

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



Thirty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12 – 19 July 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
THURSDAY 18 JULY 2024

8. Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade [Decision 19.16]..... AC33 Doc. 8

The Animals Committee:

a) noted:

- i) the Memorandum of Understanding between the CITES Secretariat and WOAHA signed on 1 March 2024 and the *Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade* released by WOAHA in May 2024;
 - ii) the update relating to the implementation of paragraph c) of Decision 19.15 on collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species; and
 - iii) the update provided by the United Nations Environment Programme on relevant work carried out under the Quadripartite Collaboration for One Health or other relevant initiatives;
- b) agreed to share the proposed effective and practical solutions for reducing pathogen spillover risk in wildlife supply chains and opportunities for practical collaboration as contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of document AC33 Doc. 8, with paragraphs 14 b) and 15 b) as amended below, with the Standing Committee through its intersessional working group;

14 b) *“Taking into consideration that not all Parties have detailed and robust Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for wildlife health surveillance, the Animals Committee may consider developing guidelines based on existing material from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNEP, World Health Organization (WHO) and WOAHA and on the international trade from World Customs Organization (WCO) and World Trade Organization (WTO) for Parties to use as a model in developing or improving their SoP for wildlife health surveillance.”*

15 b) *“consider undertaking a review of the existing approach by Parties relating to the transport of live animals to identify means to enhance/improve the process, including the review of the Management Authority seeking advice from the Scientific Authority and other relevant authorities on the review of a CITES permit application, the issuing of the CITES permit and the transport of live specimens to ensure collaboration at each step of the process for a rapid and safe transport of the specimen;”*

c) agreed that Decision 19.16 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

10. Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative [Decision 19.25]..... AC33 Doc.10

The Animals Committee:

- a) agreed to submit the following amendment to paragraph 1 b) of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*, for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee for onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting:
- b) *ensuring that CITES initiatives in respect of the following species or taxonomic groups complement, reinforce and, as far as possible, benefit from the regional collaboration already being undertaken or envisaged in the framework of CMS:*

[...]

- v) *cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus), lions (Panthera leo) and leopards (Panthera pardus);*
- b) agreed to submit the following draft decisions for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee for onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and

CITES-CMS AFRICAN CARNIVORE INITIATIVE

Directed to range States of African carnivores

18.59 *Relevant range States of African carnivores are urged to work through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative to implement CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.*

Directed to Parties

18.60 (Rev. CoP19) *Parties are invited to recognize the importance of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative in implementing CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by the Initiative, and in seeking synergies as appropriate to implement complementary CMS resolutions and decisions.*

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

18.61 *Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support relevant African range States, through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, in their implementation of CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.24 (Rev. CoP20) *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *subject to external resources, support the range States of the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative in preparing a revised ACI Programme of Work and in implementing relevant CITES Resolutions and Decisions that contribute to the ACI;*
- b) *inform the Animals Committee regarding the draft revised ACI Programme of Work and the activities and outputs of the ~~Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative~~ (ACI) that relate to the Committee's mandate and request advice from the Animals Committee, as appropriate; and*
- c) *report on the implementation of this Decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.25 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on information that it provides regarding:*

- a) the revised Programme of Work of the African Carnivore Initiative (ACI);
and
- b) the activities and outputs of the ACI that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.
- c) agreed to submit the following draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RESOURCE KITS FOR
AFRICAN LIONS (*PANTHERA LEO*) AND LEOPARDS (*PANTHERA PARDUS*)

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) share trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) with the Secretariat; and
- b) request the Secretariat to make these trade resource kits available to the Parties on the CITES website.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall subject to external funding,

- a) review the trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) shared by Parties;
- b) identify gaps and develop trade resource materials for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) based on the gaps identified and taking into consideration lessons learnt from the development of the CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit.
- c) share trade resource kits developed by Parties on the CITES website, as appropriate.
- d) inform the Animals Committee, as appropriate, regarding the development of trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*).

