

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Strategic matters

Committee reports and recommendations

Animals Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Animals Committee.\*

Introduction

2. This report covers the activities of the CITES Animals Committee in the period between the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18; Geneva, 2019) and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19, Panama City, 2022). The 31st meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31) took place in an online format between 31 May to 24 June 2021, including two joint sessions with the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC25). Meeting documents, executive summaries and summary records of the meetings can be found on the [CITES website](#).
3. The composition of the Animals Committee for the reporting period is found in the table below. Mr. Lörtscher served as the Chair of the Animals Committee during this period.

**Composition of the Animals Committee (2019-2022)**

Region	Regional Representative	Alternate
Africa	Prof. Guy Appolinaire Mensah (Benin) Mr. Pantaleon M. B. Kasoma (Uganda)	Ms. Ngalié Maha (Cameroon) Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt)
Asia	Mr. Giyanto (Indonesia) Mr. Ashgar Mobaraki (Iran)	Mr. Arvin C. Diesmos (Philippines) Ms. Saeko Terada (Japan)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Mr. Mauro Gongora (Belize) Mr. Daniel Ramadori (Argentina)	Sra Gloria Patricia Suazo Diaz (Honduras) Sra Shirley Ramirez Carvajal (Costa Rica)
Europe	Mr. Mathias Lörtscher (Switzerland) Ms. Dagmar Zíková (European Union)	Mr. Ruslan Novitsky (Belarus) Mr. Gerald Benyr (Austria)
North America	Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico)	Ms. Cecilia Lougheed (Canada)
Oceania	Mr Hugh Robertson (New Zealand)	Ms. Sarah McIntyre (New Zealand)

\* *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.*

Nomenclature Specialist	Mr. Peter Paul van Dijk (United States of America)	
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4. Direction to the Animals Committee for the current reporting period is found in 29 Resolutions and 39 Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. This report provides detailed information on actions taken by the Animals Committee to fulfil the terms of those Decisions and Resolutions where this information is not reported elsewhere on the CoP19 agenda. The full list of Decisions and Resolutions, as well as a summary of Animals Committee activities and reference to any associated documents can be found in the Annex to this report.
5. The issues discussed at AC31 that are relevant to the Conference of the Parties and subject of a separate agenda item for its current 19th meeting (CoP19) are indicated in the table below. The reference document for each item is indicated in the second column. Other issues that need to be reported to the Conference of the Parties but are not the subject of a standalone agenda item for CoP19 are detailed in the paragraphs below.

AC31 agenda item	CoP19 Document
Appendix-I listed species	CoP19 Doc. 11
Non-detriment findings	CoP19 Doc. 43.1
Conservation and management of sharks and rays	CoP19 Doc. 65
Conservation of amphibians (Amphibia spp.)	CoP19 Doc. 60
Eels ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)	CoP19 Doc. 61
Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes spp.)	CoP19 Doc. 74
Marine ornamental fishes	CoP19 Doc. 80
Standard nomenclature	CoP19 Doc. 84.1

#### CITES Strategic Vision

6. At the joint meeting of AC31 and PC25, document AC31 Doc. 8/PC25 Doc. 9 was discussed. It contained a mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision's objectives against valid CITES Resolutions and Decisions in Annex 1 and a list of reporting requirements in Annex 2. The document also provided an overview of the process used and the results of the mapping exercise. The two Committees endorsed the mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 objectives against the CITES Resolutions and Decisions, as presented in the document with the addition of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual* and Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* under objectives 2.2 and 2.3, and in particular the placement of the species-specific Resolutions and Decisions under objective 2.5 and objective 3.5. The Committees requested the Secretariat to submit Annex 1 as revised and Annex 2 to document AC31 Doc. 8/PC25 Doc. 9 to the Standing Committee for its consideration at its 74th meeting (see document SC74 Doc. 17.2).

#### Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

7. As directed under Resolution Conf. 18.4 on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, the AC Chair participated in the Meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel MEP, particularly at MEP15 (7th to 17 of September 2020), MEP16 (12th of February to 2nd of March 2021), MEP17 (11th to 19th of October 2021) and MEP18 (14th to 18th of February 2022), representing CITES and informing IPBES about activities in CITES related to IPBES. The AC Chair also reported on the activities and discussion with relevance to CITES at SC73 orally and SC74 in document SC74 Doc 25.

### Capacity-building

8. The Animals and Plants Committees reviewed the reports of the Secretariat at their joint meeting in July 2021, called for in Decision 18.46, paragraph c), and provided their comments to the Standing Committee in document SC74 Doc. 22. In particular, the Committee agreed that:
  - a) some form of CITES capacity-building conceptual framework (strategy) is needed;
  - b) a wide variety of elements must be considered when developing the capacity-building conceptual framework;
  - c) wide stakeholder consultation is needed for the development of the capacity-building framework; and
  - d) elements for both face-to-face and online means of capacity building delivery must be considered in the framework.
9. The Committees invited the Standing Committee to consider the views of the Animals and Plants Committees in its discussions through the continued participation of their four representatives in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on capacity-building.

### African Carnivores Initiative (ACI)

10. The Secretariat provided an oral update on the outcomes of the discussion of the ACI Programme of Work (POW) by the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting, referring to documents SC73 Doc. 14 and SC73 SR, and informed the Animals Committee what has been accomplished in fulfilment of Decision 18.56. The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 12 and the oral update of the Secretariat.

### Review of Significant Trade

11. At AC31, in relation to the overview of the Review of Significant Trade, the Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 13.1 and its addendum and welcomed the progress made in the implementation of Decision 17.108 on the development of the tracking and management database for the Review of Significant Trade.
12. Due to the difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee decided that the selection of new species/country combinations for review will be postponed until the first regular meeting of the Committee after the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
13. In relation to the species/country combinations which are still retained in the review process, the Animals Committee, through its Chair, provided its analysis of the implementation of the recommendations from the Animals Committee by the relevant parties to SC73 in document SC73 Doc 30.1 Addendum for consideration by the Standing Committee to decide on necessary action and make recommendations to the range States concerned, or to all Parties as appropriate.

### Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity

14. In application of the process as defined in Resolution Conf 17.7 on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*, the Animals Committee had proposed at AC30 a selection of species/country combinations to SC70 for its consideration, including specific recommendations to the countries concerned. At SC70, the Standing Committee endorsed the Animals Committee's detailed recommendations in relation to 12 species/country combinations and revised a further three. In accordance with paragraph 2 k) of the Resolution, the Secretariat conveyed these recommendations to the Parties concerned on 15 November 2018 inviting them to provide their responses by 1 February 2019.
15. Due to various reasons, amongst which the difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Animals Committee was only able to review the responses from concerned countries prior to SC74 in 2022. It provided its recommendations for further action in the addendum to document SC74 Doc.57 to the Standing Committee for its consideration.
16. Also due to the difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee decided that the discussion on document AC31 Doc. 19.2 on *Captive Breeding of Sri Lankan Agamids*, as well as the selection of new species/country combinations for review, was postponed until the first regular meeting of the Committee after the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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

17. At the joint meeting of the Animals Committee and Plants Committee (AC31/PC25), the Committees reviewed Doc. 19.3/PC25 Doc. 21 which provided an overview of work implemented under Decision 18.172 and the ongoing work by the intersessional working group of the Standing Committee under Decision 18.173. As the implementation of this Review is still ongoing, the Animals and Plants Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 19.3/PC25 Doc. 21 and agreed to propose to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting the extension of Decision 18.172 for further work beyond the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see document SC74 Doc. 56).

#### Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade

18. Resolution 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) on *Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade* tasks the Animals Committee to monitor developments in microchip-implant technology and application techniques and to advise the Secretariat about such developments, for the information of the Parties. The AC Chair was made aware by an expert that the official recommendations would need an update as the technologies and standards have changed significantly. Furthermore, there are several specific recommendations in Resolutions concerning the marking of specimens in trade (crocodiles, snakes or timber just to name a few). In line with the directions in Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17), the AC with the support of the Secretariat will consider these issues in the next intersessional period.

#### Transport of live specimens

19. In Resolution Res. Conf. 10.21 on *Transport of live specimens*, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat are tasked to, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to regularly review, revise and approve amendments to the *CITES guidelines for non-air transport of live animals and plants*. In this regard, the Secretariat circulated a draft of the revised guidelines in September 2021 to the Animals Committee, which provided comments by October 2021. The amended Guidelines were presented to SC74 for approval.

#### Identification Manual

20. To implement Decision 18.137 on *Identification materials*, the Animals and Plants Committees established a joint working group on identification materials in late 2020 through an online process. The membership, the revised terms of reference, and the detailed activities undertaken by the working group can be found in the document AC31 Doc. 15/PC25 Doc. 18, Addendum. 4. The working group and the Secretariat worked in close coordination to review Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual* and agreed that a new resolution to replace Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) was desirable. The working group and the Secretariat prepared the text of a new draft resolution on *Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species*. The proposed draft resolution was submitted to the Animals and Plants Committees at the joint sessions of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (online, June 2021), where it was further revised. The joint session agreed that the draft resolution should be submitted to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting for onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting. The Committees also prepared draft decisions on identification materials for consideration by the Standing Committee and submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting. The text of the draft resolution and the draft decisions as agreed by the Animals and Plants Committees are set out in document AC31/PC25 Com. 2 (Rev. by Sec.). The Committees further agreed, if necessary, to mandate their Chairs, with the assistance of the in-session working group members, to continue to draft the proposed new resolution on identification materials, and submit it to the Standing Committee for inputs and onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting. In consultation with the Chairs of the two Committees, the Secretariat made three amendments to the draft text of the new resolution in order to further improve and clarify the text. The finalised documents were submitted to SC74 for its consideration.

#### Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

21. In accordance with Annex 2, paragraph 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*, the Animals Committee commented on an objection raised by a Party to CITES on the registration of the operation Tugan Falconry Club Ltd (Uzbekistan) for the commercial breeding of *Falco peregrinoides* and *Falco peregrinus*. The Animals Committee also provided comments to the Secretariat on the objection raised in relation to the registration of the operation Earth Ocean Farms. S. de R.L. de C.V. (Mexico) for the commercial breeding

of *Totoaba macdonaldi*. These comments were forwarded to Mexico and the objecting Parties, and were included in the Secretariat's report to SC74 in document [SC74 Doc. 59.1.1](#).

#### Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA

22. Document AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc. 20 presented the study *Wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA* in its Annex. Work on specimens produced through biotechnology was ongoing through an intersessional working group of the Standing Committee and any matters that require scientific advice were to be brought to the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, when the working group concluded its work. As that work had not concluded, the Animals and Plants Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc. 20 and agreed that the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committee, in consultation with their members, would represent the views of the scientific committees at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and provide input to the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on specimens produced through biotechnology as and if required.

#### Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'

23. Decision 18.152 related to this topic tasked the Animals Committee to use the experiences gained by Parties in using the guidance in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 for its consideration and for making recommendations, as appropriate. However, due to timing issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the experience gained through Parties could not be assembled. Therefore, the AC at its 31st meeting decided to propose the extension of the relevant Decisions to SC74 for its consideration and forwarding to CoP19.

24. Decision 18.153 tasked the Animals Committee to provide comments on the responses of range States who have exported wild caught African elephants to a non-African elephant range State since CoP11 and their implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.20, in particular considering the role and responsibility of the State of export in Article IV of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings*.

