within the same activity line. Any such transfers may be made only after they have been agreed by the Standing Committee.

However, all adjustments to the costed programme of work will be made within the overall level of the approved triennial budget.

9. Commitments against the resources of the Trust Fund may be made only if they are covered by the expected income of the Convention.
10. All contributions shall be paid in any convertible currency. The amount of any payment, however, shall be equal to the amount payable in United States dollars on the day the contribution is made. Contributions from States that become Parties after the beginning of the financial period should be made on a pro-rata basis for the balance of the financial period.
11. At the end of each calendar year, the Executive Director of UNEP shall submit to the Parties the accounts for the year. He shall also submit, as soon as practicable, the audited accounts for the financial period.
12. The Secretary-General of the Convention shall provide the Standing Committee with an estimate of proposed expenditure over the coming calendar year simultaneously with, or as soon as possible after, distribution of the accounts and reports referred to in the preceding paragraph.
13. The general procedures governing the operations of the Fund of UNEP and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations shall govern the financial operations of the Trust Funds for the Convention.
14. These Terms of Reference shall be effective for the financial period of 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025, subject to amendments at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

REITERATING Goal 3 of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* as set out in Resolution Conf. 18.3, and specific objectives 3.2, 3.3 and 3.7, that Parties (individually and collectively) have the tools, resources and capacity to effectively implement and enforce the Convention, contributing to conservation, sustainable use and reduction of illegal trade in CITES listed species;

RECALLING that the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* recognizes the relationship of CITES with and the contribution it makes to other international efforts and actions, including achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

FURTHER RECALLING that the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* requests cooperation among Parties, relevant international partners, international financial mechanisms and other related institutions to support activities that contribute to CITES implementation and enforcement;

ACKNOWLEDGING the availability of the technological tools and innovations that support capacity-building activities are rapidly evolving;

RECOGNIZING the need for a more integrated and coherent approach to capacity-building in supporting the implementation of the Convention;

AWARE that many Parties would benefit from both general capacity development and capacity-building targeted to help address implementation, compliance, and enforcement issues;

RECOGNIZING the special and diverse needs of developing country Parties, in particular the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, with regard to difficulties in the establishment, staffing, training and equipment of Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities, as well as enforcement authorities and entities;

RECOGNIZING that capacity-building and compliance assistance efforts to improve the effectiveness of CITES can involve every aspect of the Convention, and need to be broadly integrated;

NOTING with appreciation efforts by various national, regional and international organizations and initiatives to support Parties in the effective implementation of the Convention; and

ACKNOWLEDGING that CITES capacity-building efforts benefit from external funding, that improved coordination among donors is needed to make efficient and strategic use of limited resources, and that an integrated framework for capacity-building can provide a vehicle for more effective coordination;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. AGREES that full implementation of CITES requires the provision of adequate tools and resources and timely capacity-building efforts;
2. INVITES Parties to:
 - a) support the capacity-building efforts of other Parties through sharing of information regarding capacity-building materials and efforts, translating materials into both the working languages and non-working languages of the Convention, offering advice related to CITES implementation, as appropriate, and providing of financial support for in-person training or training opportunities;
 - b) ensure the inclusion of capacity-building, including targeted, technical, enforcement and compliance assistance, in the relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes; and
 - c) utilize the CITES Virtual College to support capacity-building activities and provide the Secretariat with inputs for the improvements of its services;
3. ENCOURAGES Parties to use the CITES implementation reports, as well as direct expression of interest, to inform the Secretariat about their capacity needs, underlining their most urgent needs;
4. DIRECTS the Secretariat to:
 - a) seek external funding and provide capacity-building support to Parties, particularly for needs identified in Resolutions and Decisions and through compliance procedures, considering CITES implementation reports and direct expressions of interest and needs of Parties, giving

priority to those Parties recently acceded, the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

