

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2023

14. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

14.2 Selection of new species/country combinations for review following CoP19 AC32 Doc. 14.2

The Committee agreed that the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria would participate in the in-session working group on the Review of Significant Trade.

25. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source

25.1 Report of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees PC26 Doc. 23 / AC32 Doc. 25.1

The Committee agreed that the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria would participate in the joint intersessional working group on trade in specimens not of wild source.

46. Report of the specialist on zoological nomenclature AC32 Doc. 46

The Committee established an in-session working group with a mandate to:

- a) consider the matters raised in paragraphs 2 to 5 of document AC32 Doc. 46 and the report of the Secretariat, and advise about possible ways forward to address the use of online databases as standard nomenclature references;
- b) consider the scientific merit of CITES recognition of two species of African elephants, and, as appropriate, recommend the retention or an appropriate replacement nomenclature standard reference for these animals;
- c) consider further the implications of adopting the HBW/BI *Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World*, and in particular whether the adoption of one of the subsequent annual updates would be desirable, and if so, up until what year;
- d) provide guidance for the preparation of future checklists based on time-bound extracts from online databases;
- e) consider the draft checklists proposed for the lizard family Iguanidae in paragraph 20 and for the genus *Phrynosoma* in Annex 1 to document AC32 Doc. 46;
- f) review the nomenclatural changes summarised in Annex 2 and Annex 3 for possible adoption at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- g) consider the deletion of *Ramphastos vitellinus citreolaemus* from Appendix II, by reducing the scope of the listing of *R. vitellinus* in Appendix II to *Ramphastos vitellinus vitellinus* only;

- h) develop terms of reference for an intersessional nomenclature working group that will incorporate the elements that the in-session working group could not cover and a review of possible changes in nomenclature ahead of AC33; and
- i) report back to the Committee at this meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk);

Members: representative for Africa (Ms. Maha);

Parties: Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Japan, Namibia, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature, BirdLife International, Center for Biological Diversity, Conservation Force, Fondation Franz Weber, Humane Society International, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Safari Club International Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature.

36. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.)..... AC32 Doc. 36

The Committee agreed the recommendations in paragraph 16 of document AC32 Doc. 36 as follows:

The Committee:

- a) encouraged Parties when recording data on *Anguilla* eel species to record to the species level (rather than recording as *Anguilla* spp.) and to differentiate between juvenile (glass eels) and larger size live eels to improve accurate trade monitoring for all *Anguilla* eel species;
- b) encouraged Parties to use the descriptions for specimen codes provided in the *Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of CITES Annual Reports* and the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports* to standardize reporting and facilitate better data collection;
- c) encouraged range States to collaborate and share their experiences on the making of non-detriment findings;
- d) encouraged range States to share their experiences with any challenges and benefits of available techniques and mechanisms to address identification issues concerning *Anguilla* species in trade;
- e) encouraged range States to conduct research to increase the understanding of the basic biology and life histories of anguillid eel species; conduct joint programmes of work, experience knowledge and best practice; and manage their *Anguilla* resources in a sustainable manner;
- f) encouraged range States to establish abundance monitoring programmes for the different life stages of *Anguilla* species; and
- g) encouraged range States to fully implement Decision 19.218.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on eels with the mandate to:

- a) review the summary of the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 and Notification to the Parties No. 2023/062 on eels, including any updates provided under Decision 19.218 and any recommendations from the Secretariat;
- b) review the potential use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of European eel (*A. anguilla*) from aquaculture production systems and the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels to the wild; and

- c) make draft recommendations on the conservation and management of European eel for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora), representative for Europe (Ms. Zikova), alternate representative for Europe (Mr. Novitsky);

Parties: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Union for Conservation of Nature, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Global Guardian Trust, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Species Survival Network, World Wide Fund for Nature, Zoological Society of London.

29. West African vultures AC32 Doc. 29

The Committee encouraged West African range States to undertake a Periodic Review of the vulture species referred to in Decision 19.192 pursuant to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*, taking note of the offer of the Vulture Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to assist range States in such endeavour. The Committee invited the representatives for Africa to reach out to the West African vulture range States to engage the IUCN on this matter.