25. At AC31, the Animals Committee agreed to refer the following concerns to the Standing Committee for its advice and recommendations, as appropriate:

- a) Namibia's interpretation of its exports of live African elephants to non-range States outlined in paragraph 7 of document AC31 Doc. 18.1, Addendum 1; and
- b) Zimbabwe's reservation submitted following the changes adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' and the export of live elephants occurring in 2019 as outlined in paragraph 9 of document AC31 Doc. 18.1, Addendum 1, while noting discrepancies between document AC31 Doc. 18.2 and the response provided by Zimbabwe in Annex 3 to document AC31 Doc. 18.1.

26. Decision 18.155 instructed the AC to prepare non-binding best practice guidance on how to determine whether "the trade would promote *in situ* conservation", in line with the provisions of paragraph 2 b) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) and to prepare more detailed species-specific guidance for living specimens of African elephants and southern white rhinoceros, in consultation with relevant experts (including species and zoological facility experts) building on the existing non-binding guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1. Through an intersessional working group before and an in-session working group at AC31 the AC developed the two guidance documents and submitted them to SC74 for its consideration and possible submission for consideration to COP19.

#### Sturgeons and paddlefish

27. The study by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) entitled *Identification of species and hybrids, source and geographical origin of sturgeon and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.) specimens and products in trade* called for in Decision 16.136 (Rev. CoP18) and contained in the Annex to addendum of document AC31 Doc. 16 was presented at AC31. The terms of reference for the study had been revised by the Animals Committee by postal procedure and finalized in consultation with the Chair. The Committee endorsed the study with two changes as found in the summary record of AC31 (AC31 SR).

28. The Committee requested the Secretariat to make the study available to the intersessional working group of the Standing Committee on labelling system for trade in caviar. The Committee further requested the Secretariat to publish a Notification that asks Parties to reach out to laboratories within their country and inform the Secretariat about capacities to conduct forensic analysis such as "fatty acid profiling" and "stable

isotope analysis”, as well as to collect information on readiness to analyse samples and then publish this list on the secure part of the CITES webpage.

#### West African vultures

29. Following the postponement, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee meeting, scheduled to take place from 13 to 17 July 2020, the Animals Committee took a number of intersessional decisions (see Notification No. 2020/057 of 22 September 2020), including the establishment of an intersessional working group on West African vultures (*Accipitridae* spp.), as per Decision 18.190.
30. At AC31, the Animals Committee considered document AC31 Doc. 20 by the Secretariat; its addendum 1 by the co-chairs of the intersessional working group, presenting the working group’s mandate, composition and recommendations; and addendum 2 by the Secretariat with revised recommendations, including draft decisions.
31. The Animals Committee took note of document AC31 Doc. 20 and its addenda 1 and 2; agreed that Decision 18.190 had been implemented and concerning Decision 18.191; requested the Secretariat (i) to inform the range States of West African vultures that in the context of the implementation of Decisions 18.132 to 18.134 on non-detriment findings (NDF), improved NDF guidance is expected to be developed; and (ii) to share relevant new NDF materials with the range States when available.
32. At AC31, the Animals Committee established an in-session working group with the mandate to comment on and review a draft set of recommendations and review the draft decisions. Based on the working group’s report (see document AC31 Com. 5), the Animals Committee adopted a range of recommendations and several draft decisions and forwarded them to SC74 for its consideration and if agreed forwarding to CoP19. It also invited SC74 to agree on a process for reporting on the implementation of Decisions 18.186 to 18.191 to CoP19 in consultation with the Secretariat, as instructed in Decision 18.192, paragraph b).

