

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

MARINE ORNAMENTAL FISHES

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

Background

2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.296 to 18.298 on *Marine ornamental fishes* as follows:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**18.296** *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:*

- a) *convene a technical workshop to consider the conservation priorities and management needs related to the trade in non-CITES listed marine ornamental fishes worldwide with a particular focus on data from importing and exporting countries;*
- b) *invite the Animals Committee, representatives from range States, exporting, and importing countries, fishery stakeholder, industry representatives and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in this workshop;*
- c) *contract appropriate technical experts to prepare workshop documents on marine ornamental fishes' biology; conservation status; trade and management; applicable trade regulations; and enforcement, and invite workshop participants to [submit the] contribute relevant information and expertise to the workshop; and*
- d) *submit findings and recommendations of this workshop to the Animals Committee.*

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

**18.297** *The Animals Committee shall consider the results of this workshop and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

***Directed to Parties, organizations and donors***

**18.298** *Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private businesses, and other donors are encouraged to provide funding to the Secretariat for implementing Decision 18.296.*

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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.*

3. Concerning the implementation of Decision 18.296, the Animals Committee agreed via an intersessional decision-making process that the scope of the work on marine ornamental fishes envisaged in Decisions 18.296 to 18.298 should cover “international trade in non-CITES listed live coral reef fishes (including small sharks and rays)”. This decision was communicated in Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/057](#) of 22 September 2020.
4. As indicated in Notification to the Parties No. [2020/032](#), it was estimated that the implementation of Decision 18.296 on marine ornamental fishes would cost a total of USD 400,000 (USD 200,000 for the workshop, and USD 200,000 for the workshop documents and workshop report).
5. In document [AC31 Doc. 36](#), the Secretariat reported that it had secured partial funding for implementing Decision 18.296 from the European Union, Switzerland and the United States’ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), specifically to initiate research mentioned in paragraph c). However, the funding was insufficient to fully implement all activities envisaged under the Decision, notably for convening the workshop envisaged under paragraph a) of the Decision.
6. Paragraph c) of Decision 18.296 specifies five topics for which workshop documents need to be prepared: biology; conservation status; trade and management; applicable trade regulations; and enforcement. In document AC31 Doc. 36, the Secretariat proposed to cluster these thematic studies (as indicated below) and outlined how each thematic study would be conducted.
 

Thematic study 1:	International trade in non-CITES listed live coral reef fishes
Thematic study 2:	Biology and conservation status of the main non-CITES listed coral reef fishes traded internationally as live specimens
Thematic study 3:	Fisheries management of non-CITES listed live coral reef fishes in international trade
Thematic study 4:	Regulations for international trade in non-CITES listed live coral reef fishes and their enforcement
7. The Secretariat reported in the [addendum](#) to document AC31 Doc. 36 that it had contracted the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) as technical experts to implement Decision 18.296, paragraph c), thanks to external funding received from the European Union, Switzerland and the United States of America.
8. UNEP-WCMC developed a questionnaire to gather information on non-CITES listed live marine ornamental fish, which was made available through Notification to the Parties No. [2021/030](#) of 30 March 2021. The questionnaire sought to collect information on the following:
  - a) the levels of international trade in non-CITES live marine ornamental fish;
  - b) the biology and conservation status of the main non-CITES listed marine ornamental fish that are traded internationally as live specimens; and
  - c) the national/regional (and/or local) fisheries management of non-CITES listed live marine ornamental fish in international trade.
9. The Secretariat also noted in the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 36 that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) had secured funding from Switzerland to complete Red List assessments for all bony fish species found in the ornamental marine fish trade that are not already assessed in the Red List. The process will be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 includes the compilation of a species list, assessments for 275 priority species (those identified to be most highly traded) in 2020, and the publication of these Red List assessments. Subject to additional funding, Phase 2 concerns undertaking and publishing the assessments of a further, yet to be determined, number of species. This work overlaps with that proposed under Thematic study 2. The Secretariat reported that it is consulting with IUCN to see how the research activities might be as complementary as possible in terms of species coverage, outputs and timeframes.
10. In light of the meeting and travel restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic experienced in 2020 and 2021 and lack of funding which prevented the completion of the work envisaged in Decision 18.296 to 18.298, the Animals Committee was of the view that part of the mandates articulated in these Decisions need to be extended beyond CoP19. The Committee agreed to submit the draft decisions presented in

Annex 1 to this document for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting. These draft decisions would replace Decisions 18.296 to 18.298.

### Banggai cardinalfish

11. Concerning Banggai cardinalfish, at AC31, the Animals Committee also considered document [AC31 Doc. 31 \(Rev. 1\)](#), which was submitted by Indonesia and presented a progress report on its implementation of Decision 18.263 on the conservation and management measures taken to ensure the sustainability of international trade in the Banggai cardinalfish (BCF) (*Pterapogon kauderni*), including population surveys, the establishment of a marine protected area, the development of a survey of Banggai cardinalfish, monitoring guidelines and rehabilitation guidelines, and the establishment of a harvest quota.
12. The Committee acknowledged and noted document AC31 Doc. 31 (Rev. 1), appreciating Indonesia's efforts which, as explained in that report, have resulted in many positive outcomes of Banggai cardinalfish protection, conservation and management that promote its sustainable use. As Banggai cardinalfish is not listed under the Appendices, efforts on its conservation and management are regulated under Indonesian national laws. The Committee acknowledged the current status of Banggai cardinalfish as a non-CITES-listed species and, referring to significant progress achieved by Indonesia, 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.

### Recommendations

13. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
  - a) adopt the draft decisions in Annex 1; and
  - b) delete Decisions 18.263 to 18.265.

### COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decisions in Annex 1 to the present document with the amendment presented in paragraph F below and the deletion of Decisions 18.296 to 18.298.
- B. The Secretariat thanks the European Union, Switzerland and the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for providing the funds for the preparation of the four thematic studies, which will serve as the background documents for the technical workshop.
- C. Following discussions with UNEP-WCMC, IUCN and the Chair of the Animals Committee, it was agreed to extend the deadline for the preparation of the workshop background documents until the end of 2022 as the IUCN red list assessments of a large number of marine ornamental fishes are scheduled to be published in June 2022. This extension will give an opportunity to take this information into account in the preparation of the thematic studies. As a result of this delay and the lack of funding required, it was not possible to hold the workshop before this meeting of the CoP.
- D. The Secretariat recognises the valuable role of industry representatives in this task and acknowledges the contribution that they have made in this project to date. It is hoped that they will continue to play an active role in the implementation of the Decisions on marine ornamental fishes and participate in any technical workshop that may be convened in the future.
- E. The Secretariat notes that there are a number of other initiatives ongoing with regard to marine ornamental fishes that may provide some useful information that can be taken into account in the implementation of the Decisions of marine ornamental fishes. For example, GLOBEFISH is a multi-donor funded project within the FAO Fisheries Division responsible for providing up-to-date trade and market on fish and fishery products. Species360 Conservation Science Alliance and the Species Knowledge Index (SKI) will hold a workshop on marine ornamental fishes in July 2022. The aim of the workshop is to validate a list of species identified by Species360 as being in international trade that may be prioritized for further research. The results of this workshop will be made available as an information document at CoP19 and will help in the development of thematic study 2 as outlined in this document.

- F. The Secretariat proposes amending the text of the 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 revised draft decisions would read as follows:

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**19.AA** The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:

- a) convene a technical workshop to consider the conservation priorities and management needs related to the trade in non-CITES listed marine ornamental fishes worldwide, with a particular focus on data from importing and exporting countries;
- b) invite the Animals Committee, representatives from range States, exporting, and importing countries, fishery stakeholders, industry representatives and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in this workshop; and
- c) submit the background documents, findings and recommendations of this workshop to the Animals Committee.

**Directed to the Animals Committee**

**19.BB** The Animals Committee shall consider all available information on the conservation and trade of marine ornamental fishes, including the background documents prepared for the technical workshop in Decision 19.AA and the results of any workshop referred to in Decision 19.AA and make recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *MARINE ORNAMENTAL FISHES*

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**19.AA** The Secretariat shall:

- a) convene a technical workshop to consider the conservation priorities and management needs related to the trade in non-CITES listed marine ornamental fishes worldwide, with a particular focus on data from importing and exporting countries;
- b) invite the Animals Committee, representatives from range States, exporting, and importing countries, fishery stakeholders, industry representatives and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in this workshop; and
- c) submit findings and recommendations of this workshop to the Animals Committee.

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

**19.BB** The Animals Committee shall consider the results of the workshop referred to in Decision 19.AA and make recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**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:

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicative costs (USD)</b> (excludes Programme Support Costs)	<b>Source of funding</b>
Decision 19.AA – Option A	Convening an in-person workshop	150,000	External funding
Decision 19.AA – Option B	Convening an online workshop	40,000	External funding