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.CC The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on aspects of the development of trade resource kits and other guidance materials that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.

SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN
AFRICAN LION INVENTORY AND DATABASE

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with African lion range States

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, and in consultation with African lion range States, support the process as agreed by the ACI range States relating to the development of an inventory and of an African lion database (see Activities 11.2.1 and 11.4.1 in the [PoW of the ACI](#) and outcome 5.3 of the [outcomes of the ACI2 meeting](#)); and
- b) inform the Animals Committee regarding the development of an inventory and of an African lion database that relate to the Committee's mandate and seek its advice, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB *The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on aspects of the development of an African lion database that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.*

36. African lions (*Panthera leo*) [Decision 19.206] AC33 Doc. 36

The Animals Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting and onward submission to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

19.205 (Rev. CoP20) *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and, as appropriate, taking into consideration the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa ~~in information document CoP18 Inf. 10:~~*

- a) *support the implementation of activities in joint African lion conservation plans and strategies that relate to trade in African lion specimens and the implementation of CITES and as needed, the review of such plans and strategies;*
- b) *jointly with the CMS Secretariat, undertake a comparative study of African lion population trends and conservation and management practices, such as lion hunting, within and between countries, including the role, if any, of international trade;*
- c) *support capacity-building in African lion conservation and management including where appropriate, in the making of non-detriment findings by range States according to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings and the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.9 on Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II, taking into consideration the available guidance on the making of non-detriment findings; and*
- d) ~~*assist in maintaining a joint CITES-CMS web portal on African lions, that also allows for the posting and sharing of information and guidance on the conservation and management of African lions;*~~
- e) *share any relevant update of the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa that relate to the Committee's mandate with the Animals Committee for its review; and*
- f) *report on the implementation of the present Decision to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee and to the Conference of the Parties at its 21stth meeting.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.206 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals Committee shall:*

- a) *review any relevant update of the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa that relate to the Committee's mandate and that has been brought to the Committee's attention by the Secretariat;*
- b) *review the information reported by the Secretariat under Decision 19.205 (Rev. CoP20) and submit recommendations to the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and African lion range States, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.207 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *review any reports received from the Secretariat and the Animals Committee under Decisions 19.205 (Rev. CoP20) and 19.206 (Rev. CoP20) and;*
- b) *make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, the Animals Committee, the Secretariat and/or African lion range States to improve the implementation of the Convention for African lions, as appropriate.*

Directed to Parties

19.208 *Parties, including range States and consumer countries of African lion, as relevant, are encouraged to:*

- a) *increase enforcement efforts to detect illegal, unreported or misreported trade in specimens of African lion and other big cats;*
- b) *use, where appropriate, South Africa's Barcode of Wildlife Project to help identify lion specimens in trade and, when importing lion specimens from South Africa, collaborate where necessary with relevant authorities in South Africa to improve the traceability of such specimens;*
- c) *provide details on the observed and/or removed lion body parts in trade when collecting and communicating data on illegal killing and illegal trade in lions to CITES in their annual reports; and*
- d) *cooperate on lion conservation, including by sharing information on lion populations, illegal killing and illegal trade.*

Directed to Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities

19.209 (Rev. CoP20) *All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support African lion range States and the Secretariat in their efforts to conserve and restore African lions across their range, taking into consideration the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa, the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and the outcomes of the CITES Big Cat Task Force meeting, and the implementation of Decision 19.205 (Rev. CoP20) and 19.208.*

Directed to the Secretariat

~~**19.210** The Secretariat shall:~~

- ~~a) share relevant information generated through the implementation of Decision 19.208 with the CITES Big Cats Task Force, the Standing Committee, or both, as appropriate; and~~
- ~~b) report on the implementation of the previous Decision 18.246 to the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee.~~

34. Outcomes of the CITES Big Cats Task Force: consultation on a resolution on big cats (Felidae spp.)..... AC33 Doc. 34

The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to take into consideration the comments made during the discussion in the preparation of its report to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting, noting that there was no support for a new resolution on all big cats and limited support for a revision to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*.