#### Precious corals

33. Following the postponement of AC31, the Animals Committee took a number of intersessional decisions (see Notification No. 2020/057 of 22 September 2020), including the establishment of an intersessional working group on Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae) as per Decision 17.192 (Rev. CoP18) which instructed the AC to analyse the outcomes of the precious coral survey and the study by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and prepare recommendations, as appropriate, on actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable harvest and use of all precious corals in international trade; and b) report these recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting.
34. At AC31, the Animals Committee considered document AC31 Doc 23 by the Secretariat and its addendum by the co-chairs of the intersessional working group, presenting the working group’s recommendations.
35. The Committee noted the information in document AC31 Doc. 23 and its addendum and agreed to the recommendations in Annex 2 of the addendum to AC31 Doc 23. The Committee noted that the work directed to the Secretariat in the recommendations under B 2 d) in Annex 2 to the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 23 could be implemented by an external entity depending on the workload of the Secretariat.
36. The Committee encouraged FAO to consider the information presented in paragraph 6 of the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 23 in the production of any future reports. The Committee agreed that Decision 17.192 (Rev. CoP18) has been fully implemented.
37. AC31 further invited SC74 to consider the information and recommendations of the Animals Committee made in accordance with Decision 17.192 (Rev. CoP18); and make recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties or for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as instructed in Decision 17.193 (Rev. CoP18).

#### Marine turtles

38. At AC31, the Animals Committee considered document AC31 Doc. 24 and its addendum by the Secretariat, which presented the implementation of the Decisions on marine turtles taken at CoP18. It established an in-session working group on marine turtles (*Cheloniidae* spp. and *Dermodochelyidae* spp.) with the mandate to consider the review of the marine turtle study and draft recommendations by the co-leads of the agenda item

presented in Annex 1 to the addendum of document AC31 Doc. 24 and the scientific information in the responses from Parties to Notification No. 2020/035, and revise the draft recommendations in Annex 1 to the addendum of document AC31 Doc. 24.

39. The Animals Committee noted that the study entitled *Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities* identified key issues where CITES and other actors can help with the conservation of marine turtles. The Committee reminded Parties to include marine turtle confiscation and seizure date in their annual illegal trade report. Finally, it agreed to submit four draft decisions to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

#### Seahorses

40. At AC31, the Secretariat reported in document AC31 Doc. 26 and its addendum on the implementation of Decision 18.229 on *Seahorses* (*Hippocampus spp.*) and details of a study being undertaken by Project Seahorse.
41. The Committee noted the report and in order to renew activities for which work is either ongoing or could not yet be completed, the Animals Committee agreed to submit draft decisions to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting for its consideration and submission to CoP19.

#### Pangolins

42. At AC31, the Committee reviewed document AC31 Doc. 27 and its addendum on the progress in implementing the Decisions on pangolins adopted at CoP18. As the relevant work was not completed in time for the Committee to fulfil its mandate under Decision 18.243, the Committee agreed to submit a draft decision to extend its mandate post CoP19 for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting and onward submission to CoP19.

#### African lion

43. Following the postponement of AC31, the Animals Committee took a number of intersessional decisions (see Notification No. 2020/057 of 22 September 2020), including the establishment of an intersessional working group on African Lions (*Panthera leo*) in support of the implementation of Decision 18.247 with the following mandate: a) review the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa; b) review relevant information provided by the Secretariat regarding its implementation of Decision 18.244, paragraphs a), b) and c), and Decision 18.246, paragraphs a), c) and d); and c) draft recommendations directed to the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and African lion range States, as appropriate, for consideration by the Animals Committee at its next meeting.
44. At AC31, the Committee formed an in-session working group to consider the results of the intersessional working group as well as document AC31 Doc 28 and its two addenda. Based on the discussions in plenary and the results of the in-session working group (see AC31 Com.8), the Committee invited the Secretariat to convey the comments and suggestions on the *Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa* generated by the Animals Committee's intersessional working group on lions to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and to make the comments and suggestions available in an Information Document.
45. The Committee further requested IUCN, in collaboration with the CITES and CMS Secretariats, and in consultation with African lion range States, to develop the next version of the *Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa* in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI). The Committee also encouraged the ACI range States to consider the revised *Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa* at their next meeting and to share experiences and best practice recommendations in using and implementing the Guidelines at their ACI range States' meetings and through the Joint CMS/CITES/IUCN web portal on African lions.