- b) cooperate with institutions and organizations in planning and delivering joint capacity-building activities of relevance to the Convention, in consultation with the Standing Committee and with the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, as they relate to the development of new partnerships that have a scientific nexus or new or revised capacity-building materials of a scientific nature, including scholarships for in-person training or training opportunities;
 - c) collect information on capacity-building materials and efforts from Parties and others, and make these resources available to Parties through the CITES website;
 - d) continue to undertake the revision and enhancement of the CITES website and of the CITES Virtual College, in consultation with the Standing Committee and with the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, including selected online courses, to update the content and to improve their effectiveness in providing access to capacity-building resources to Parties; and
 - e) report to the Standing Committee and to the Animals and Plants Committees on capacity-building activities and seek their advice and input, as appropriate.
5. REQUESTS the Animals and Plants Committees to offer advice and input as appropriate to Parties and to the Secretariat related to CITES implementation and capacity-building activities, which may include identifying capacity-building needs and priorities and making recommendations for developing or improving capacity-building materials and tools;
6. INVITES Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to make funding available to the Secretariat for carrying out its capacity-building projects and activities, and provide appropriate materials that facilitate the capacity-building activities and efforts of Parties and the Secretariat; and
7. REPEALS Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical cooperation*.

NOTING that gender equality and gender mainstreaming are vital to global sustainable development efforts and have been recognized by various international agreements and policy instruments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

FURTHER NOTING that the engagement and empowerment of women and girls is high on the United Nations (UN) agenda and is being achieved through gender programmes and action plans of various UN organizations; and that the UN General Assembly Resolution [70/219](#) calls upon Member States to ensure full and effective participation and equal opportunities for women, and further calls upon UN agencies to ensure gender mainstreaming into all UN policies and programs;

ACKNOWLEDGING that gender differences, norms and inequalities anchor and shape legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora and the responses to it;

RECOGNIZING that gender is generally overlooked, with little understanding and awareness of its role and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to international trade in species of wild fauna and flora;

RECOGNIZING that women and girls are integrally involved in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and protection of endangered species, and yet continue to face discrimination and remain marginalized in decision-making processes, and access and benefits from the sustainable use, international trade and protection of wild species;

CONSIDERING that gender-blind approaches to tackling illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora result in significant gaps in understanding real-world illegal wildlife trade activities, processes, and opportunities for intervention; and also deepen inequality and discrimination, thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty and extreme poverty, potentially further entrenching gender inequality; and

CONSIDERING that a better understanding and consideration of gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors can improve the likelihood of conservation success, improve living conditions and governance, and reduce conflict, while being a catalyst for challenging social inequalities and eradicating gender-based violence;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. URGES Parties to enhance efforts to understand gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora, with a view to taking these into account when designing responses and interventions;
2. ENCOURAGES Parties to ensure that research, programming, and monitoring activities related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora become gender-aware and gender-responsive;
3. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Parties and relevant organizations to include gender-specific indicators in strategic planning and, with this in mind, collect data disaggregated by gender, age and other demographic factors concerning people involved in legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora;
4. RECOMMENDS that Parties explore ways to further enhance the representation and participation of people of all genders, particularly women and girls, in conservation and address issues relating to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora, including through community engagement, professional opportunities, employment in this field, and policy development, including in CITES decision-making;

5. INVITES Parties, as their understanding of this topic increases, to increase public awareness of gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora;
6. INVITES Parties and observer organizations to ensure representation of people of all genders, especially women, on official delegations, and to provide capacity building-opportunities for such people in CITES authorities and at CITES meetings;
7. ENCOURAGES Parties, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and other appropriate bodies, to support capacity-building and research efforts with respect to considering all genders, particularly women and girls, in legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora; and
8. CALLS on donors and the international cooperation community to provide financial support and other means to achieve the objectives of this Resolution.

Conf. 19.4

Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species

RECALLING that the definition of “specimen” in Article I, paragraph (b) includes any animals or plants, whether alive or dead, and includes readily recognizable parts and derivatives thereof unless otherwise annotated in the Appendices;

RECALLING that Article II, paragraph, 4 states that the Parties shall not allow trade in specimens of species included in Appendices I, II, and III except in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

RECALLING that the provisions of Article XII, paragraph 2 (f), require the Secretariat to publish periodically and distribute to the Parties current editions of Appendices I, II and III together with any information which will facilitate identification of specimens of species included in those Appendices;

RECALLING that paragraph C. 9. “Information on similar species” in Annex 6 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* resolves that Parties provide details on how species proposed for listing are to be distinguished from similar species;

RECALLING the interpretation of the term “readily recognizable part or derivative” in Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives*;

NOTING that accurate identification of animal and plant specimens is important to determine whether and which provisions of the Convention apply to their international trade, including, where appropriate, identification that a species belongs to a higher order (e.g., genus or family) listing, as well as the identification of commodities in trade;

NOTING that CITES authorities and enforcement officials need to be able to recognize specimens of CITES- listed species in international trade in a timely, practical, accurate and effective manner;

NOTING that identification methods continue to advance and diversify;

RECOGNIZING that new electronic formats for providing identification materials are rapidly evolving, and can continue to assist CITES authorities and enforcement officials to identify specimens in international trade;

NOTING that CITES authorities and enforcement officials will not always have access to real-time electronic databases and may have to rely on printed or printable materials;

RECOGNIZING the usefulness of developing or making available identification materials in the working languages of the Convention;

AWARE that information facilitating the identification of animal and plant specimens has been and may continue to be developed as a result of various CITES processes, including through amendments to the Appendices, Resolutions and Decisions, and recommendations and agenda item discussions of the Conference of the Parties and of the Committees;

RECALLING that the CITES Identification Manual was begun in 1977 and continued through Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*. However, much of the information has become outdated since it has not been updated since 2009; and

NOTING that information on individual identification of specimens of CITES-listed species may also be collected;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ENCOURAGES the development of identification materials that include key elements particularly useful to identifying species and specimens thereof in trade, as presented in the Annex to the present Resolution;

2. DIRECTS the Secretariat to:

- a) regularly review and analyze the materials produced by or for Parties to assist in identification of specimens of CITES-listed species and gaps in existing identification materials relative to the needs expressed by the Parties, and provide a summary of this to the Animals and Plants Committees;
- b) publish and maintain in a centralized location on the CITES website access to identification materials in a timely and practical manner and in a format that is readily available for CITES authorities and enforcement officials to use, and make updates as new electronic formats evolve;
- c) where available and practical to do so, continue to link identification materials to existing lists of species, or higher order groupings of species, in the CITES Appendices on the CITES website;
- d) upon request from a Party and subject to the availability of financial and human resources, provide advice in coordination with the Chair of the Animals or Plants Committee on the identification of species or particular specimens, or seek advice from experts on the taxa concerned and, where relevant, share this information through the CITES website;
- e) assist Parties in developing and promulgating national or regional identification materials, enlisting input from the appropriate technical committees or specialist organizations when possible;
- f) keep the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees informed of progress made and needs identified in the development and maintenance of identification materials, as appropriate; and
- g) report progress and developments to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate;

3. REQUESTS the Animals and Plants Committees to:

- a) identify where materials are lacking or inaccurate, or where improvements might be made on existing identification materials, taking into consideration information on gaps and needs identified by Parties and the Secretariat, and make recommendations when appropriate to prioritize development of new or updated materials;
- b) provide input and recommendations to Parties and the Secretariat concerning the development of new or updated identification materials, or where draft materials are submitted for input; and
- c) identify and suggest to the Secretariat improvements to the access of CITES identification materials;

4. RECOMMENDS that Parties:

- a) provide identification information to the extent possible in the proposals for amendment of the Appendices, including information outlined in the Annex to this Resolution, and in the case of proposals to amend Appendix I or II, in paragraphs C. 1. "Taxonomy", 3. "Species characteristics" and 9. "Information on similar species" in Annex 6 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*;
- b) continue to develop and share national, regional, or taxon-based guides to the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species, especially for those specimens that are commonly traded and/or found in their country or region, and when practicable include identification materials for commonly traded species that are not listed on the CITES Appendices to assist in identifying and differentiating between listed and unlisted species;
- c) coordinate with other Parties in the development of identification materials, as appropriate;

