

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

Species conservation and trade

SONGBIRD TRADE AND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (PASSERIFORMES SPP.)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties revised Decisions 18.256 to 18.259 on *Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes spp.)* as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

18.256 (Rev. CoP19) *Subject to available funds, the Secretariat shall:*

- a) *within 12 months of the conclusion of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, commission a preliminary study on the scale and scope of international songbird trade to consider the management and conservation priorities of songbird taxa involved in such trade;*
- b) *consult with appropriate technical experts in the preparation of documents on the conservation, trade, management, enforcement and regulatory priorities of the songbird taxa identified;*
- c) *convene a technical workshop to consider the findings of the study and the reports referred to in paragraph b);*
- d) *invite the members of the Animals and Standing Committees, representatives from range, exporting, transit and consumer States, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the workshop; and*
- e) *make the results of the study and workshop, together with recommendations, available to the Animals Committee for its consideration.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.257 (Rev. CoP19) *The Animals Committee shall review document CoP18 Doc. 79 and the results of the study and workshop on trade in songbirds, with the recommendations of the Secretariat, as per Decision 18.256 (Rev. CoP19), and make its own recommendations to the Standing Committee or 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.258 (Rev. CoP19) *The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations by the Animals Committee and make its own recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to Parties and non-Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, commercial traders and donors

18.259 (Rev. CoP19) *Parties and non-Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, commercial traders and donors are encouraged to provide funding to the Secretariat for the implementation of these Decisions.*

3. Having secured funding from Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the Secretariat can now implement Decision 18.256 (Rev. CoP19) on *Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes spp.)*, including the preparatory studies followed by an in-person technical workshop. The Secretariat is in final discussions with technical experts on the preparatory work for the technical workshop and will provide an update on progress at this meeting of the Animals Committee.
4. The preparatory work will include the following:
 - a) a preliminary study with an overview of the current state of knowledge on the scale and scope of international songbird trade to consider the management and conservation priorities of songbird taxa involved in such trade. This study is expected to produce a preliminary list of the songbird taxa (species and species groupings) that are traded internationally. The study should draw on currently available reports and studies, including [document CoP19 Doc. 74](#), the results of the first Asian Songbird Trade Crisis summit in 2015¹, outputs from the [Cambridge Conservation Initiative](#) and the [Species Knowledge Index Initiative](#), including information documents [AC31 Inf. 11](#) and [AC31 Inf. 12](#) (both available in English only); and
 - b) documents on the conservation, trade, management, enforcement and regulatory priorities of the songbird taxa identified from a) above as being in international trade.
5. For the preliminary study, the following activities will be implemented.
 - a) A list of existing literature and data sources on international trade in songbirds will be compiled, including a short assessment of the nature and quality of the data per data source, in consultation with technical experts, Parties, industry representatives and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
 - b) Available information and data will be reviewed to:
 - i) compile an overview of the songbird species and taxa in international trade;
 - ii) complete a preliminary assessment of volumes and trends in trade, by songbird species or key species groupings;
 - iii) identify major trade routes, and the main exporting, transit and importing countries of songbird species (to identify priority countries for more targeted consultation);
 - iv) differentiate between wild-caught and captive-bred songbirds in international trade, and examine trends in source countries and proportions of songbirds coming from captive breeding; and
 - v) identify issues in the supply chain that impact positively or negatively on the sustainability of songbird species.
 - c) Industry representatives, government officials, songbird experts, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders will be consulted to cross-validate the findings of paragraphs a) and b) listed above, and to identify – and where possible fill – data or knowledge gaps.
 - d) A draft study, with key findings and draft recommendations, will be prepared for consideration at the technical workshop.

¹ [Conservation strategy for Southeast Asian songbirds in trade: Recommendations from the first Asian Songbird Trade Crisis Summit 2015 \(PDF, 3 MB\) \(traffic.org\)](#)

- e) The overview will be disaggregated by major exporting countries ideally or, where that is not feasible, regionally.
6. For the study on conservation and management of the songbird taxa identified to be in international trade, the following activities will be implemented.
- a) Information from existing sources on the conservation status, trade, management, enforcement and regulatory priorities of the songbird taxa identified as being in international trade will be compiled, including a short assessment of the nature and quality of these data sources.
 - b) Patterns (e.g. taxonomic, spatial) will be identified where non-CITES listed songbird species that are in international live trade have an unfavourable or unknown conservation status and, to the extent possible, assess the relative importance of international trade as a threat to these.
 - c) Songbird experts and other stakeholders, including members of the Animals Committee, will be consulted to fill knowledge gaps where possible.
 - d) Priority species (or species groupings) will be suggested for which conservation measures may be warranted based on their potential vulnerability to overharvesting for the international songbird trade.
 - e) A draft report will be prepared, with key findings and draft recommendations, for consideration at the technical workshop.

Technical workshop

7. An in-person technical workshop will be convened by the Secretariat in the last quarter of 2023 to consider the management and conservation of songbird taxa involved in international trade. The Secretariat is in discussions with a potential host country and hopes to provide confirmation on the exact dates and venue at this meeting of the Animals Committee. The workshop should have around 80 participants including Members of the Animals and Standing Committees; representatives from range, exporting, transit and consumer States; as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The objective of the workshop should be to determine if and which songbird taxa are negatively impacted by international trade and make recommendations to ensure the conservation of those taxa, as needed. The results of the workshop will be presented for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting in 2024.

Recommendations

8. The Animals Committee is invited to note the information in this document and any oral update provided by the Secretariat.