#### Leopards

46. Regarding Decision 18.165, the Secretariat wrote to Botswana, the Central African Republic and Ethiopia on 15 January 2020, requesting them to review their leopard hunting quotas as contained in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use*, and to consider whether they are set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. In 2020, Botswana and Ethiopia provided relevant information for consideration by the Animals Committee. This

information is provided in Annex 1 and Annex 2 to document AC31 Doc. 29.2. In February 2021, the Central African Republic submitted relevant information, which is provided in Annex 3 of the same document, in the format and language as received.

47. In accordance with Decision 18.167, the Animals Committee considered the information submitted by the relevant range States and other relevant information at its 31st meeting (AC31, online, June 2021) (see document AC31 Doc. 29.2 and its addendum). The Animals Committee agreed to inform the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting that it considered the quotas for leopards for the Central African Republic and Botswana, as mentioned in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16), to be set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild and for Ethiopia, that it considered the proposed reduction of the quota for leopards in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) from 500 to 20 trophies to be set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.
48. Regarding Decision 18.255, the Committee discussed the *Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa* as presented in document AC31 Doc.29.1. However, it was not in position to make recommendations at this time. The Committee therefore proposed two decisions in order for the Animals Committee to review the Roadmap at its next meeting (AC32). These decisions are contained in Annex 2 of this document.

#### Banggai cardinalfish

49. At AC31, the Committee acknowledged and noted document AC31 Doc. 31 (Rev. 1) on *Banggai Cardinal Fish*. The Committee appreciated Indonesia's efforts, which have resulted in many positive outcomes on Banggai cardinalfish protection, conservation and management that promote its sustainable use. The Committee acknowledged the current status of Banggai cardinalfish as a non-CITES-listed species and, referring to significant progress achieved by Indonesia explained in document AC31 Doc. 31 (Rev. 1), encouraged Indonesia to continue its work to promote the conservation, management and sustainable trade in Banggai cardinalfish and to present this case to the technical workshop on marine ornamental fishes envisaged under Decision 18.296.

#### Saiga

50. At AC31, the Committee discussed document AC31 Doc. 32 and its addendum and acknowledged the progress made in the implementation of the relevant Decisions on Saiga antelopes. However, it was not in a position to fulfil its mandate under Decision 18.272 as not enough information was available to do so. The Committee therefore noted document AC31 Doc. 32 and its addendum and agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 18.270 to 18.274 to the Standing Committee for onward submission to CoP19.

#### Queen conch

51. At AC31, the Committee discussed document AC31 Doc. 33 and its Addendum, in particular the progress made in the development of guidance on the making of NDF for queen conch and the project with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) that would support the main queen conch producing countries of OECS through UNCTAD's BlueBioTrade programme. The Committee noted document AC31 Doc.33 and its Addendum.

#### Titicaca water frog

52. At AC31, the Committee discussed document AC31 Doc 34, in particular the responses received to Notification to the Parties No. 2020/012 as well as an oral update provided by Peru on the implementation of Decision 18.284, in collaboration with the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and the work done as part of its binational action plan.
53. The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 34 and its addendum, as well as the update provided by Peru. The Committee further encouraged Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia to continue their collaboration for implementing the Binational Action Plan for the conservation of the Titicaca water frog

#### Tortoises and freshwater turtles

54. At AC31, the Committee considered document AC31 Doc. 35 and its addendum that presents a guide on categories of turtle parts and derivatives in trade. Following discussions in plenary, the Committee requested the Secretariat to finalize the *Identification guide to tortoises and freshwater turtles: Parts, products and*



*derivatives in trade*, taking into consideration comments made during discussions at AC31 on the use of scales and photos, and make it available for use by Parties, including possibly as an online version.