- d) develop or make available identification materials in the working languages of the Convention, as well as other languages used by Parties where appropriate;
 - e) develop and promote the use of rapid, accurate and inexpensive techniques to identify species in trade, especially for identifying specimens that are traded in a highly processed or modified form, or where derivatives of multiple species are combined, which may include molecular or isotope techniques, digitized field guides, apps, or other tools being developed for identification;
 - f) raise awareness of the availability of identification materials and techniques that are used by CITES authorities and enforcement and inspection officers to facilitate the implementation of the Convention, through training programmes for customs and border officials;
 - g) inform the Animals or Plants Committee of any difficulties experienced in identifying particular taxonomic groups, species or specimens, where improved identification guidance would be beneficial, for consideration and any appropriate recommendation under paragraph 3; and
 - h) consider submitting draft identification material under development to the Animals or Plants Committee to review and provide input, as appropriate.
5. INVITES any Party having submitted a proposal for an amendment of Appendix I or II in accordance with Article XV, or having submitted a species for inclusion in Appendix III in accordance with Article XVI, that results in the inclusion of a new species or in new annotations in the Appendices, to:
- a) develop identification materials as expeditiously as possible, and where possible before such amendments become effective; and
 - b) provide the Secretariat with identification materials to be published on the CITES website and otherwise shared with CITES Parties;
6. ENCOURAGES Parties and organizations to provide funds to assist in the production and publication of identification materials; and
7. REPEALS Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*.

ANNEX TO THE RESOLUTION

To support implementation and enforcement for CITES-listed species, the following key information should be considered when developing CITES identification materials to provide information specific to the identification of CITES-listed species and commodities in trade.

The development of CITES identification materials should be guided by the need to recognize both species and specimens thereof and provide information of sufficient quality and detail, to aid enforcement authorities to distinguish between CITES and non-CITES-listed species and commodities.

Main elements: The following information might be considered fundamental to all CITES identification materials:

- Order / Family / Genus / Species
- Synonyms
- Vernacular Names (multi languages, as available)
- Description - Identifying features may include morphological, anatomical, physiological, behavioural, or molecular information
- Images – Consider including line drawings or diagnostic images; colour photos of specimens and commodities in trade; finished products
- Geographic range
- Distribution by country
- Protection [Appendix I, II, or III]
- Uses and known trading patterns
- Parts and derivatives in trade (description)
- Verifiable methods for distinguishing wild from non-wild specimens
- Similar species or commodities

Additional information pertinent to specific groups of traded specimens, such as:

- Pharmaceutical names, characteristics of the parts and derivatives in trade (odour, taste, other characteristics) for species of plants or animals traded for medicinal purposes
- As appropriate, available information on conversion metrics

References:

- Author, affiliation, date

RECOGNIZING that marine turtles face significant threats, including bycatch in commercial and recreational fisheries; loss and degradation of nesting and foraging habitats; climate change; entanglement in marine debris; vessel strikes; and illegal take and trade for their meat, shells, and eggs;

RECOGNIZING that the conservation and recovery of marine turtles require international cooperation to ensure the survival of these highly migratory species;

RECALLING that all species of marine turtles are included in CITES Appendix I, and as such, international trade for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited for these species;

RECALLING that these species are included in Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (except for *Natator depressus*, which is only in Appendix II), which requires CMS Parties to strictly protect these species by prohibiting take and controlling other factors that endanger them, and enhance their conservation status;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles promotes the protection, conservation, and recovery of populations of six marine turtle species (all except *N. depressus*) in the Western Hemisphere;

RECALLING the Indian Ocean–South-East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a non-binding intergovernmental agreement that aims to protect, conserve, and recover sea turtles and their habitats in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia;

RECALLING also that Resolution Conf. 17.4 (Rev. CoP19) on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* urges Parties where there is a significant market for illegally traded wildlife products to develop strategies to reduce the demand for illegal products of wild animals and plants through demand reduction campaigns and to enhance, as appropriate, policy, legislation and law enforcement in this regard, and EMPHASIZING the importance for Parties to develop such plans for illegally taken marine turtles parts, products and derivatives;

CONCERNED that the illegal take and trade of marine turtles is contributing to their decline and poses a significant threat to their survival;

WELCOMING studies commissioned by CITES, IAC, and IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU to help determine the extent of illegal take and trade in marine turtles and provide recommendations on needed actions;

WELCOMING the Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region, developed under the auspices of CMS and its IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU;

WELCOMING projects aimed at uncovering illegal trade routes from source through to end user, and factors driving marine turtle use, supply, and demand, which can be used to inform policies aimed at marine turtle conservation; and

