

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 third session for Committee I

16 November 2022: 09h20 - 12h10

Chair: V. Fleming (United Kingdom)

Secretariat: S. Flensburg
K. Gaynor
H.J. Kim
D. Morgan

Rapporteurs: A. Caromel
F. Davis
L. Oliveira
R. Sexton

The Chair of the Credentials Committee (Morocco) reported 145 Parties had registered, and 133 credentials had been accepted.

Species specific matters

65. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

The Chair of the Animals Committee's intersessional working group on sharks and rays introduced CoP19 Doc. 65 on behalf of the Chair of the Animals Committee, detailing the outcomes of working group meetings held online in June 2021 and clarifying that the proposed draft decisions of Annex 4 were merged decisions from both the Animal Committee and Standing Committee. He noted that some of the Secretariat's suggested amendments to the proposed draft decisions did not align with the outcomes of the intersessional working group meeting. This view was echoed by the Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on sharks and rays.

Mexico and Peru supported the draft decisions with the Secretariat's amendments. Japan indicated a process issue and called on the examination of document SC74 Doc. 24 by the Animals Committee and Standing Committee. Gabon, echoed by Sea Shepherd Legal, speaking also on behalf of a number of non-governmental organizations observers, supported the draft decisions in Annex 4 but not support the Secretariat's proposed amendments to them. Congo, Bangladesh, the European Union and its Member States, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United Republic of Tanzania supported the draft decisions contained in Annex 4 and the establishment of a working group.

The United Kingdom drew attention to document CoP19 Doc. 43.2 as relevant to the topic. The European Union and its Member States, echoed by the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), supported draft decision 19.AA e); the former also stressed the importance of traceability in monitoring and identification of CITES listed shark products in source and consumer countries. The United States raised the continued challenges in facilitating the transfer of scientific samples for CITES-listed sharks and offered to provide language asking the Committees to consider this issue.

IWMC, speaking also on behalf of a number of other observer organizations, questioned how small island nations and fishing communities would be able to cope with the requirements of these additional decisions. The Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) emphasized the importance of capacity-building to address implementation challenges already faced by countries. Sea Shepherd Legal, speaking also on behalf of a number of other non-governmental organization observers, raised concerns on the lack of progress with Decisions 18.221 and 18.219.

The Chair established a working group, to consider the merged draft decisions in Annex 4 to document CoP19 Doc. 65, taking into account comments made and the Secretariat's comments in the document, comprising: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, the European Union, Gabon, the Gambia, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Maldives, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), SPREP, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Blue Resources Trust, Defenders of Wildlife, Elasmobranch Project, Earthtrust International, Florida International University, Fondation Franz Weber, Humane Society International, Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission, International Coalition of Fisheries Associations, International Fund for Animal Welfare, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Law of the Wild, MarViva, OCEANA Inc., PADI Aware, Sea Save Foundation, Sea Shepherd Legal, Shark Advocacy International, Shark Conservation Fund, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, and Zoological Society of London.

80. Marine ornamental fishes

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 80, reporting that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mandated workshop had not taken place, but that progress had been made on the thematic studies requested in preparation of the workshop by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) through the circulation of questionnaires. Draft decisions were proposed in document CoP19 Doc. 80 to replace Decisions 18.296 to 18.298 to extend the mandate for the workshop to the next intersessional period. The Chair of the Animals Committee also reported that in light of the progress made by Indonesia on the measures taken to ensure the sustainability of international trade of the Banggai cardinalfish, Decisions 18.263 to 18.265 could be deleted.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recommended amending the proposed draft decision 19.BB to add "a) the Animals Committee, shall agree a Terms of Reference for the technical workshop" to ensure that all relevant issues were considered, and suggested that information document CoP19 Inf. 69 be used as a starting point.

IUCN highlighted recent and pending updates to the assessments for the IUCN Red List for marine ornamental bony fish species. The Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association, speaking also on behalf of a number of other non-governmental organizations, drew attention to information document CoP19 Inf. 68.

The draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 80 were accepted with the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Committee agreed to delete Decisions 18.263 to 18.265 and Decisions 18.296 to 18.298.

Strategic matters

20. CITES Tree Species Programme

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 20, summarizing the outcomes of projects under the CITES Trees Species Programme.

Parties thanked the Secretariat for its work and supported the extension of the programme so that relevant countries might continue to receive appropriate assistance for the implementation of the Convention in relation to CITES-listed trees species at national and regional levels.

