

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

Species specific matters

CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS (AMPHIBIA SPP.)

1. This document has been submitted by the Animals Committee.*
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.194 to 18.196 on *Conservation of amphibians (Amphibia spp.)* as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

18.194 *The Secretariat shall, subject to availability of external resources, and in close consultation with the Animals Committee:*

- a) *conduct one or more interdisciplinary workshops for CITES Authorities and other relevant authorities and stakeholders about amphibian species in international trade, including but not limited to the following objectives:*
 - i) *identify amphibian species that are in international trade and evaluate whether certain species or groups should be recommended for possible listing in the Appendices;*
 - ii) *share existing national legislation relevant to the trade in amphibians;*
 - iii) *evaluate whether current levels of trade are compatible with the conservation of these species in the wild;*
 - iv) *compile further data on harvesting levels of amphibians subject to high volumes of international trade;*
 - v) *explore the emerging threat of diseases to traded amphibians, including amphibian chytrid fungus and ranaviruses; and*
 - vi) *examine current enforcement efforts to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade and identify additional actions needed; and*
- b) *report on the progress in the implementation of paragraph a) above to the Animals Committee, including any relevant recommendations.*

* *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.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.195 *The Animals Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the report submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 18.194; and*
- b) *make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.196 *The Standing Committee shall consider any report submitted by the Animals Committee as per Decision 18.195 and develop recommendations for consideration of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

Implementation of Decision 18.194

3. Thanks to a contribution from the European Union and as reported in document [AC31 Doc. 21](#), the Secretariat started implementation of Decision 18.194 by facilitating the preparation of background documents and some targeted data collection that will be considered at the proposed workshop.
4. The Secretariat reported that it was in discussions with experts, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its Amphibian Specialist Group, on possible terms of reference for the preparation of the background documents, and on options for targeted data collection from some Parties [e.g. main exporters and importers identified in document [CoP18 Doc. 62 \(Rev. 1\)](#)] and relevant stakeholders (e.g. those holding information on amphibian species in international trade, their conservation status and breeding biology). In support of these activities, the Secretariat indicated that it will issue a Notification to the Parties calling for relevant information to be included in the documents and considered at the proposed workshop.
5. In the [addendum](#) to document AC31 Doc. 21, the Secretariat indicated that it had held further discussions with experts, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Amphibian Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), on the preparation of background documents in support of the interdisciplinary workshops called for in Decision 18.194. The Secretariat also discussed options for targeted data collection from some Parties [e.g. main exporters and importers identified in document CoP18 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1)] and relevant stakeholders (e.g. those holding information on amphibian species in international trade, their conservation status and breeding biology).
6. In the same document, the Secretariat reported that it had secured limited external resources, but these would not allow it to conduct all the required preparatory research or organize the proposed workshops. Therefore, due to the tight timeframe between AC31 and CoP19, the travel and meeting restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lack of sufficient resources to fully prepare for and convene the workshops as envisaged in Decision 18.194, the Animals Committee proposes to extend the Decisions beyond CoP19 as presented in Annex 1 to the present document.

Recommendations

7. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt draft decisions in Annex 1.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends the adoption of the draft decisions presented in Annex 1 with some amendments outlined in paragraph C below and the deletion of Decisions 18.194 to 18.196.
- B. The Secretariat thanks the European Union and Switzerland for providing the funds for the preparation of background documents for the technical workshop. It is estimated that an in-person technical workshop as envisaged in Decision 19.AA would cost around USD 130,000. Noting that the Secretariat was not able to secure funding for such a workshop during the previous intersessional period, it is proposed that an online workshop would be more cost effective and would allow for greater participation. It is estimated that the costs would be in the region of USD 40,000 to cover the costs of the online platform, interpretation and document translations.

- C. In light of the difficulties in securing funding to fully implement the CoP18 Decisions on amphibians, the Secretariat proposes amending the text of the draft decisions to provide an opportunity for the Animals Committee to review all available information, including the background documents prepared as part of Decision 18.194, paragraph a), regardless of whether or not funding is secured to hold an online workshop.

The revised draft decisions would read as follows:

(Proposed new text is underlined, proposed deletions are indicated in ~~strike through~~)

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to availability of external funding and in close consultation with the Animals Committee:

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- c) report on the progress in the implementation of paragraph a) and b) above to the Animals Committee, including any relevant background documents and recommendations.

19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider the report submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA, including any relevant background documents and recommendations; and

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DRAFT DECISIONS ON
CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS (AMPHIBIA SPP.)

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.AA** The Secretariat shall, subject to availability of external resources and in close consultation with the Animals Committee:
- a) conduct one or more interdisciplinary workshops for CITES Authorities and other relevant authorities and stakeholders about amphibian species in international trade, including but not limited to the following objectives:
 - i) identify amphibian species that are in international trade and evaluate whether certain species or groups should be recommended for possible listing in the Appendices;
 - ii) share existing national legislation relevant to the trade in amphibians;
 - iii) evaluate whether current levels of trade are compatible with the conservation of these species in the wild;
 - iv) compile further data on harvesting levels of amphibians subject to high volumes of international trade;
 - v) explore the emerging threat of diseases to traded amphibians, including amphibian chytrid fungus and rana viruses; and
 - vi) examine current enforcement efforts to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade and identify additional actions needed; and
 - b) explore modalities to implement this Decision in a cost-effective manner, including through the organization of online events; and
 - c) report on the progress in the implementation of paragraph a) and b) above to the Animals Committee, including any relevant recommendations.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 19.BB** The Animals Committee shall:
- a) consider the report submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA; and
 - b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.CC** The Standing Committee shall consider any report submitted by the Animals Committee as per Decision 19.BB and develop recommendations for consideration of the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

**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 Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding:

Decision	Activity	Indicative costs (USD) (excludes Programme Support Costs)	Source of funding
Decision 19.AA	Preparation of background documents for technical workshop	100,000	External funding (already secured from the European Union and Switzerland)
Decision 19.AA	Convening an online workshop	40,000	External funding