18. Guidance on non-detriment findings for trade in leopard (*Panthera pardus*) hunting trophies [Decision 18.168 (Rev. CoP19)]AC33 Doc. 18 and AC33 Doc. 18 Add

The Animals Committee:

- a) noted the observations and recommendations made by Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) that participated in the online workshop;
- b) agreed that Decisions 18.166 and 18.168 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) agreed to submit the revisions to Decision 18.169 (Rev. CoP19) and the new draft decision for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, amended as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

18.169 (Rev. CoP2019) *The Secretariat shall, subject to external resources and as part of the African Carnivore Initiative:*

- a) *encourage and support all Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) to exchange information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining that such quotas are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and*
- b) *support in cooperation with range States, upon request, and relevant experts, to consolidate existing information relating to the management and monitoring of leopard and hunting quotas develop guidance that can assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings for trade in leopard hunting trophies in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19), facilitate the sharing e of the information with relevant Parties, preferably through an in-person workshop, draft guidance and bring any aspects relevant to the mandate of with the Animals Committee to its attention. for its review, make such guidance available on the CITES website, and encourage its use by relevant Parties.*

Directed to Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19)

20.AA *Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) to consolidate existing information relating to the management and monitoring of leopard and hunting quotas that assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings for trade in leopard hunting trophies in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) and to share this with leopard range States through the African Carnivore Initiative.*

38. Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) in Africa [Decision 19.212] AC33 Doc. 38

The Animals Committee agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 19.211 and 19.212 to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

37. Jaguars (*Panthera onca*) [Decisions 19.110 and 19.111]..... AC33 Doc. 37

The Animals Committee noted the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of SC77 recommendations on jaguars and invited the Secretariat to consider the comments made in plenary as it finalizes the draft terms of reference in the Annex to document AC33 Doc. 37, noting that most range States expressed support for the terms of reference as contained in the Annex and emphasizing the need for consultation to avoid duplication of work.

27. Conservation aspects of captive-breeding of Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)..... AC33 Doc. 27

The Animals Committee agreed that the IUCN SSC [Guidelines on the use of ex situ management for species conservation](#) provide guidance to Parties on how to evaluate the conservation aspects of tiger captive breeding facilities, noting the mention of additional guidelines in the discussion in plenary.

26. Implementation of paragraph 5 j) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes..... AC33 Doc. 26

The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to note the comments and the general support for the recommendation in paragraph 33 a) of document AC33 Doc. 26. The Animals Committee further noted support for the following draft amendment to paragraph 5 j) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes* to be submitted to the Standing Committee for its consideration:

- j) the Management Authority, in collaboration with the Scientific Authority, shall satisfy itself that the captive-breeding operation will make a continuing meaningful contribution according to the conservation needs of the species concerned;

Adoption of executive summary AC33 Sum. 2

The Animals Committee adopted executive summary AC33 Sum. 2 with the following amendment:

- throughout the document, correct the name of two non-governmental organizations as follows: “Bundesverband für fachgerechten Natur-, Tier- und Artenschutz e.V. and German Society for Herpetology”.

24. Trade in stony corals (Scleractinia spp.)..... AC33 Doc. 24

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in document AC33 Com. 1 amended as follows:

The Animals Committee agreed to submit for the consideration of the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting the following:

- i) amendments to Resolution Conf 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Trade in stony corals* as set out in Annex 1 to the present executive summary and as amended by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- ii) amendments to 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* amended as follows:

In section 3 “**Regarding stony corals**” of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, add a final paragraph as follows:

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

In section 6a) of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, and section 4 a) of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report*, update the explanations of ‘live’ and ‘corals (raw)’ in the terminology table:

Description	Trade term code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
Live	LIV	no.	kg	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>

Description	Trade term code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
coral (raw)	COR	no. kg (for live rock and dead corals); no. (for substrate)	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) and dead corals 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).

