

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

Summary record of the second session for Committee I

15 November 2022: 14h10 – 17h00

Chair: V. Fleming (United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland)

Secretariat: D. Morgan
K. Gaynor
HJ. Kim

Rapporteurs: C. Stafford
R. Sexton
L. Oliveira
J. Robinson

Species specific matters

87. Amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

87.2 Aquatic species listed in the CITES Appendices: Proposals for a new approach to the listing of sharks and rays

Senegal introduced document CoP19 Doc. 87.2. Bangladesh, Congo, the European Union and its Member States, Gabon, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Maldives, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) welcomed Senegal's suggestion to establish a technical workshop to examine the biological difference between species of Chondrichthyes and other highly vulnerable marine species.

China, Japan and the United States of America, echoed by Opes Oceani Foundation, expressed concerns about Senegal's original proposal and draft decisions, noting that the current footnote had been agreed after extensive discussions and had largely worked well. China and Japan stated that Senegal had not provided sufficient scientific justification to support their suggested amendment to the footnote. Canada considered that Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* already makes adequate provision for exceptional marine taxa to be considered under the general listing criteria. Echoed by Canada, China and the United States, Japan considered that the focus should be on ensuring effective implementation of existing shark and ray listings and Decisions. Mauritania emphasized the importance of science in decision-making.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) stressed the time and technical expertise that went into the formulation of the footnote in Annex 5 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and recommended a case-by-case approach to determining whether a shark or ray species meets the listing criteria.

Seeing no consensus, the Chair established a working group to consider the draft decisions proposed by Senegal with a view to take this work forward in the next intersessional period, comprising Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Costa

Rica, the Czech Republic, France, Gabon, the Gambia, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mali, the Netherlands, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Spain, Panama, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, IUCN, FAO, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Bloom Association, Blue Resources Trust, Conservation Alliance of Kenya, Defenders of Wildlife, Elasmobranch Project, Florida International University, Fondation Franz Weber, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, International Association for Wildlife, International Coalition of Fisheries Associations, International Fund for Animal Welfare, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Law of the Wild, Opes Oceani Foundation, PADI AWARE, Sea Shepherd Legal, Shark Conservation Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, and the Zoological Society of London.

54. Review of the provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.7 on *Review of Trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*.

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 54, on behalf of the Standing Committee. The document outlined a series of amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) and a set of draft decisions that were agreed during a workshop held on 7 June 2022.

Canada, China, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland supported the document's draft decisions.

The Chair noted that the proposed deletion of paragraph 1 of revised Resolution Conf. 17.7 contained in Annex 1 will be discussed at the final Plenary session once the Budget Committee has deliberated on the availability of resources. Paragraph 1 will remain in brackets until such discussions conclude. The United Kingdom considered that the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) should be viewed as core work in terms of resource allocation. The United States also disagreed with the recommendation to delete this paragraph.

Canada and the United Kingdom did not support the addition to paragraph a) v) of the proposed bracketed text as follows '[or use of 'C', 'F', or 'R' for commercial trade in Appendix-1 species]' and suggested that it be deleted. The European Union and its Member States proposed deletion of paragraph 1 a), v), being of the view that compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-1 animal species in captivity for commercial purposes* should not be addressed in the context of the Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity.

China proposed that in the text 'referred to it by Parties' in paragraph b) should be replaced with 'justified with supporting documented evidence'.

The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) proposed that the text "between different captive-production source codes or" in criterion iii) be deleted, so that this criterion would now read:

iii) shifts from wild to captive produced source codes.

The Animal Welfare Institute, speaking also on behalf of a number of other non-governmental organizations, echoed calls for core funding to be used for the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18).

The draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) on the *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* were accepted with the amendment to paragraph b) proposed by China, the amendment to paragraph a) v) proposed by Canada and the United Kingdom, and to criterion iii) proposed by UNEP-WCMC. The draft decisions in Annex 2 to document CoP19 Doc. 54 were agreed. It was agreed to delete Decisions 18.176 and 18.177.

Species specific matters

61. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.)

The Chair of the Animals Committee, on behalf of the Standing Committee, introduced document CoP19 Doc. 61, outlining the objectives and initiatives related to Decisions 18.197 to 18.202. It also summarized the results of discussions at the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31) and the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74) regarding eels in relation to Decisions 18.200 and 18.201.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland supported by IUCN, speaking also on behalf of TRAFFIC, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Zoological Society of London (ZSL), suggested the development of a resolution on eels given the continued need for the implementation of activities related to *Anguilla* spp. The United Kingdom proposed various amendments to the draft decisions proposed in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 61 to reflect the outcome of the discussions on eel at the seventy-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee (SC75). IUCN also asked Parties to take note of the recommendation given by the 2023 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) of zero catch for all live stages of *Anguilla anguilla* throughout its entire range.

The United States of America agreed with the Secretariat's recommendation to delete Decisions 18.197 to 18.202, but did not support the proposal to delete text in draft decision 19.DD a). The Secretariat explained its rationale for this text and the United States ultimately accepted this text.

It was agreed that the amendments to the draft decisions in Annex 1 of CoP19 Doc. 61 proposed by the United Kingdom and those of the Secretariat supported by the United States of America would be published by the Secretariat as an in-session document for the consideration of the Committee, and that this agenda item would be revisited for discussion later in the meeting.

77. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 77, noting that much remains to be done to fully implement the CoP18 Decisions on queen conch and drawing attention to the draft revised decisions contained in Annex 1.

The Bahamas, Jamaica and the United States of America supported the Secretariat's recommendations. The European Union and its Member States proposed that paragraph b) of Decision 18.278 be maintained. Belize noted with concern the intention of the United States to include the queen conch in the Endangered Species Act of the United States. It emphasized the significant work being undertaken at the regional level to improve management of the species.

The Committee agreed to the draft revised decisions on Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 77, while retaining paragraph b) of Decision 19.BB.

64. Marine turtles (*Cheloniidae* spp. and *Dermochelyidae* spp.)

64.1 Report of the Secretariat and the Standing Committee

and

64.2 Conservation of marine turtles

Documents CoP19 Doc. 64.1 (Rev. 1) and CoP19 Doc. 64.2 were considered together. Document CoP19 Doc. 64.1 (Rev. 1) was introduced by the Secretariat which drew attention to the draft decisions in Annex 1. The United States of America, also on behalf of Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru, introduced CoP19 Doc 64.2 containing a draft resolution on conservation of and trade in marine turtles.

The United States supported the Secretariat's proposal to incorporate several decisions proposed in document CoP19 Doc. 64.1 (Rev. 1) into the proposed draft resolution and suggested a number of amendments.

Bahrain, Cambodia, India, Samoa (on behalf of Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Tonga) and Singapore supported the proposed draft resolution with Samoa also proposing amendments.

The European Union and its Member States, Costa Rica, Cuba and Peru expressed support for the draft resolution in document CoP19 Doc 64.2 and the decisions in CoP19 Doc. 64.1 (Rev. 1) and CoP19 Doc 64.2.

Brazil and Senegal supported the adoption of CoP19 Doc 64.2 with the changes proposed by the Secretariat and the United States. Japan and the United Kingdom also supported the draft resolution and decisions in document CoP19 Doc 64.2 with each proposing amendments.

Noting a lack of consensus the Chair established a working group comprising: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Benin, Brazil, China, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Tonga, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Humane Society International (HSI), PADI, Sea Shepherd Legal, SPREP, TRAFFIC, WWF. The terms of reference for the working group would be provided at the start of next Committee session.

The meeting was adjourned at 17h00.