

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 fifteenth session for Committee I

23 November 2022: 09h05 – 12h00

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

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

Rapporteurs: F. Davis
S. Rouse
L. Oliveira
J. Gray

Adoption of summary records

CoP19 Com. I Rec. 8

Japan asked for the following be inserted at the end of the second paragraph under Proposal CoP19 Prop. 40: Japan further expressed deep concern about the application of the so-called look-alike provision.

Japan asked for the following to be inserted at the end of the fourth paragraph of Proposal CoP19 Prop. 42 (Rev.1): Japan also asked Parties to recall an agreement at CoP16 that coastal states be responsible for the conservation and management of sea cucumbers.

Summary Record CoP18 Com. I Rec. 8 was adopted with these amendments.

CoP19 Com. I Rec. 9

Summary Record CoP18 Com. I Rec. 9 was adopted without changes.

CoP19 Com. I Rec. 10

Summary Record CoP18 Com. I Rec. 10 was adopted without changes.

Strategic matters

11. Appendix-I listed species

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 11 containing draft decisions directing the Secretariat to produce detailed assessments of Appendix I-listed species and to refine the methodology for carrying out assessments of Appendix-I species. Annex 1 to the document contained proposed draft decisions, amendments to which were suggested under Comments of the Secretariat.

The United States of America and Mexico generally supported the Secretariat's suggested amendments but preferred to retain the original draft decision 19.BB. China supported the original draft decisions presented in Annex 1 and did not support the Secretariat's proposed amendments.

Israel, supported by Mexico and the United States, proposed an amendment to paragraph a) of draft decision 19.AA to read as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) in consultation with relevant range States, produce detailed assessments on the conservation status, threats, ~~relevance~~ impacts of legal and illegal of trade, ongoing in situ and ex situ conservation strategies or recovery plans and funding/resources available or required for at least the ten Appendix-I listed species from those listed in the table in paragraph 15 of document CoP19 Doc. 11, and others; and

The European Union and its Member States further proposed inserting and relevant experts after "States".

In response to questions from China and Mexico, the Secretariat explained the species selected for review in the document were based on the quadrant methodology proposed by Mexico.

Paragraph a) of draft decision 19.AA, as amended by Israel and the European Union and its Member States, paragraph b) of draft decision 19.AA as amended by the Secretariat, and draft decision 19.BB as originally presented in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 11 were accepted, and it was agreed to delete Decisions 18.28 and 18.29.

Interpretation and implementation matters

43. Non-detriment findings

43.1 Report of the Animals and Plants Committees

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 43.1 on progress in developing new or updated non-detriment finding (NDF) guidance, the establishment of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and proposed draft decisions contained in Annex 1 of the document.

Canada, Cameroon, Congo, the European Union and its Member States, Guinea, Mali, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and TRAFFIC supported the draft decisions in CoP19 Doc. 43.1. Canada supported by China, the European Union and its Member States, Israel, Mexico and the United Kingdom, proposed the following amendments to paragraphs i) and iii) of draft decisions 19.AA and paragraph a) of draft decision 19.BB as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, address priorities in capacity-building related to non-detriment findings (NDF) agreed by the Secretariat and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties, by:
 - i) continuing to support the TAG through which the Animals and Plants Committees provide ~~provided~~ support and advice for implementation ~~implementing~~ Decisions 18.132 to 18.134.
 - (...)
 - iii) undertaking targeted research in support of development of new or updated NDF guidance materials in close collaboration with the TAG, relevant experts, Parties and organizations; to address the agreed workstreams, building on the inventory and gap analysis of existing guidance prepared by the Secretariat;

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

19.BB The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) continue the TAG established under the recommendations in document AC31/PC25 Com. 3 through which the Animals and Plants Committees ~~provide providing~~ support and advice for ~~implementation implementing~~ Decisions 18.132 to 18.134, ~~review the functioning of the TAG,~~ and make any appropriate decisions to ensure continued advice and assistance for the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) encouraged the consideration of traditional knowledge in the development of NDFs. TRAFFIC emphasized the importance of supporting Parties with NDF development. Blue Resources Trust, speaking also on behalf of Wildlife Conservation Society, highlighted the release of its free electronic software to support the development of shark and ray NDFs.

Draft decisions 19.AA to 19.CC contained in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 43.1 as amended by Canada were accepted, and it was agreed to delete Decisions 18.132 to 18.134.

43.2 Making non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced document CoP19 43.2 on making NDFs for specimens of CITES Appendix-II listed species taken from the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any States containing draft decisions in Annex 1. The United Kingdom indicated that it accepted the Secretariat's suggested amendments to the draft decisions under Comments of the Secretariat.

Congo, Mali and Peru supported the draft decisions. The European Union and its Member States observed that making NDFs for the species concerned remained challenging. New Zealand and the United States of America expressed doubts with the proposal to convene a separate technical workshop on NDFs for specimens taken from waters beyond national jurisdiction. Japan stated that the issuance of NDFs was ultimately the responsibility of the CITES authorities and regretted the inclusion of many sharks and rays in the Appendices, noting that use of these species was already regulated by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and coastal States and it is difficult for RFMOs and coastal States to share scientific information for NDFs in a timely manner.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), speaking also on behalf of TRAFFIC and Zoological Society of London, emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and coordination between Parties. Humane Society International and Opes Oceani Foundation did not oppose the draft decisions, but raised caution about the identification of "International Scientific Authorities" that lack proper expertise and the lack of NDFs for sharks. SPREP and Species Survival Network supported the draft decisions in document CoP19 Doc. 43.2 to convene a technical workshop. IWMC-World Conservation Trust, speaking also on behalf of several observer organizations, emphasized the importance of collaboration with RFMOs.

The draft decisions in document CoP19 Doc. 43.2 as amended by the Secretariat were agreed.

46. Trade in stony corals

The European Union and its Member States introduced document CoP19 Doc. 46, drawing attention to two draft decisions and expressed support for the Secretariat's suggested amendments to these.

Indonesia supported the draft decisions. The Maldives, supported by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, proposed that paragraph a) of amended draft decision 19.AA be amended by inserting in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts after "possible amendments".

The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), supported by the European Union and its Member States, New Zealand and the United States, proposed the following addition to amended draft decision 19.AAs:

- c) in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts, provide advice on the conversion factors used to analyse trade in corals for the CITES Review of Significant Trade process and report to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Ornamental Fish International, speaking on behalf also of the Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association Ltd (OATA) and European Pet Organisation urged Parties to adopt a common definition of fossil coral.

The draft decisions in document CoP19 Doc. 46 as amended by the Secretariat, the Maldives and UNEP-WCMC were agreed.

Interpretation and implementation matters

Regulation of trade

44. Identification materials

44.1 Review of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16)

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 44.1 on behalf of the Standing Committee, drawing attention to the draft resolution on materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species contained in Annex 1, the draft decisions in Annex 2, should the draft resolution be adopted, and the recommendation to delete Decisions 18.135 to 18.139, as these had been implemented.

The United States of America and New Zealand in the capacity of Plants Committee and Animals Committee co-chairs, respectively, of the identification materials working group that had been working intersessionally presented the results of the group's work, noting the revised resolution in Annex 1 of document CoP19 Doc. 44.1 would address gaps in identification materials for CITES-listed species, reflecting technological advances and stressing that identification tools should be made available in a variety of forms, as access to the Internet was not universal.

Mali and Switzerland supported the draft resolution and draft decisions in document CoP19 Doc. 44.1 and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland supported the draft resolution. The United States and New Zealand supported the draft resolution as amended by the Secretariat in the document and the draft decisions in Annex 2.

Indonesia proposed the deletion of "Verifiable methods for distinguishing wild from non-wild specimens" in the Annex to the draft resolution, owing to expected difficulties of implementation. However, in the light of opposition from Switzerland and the United States, Indonesia withdrew its request for this deletion.

China generally supported the draft resolution in Annex 2 but opposed the amendment to the Annex to the draft resolution proposed by the Secretariat: "~~Uses, and~~ known trading patterns, and routes". It pointed out that this would potentially hinder the development and implementation of identification materials.

The European Union and its Member States suggested the addition of a new preambular paragraph to the draft resolution in Annex 1, to be inserted after the last paragraph beginning 'RECALLING', to read:

NOTING that information on individual identification of CITES-listed species specimens may also be collected.

They also proposed the addition of text to paragraph 4, subparagraph b) of the resolution. New Zealand proposed an alternative version to read as follows:

4. RECOMMENDS that Parties:

- b) continue to develop and share national, regional, or taxon-based guides to the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species, especially for those specimens that are commonly traded and/or found in their country or region, and when practicable include ~~in these~~ identification materials for commonly traded species that are not listed

on the CITES Appendices to assist in identifying and differentiating between listed and unlisted species;

The Committee agreed to the draft resolution in Annex 1 and draft decisions in Annex 2 to document CoP19 Doc. 44.1, as amended by the Secretariat, excepting the words 'and routes' in the Annex to the draft resolution, and also with the changes to the title of Annex 1 and to the preambular paragraphs to the draft resolution suggested by the European Union and its Member States and the change to paragraph 4, subparagraph b) of the resolution proposed by New Zealand. It also agreed to delete Decisions 18.135 to 18.139.

44.2 Identification of timber and other wood products

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 44.2, noting the outcomes of the intersessional working group on identification of timber and other wood products and its recommendations to the Secretariat, and drawing attention to the draft decisions in Annex 1 of the document, suggested amendments to which were included under Comments of the Secretariat.

