

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 5 – 9 June 2023

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

Strategic matters

Capacity-building

COUNTRY-WIDE REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE

1. This document has been submitted by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees*.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.47 and 19.48 on *Country-wide Review of Significant Trade* as follows:

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

19.47 *The Animals and Plants Committees shall:*

- a) *taking into account the progress made under the Compliance Assistance Programme and the development of a Capacity-Building Framework, consider whether the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar are sufficiently addressed, or whether a new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties at a national level; and*
- b) *provide recommendations, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species or other existing resolutions, or the development of a new resolution; for consideration by the Standing Committee.*

Directed to the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat

19.48 *The Standing Committee shall review the report and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, and in consultation with the Secretariat, make recommendations for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Background

3. At its eighteenth meeting (CoP18, Geneva, August 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.71 to 18.73 on *Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews* to determine if such reviews may be a way to address systemic problems in making non-detriment findings at the national level, related more to

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institutional or other wider challenges than to species-specific issues, drawing upon the lessons learned, outcomes and impacts of the country-wide Review of Significant Trade of Madagascar (further details can be found in the Annex to document [AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3](#)).

4. At CoP18, Parties also adopted Decisions 18.39 to 18.46 on *Capacity-building*, and Decisions 18.68 to 18.70 on the *Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP)*. It was evident that there was interdependence and complementarity between the decisions on Countrywide Significant Trade Review process and these two sets of Decisions.
5. Progress on the implementation of Decisions 18.71 to 18.73 was presented to the joint sessions of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (AC31/PC25, online, June 2021) in document [AC31 Doc. 13.5/PC25 Doc. 15.6](#), which also included an update on the implementation of Decisions 18.68 to 18.70 on *Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP)*. Progress on the implementation of Decisions 18.39 to 18.46 was presented at the same meeting in document [AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc. 11](#) and its [Addendum](#).
6. At its 74th meeting (SC74, Lyon, March 2022), the Standing Committee considered the report by the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 18.71 and 18.72 in document [SC74 Doc.31](#), which presented a review of existing CITES mechanisms and programme activities, including the CAP and the ongoing work on capacity-building, with regard to how these mechanisms could provide targeted support to Parties identified as requiring assistance in relation to the Review of Significant Trade at a national level.
7. While the Secretariat concluded that the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Significant Trade Review for Madagascar can be integrated into other existing mechanisms or programme activities, in particular the CAP, the Standing Committee agreed with the Animals and Plants Committees that it was premature to conclude on the need to develop a new mechanism to provide targeted support to Parties at a national level based on the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar. The Animals and Plants Committees therefore proposed the new decisions that were adopted at CoP19.
8. At CoP19, the Parties adopted Decisions 19.40 to 19.43 on *Capacity-building* and the new Resolution 19.2 on *Capacity-building*. The Parties also adopted Decisions 19.44 to 19.46 on *Compliance Assistance Programme* and revised Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures*. These decisions and resolutions could be relevant to the implementation of Decision 19.47 and should be considered in that context.

Recommendation

9. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to consider establishing a joint intersessional working group with a mandate to:
 - a) review the progress updates on the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) in document [SC74 Doc. 29](#), document [CoP19 Doc. 30](#) and Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*; and capacity-building activities in documents [SC74 Doc. 22](#), document [CoP19 Doc. 16](#) and Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building*
 - b) consider whether scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar and outlined in document [AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3](#) are sufficiently addressed through existing mechanisms or, if appropriate, propose amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) or other existing resolutions, or propose a new mechanism to undertake such reviews; and
 - c) present its findings and recommendations to the joint session of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and 27th meeting of the Plants Committee in 2024.