

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Summary record of the tenth session for Committee II

21 November 2022: 09h00 - 12h05

Chair: R. Ollerenshaw (Australia)

Secretariat: I. Camarena  
T. Carroll  
S. Flensburg  
E. Van Asch  
B. Janse van Rensburg

Rapporteurs: R. Mackenzie  
J. Robinson  
S. Rouse  
C. Stafford

Summary record CoP19 Com II. Rec. 5 was adopted with no amendments.

Before commencing its meeting, Committee II paused to remember the victims of the earthquake in Indonesia.

**Strategic matters**

19. CITES and Forests

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 19, which explored development of a resolution on CITES and forests and contained draft decisions in its Annex 1.

Argentina, Brazil, Canada and the United States of America opposed the draft decisions stating that the approach outlined, which focussed on an ecosystem approach, went beyond the scope of CITES which takes a species-level approach. Argentina considered there to be duplication with other agreements, including the United Nations Forum on Forests among others. Brazil noted that document CoP19 Doc. 19 lacked precision. Canada, supported by the United States, drew the attention of Parties to information document CoP19 Inf. 94 that contains proposed amendments to the draft decisions by the North America Region.

Australia, the European Union and its Member States, and Norway generally supported the draft decisions. Australia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the European Union and its Member States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland proposed various amendments to the draft decisions in Annex 1.

The Chair established a working group comprising Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, Gabon, Ghana, India, Mali, Peru, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Chair), United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Center for International Environmental Law, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Forest Based Solutions, Humane Society International, International Primate Protection League, IWMC-World

## **Interpretation and implementation matters**

### **General compliance and enforcement**

#### **32. Review of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement***

The United States of America introduced document CoP19 Doc. 32 on behalf of the Standing Committee, explaining that Annex 1 contained proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, re-organized to improve usefulness and readability, and noting that the Secretariat would consolidate changes to the Resolution arising from discussion of other agenda items at the present meeting.

China, Mali and Togo supported the proposals in the document. The Plurinational State of Bolivia, the European Union and its Member States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also supported the proposals, with some additional amendments.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia proposed that in paragraph 12 b) of the revised Resolution in Annex 1, the words “local and rural communities” be replaced by indigenous peoples and local communities.

The European Union and its Member States proposed that in paragraph 15 a) the word “controlling” be replaced by identifying.

The United Kingdom proposed a number of editorial changes as follows: in the preambular paragraph commencing “CONSIDERING that countries that import” the words “comply with” be replaced by implement; in paragraph 2 the words “of their obligation” be deleted; in paragraph 7, the word “ENCOURAGE” be amended to read “ENCOURAGES”; in paragraph 12 a) i), the word of be inserted after “time”; and in paragraph 12 a) ii) the words “ensure compliance with” be replaced by implement.

The proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement* in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 32 were agreed with the Secretariat’s amendments as noted by the United States of America in its introduction to the agenda item, and the amendments proposed by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the European Union and its Member States, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The draft decision in Annex 3 to the document, and the deletion of Decision 18.74, were agreed.

#### **36. Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa**

##### **36.1 Report of the Standing Committee**

and

##### **36.2 Wildlife crime and CITES enforcement support in West and Central Africa**

The Chair indicated that these two documents would be considered together. The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 36.1, and Nigeria introduced document CoP19 Doc. 36.2. The Secretariat welcomed the documents, noting that it had attempted to streamline and merge the proposed decisions in the documents to facilitate the discussions. It recommended the adoption of a set of draft decisions in paragraph V of the Secretariat’s comments in document CoP19 Doc. 36.1. The Secretariat also suggested the deletion of Decisions 18.88, 18.89, 18.92 and 18.93.

Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo supported document CoP19 Doc. 36.2, making reference to regional and national initiatives to address wildlife crime, stressing the need for wider cooperation among transit and consumer states in enforcement against illegal trade, and the need for funding to support implementation of enforcement initiatives through the establishment of a CITES Enforcement Fund.

China, the European Union and its Member States, Japan, and Zimbabwe supported the Secretariat’s recommendations in paragraph V of document CoP19 Doc. 36.1. The European Union and its

Member States, supported by Singapore, noted that the establishment of a CITES Enforcement Fund, as proposed in document CoP19 Doc. 36.2, would incur additional costs and that its objectives could be achieved through the use of existing programmes.

The Chair established an in-session working group comprising Austria, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, European Union, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, African Wildlife Foundation, Born Free USA, Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency (UK), Fauna and Flora International, Humane Society International, Pan-African Sanctuary Alliance, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Wildlife Conservation Society. The working group was mandated to develop a consolidated set of draft decisions for further consideration by the Committee using the proposed consolidated set of draft decisions prepared by the Secretariat and contained in paragraph V of document CoP19 Doc. 36.1 and the discussions in the Committee.

