

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

SONGBIRD TRADE AND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT  
(PASSERIFORMES 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 18.256 to 18.259 on *Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes spp.)* as follows:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**18.256** *Subject to available funds, the Secretariat shall:*

- a) *within 12 months of the conclusion of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, commission a preliminary study on the scale and scope of international songbird trade to consider the management and conservation priorities of songbird taxa involved in such trade;*
- b) *consult with appropriate technical experts in the preparation of documents on the conservation, trade, management, enforcement and regulatory priorities of the songbird taxa identified;*
- c) *convene a technical workshop to consider the findings of the study and the reports referred to in paragraph b);*
- d) *invite the members of the Animals and Standing Committees, representatives from range, exporting, transit and consumer States, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the workshop; and*
- e) *make the results of the study and workshop, together with recommendations, available to the Animals Committee for its consideration.*

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

**18.257** *The Animals Committee shall review document CoP18 Doc. 79 and the results of the study and workshop on trade in songbirds, with the recommendations of the Secretariat, as per Decision 18.256, and make its own recommendations to the Standing Committee or 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

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\* *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 Standing Committee**

**18.258** *The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations by the Animals Committee and make its own recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

**Directed to Parties, nongovernmental organizations, commercial traders, and donors**

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

3. In document [AC31 Doc. 30](#) and its [addendum](#), the Secretariat reported that it had initiated discussions with technical experts to develop draft terms of reference for the study referred to in Decision 18.256, paragraph a), and the preparation of background documents outlined in paragraph b), for consideration at the technical workshop proposed in paragraph c) of the same Decision.
4. As indicated in Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/032](#), it was estimated that implementation of Decision 18.256 would cost USD 50,000 for the study, and USD 100,000 for the technical workshop. At the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31, online, June 2021), the Secretariat reported that Decision 18.256 could not be implemented due to lack of external funding. During the meeting, the United States of America announced that it will provide USD 25,000 for a study of the songbird trade in the western hemisphere, particularly focusing on Latin American and the Caribbean.
5. In document AC31 Doc. 30, the Secretariat noted that the non-governmental organization Species360 and the University of Southern Denmark were currently leading a review of songbirds that could make a valuable contribution to the proposed study and workshop referred to in Decision 18.256. Under the [Species Knowledge Index Initiative](#), available information has been collated concerning songbird species that are:
  - a) listed on CITES,
  - b) included in the Appendices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS),
  - c) assessed under the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN),
  - d) considered vulnerable to climate change by the IUCN Climate Change Specialist Group,
  - e) listed by the Alliance for Zero Extinction,
  - f) considered distinct in evolutionary terms, as assessed by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), and/or
  - g) have *ex situ* populations in zoos and aquariums which are members of Species360.
6. The information was made available to the Animals Committee as information documents [AC31 Inf. 11](#) and [AC31 Inf. 12](#) (both available in English only) and contained the following components:
  - Species Knowledge Initiative to Support CITES Decisions and Recommendations for Songbirds (Species360).
  - Juergens *et al.* 2021 (paper submitted to Data in Brief). A standardized dataset for conservation prioritization of songbirds to support CITES.
  - Supplementary Files (open data): File S1 (data on Passeriformes and the Songbirds in Trade Database); File S2 (Metadata, including data explanation of all variables); File S3 (taxonomic synonyms for Songbirds).
7. In the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 30, the Secretariat also highlighted that BirdLife, TRAFFIC, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the University of Cambridge are currently undertaking a Quantitative Review of Global Trade in Wild Birds. As well as providing an overview of trade, it is hoped that this study will be relevant to a number of CITES Decisions, in particular those on songbirds and West African vultures.

8. Given the lack of external funding for the implementation of Decision 18.256 at the time of AC31, the Animals Committee was not able to review results of the planned study and workshop on trade in songbirds or make recommendations to the Standing Committee as envisaged. However, the Committee agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 18.256 to 18.259 on *Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes spp.)* to the present meeting.

#### Recommendations

9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to renew Decisions 18.256 to 18.259 on *Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes spp.)* as presented in Annex 1.

#### COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties renew Decisions 18.256 to 18.258 as presented in Annex 1, with amendments proposed in paragraph E below. Decision 18.259 should be deleted for the reasons explained below.
- B. The Secretariat reiterates the concern it raised previously that the vast majority of the approximately 6,000 songbird species are not listed in CITES. In fact, there are currently only 114 species or subspecies in the order Passeriformes included in the CITES Appendices (or 1.9%): 12 in Appendix I, 67 in Appendix II; and 35 in Appendix III. The Secretariat notes that, generally, only limited attention and resources can be allocated to non-CITES listed species given the current workload for CITES-listed species.
- C. It was not possible to secure the necessary funding to implement these Decisions during the period between CoP18 and CoP19; however, the Secretariat has recently secured some funding to commission a preliminary study on the scale and scope of international songbird trade to consider the management and conservation priorities of songbird taxa involved in such trade and prepare documents on the conservation, trade, management, enforcement and regulatory priorities of the songbird taxa identified as being in trade.
- D. Requests for donor support for tasks subject to external funding will be addressed in the Resolution on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2023-2025* so the Secretariat recommends that Decision 18.259 be deleted.
- E. Recognizing that it may not be possible to secure funding to convene a workshop, the Secretariat proposes amending the text of the proposed decisions to provide an opportunity for the Animals Committee to review all available information, including the background documents prepared as part of Decision 18.296, paragraph c). The Secretariat therefore supports the renewal of Decisions 18.256 to 18.258 as presented in Annex 1, with the following proposed amendments:

(Proposed new text is underlined, proposed deletions are indicated in strikethrough)

#### **18.256 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Secretariat**

Subject to ~~available funds~~ external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) ~~within 12 months of the conclusion of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties,~~ commission a preliminary study on the scale and scope of international songbird trade to consider the management and conservation priorities of songbird taxa involved in such trade;
- b) consult with appropriate technical experts in the preparation of documents on the conservation, trade, management, enforcement and regulatory priorities of the songbird taxa identified;
- c) convene a technical workshop to consider the findings of the study and the reports referred to in paragraph b);
- d) invite the members of the Animals and Standing Committees, representatives from range, exporting, transit and consumer States, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the workshop; and

- e) make any background documents prepared and the results of the study and workshop, together with recommendations, available to the Animals Committee for its consideration.

**18.257 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Animals Committee**

The Animals Committee shall review document CoP18 Doc. 79, any background document prepared and the results of the study and workshop on trade in songbirds, with the recommendations of the Secretariat, as per Decision 18.256 (Rev. CoP19), and make its own recommendations to the Standing Committee or ~~19th~~20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

**18.258 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations by the Animals Committee and make its own recommendations to the ~~19th~~20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**~~18.259 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to Parties, nongovernmental organizations, commercial traders, and donors~~**

~~Parties and non-Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, commercial traders and donors are encouraged to provide funding to the Secretariat for the implementation of these Decisions.~~

DRAFT DECISIONS ON SONGBIRD TRADE AND  
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (PASSERIFORMES SPP.)

Change to existing Decisions are shown underlined (additions) or in strikethrough (deletions)

***Directed to the Secretariat***

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

- a) within 12 months of the conclusion of the ~~48th~~19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, commission a preliminary study on the scale and scope of international songbird trade to consider the management and conservation priorities of songbird taxa involved in such trade;
- b) consult with appropriate technical experts in the preparation of documents on the conservation, trade, management, enforcement and regulatory priorities of the songbird taxa identified;
- c) convene a technical workshop to consider the findings of the study and the reports referred to in paragraph b);
- d) invite the members of the Animals and Standing Committees, representatives from range, exporting, transit and consumer States, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the workshop; and
- e) make the results of the study and workshop, together with recommendations, available to the Animals Committee for its consideration.

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**18.257 (Rev. CoP19)** The Animals Committee shall review document CoP18 Doc. 79 and the results of the study and workshop on trade in songbirds, with the recommendations of the Secretariat, as per Decision 18.256 (Rev. CoP19), and make its own recommendations to the Standing Committee or ~~49th~~20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

**18.258 (Rev. CoP19)** The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations by the Animals Committee and make its own recommendations to the ~~49th~~20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to Parties, nongovernmental organizations, commercial traders, and donors***

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

**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:

There are two possible options for convening the workshop as summarised in the table below:

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicative costs (USD)</b> (excludes Programme Support Costs)	<b>Source of funding</b>
Decision 18.256 (Rev. CoP19) paragraphs a) and b)	Preparation of background documents for technical workshop	120,000	Extrabudgetary (60KUS; 60K UK)
Decision 18.256 (Rev. CoP19) paragraph c) Option 1	Convening an in-person workshop	130,000	Extrabudgetary
Decision 18.256 (Rev. CoP19) paragraph c) – Option 2	Convening an online workshop	40,000	Extrabudgetary