#### Inclusion of species in Appendix III

55. The Committee considered document AC31 Doc 39/PC25 Doc. 33 and its addendum that present an outline of the scope of the problem with regard to nomenclatural changes to species listed in Appendix III. After discussion, the Committees agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 18.313 and 18.314 to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting.

#### Periodic Review of the Appendices

56. The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 41.1/PC24 Doc. 39.1 that presents in its Annexes an overview of the animal species in the Periodic Review process in the period between the 13th and 19th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
57. The three periodic reviews on *Cynomys mexicanum*, *Terrapena coahuila* and *Aphopelma pallidum* submitted by Mexico were welcomed and the recommendations therein were supported by the Committee. Further, the two periodic reviews on *Branta canadensis leucopareria* and *Phoebastria albatrus* submitted by the United States were welcomed by the Committee and the recommendations therein supported.

#### Other considerations not referred to above

58. The second term as Chair of the Animals Committee was specially challenging. The COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences for the work of the CITES Convention have had profound consequences of what was possible to achieve and what was not. Face-to-face meetings and the possibility for bilateral or multilateral discussions to reach solutions was often not possible. This was the reason why for instance no new species/country combinations could be selected for two major processes under the Convention, the Review of Significant Trade and the Review of Captive Breeding. Furthermore, many topics, for which workshops had been planned, could not be initiated, which is the reason why the relevant decisions are proposed for renewal to CoP19. Nevertheless, the Animals Committee has been able to make significant progress in many tasks attributed to it by the CoP as outlined in the present document and additional stand-alone documents presented at this meeting.

#### Acknowledgements

59. As mentioned above, a great deal of work could be achieved under difficult conditions. This would not have been possible without the considerable input and work from the dedicated members of the Animals Committee. I would like to thank them all for their voluntary work that has helped us achieve these results. My particular gratitude goes to the Secretariat staff, especially to the Science Team, that has tirelessly provided us with an outstanding support, prepared the numerous documents we based our decisions on and supported our work in any way they could.

#### Recommendations

60. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
- a) note the report of the Animals Committee; and
  - b) adopt the draft decisions contained in Annex 2 to the present document.

#### COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties note the report from Chair of the Animals Committee and adopt the draft decisions on *Leopards in Africa* presented in Annex 2.
- B. The report of the Chair of the Animals Committee refers to specific Animals Committee activities and issues that are dealt with jointly by the Animals and Plants Committees. Many are the subject of separate agenda items, as also shown in Annex 1 to the present document. The Secretariat provides its comments on these issues under the corresponding agenda items. These separate documents also contain tentative budgets

and sources of funding for the draft resolutions or decisions proposed by the Animals and Plants Committees.

- C. The Secretariat congratulates the Animals Committee on completing a significant number of Decisions directed to it by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019) and for making substantial progress on others, in spite of the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is testimony to the dedication and flexibility shown by the members of the Committee and the leadership of its Chair.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN RELATION TO RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS  
DIRECTED OR RELEVANT TO THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

<b>Resolution or Decision</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Animals Committee activities</b>
<b>Administrative and financial matters</b>		
Conf. 18.1	Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2020-2022	No action to report
Conf. 18.2	Establishment of committees	No action to report
Conf. 18.6	Designation and role of Management Authorities	No action to report
<b>Strategic matters</b>		
Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14)	Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines	No action to report
Conf. 18.3 18.25	CITES Strategic Vision	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 10
Conf. 18.4	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 17.3
18.29	Appendix-I listed species	Report in document CoP19 Doc. 11
18.40	Capacity building	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 16
18.58	African Carnivores Initiative	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 17.4
<b>Interpretation and implementation matters</b>		
<b><u>Compliance and enforcement</u></b>		
Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18)	Use of annotations in Appendices I and II	No action to report
Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18); 18.72	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	Activities undertaken outlined in this report.
Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18)	CITES compliance procedures	No action to report
<b><u>Exemptions and special trade revisions</u></b>		
Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18); 18.175, 18.176	Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. XX

