

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 II

16 November 2022: 09h20 - 12h00

Chair: R. Ollerenshaw

Secretariat: D. Morgan  
T. Carroll  
B Janse van Rensburg

Rapporteurs: C. Stafford  
J. Mark  
J. Gray  
J. Robinson

The Chair announced that Malaysia was included in the working group on the role of CITES in reducing risk of zoonotic disease emergence and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was included as an observer organization in the working group on the Strategic Vision indicators.

**Strategic matters**

24. Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the Convention

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 24, which summarizes the actions of Parties and the Secretariat in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, reviews the impacts of the pandemic on the ability of the Convention bodies to implement the Convention, and outlines considerations relating to possible responses to such events in the future. The Secretariat also drew attention to a number of draft decisions on *Emerging operational matters of the committees* in Annex 1.

Cuba, the European Union and its Member States, Japan, Peru and the United States of America expressed support for the draft decisions, with the United States also proposing the following amendments:

In paragraph 19.AA b), replace “understanding of” with “recommendations for”.

In paragraphs 19.AA b), 19.BB a) i), and 19.CC b), replace “a hybrid-option” with “under which it may be appropriate to hold an online meeting or make hybrid options available”.

In paragraph 19.CC, specify that this work should be completed by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee, as follows “The Standing Committee shall, by its 78th meeting”.

This was supported by Canada, Colombia and Senegal.

The United States, echoed by Colombia, Cuba, Japan and Senegal, also noted that online and hybrid meetings involved different costs and considerations; it urged the Budget Working Group to explore both options.

The draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 24 as amended by the United States of America were accepted. It was agreed that the Budget Working Group should consider the budget implications for the livestreaming of governing body and scientific advisory body meetings and tools for online and hybrid meetings.

## 12. World Wildlife Trade Report

South Africa introduced document CoP19 Doc. 12, containing a proposal to prepare a World Wildlife Trade Report between each intersessional period of the Conference of the Parties with the aim of reviewing the scale, patterns and trends of trade in CITES-listed species; the conservation impacts and socio-economic benefits of such trade; and the correlation between legal and illegal trade. The document also included a number of draft decisions. South Africa noted it was conscious of legal constraints and concerns relating to the provision of price data, emphasizing that the data provided would not be tied to specific transactions and used only to give a general understanding of the value of trade. It also drew attention to a number of draft decisions in Annex 1 to the document.

Parties took note of and generally welcomed the pilot World Wildlife Trade Report submitted by the Secretariat in information document CoP19 Inf. 24. Botswana, Colombia, Indonesia, Lesotho, Peru, Zambia and Zimbabwe generally supported the draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 12 with Senegal calling for a working group to further refine the draft decisions. Zimbabwe was of the opinion that these would not increase the workload of Parties.

The European Union and its Member States, Gabon, Guinea, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Uganda, and the United States of America were of the opinion that more time was needed to consider the value and objectives of a World Wildlife Trade Report.

Argentina, Cambodia, China, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria and Thailand raised concerns about the potential reporting burden that implementation of the proposal would create, several also drawing attention to the fact that price data tend to be commercially sensitive.

Mexico and New Zealand proposed new draft decisions directed to the Standing Committee to assess the feasibility and methodology of a World Wildlife Trade Report.

Perceiving a broad consensus that adoption of the draft decisions in the present document was premature, the Chair established a working group, with a mandate to develop consolidated draft decisions based on Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 12 and new draft decisions proposed by Parties during the discussion, comprising: Austria, Botswana, Canada, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the European Union, Germany, Guinea, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Niger, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, the United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, African Wildlife Foundation, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Center for Biological Diversity, International Iguana Foundation, International Primate Protection League, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Panthera, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, South African Taxidermy & Tannery Association, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wide Fund for Nature. The working group would elect its own chair from among the delegates that are members of the working group.

## 17. Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

### 17.1 Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions

The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 17.1 containing new draft decisions on a partnership strategy to identify priorities for collaboration with relevant conventions in Annex 1, draft decisions based on proposed revisions to Decisions 17.55 (Rev. CoP18) and 17.56 (Rev. CoP18) in Annex 2, and a proposal to delete Decisions 18.47 and 18.48.

Panama supported the document but highlighted the importance of considering climate change alongside biodiversity conservation. Japan stressed the importance of synergies between CITES and the Convention of Biological Diversity in implementing the *CITES Strategic Vision*.

China, the European Union and its Member States, Gabon and Georgia supported the draft decisions in document CoP19 Doc. 17.1. China noted the omission of any reference to the Ramsar Convention.

The United States of America was supportive of the spirit of the draft decisions and proposal to delete Decisions 18.47 and 18.48, but was concerned about the cost to the CITES Secretariat of implementation. Argentina supported deletion of Decisions 18.47 and 18.48, and opposed draft decisions 19.AA and 19.BB.

Brazil, echoed by the United States of America, highlighted the importance of cooperation and noted that, since each Convention has its own goals and objectives, cooperation should focus on complementarity, rather than synergies.

Switzerland drew the attention of Parties to information document CoP19 Inf. 11 containing a report of the Second Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) ('Bern workshops') and proposed language to better incorporate the Bern process into the draft decisions.

The Convention on Biological Diversity highlighted its strong cooperation with CITES and other Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in the GBF process. The Convention on Migratory Species reflected on joint work between MEAs, especially through the Biodiversity Liaison Group.

Committee II accepted the draft decisions in Annexes 1 and 2 to document CoP19 Doc. 17.1 and the deletion of Decisions 18.47 and 18.48.

#### 17.2 Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Australia introduced document CoP19 Doc. 17.2 on behalf of the Plants Committee, referring Parties to the draft decision in its Annex 1. They also drew attention to comments from the Secretariat in the document, including proposed amendments to the draft decision in Annex 1 and an additional draft decision 19.BB, directed to the Standing Committee.

The United States of America supported the draft decision in Annex 1 as amended by the Secretariat, and proposed to delete in draft decision 19.AA c) "or the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate". It supported deletion of Decisions 18.49 to 18.51, as recommended by the Secretariat.

Committee II accepted the draft decision in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 17.2 with the amendments recommended by the Secretariat and the United States of America, draft decision 19.BB proposed by the Secretariat, and the deletion of Decisions 18.49 to 18.51.

#### 17.3 Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 17.3 on behalf of the Standing Committee and drew the attention of Parties to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Thematic Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species and to the draft decisions contained in Annex 1.

IPBES provided a summary of the main findings of the thematic assessment. The European Union and its Member States, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and the United States of America expressed support for document CoP19 Doc. 17.3. New Zealand suggested addition of a new draft decision directed to Parties which was not supported by the United States of America and Humane Society International.

The draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 17.3 were accepted.

#### 17.4 Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 17.4 explaining that the Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative had been finalized and noting that it had been in discussions with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) about holding a Second Range State Meeting of the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative in April 2023. Parties were invited to adopt the existing, revised and new draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 17.4 and delete Decisions 18.56 to 18.58.

CMS provided an update on the proposed agenda for the Second Range State Meeting of the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative. The European Union and its Member States and Niger

supported the recommendations in document CoP19 Doc. 17.4. Niger expressed its hopes for a sustainable funding mechanism to be made available to support the work programme. Conservation Force urged that the initiative take a bottom-up approach and include a needs assessment of African range States, prior to commencing work.

The existing, revised and new draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 17.4; were accepted, and the deletion of Decisions 18.56 to 18.58 was agreed.

#### 17.5 International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 17.5. It stated that the broad range of tools and support provided by the Consortium continued to be well received and deliver positive results, and thanked Parties who had contributed resources to the work. The Conference of the Parties was invited to adopt draft decisions 19.AA to 19.BB contained in Annex 1 of document CoP19 Doc. 17.5 and delete Decision 18.13 as it had been implemented.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the role of the ICCWC in mobilizing international efforts to combat wildlife crime and drew the attention of Parties to information document CoP19 Inf. 80 on seizure data. China, the European Union and its Member States, Niger, Norway and the United States of America supported the adoption of draft decisions 19.AA to 19.BB and the deletion of Decision 18.13. Guinea urged that the requirement for funding and capacity-building relating to this work be taken into account.

Draft decisions 19.AA to 19.BB contained in Annex 1 of document CoP19 Doc. 17.5 were accepted, and the deletion of Decision 18.13 was also accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 12h00.