FURTHER WELCOMING initiatives to help combat the illegal trade in marine turtles by transferring genetic techniques, technologies, and building greater capacity for marine turtle genetic studies;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. RECOMMENDS Parties collaborate and assist in building financial and technical capacity in developing countries to implement and enforce CITES and other related international obligations that apply to protect marine turtles, including protection from unsustainable use and illegal trade;
2. RECOMMENDS Parties affected by illegal trade in marine turtles provide capacity-building interventions, scale up efforts to address illegal harvest and other illegal activities at key locations in domestic markets associated with illegal trade, and take action to decrease consumer demand for illegal marine turtle parts, products and other derivatives;
3. RECOMMENDS Parties improve monitoring, detection, and law enforcement activities at all transaction points (e.g., markets, online, ports) to help combat the illegal take and trade of marine

turtles and enhance cooperation and collaboration in the control of trade in marine turtles amongst wildlife-law enforcement agencies at national and international levels, including in the exchange of actionable intelligence regarding the illegal take and trade of marine turtles;

4. URGES Parties whose national legislation is not sufficient to control the unsustainable harvest of and trade in marine turtles, to enact legislation to protect and manage these species appropriately;
5. RECOMMENDS Parties collect samples from seized marine turtles for scientific analysis to determine species involved and populations of origin, and as appropriate provide these to forensic and research institutions capable of reliably determining the species and geographic origin of the samples in support of research, investigations, and prosecutions;
6. RECOMMENDS Parties coordinate efforts at the regional level, including with Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other relevant regional bodies to identify and address illegal trade, use, and other threats, including fisheries bycatch;
7. RECOMMENDS Parties address the illegal trade in marine turtles by working with fisheries communities and fisheries bodies to ensure effective fisheries management measures are in place, and capture in fisheries is not undermining efforts to tackle the illegal trade, including by: implementing best practice measures to reduce and document sea turtles catches whether targeted or bycatch; assessing catch rates and mortality based on the best scientific data available, continuing improving the observer programme through the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)/RFB's framework in fisheries where bycatch of marine turtles is not adequately addressed; and effectively addressing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing that is a threat to marine turtles;
8. ENCOURAGES Parties to share bycatch mitigation strategies, such as exclusion devices and safe handling practices, that have proven effective at reducing bycatch or bycatch mortality;
9. ENCOURAGES Parties to undertake, as appropriate, research that can support the development of protection and conservation measures for marine turtle foraging, nesting and migratory areas;
10. ENCOURAGES Parties, where marine turtles hatchery establishments exist, develop science-based operational protocols for marine turtle hatchery establishments to ensure that they provide conservation value to marine turtle populations;
11. RECOMMENDS that:
 - a) any Party seeking to allow international trade in products of sea turtle ranches satisfy all the requirements of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15);
 - b) any Party seeking to transfer a marine turtle population from Appendix I to Appendix II pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) provide information in accordance with the guidelines contained in Annex to the present Resolution; and
 - c) any Party whose population of marine turtle is transferred to Appendix II pursuant to the present Resolution and Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) ensure that procedures for regular adequate reporting to the Secretariat exist and are implemented. Failure to satisfy this requirement and to demonstrate conservation benefit to the population or compliance with other requirements of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) may result in the application of paragraph 5 d) of that Resolution;
12. ENCOURAGE Parties to share holistic regional marine turtle survival probability models and their output and other information to assess sustainability of current harvest and by-catch levels while taking into account other threats to the populations across their range (number of turtles of different age classes taken from populations), reproductive success (number of turtles recruited per year), natural survival probabilities, and marine turtle biology; and for any Party that intends to engage in sustainable use of marine turtles, develop robust frameworks for the sustainable use of marine turtles that are based on the best scientific advice available taking into consideration the advice, resolutions, conservation and management measures of relevant bodies including competent fisheries authorities and experts, as appropriate;
13. DIRECTS the Secretariat to maintain close collaboration with RFBs, CMS, its IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU and IAC on the management and conservation of marine turtles to ensure the compatibility of activities, optimization of resources, promotion of research to address information gaps, and enhancement of synergies;

14. DIRECTS the Secretariat to support Parties, especially developing countries and small island developing states, upon request, with the CITES-relevant aspects of the development and/or implementation of the Convention for marine turtles including building financial and technical capacity for the conservation of marine turtles;
15. DIRECTS the Animals Committee to make recommendations, if necessary, to ensure the conservation of marine turtles;
16. DIRECTS the Standing Committee to provide guidance on compliance with, and enforcement of the marine turtle listings in Appendix I, including but not limited to, use of forensic sampling of seized specimens and exchange of information on the illegal trade in marine turtles;
17. DIRECTS the Animals Committee and Standing Committees to report progress on the conservation of marine turtles at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate; and
18. REPEALS Resolution Conf. 9.20 (Rev.) on *Guidelines for evaluating marine turtle ranching proposals submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)*.