The Animals Committee, in its submission to the Standing Committee, noted that, should the amendments to Resolution Conf 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Trade in stony corals* to include the word "skeleton" before fragments to read "coral skeleton fragments" in the Annex to the Resolution be accepted, this would require consequential amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives*, in the sixth preambular paragraph and in paragraph 3 a).

The Animals Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting:

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.177 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals Committee shall:*

- ~~a) taking into account document CoP19 Doc. 46 and its Annex, provide advice on possible amendments to Resolution Conf 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Trade in stony corals, in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts, and report with recommendations to the Standing Committee;~~
- a) *taking into account the progress made at AC33, make further 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; and*
- b) *consider the information in the Annex to document AC33 Doc.24 and in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts, provide advice on the conversion factors used to analyse trade in corals for the CITES Review of Significant Trade process and report to the 21st20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.178 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall:*

- ~~a) review any proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Trade in stony corals from the Animals Committee; and~~
- ~~b) review any recommendations from the Animals Committee with regard to Decision 19.177 (Rev. CoP20), paragraph a), and make its own recommendations, as appropriate.~~

45. Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*
[Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)]

45.2 Selection of species for the periodic review* PC27 Doc. 33.2/AC33 Doc. 45.2 (Rev. 1)

The Animals Committee noted that the representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy), Israel and Mexico were unable to participate in the in-session working group.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in document AC33 Com. 2 amended as follows:

The Animals Committee:

- a) agreed that the following species in output 1 in Annex 1 of document AC33 Doc. 45.2 (Rev. 1) be reviewed in terms of the sources and purposes of trade to ascertain whether the Appendix-I listing is being managed appropriately regarding the sources and purpose codes:

Ara macao
Gorilla gorilla
Pan troglodytes

- b) invited the Secretariat to:

- i) engage with Parties relating to the reported trade in the species included above and request them to verify the source of the specimens in trade and the correct use of purpose codes:
- ii) draw the attention of the Standing Committee to the list above, the clarification provided by Parties in response to the Secretariat's request for verification of the source of the specimens in trade and the correct use of purpose codes.

- c) agreed to select the following 6 species in outputs 3 and 4 in Annex 1 of document AC33 Doc. 45.2 (Rev. 1), as candidates for potential review under Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) during the next intersessional period until CoP21 (2028). Where a range State has volunteered to conduct the review, this is indicated in **bold** in the table.

Taxon	Appendix	Range State(s)
Output 3:		
<i>Pteropus pilosus</i>	I	PW
<i>Falco newtoni</i> (population of Seychelles)	I	SC
<i>Pezoporus wallicus</i>	I	AU
<i>Psephotellus pulcherrimus</i>	I	AU
<i>Unio tampicoensis tecomatensis</i>	I	MX
Output 4:		
<i>Ovis jubata</i>	II	CN, MN

- d) acknowledged that the species identified under Output 2 (in document AC32 Doc. 14.2) was considered at length by the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee and therefore agreed not to review those species at this time.
- e) noted that, in terms of paragraph 3 d) in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19), the Secretariat shall send a copy of the proposed list of taxa to be reviewed to all Parties, and request range States of the taxa to comment within 60 days on whether they support a review of the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the reviews. The responses shall be relayed by the Secretariat to the Animals Committee. If no volunteer offers to undertake a review within two intersessional periods between CoPs, those taxa shall be deleted from the list of species to be reviewed.
- f) noted that an indication of whether illegal trade is taking place in the species included in the outputs produced in terms of paragraph 3 b) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on the *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II* may assist in informing the selection of species for review.

31. West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.) [Decision 19.195]..... AC33 Doc. 31

The Animals Committee agreed to submit the following revised decisions to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee for submission to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 20th meeting.

Text proposed to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~ and proposed new text is underlined.

Directed to West African range States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo)

19.192 (Rev. CoP20) West African range States for *Gyps africanus* (Whitebacked vulture), *Gyps fulvus* (Griffon vulture), *Gyps rueppelli* (Rüppell's vulture), *Necrosyrtes monachus* (Hooded vulture), *Neophron percnopterus* (Egyptian vulture), *Torgos tracheliotos* (Lappet-faced vulture), and *Trigonoceps occipitalis* (White-headed vulture) are urged to:

- ~~a) integrate illegal vulture trade considerations into their implementation of the West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime (WASCWC) and any decisions relating to Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting;~~
- ~~ba) ensure that national laws to protect vultures and control trade in vulture parts and derivatives are effectively implemented, and ensure that penalties for non-compliance are sufficient to deter illegal trade;~~
- ~~eb) ensure that any international trade in West African vultures is not allowed except in accordance with CITES requirements, and if international trade is found not to be in accordance with CITES requirements, consider implementing a zero export quota;~~
- ~~dc) follow Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings, and, in cases where there is an interest in exporting globally threatened vulture species, consider submitting non-detriment findings for the export of vulture specimens to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website and review by the Animals Committee;~~
- ~~ed) prioritize implementation of the ~~identify any~~ trade-related issues associated with the ~~implementation of the~~ West Africa Vulture Conservation Action Plan, the regional implementation plan of the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);~~
- ~~fe) work with relevant experts and organizations for implementing demand reduction strategies for vultures and their parts and derivatives including for belief-based use and consumption and, where appropriate, expand the implementation of strategies that have been successful;~~
- ~~gf) work with relevant organizations to initiate wide-scale public awareness campaigns at regional, national and local levels about the impacts of trade in these species, including the importance of vulture species to ecology and human health, the negative impacts of belief-based use of vulture body parts, and existing national and international legislation that protects vultures; and~~
- ~~hg) provide information report to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision well in advance of the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee to assist it in its reporting to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.~~

Directed to Parties, West African range States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

19.193 (Rev. CoP20) Parties, West African range States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged, subject to resources, to:

- a) collaborate in the conservation and restoration of West African vultures and support the implementation of the West Africa Vulture Conservation Action

Plan, the regional implementation plan of the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), taking into consideration the findings of the Midterm implementation review of the MsAP; and

- b) gather and exchange scientific knowledge and expertise on West African vultures, with a particular focus on:
 - i) documenting the scale of vulture trade by surveying markets in and outside West Africa, and identifying inter-regional and international trade routes;
 - ii) characterizing links between poisoning and trade in vultures, and contributing to the African Wildlife Poison Database; and
 - iii) updating the conservation and population status information of West African vultures, and *Gyps africanus* (white-backed vultures), *Gyps rueppellii* (Rüppell's vultures) and *Torgos tracheliotus* (lappet-faced vultures) in particular; and
- c) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision well in advance of the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee to assist it in its reporting to the Committees.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.194 (Rev. CoP20) The Secretariat shall:

- ~~a) cooperate with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICGC) partner organizations, regional and subregional wildlife enforcement networks, and competent national authorities, where relevant and feasible, to consider vultures in the context of ICCWC's enforcement and capacity-building efforts in West Africa;~~
- ~~b) subject to external funding, support the production of identification materials focusing on parts and derivatives of vulture species for use by law enforcement officials;~~
- ~~c) liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to assist in the implementation of the trade-related aspects of the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029 subject to external funding, and share information based on the work of the Animals Committee;~~
- ~~d) subject to external funding and upon request from Parties, liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) to support the implementation of capacity-building activities aimed at providing support to the West African range States in implementing the trade-related aspects of the West Africa Vulture Conservation Action Plan Vulture MsAP;~~
- ~~e) in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, consider available trade data and conservation status information from the whole geographic range of the vulture species concerned for inclusion in its reporting to the Animals and Standing Committees; and~~
- f) collect information from West African vulture range States on their implementation of Decision 19.192 (Rev. CoP20), and report as appropriate this and other information on the implementation of Decisions 19.192 (Rev.