<b>Resolution or Decision</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Animals Committee activities</b>
18.172	Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 53
<b><u>Regulation of trade</u></b>		
Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17)	Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade	Activities undertaken outlined in this report
Conf. 9.21 (Rev. CoP18)	Interpretation and application of quotas for species included in Appendix I	No action to report
Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16)	Transport of live specimens	Activities undertaken outlined in this report.
Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15)	Universal tagging system for the identification of crocodylian skins	No action to report
Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16)	Identification Manual	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 44.1
Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18)	Permits and certificates	No action to report
Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15)	Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes	Activities undertaken outlined in this report
Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17); 18.133	Non-detriment findings	Report in document CoP19 Doc. 43.1
18.137	Identification materials	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 44.1
18.148	Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 47
18.167, 18.168	Quotas for leopard hunting trophies	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 51
Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) 18.155	Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 48
<b>Species specific matters</b>		
Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18); 18.223, 18.225	Conservation and management of sharks and rays	Report in document CoP19 Doc. 65
Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) 16.136 (Rev. CoP18), 16.137 (Rev. CoP18)	Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish	Activities undertaken outlined in this report.

<b>Resolution or Decision</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Animals Committee activities</b>
Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18)	Conservation of and trade in great apes	No action to report
Conf. 13.11 (Rev. CoP18)	Wild meat	No action to report
Conf. 17.12;	Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes	No action to report
18.190, 18.191	West African vultures ( <i>Accipitridae</i> spp.)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 58
18.195	Conservation of amphibians ( <i>Amphibia</i> spp.)	Report in document CoP19 Doc. 60
18.200	Eels ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)	Report in document CoP19 Doc. 61
17.192 (Rev. CoP18)	Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report;
18.216	Marine turtles ( <i>Cheloniidae</i> spp. and <i>Dermochelyidae</i> )	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 64.1
18.232	Seahorses ( <i>Hippocampus</i> spp.)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 69.1
18.243	Pangolins ( <i>Manis</i> spp.)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 71.1
18.247	African lion ( <i>Panthera leo</i> )	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 72
18.255	Leopards ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> ) in Africa	Activities undertaken outlined in this report.
18.257	Songbird trade and conservation management ( <i>Passeriformes</i> spp.)	Report in document CoP19 Doc. 74
18.265	Banggai cardinalfish ( <i>Pterapogon kauderni</i> )	Activities undertaken outlined in this report
18.272	Saiga antelope ( <i>Saiga</i> spp.)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 76
18.276	Queen conch ( <i>Strombus gigas</i> )	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 77
18.284	Titicaca water frog ( <i>Telmatobius culeus</i> )	Activities undertaken outlined in this report
18.291	Tortoises and freshwater turtles ( <i>Testudines</i> spp.)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP19 Doc. 78
18.297	Marine ornamental fishes	Report in document CoP18 Doc. 80
<b>Amendment and maintenance of the Appendices</b>		
Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)	Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II	No action to report
Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18); 18.313	Inclusion of species in Appendix III	Activities undertaken outlined in this report.

<b>Resolution or Decision</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Animals Committee activities</b>
Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)	Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II	No action to report
Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18);  16.162 (Rev. CoP18)	Annotations	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Refer also to document CoP18 Doc. 85.1
Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)	Periodic Review of the Appendices	Activities outlined in this report
14.81	Great whales	No action to report
Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18);  18.310, 18.312, 18.315, 17.312 (Rev. CoP18)	Standard nomenclature	The Nomenclature Specialist report is found in document CoP19 Doc. 84.1

DRAFT DECISIONS ON LEOPARDS IN AFRICA

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**19.AA** The Secretariat shall share with the Animals Committee the *Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa* by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for its review.

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

**19.BB** The Animals Committee shall review the *Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa* by IUCN, and make recommendations, as appropriate, concerning the aspects of it that relate to scientific aspects of the implementation of CITES.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.

The draft decisions in Annex 2 have workload implications for the Animals Committee, but it is estimated that these can be accommodated within existing resources.