Benin, echoed by Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, the European Union and its Member States, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, and Norway, supported the draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 20 and the deletion of Decisions 18.14 to 18.17 as

recommended by the Secretariat. Guatemala, supported by Argentina, Chile, and Peru, and the United States, supported by Brazil and Kenya, proposed amendments to draft decision 19.BB b).

Following some discussion, the Committee agreed to delete Decisions 18.14 to 18.17 and to propose for adoption the draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 20 with the following amendments proposed by Canada, Guatemala and Cameroon:

Directed to the Parties

19.AA Parties are invited to provide financial and in-kind support for a capacity-building programme that provides long-term support to Parties on their implementation of the Convention for CITES-listed tree species.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.BB The Secretariat shall bring to the attention of the Plants Committee relevant technical and scientific results of the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP) and, subject to external funding:

- a) develop and implement a capacity-building programme covering all relevant regions on the implementation of CITES for tree species included in the Appendices ~~and forests~~;
- b) seek advice and guidance from the Plants and Standing Committees to assess the potential for the CITES Tree Species Programme to be made a permanent programme, as needed;
- c) continue cooperation with organizations working on forest related matters, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and private economic actors to strengthen the support to Parties for implementing the Convention for listed tree species; and
- d) report on the implementation of this Decision at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Species specific matters

62. Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.)

62.1 Report of the Plants Committee

and

62.2 The history and challenges of agarwood and CITES

Documents CoP19 Doc. 62.1 and CoP19 Doc 62.2 (Rev 1) were considered together. The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 62.1, which outlined the outcomes of an in-session working group established by the Plants Committee at its 25th meeting (PC25) to formulate recommendations regarding potential revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*, as well as the Agarwood glossary and the Agarwood NDF guidance.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced CoP19 Doc. 62.2 (Rev. 1), which outlined the history and challenges of Agarwood in CITES. It noted also the review of the Agarwood-producing genera *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* by the International Tropical Timber Organization in information document CoP19 Inf. 12.

Bahrain, China, the European Union and its Member States and Kuwait expressed support for the draft decision as amended by the Secretariat with China proposing one further amendment to the opening chapeau of draft decision 19.AA as follows: "The Plants Committee shall, with the assistance of the Secretariat, review document CoP19 Doc. 62.2 and information documents CoP19 Inf. 12 and CoP19 Inf. 15 and:". The European Union and its Member States highlighted that potential revisions of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* and consideration of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, and Resolution

Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species* must not lead to any weakening of standards and definitions regarding source code A for artificial propagation

Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates noted there were some inconsistencies in the information provided in documents CoP19 Doc. 62.2 and information document CoP19 Inf. 5.

Draft decision 19.AA in document CoP19 Doc. 62.1 was accepted as amended by the Secretariat and China with the exception of 19.AA b) for which the original wording as proposed in document CoP19 Doc. 62.1 Annex 1 was retained. Draft decision 19.BB proposed by the Secretariat was accepted, as was the deletion of Decisions 18.203 and 18.204.

63. Boswellia trees (*Boswellia* spp.)

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 63 on *Boswellia* spp., noting that PC25 had established an in-session working group to consider, *inter alia*, key gaps in knowledge and propose recommendations to address the sustainable use and conservation of *Boswellia* species, and to consider whether any of these species could meet the criteria for listing in the Appendices. The recommendations of the working group were outlined in paragraph 6 a) to i) of document CoP19 Doc. 63 and included two draft decisions presented in Annex 1.

Switzerland, which had chaired the in-session working group, noted that since PC25 a new report on *Boswellia* species in international trade, contained in information document CoP19 Inf. 10 (Rev. 1), had been submitted. It supported the Secretariat's proposed amendments to the draft decisions and drew attention to the information provided in information document CoP19 Inf. 72.

Kenya and the United States of America expressed support for the adoption of the draft decisions in document CoP19 Doc. 63 as amended by the Secretariat. The United States further proposed that the directive to the Secretariat in 19.AA to "identify meetings or other venues that might provide opportunities to collaborate or share information regarding harvest and management of these species" be directed instead to the Plants Committee.

India urged Parties only to consider listing species that met the criteria and for which listing would have a positive conservation outcome.

The draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 63 were agreed as amended by the Secretariat and the United States of America and it was agreed to delete Decisions 18.205 to 18.208.

The meeting was adjourned at 12h10.