The United States of America, as co-chair of the working group, supported the document and agreed that more work was needed for full implementation of Decisions 18.140 to 18.143. Canada, speaking on behalf of the North America region, supported the United States and drew attention to information document CoP19 Inf. 97 containing suggested amendments to the draft decisions in Annex 1.

Cameroon, India and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also proposed amendments to the draft decisions in Annex 1 of document CoP19 Doc. 44.2. Mali and the European Union and its Member States generally supported the amendments to the draft decisions proposed by the Parties, while China supported amendments suggested by Canada.

The Chair asked the Secretariat to produce an in-session document for further consideration.¹

51. Quotas for leopard *Panthera pardus* hunting trophies

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 51 on quotas for leopard hunting, which invited Parties to amend paragraph 1 a) of Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use* by changing the quota indicated for Ethiopia from "500" to "20" and by removing the quotas for Kenya and Malawi. The Comments from the Secretariat in document CoP19 Doc. 51 recommended deletion of Decisions 18.165, 18.167, 18.169 a) and 18.170, as their purpose had been achieved, and retention of Decisions 18.166, 18.168 and 18.169, paragraphs b) and c), as more work remained on these.

Botswana, Ethiopia and Namibia supported the draft decisions in document CoP19 Doc. 51. Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Namibia supported the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) and the deletion of Decisions 18.165, 18.167, 18.169 a) and 18.170,

Niger said it was concerned that quotas for leopard hunting trophies lacked scientific basis and asked for the suspension of all such quotas pending completion of guidance on non-detriment findings. Mali echoed Namibia regarding the value and urgency of implementing Decision 18.169, while Kenya stated no leopard hunting quotas should be issued so long as completion of any relevant Decisions remained outstanding.

The European Union and its Member States proposed amendments to these such that text from decision 18.166 (Rev. CoP19) would read, 'All Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) are encouraged to conduct regular surveys, adjust quotas as appropriate, and exchange information...' and text from decision 18.168 (Rev. CoP19) would read 'The Animals Committee shall review on a regular basis, as appropriate, any information submitted by the Secretariat'. Central African Republic, Japan and Kenya favoured these amendments.

Botswana proposed deletion of paragraph b) of decision 18.169 (Rev. CoP19). Japan highlighted the potential for positive effects from trophy hunting for both people and species conservation.

¹ The Secretariat was unable to produce the requested in-session document in time for the meeting of the plenary session of the Conference of the Parties, but has included the clean text of the proposed changes as an Annex to this summary record.

The meeting was adjourned at 12h00.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *IDENTIFICATION OF TIMBER AND OTHER WOOD PRODUCTS***Directed to the Secretariat**

19.AA The Secretariat shall, in close consultation with the Plants Committee, and subject to external resources:

- a) review the utility and practicality of the online repository, and make recommendations on its development;
- b) based on the outcomes of the review, liaise with relevant organizations and experts in the development of a depository of timber and other wood products identification resources and a dedicated webpage, taking into account the progress and recommendations reported in document PC25 Doc. 19 and its addendum;
- c) in undertaking the above, consideration should be given to tailor the compilation of timber and other wood products identification resources for both frontline enforcement officers and to experts involved in identifying timber and other wood products for forensic or legal purposes; and
- d) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee at its first regular meeting after CoP19 and seek its advice and input.

Directed to Parties

19.BB Parties are encouraged to collaborate with the Secretariat in sharing relevant information in support of the implementation of Decision 19.AA and 19.CC.

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.CC The Plants Committee shall, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and building on information on existing initiatives, and progress to date:

- a) develop a plan to prioritize the CITES-listed tree species to focus global efforts on developing and sharing identification reference databases and tools, including sampling campaigns for vouchered reference samples;
- b) prioritize the development of identification material for *Dalbergia* species, taking into consideration progress made in document PC25 Doc. 34 and document CoP19 Doc. 84.1, and giving attention to frontline identification materials to assist differentiating look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as *Dalbergia sissoo*;
- c) develop a list of available techniques and tools, and evaluate their standards and usefulness to species-specific identification and enforcement for CITES-listed tree species and their look-alikes;
- d) determine gaps in current knowledge sources for CITES timber identification, on their availability and usefulness, and consider challenges and resourcing required to make these tools more widely available to CITES Parties;
- e) develop standardized information templates and other tools that could be used by Parties to facilitate sharing information on the content and status of wood sample collections, and exchange with research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities;
- f) determine methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties, including lessons learned on how Parties have built their timber identification capacity and expertise;
- g) review the utility and practicality of the online repository and make recommendations on its development to inform implementation of Decision 19.AA;

- h) consider the relevant outcomes of the online Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species presented in the Annex to the Addendum to document SC74 Doc. 33.2; and
- i) update the Standing Committee, as appropriate, on progress made, and report its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.DD The Standing Committee shall consider any report by the Plants Committee relating to the implementation of Decision 19.CC and convey, as appropriate, any recommendations it may have to the Conference of the Parties.