Annex

Guidelines for evaluating marine turtle ranching proposals submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)¹

1. Resource management

A. Biological information

The proposal should provide information on the biology, management and geographic extent of each population that will be affected throughout its range. Geographic extent should be described using sound scientific techniques. Range is defined as all the range States and waters in which the population occurs.

The following characteristics of the population of marine turtles that is the subject of the ranching proposal should be detailed:

- a) Population distribution. Describe the current (and, if possible, the historical) nesting grounds, feeding areas and migratory range of the population. Nesting areas from which eggs and/or hatchlings are to be taken should be described in detail.
- b) Population status and trend. Describe the population and its trend using indices of abundance for the different life stages with particular attention to the age/size structure of the population.
- c) Reproduction. Provide an estimate or calculation of the annual reproductive rate or size of the annual production (e.g. numbers of eggs and/or hatchlings).
- d) Population mortality. Provide an estimate of hatching success and estimates of human-induced mortalities of the population.

B. National management

A prerequisite for approval of a ranching proposal will be the effective implementation of a national management plan for marine turtles. The plan should include:

- a) Monitoring. A description of the annual programme to monitor population trends and mortality rates.
- b) Habitat protection. All important nesting beaches, feeding grounds and other significant habitats should be protected from disruption including development, urbanization and pollution.
- c) Harvest regulation. Harvesting for ranches should normally be restricted to eggs and/or hatchlings. The annual numbers (and percentage) of eggs and/or hatchlings proposed for removal to the ranch must be specified. The proposed harvest rate should also be presented as a proportion of the natural production of the population being harvested for ranches.
- d) Protection of the population. Human-induced mortality of marine turtles, such as uncontrolled harvests, incidental catch in fisheries and pollution of habitat should be identified and mechanisms be in place to control such mortalities.
- e) Rules for stopping harvests. Predetermined threshold values of population trends and changes in status, mortality or habitat should be proposed, the passing of which would automatically trigger the suspension of harvests, and the initiation of additional conservation measures.

¹ Corrected by the Secretariat following the 11th, 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties: originally referred to Resolution Conf. 10.18, later corrected to Resolution Conf. 11.16, then to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14).

C. Regional management

Because of the migratory behaviour of marine turtles, that segment of the population occurring within the jurisdiction of any one State can not be considered in isolation. Any management of the population should involve the range States sharing the majority of the population.

A Party submitting a ranching proposal shall take the lead in the development and effective implementation of a regional management protocol designed to enhance the conservation of the population.

- a) Activities undertaken by the proponent to develop cooperative regional management among the range States sharing the majority of the population should be described. Regional management should entail cooperative mechanisms for:
 - i) assessment of the conservation status of the population throughout its range and identification of key recruitment areas (e.g. breeding and nesting sites);
 - ii) regular monitoring of population trends, with an assessment of sources of annual mortality, including the impact of the ranching operation;
 - iii) effective protection of important nesting beaches and other essential habitats (e.g. feeding areas);
 - iv) regulating, where necessary, harvests and domestic sale of marine turtle specimens; and
 - v) effective controls, sufficient to prevent the stimulation of illegal trade in products from wild populations.
- b) The regional management protocol designed to enhance conservation of the marine turtles in the wild should also document existing conservation legislation and trade controls by range States and provide a forum through which more effective or complementary trade controls, enforcement activities and other conservation measures may be developed.