The Committee noted that Guinea requested technical and financial support and that this support will be provided through the Compliance Assistance Programme and further noted that poisoning remains one of the main concerns and that international trade transactions have declined over time.

The Committee noted the information submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 19.194, paragraph e).

11. Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative AC32 Comp.

The Committee noted the information in document AC32 Comp. and the updated provided by the Secretariat relating to the Joint African Carnivore Initiative.

32. African lions (*Panthera leo*) AC32 Doc. 32

The Committee noted document AC32 Doc. 32 and the updates provided by the Secretariat that includes information shared through information documents AC32 Inf. 7 and Inf. 9.

The Committee also noted that a revised *Guidelines for the conservation of lions in Africa* is not available for review by the Animals Committee and that the CITES Big Cat Task Force considered the study entitled *The legal and illegal trade in big cats* during its meeting that resulted in outcomes agreed.

The Committee further noted the comments made by the regional representative for Africa (Mr. Kasoma) that additional funding should be provided to tackle issues of human-wildlife conflict on the ground.

33. Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) in Africa AC32 Doc. 33

The Committee noted document AC32 Doc. 33 and the updates provided by the Secretariat that includes information shared through information document AC32 Inf. 7. The Committee further noted that a revised *Roadmap for the conservation of leopards* is not available for review by AC32. The Committee invited the Secretariat to submit the revised *Roadmap for the conservation of leopards* to the Animals Committee when available.

35. Saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*) AC32 Doc. 35

The Committee noted document AC32 Doc. 35 and the oral report provided by the Secretariat. The Committee invited the Secretariat to convey to the Standing Committee the concerns raised by the United

States of America about the re-exports of *Saiga* spp. when there is a zero export quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes and about the possible incorrect use of purpose code M for a 2021 trade record (see paragraph 18 of paragraph document AC32 Doc. 35).

38. Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.)

38.1 Report of the Secretariat..... AC32 Doc. 38.1 (Rev.1)

and

38.2 Implementing CITES for seahorses - Asia region workshop..... AC32 Doc. 38.2

The Committee noted document AC32 Doc. 38.2 and invited the Secretariat to confer bilaterally with India about the concerns they raised relating to the information about India contained in the report produced by Project Seahorse.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on seahorses with the mandate to:

- a) review available information on trade in seahorses; including the recommendations contained in Annexes 1 and 2 to document AC32 Doc. 38.1 (Rev.1), taking into consideration the issues raised in paragraphs 8 and 9 of that document; and the recommendations of the expert workshop contained in document AC32 Doc. 38.2; and
- b) produce a consolidated set of recommendations for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori);

Members: alternate representative for Asia (Ms. Terada);

Parties: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Center for Biological Diversity, Ornamental Fish International, Pet Advocacy Network, TRAFFIC, World Wide Fund for Nature, Zoological Society of London.

43. Annotations PC26 Doc. 42.1 / AC32 Doc. 43

The Committee agreed to nominate the representative for Africa (Ms. Maha) and the representative for Europe (Ms. Zikova) to participate in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations.

The Committee invited the working group to consider paragraphs g) and h) of annotation A10 for *Loxodonta africana* as part of its mandate.

44. Informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations* PC26 Doc. 39 / AC32 Doc. 44

The Committee noted the Secretariat's report on progress in the implementation of Decisions 19.266 and 19.267.

13. Country-wide Review of Significant Trade..... PC26 Doc 14 / AC32 Doc. 13

The Committee established a joint intersessional working group on country-wide Review of Significant Trade 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, develop a new resolution, 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.

The membership was decided as follows¹:

Co-Chairs for AC: Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) and alternative representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz);

AC Members: representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson)

Chair for PC: representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth);

Parties: Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Germany, Madagascar, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, ForestBased Solutions, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Wide Fund for Nature.

¹ This includes the expression of interest at the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee.