

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



Thirty-second meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 19 – 23 June 2023

Regulation of trade

Trade in stony corals (Scleractinia spp.)

REPORTING OF TRADE IN STONY CORALS (SCLERACTINIA SPP.)

1. This document has been prepared by the European Union*.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties considered [CoP19 Doc. 46](#) on Trade in Stony Corals which outlined issues relating to a) definitions and b) reporting of coral rock in international trade. CoP19 adopted Decision 19.177 to address these concerns, respectively.
3. The key reporting issue identified in CoP19 Doc. 46 is the likely erroneous reporting by Parties of coral rock (which is generally reported in trade at the order level as “Scleractinia spp.”) as live coral, or trade term code “LIV”, rather than raw coral (code “COR”).
4. Decision [19.177 b\)](#) directs the Animals Committee to: “make recommendations, as necessary, to revise the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report*, to ensure that they provide sufficient clarity on the use of appropriate terms and units for trade in stony corals”.
5. Revisions to the current [Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports](#) (issued with Notification to the Parties No. 2023/039) are proposed to clarify the appropriate terms and units for reporting trade in stony corals, which aim to improve Parties’ reporting and allow for more effective analyses of the levels and patterns of trade.

Recommendations

6. The Animals Committee are invited to:
 - a) review the proposed changes to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* as presented in the Annex to the present document. New text is underlined and text to be removed is ~~struck out~~:

* 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.

Suggested Amendments to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*

In section 3 “**Regarding stony corals**” add a final paragraph as follows:

Live corals should be reported as ‘LIV’ with the unit ‘number of specimens’. Coral rock (as live rock) should be reported using the trade term code ‘COR’ with the unit kilograms (kg). Coral rock (as substrate) and dead corals should be reported as ‘COR’ with the unit ‘number of specimens’.

In section 6a), update the explanations of ‘live’ and ‘corals (raw)’ in the terminology table:

Description	Trade term code	Preferred unit	Alternative Additional unit	Explanation
live	LIV	no.	(kg) (in addition to the no.)	live animals and plants, excluding live fingerling fish – see FIG. NB: <u>live stony corals should be recorded as ‘number of specimens’; all coral rock (live rock and substrate) should be reported as ‘COR’.</u>
coral (raw)	COR	no. <u>kg (for live rock); no. (for substrate and dead corals)</u>	kg	raw or unworked coral and coral rock (also live rock and substrate) [as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15)]. Coral rock (live rock and substrate) should be recorded as ‘Scleractinia spp.’ NB: the trade should be recorded by number of pieces only if the coral specimens are transported in water. Live rock (transported moist in boxes), should be reported in kg; coral substrate should be reported as number of pieces (since these are transported in water as the substrate to which non-CITES corals are attached); <u>dead corals should also be reported as number of pieces.</u>