CoP20 to 19.194 (Rev. CoP20), paragraphs a), b), c), d) and e) to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, at their first regular meetings following the 1920th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with conclusions and recommendations for their consideration.

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.195 (Rev. CoP20) The Animals Committee shall:

- ~~a)~~ encourage 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 to assist range States in such an effort;
- ~~b~~a) consider any reports or requests for advice submitted by Parties with respect to the making of non-detriment findings for trade in CITES-listed West African vulture species;
- ~~e~~b) consider the reports and recommendations of the Secretariat submitted in accordance with Decision 19.194 (Rev. CoP20), paragraph e); and
- ~~d~~c) make recommendations as appropriate for consideration by range States, Parties, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.196 (Rev. CoP20) The Standing Committee shall review the implementation of Decisions 19.192 (Rev. CoP20) to 19.195 (Rev. CoP20) and make recommendations as appropriate to West African vulture range States, Parties and the Secretariat, and for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 21st~~0th~~ meeting.

35. Pangolins (*Manis* spp.) [Decision 19.200] AC33 Doc. 35

The Animals Committee:

- a) agreed that the conversion parameters presented in the table below for *M. gigantea*, *M. javanica*, *M. pentadactyla*, *M. tetradactyla* and *M. tricuspis* can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for law enforcement and court purposes

Table 1. Scale mass estimates as conversion parameters for the eight species of pangolin, based on contributed data.

Species	Mean ± SD (95% CIs) (g)	Range (g)	Median (g)
Giant pangolin <i>M. gigantea</i>	3853.01 ± 617.22 (3815.12-3980.89)	2030 - 5448	3876.5
Temminck's pangolin <i>M. temminckii</i>	2020.1 ± 935.72 (1582.17-2458.03)	342.25 - 3911	1928.88
Indian pangolin <i>M. crassicaudata</i>	1299.95 ± 623.64 (923.08-1676.81)	56.25 - 2099.66	1096.89
Chinese pangolin <i>M. pentadactyla</i>	592.98 ± 217.63* (518.22-667.73)	129.47 - 1121.07*	573.47*
Sunda pangolin <i>M. javanica</i>	367.54 ± 161.48 (338.24-396.24)	27.19 - 824.54*	357.75
Philippine pangolin <i>M. culionensis</i>	368.28 ± 79.84 (331.93-404.62)	275 - 553	341
Black-bellied pangolin	322.68 ± 27.82 (320.97-324.38)	118 - 379	324

<i>M. tetradactyla</i>			
White-bellied pangolin	184.02 ± 50.61 (165.45-202.58)	115.5 - 322.06	184.31
<i>M. tricuspis</i>			

*This estimate was first reported in Zhou *et al.* (2012).

- b) agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Standing Committee for its consideration and onward submission to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20):

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, work with the Species Survival Commission Pangolin Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other relevant experts and in collaboration with the pangolin range States to further develop conversion parameters for all pangolin species, in particular M. culionensis, M. crassicaudata and M. teminckii, taking into account document AC33 Doc. 35. These conversion parameters should enable the reliable determination of the number of animals associated with any quantity of pangolin scales seized, that can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for court purposes.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB *The Animals Committee shall:*

- a) *review the conversion parameters for all pangolin species, developed in accordance with the provisions of Decision 20.AA, to enable the reliable determination of the number of animals associated with any quantity of pangolin scales seized, and that can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for law enforcement and court purposes; and*
- b) *make recommendations as appropriate to the Parties and the Standing Committee.*

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

20.CC *Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support pangolin range States with resources, both financial and technical expertise, to implement in-situ pangolin conservation and management programmes develop in response to Decision 18.238.*

- c) invited Parties to use the following identification materials to support the identification of seized pangolin specimens at species level:
- https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/17352/eng_identification_sea_e.pdf and
 - <https://www.usaidrdw.org//pangolin-guide/>
- d) agreed to prioritize pangolins in the mandate of the proposed Animals Committee working group on identification materials, should it be established after CoP20; and
- e) agreed that Decision 18.239 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

17. Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction [Decision 19.137] AC33 Doc. 17

The Animals Committee agreed to submit the recommendations in paragraph 16 of document AC33 Doc. 17 for consideration by the Standing Committee and noted the observations of the workshop in Annex 3 to document AC33 Doc. 17.