2. *Trade controls*

Proponents must take every reasonable measure to ensure that the trade in products from approved ranches does not stimulate an increase in trade from other sources in a manner detrimental to the survival of the population, other populations or other species of marine turtle, or serve as a cause for such trade. Therefore, before international trade is authorized, the proponent Party should ensure that both it and any country to which the products of the ranching operation are destined have adequate legal frameworks and administrative measures for monitoring and reporting, and adequate local and national enforcement capabilities. In particular each proponent Party must:

- a) Agree that exports of marine turtle products derived from the population covered by its proposal will be restricted to those from the ranching operation, in specified amounts (i.e. a quota may be set) that can be met by proposed ranch production. Importing States shall undertake to provide documentation of their domestic laws to regulate the import, re-export, possession, sale, purchase and transport of marine turtles and their parts and derivatives, and the measures taken to control existing stockpiles of such specimens.
- b) Document its domestic laws and enforcement mechanisms (including those in any territories and overseas political units) that regulate the taking of marine turtles from the wild and the possession, sale, purchase, transport, import and export of marine turtles, and their parts and derivatives.
- c) Undertake registration of any existing stockpiles of marine turtle parts and derivatives held within its territorial jurisdiction, and instigate marking and control systems to ensure that such items are readily distinguishable from similar items deriving from approved ranches.
- d) Describe marking and tracking procedures for all parts and derivatives from approved ranches that will allow the unambiguous identification of ranch products, including methods for marking products and packages, packaging types, transport methods, shipping routes, product documentation, secure storage of products, inventory control up to the point of export and specification of the maximum quantities of products (quotas) to be exported annually.

3. **The ranching operation**

To satisfy recommendation in paragraph 2 d) ii)¹ of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)², the proponent should provide information on:

- a) Financial operation. Identity of the owners and a business and financial plan taking account of market demand and production goals and objectives.
- b) Physical plant. In accordance with technical and professional standards, descriptions of:
 - i) site, including geographical location, lay-out, size and technical specifications;
 - ii) facilities for maintaining stock, food storage, quarantine, slaughter and processing, refrigeration and freezing;
 - iii) sea-water source, including circulation, filtration, waste disposal and quality control systems; and
 - iv) staff, including numbers and qualifications of technical and management personnel and numbers of support staff.
- c) Operating procedures, taking account of:
 - i) stock collection, including location of source sites, methods used in collection and removal of specimens, age- and size-classes of specimens (e.g. eggs, hatchlings), collecting seasons, number of specimens to be collected each year and the proportion of natural annual production that the harvest represents, methods of handling and transport to the ranching operation, and injury levels and mortality during collection and transport;
 - ii) stocking rates, including the number or weight of turtles per 1,000 litres of sea-water and square metres of surface area;
 - iii) production schedules, including production profiles by age- and size-class, growth rates, methods used to identify ranch stocks, culling procedures exclusive of harvesting, reports of non-harvest mortality, methods of disposal of carcasses from non-harvest mortality and number of specimens by age- and size-class that will be harvested each year;
 - iv) feeding, including sources of feed, general nutritional composition, evaluation of additives and contaminants, and feeding regimen (amount, frequency and method of distribution);
 - v) health care, including monitoring methods, veterinary care and treatment procedures; and
 - vi) slaughter procedures, including specimen selection, methods used to collect and transport specimens to the processing site, humane slaughter technique, processing techniques and waste disposal.
- d) Record keeping, indicating procedures followed in inspecting and monitoring records maintained by the ranching operation.
- e) Benefits, indicating how local people would benefit from the operation.

4. **Summary statement describing benefit to the population**

Proponents should summarize the legal and enforcement mechanisms that will prevent detrimental impact of the renewal of legal trade and summarize the benefits resulting or expected to result from the management actions implemented for the population to be harvested for ranches, including regional management protocols.

5. **Reporting**

Proponents that achieve a transfer of their national population of marine turtles from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to this Resolution should report to the Secretariat updated information on:

¹ Corrected by the Secretariat following the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties: originally referred to "paragraph e) ii)".

² Corrected by the Secretariat following the 11th, 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties: originally referred to Resolution Conf. 10.18, later corrected to Resolution Conf. 11.16, then to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14).

- a) population status and trends;
- b) any change in the area of beaches that provide suitable nesting habitat;
- c) any change in enforcement effort; and
- d) amendments to cooperative agreements to preserve and manage the marine turtle resource.

Reports should also detail the nature of and progress in developing and implementing effective regional management protocols.