30. Aquatic species listed in the Appendices [Decision 19.190] AC33 Doc.30

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in paragraph 10 a) through c) of document AC33 Doc. 30 as follows:

- a) The Animals Committee noted the background document prepared by the Secretariat *Variability of life history parameters and productivity in elasmobranchs and other commercially exploited aquatic species*.
- b) The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to consider including information on the application of footnote 2 to commercially exploited aquatic species when developing general capacity-building materials on Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*.
- c) The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to provide a collation of the work done on the interpretation of the criteria that has been considered by the CoP as it relates to application of criteria Annex 2a criterion B to the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and make it available on the CITES website.

The Animals Committee agreed that Decisions 19.189 and 19.190 have been implemented.

43. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) [Decision 19.235] AC33 Doc.43

The Animals Committee noted document AC33 Doc. 43 and agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 19.233 to 19.236 on *Queen conch* (*Strombus gigas*) to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

44. Marine ornamental fishes [Decision 19.238] AC33 Doc. 44 (Rev. 2)

The Animals Committee:

- a) noted the observations from the international technical workshop on marine ornamental fishes presented in Annex 3 to document AC33 Doc. 44 (Rev. 2);
- b) agreed to the recommendations in paragraph 14 of document AC33 Doc. 44 (Rev. 2);
- c) requested the Secretariat to prepare an in-session document presenting the edits proposed by the acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz), Israel and the United Kingdom for Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the draft decisions in paragraph 16 d) of document AC33 Doc. 44 (Rev. 2); and
- d) agreed that Decisions 19.237 and 19.238 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

39. Songbird trade and conservation management (*Passeriformes* spp.) [Decision 18.257 (Rev. CoP19)] AC33 Doc.39

The Animals Committee:

- a) noted the preliminary study and the workshop report;
- b) noted the observations from the workshop, as presented in Annex 2 to document AC33 Doc. 39;
- c) agreed to support the recommendations in paragraphs 15 to 23, taking into account the comment in paragraph 25;
- d) agreed to prioritize songbirds in the mandate of an Animals Committee working group on identification materials, should one be established after CoP20;
- e) agreed to consider how the handling of birds impacts their well-being in the context of the review of Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP15) on the *Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade*, noting that there are other methods for marking such birds; and
- f) agreed that Decisions 18.256 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.257 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
RESOLUTION CONF. 11.10 (REV. COP15) ON *TRADE IN STONY CORALS*

Conf. 11.10
(Rev. CoP15)

Trade in stony corals

AWARE that stony corals (in the orders Scleractinia, as well as non-scleractinian corals within the genera *Distichopora, Heliopora, Millepora, Stylaster* and *Tubipora*, ~~Helioporacea, Milleporina, Scleractinia, Stolonifera, and Stylasterina~~) are in international trade as live or dead specimens intact specimens for aquaria and as curios;

RECOGNIZING that coral rock, skeleton fragments, sand and other coral products are also traded;

NOTING the unique nature of corals, namely that their skeletons are persistent, that they may become mineralized in time and that they are the foundation of reefs, and that, following erosion, fragments of coral may form part of mineral and sedimentary deposits;

NOTING also that coral rock may act as an important substrate for the attachment of live corals and that the removal of rock may have a detrimental impact on coral reef ecosystems;

AWARE, however, that coral rock can ~~not only~~ be readily identified ~~other than~~ to the order Scleractinia, or in the case of non-scleractinian corals, to the genus level (*Distichopora, Heliopora, Millepora, Stylaster* or *Tubipora*), and that accordingly non-detriment findings under Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention cannot be readily applied;

NOTING however, that for practical purposes of implementing the Convention, all coral rock can be reported in trade as "Scleractinia spp." irrespective of whether the coral rock contains scleractinian corals, non-scleractinian corals, or a mixed composition, for ease of identification and reporting.

NOTING that Article IV, paragraph 3, requires the monitoring of exports of specimens of each species in Appendix II, in order to assess whether the species is being maintained at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem;

NOTING that assessments under Article IV, paragraph 3, of the impacts of harvesting corals on the ecosystems from which they are derived cannot be adequately made by monitoring exports alone;

ACCEPTING that coral skeleton fragments and coral sand cannot be readily recognized;

RECOGNIZING also that it is ~~frequently~~ usually difficult to identify live or dead corals to the species level owing to the lack of a standard nomenclature and the lack of comprehensive and accessible identification guides for the non-specialist;

RECOGNIZING that stony corals that are fossilized are not subject to the provisions of the Convention;

NOTING that it has been difficult to apply and enforce the provisions of the Convention to trade in corals;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ADOPTS the working definitions of coral sand, coral skeleton fragments, coral rock, live coral and dead coral provided in the Annex to this Resolution;
2. RECOMMENDS that Parties give much greater emphasis to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 3, when permitting the export of corals and that they adopt the principles and practice of an ecosystem approach, rather than relying on the monitoring of exports alone; and

3. URGES:

- a) interested Parties and other bodies from range and consumer States to collaborate and provide support, coordinated by the Secretariat, to produce as a priority accessible and practical guides to recognizing corals and coral rock in trade and to make these widely available to Parties through appropriate media; and
- b) Parties to seek synergy with other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives to work for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems.

Annex

Definitions

Coral sand – material consisting entirely or in part of ~~fine sediments finely crushed fragments~~ of dead coral ~~origin~~ no larger than 2 mm in diameter and which may also contain, amongst other things, the remains of Foraminifera, mollusc and crustacean shell, and coralline algae. Not identifiable to the level of genus. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives, coral sand is not considered readily recognizable, and is therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Coral skeleton fragments (including gravel and rubble) – unconsolidated fragments of ~~broken finger-like~~ dead coral and other material between 2 and 30 mm measured in any direction, which is not identifiable to the level of genus. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives, coral skeleton fragments are not considered readily recognizable, and are therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention.

*Coral rock*¹ ~~is (the collective term used for also live rock and substrate)~~ – hard consolidated material, >3 cm in diameter, formed of fragments of dead coral and which may also contain cemented sand, coralline algae and other sedimentary rocks. The term 'coral rock' should not be used on permits; which should instead refer to 'live rock' and 'substrate'.

'Live rock' is the term given to large pieces of coral rock (usually > 0.5 kg each) to which are attached live specimens of invertebrate species and coralline algae not included in the CITES Appendices. Live rock should not have live specimens of CITES-listed coral species attached. Live rock is used as decoration and habitat in aquariums and is usually and which are transported in moist condition, but not in water, in crates. Live rock is subject to the provisions of the Convention and should be reported as Scleractinia spp.

'Substrate' is the term given to small pieces of coral rock (usually < 0.5 kg each), to which are attached invertebrates (of species not included in the CITES Appendices). Substrate is used as pedestal (base) for attached invertebrates, such as sea anemones or soft corals and is therefore and which are transported in water to keep these organisms alive, like live corals. Substrate should not have live specimens of CITES-listed coral species attached. Coral rock is not identifiable to the level of genus but is recognizable to the level of order. The definition excludes specimens defined as dead coral. Substrate, when readily recognizable as coral, is subject to the provisions of the Convention and should be reported as Scleractinia spp.

Dead coral – pieces of coral that are dead when exported, but that may have been alive when collected, and in which the structure of corallites (the skeleton of the individual polyp) is still intact; specimens are therefore identifiable to the level of species or genus.

Live coral – pieces of live coral transported in water and that are identifiable to the level of species or genus.