### **Species specific matters**

#### **37. Wildlife crime linked to the Internet**

The Secretariat introduced CoP19 Doc. 37 and its annexes, underscoring the commitment shown by Parties in tackling wildlife crime linked to the Internet, but noting that efforts need to be further strengthened.

Parties recognised the importance of the issue with Burkina Faso, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Türkiye, the European Union and its Member States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe expressing support for the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement* in Annex 1 and the draft decisions contained in Annex 2. Indonesia asked for the amendments to the Resolution to ensure consistency of language relating to "wildlife crime linked to the Internet". Niger sought capacity-building support in tackling wildlife crime linked to the Internet. The European Union and its Member States supported the proposed amendments to the Resolution, and proposed that draft decision 19.AA in Annex 2 be amended by inserting national laws between "online platforms" and "as well as". The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) echoed concerns that wildlife crime linked to the Internet continues to pose enforcement challenges but questioned the need for the study referred to in draft decision 19.AA due to various studies already conducted and recommended that the work should be directed towards best practices.

The proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) presented in Annex 1 of the document were accepted with the amendment by Indonesia relating to consistency in language. The draft decisions contained in Annex 2 of the document were accepted as amended by the European Union and its Member States. It was agreed to delete Decisions 18.81 to 18.85.

#### **68. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)**

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 68, prepared in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, including proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* and a suite of draft decisions to continue work on this topic.

India provided information relating to the national measures implemented to conserve Asian big cats. India did not support the deletion of 18.100, 18.101, 18.105, 18.106 and 18.107 and indicated that time bound country specific measures should be considered and reporting to the 77th and 78th meeting of the Standing Committee. Malaysia and the United States of America supported the intervention by India and the United States of America proposed an amendment to 5 d) of the Resolution in Annex 1 regarding the intent of behaviour change initiatives.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland supported the amendments by the United States of America; did not support the deletion of all the decisions as recommended, expressed concern about the postponement of the visits to captive breeding facilities and proposed timeframes for reporting to the Standing Committee through an amendment to 18.109 (Rev. CoP19):

The United Kingdom proposed that in paragraph a) of Decision 18.108, proposed for revision in Annex 2 to document CoP19 Doc. 68 prior to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee be inserted between "a

mission” and “to those Parties”, adding a consequential amendment related to timing in paragraph b) of Decision 18.108, and that Decision 18.109, also proposed for revision, be amended to read as follows:

18.109 (Rev CoP19)

The Standing Committee at its 77th and 78th meetings shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decisions 18.100 to 18.108 (Rev. CoP19) and determine whether any further time-bound, country specific measures are needed to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, of Decision 14.69 and of paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP189).

Bangladesh and the European Union and its Member States supported the amendments proposed by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and other Parties. The European Union and its Member States proposed the following amendment to draft decision 19.AA in Annex 2:

19.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) inform the Secretariat of genetic forensic research projects, including ~~forensic- genetic~~ and other methods, undertaken in their territory focusing on the development of techniques to support addressing illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, for this information to be made available to Parties;

Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand called for the adoption of a decision directing consumer states to implement government-led, science-based consumer behaviour change campaigns to reduce demand for Asian big cat parts and derivatives using the proposed CITES guidance on demand reduction in Annex 3 to document CoP19 Doc. 38.

The United States, supported the United Kingdom, suggested that the proposed amendment to paragraph 5. d) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 contained in Annex 1 to include the intend of behaviour change initiatives as follows:

5. RECOMMENDS that the consumer States of specimens from the tiger and other Asian big cat species:

...

- d) work with relevant specialists such as consumer behaviour change to end demand for big cat parts and derivatives, social marketing and communication experts, to undertake evidence based targeted behaviour change initiatives, including establishing baselines and strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess its efficacy.

Four Paws and TRAFFIC, speaking also on behalf of a number of other observer organisations, expressed disappointment at the low levels of reporting on actions taken to implement Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and associated decisions. The International Association for Wildlife indicated that the main threat to Asian big cats is habitat loss and expressed concern that Decision 14.69 does not have a scientific basis.

The proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) presented in Annex 1 of document CoP19 Doc. 68 were accepted as was the editorial amendment to paragraph 5 d) proposed by the United States. The draft decisions contained in Annex 2 of the document as amended by the European Union and its Member States and the United Kingdom were accepted. It was agreed to retain Decisions 18.100, 18.101, 18.105, 18.106 and 18.107, noting that minor amendments would be needed to ensure that they refer to current decisions. It was also agreed to delete Decisions 17.226 and 18.104.

75. Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 75 containing proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses* (Annex 2), a suite of draft decisions (Annex 3), and a report of the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC on status, conservation and trade of African and Asian Rhinoceroses (Annex 4).

Benin, Burkina Faso, the European Union and its Member States, India, Kenya, Mali, South Africa, and Zimbabwe expressed support for the document. Botswana supported the amendments to Resolution

Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) in Annex 2 but did not consider it should have been named in draft decision 19.CC in Annex 3.

The United Kingdom proposed the following changes to draft decisions 19.CC-19.EE:

***Directed to Botswana and South Africa***

**19.CC** Botswana and South Africa are encouraged to review trends associated with the illegal killing of rhinoceroses and illegal trade in rhinoceros' specimens affecting them, and the measures and activities they are implementing to address these crimes, to ensure that these measures and activities are effective and adapted as may be needed to respond to any newly identified trends. Botswana and South Africa should report to the Secretariat, including any relevant information on the outcomes of any prosecutions, seizures and financial investigations undertaken relating to the illegal killing of rhinoceroses and the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn for consideration by the 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee.

***Directed to Botswana, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Viet Nam and Zimbabwe***

**19.DD** Botswana, China (including Hong Kong SAR of China), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Viet Nam and Zimbabwe are encouraged to further strengthen their engagement, undertaking joint operations and further strengthening information and intelligence exchange, to build upon collaborative efforts, progress made and successes achieved, and further expand their collaboration to address illegal rhinoceros horn trade. Parties should report to the Secretariat on any activities conducted in this regard for consideration by the 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee.

***Directed to Malaysia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates***

**19.EE** Malaysia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are encouraged to scale up their collaboration with Parties known to be associated with illegal rhinoceros specimens transiting their territories, and to review their risk management practices, developing rhinoceros specific risk profiles targeting cargo, luggage and passengers from and destined to these Parties. Parties should report to the Secretariat on any activities conducted in this regard for consideration by the 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**19.FF** Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) convene a follow up CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force meeting consisting of representatives of national enforcement agencies, including those involved in combating organised crime from Parties affected by rhinoceros poaching and illegal trade in rhinoceros specimens and, as appropriate, other Parties and experts to develop strategies to further strengthen responses to address rhinoceros poaching and rhinoceros specimen trafficking, taking into consideration the key poaching and trafficking challenges and responses outlined in Annex 4 to document CoP19 Doc. 75, and the outcomes of the October 2013 CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force meeting presented in the Annex to Notification to the Parties No. 2014/006 of 23 January 2014, and any other relevant matters; and

Botswana, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe did not support the changes suggested by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Togo and the United States of America did support the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with Kenya additionally proposing a new draft decision directing the Standing Committee to "consider information supplied by Parties pursuant to these draft decisions and to make recommendations to the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties". Eswatini expressed its support for the United Kingdom's amendment to draft decision 19.FF a) but emphasised that draft decision 19.DD should only be directed to Parties that have been determined to be countries of concern.

The United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar expressed concerns with the data and methodology underlying the report in Annex 4; the United Arab Emirates stated that it does not have a domestic market or demand for rhino horns and are transit countries. Qatar and United Arab Emirates opposed draft

decision 19.EE in Annex 3, but the United Arab Emirates noted it supported the other draft decisions in Annex 3.

Burkina Faso supported the proposal by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland relating to reports to be submitted to the Secretariat for consideration by the 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee.

The European Union and its Member States requested clarification on the meaning of “implicated states” and “relevant experts” in the proposed amendment to Resolution 9.14 (Rev. CoP17), and proposed the retention of the following text of Decision 18.110 in the amended Resolution:

*“continuously review trends associated with the illegal killing of rhinoceroses and illegal trade in rhinoceros specimens, and the measures and activities they are implementing to address these crimes, to ensure that these measures and activities remain effective”*

They also proposed amending paragraph 8 of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) to read as follows:

8. REQUESTS the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC to engage with range and implicated States as appropriate, including by conducting a survey focusing on range and implicated States and relevant experts, to gather information on challenges, ~~and~~ best practices, and trends associated with addressing rhinoceros poaching and horn trafficking, as well as with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, when producing the report, and to reflect the outcomes of these consultations and the survey in their reporting pursuant to this Resolution;

The Environmental Investigation Agency (speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Eurogroup for Animals, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, Fundacion Centhus, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Japan Tiger and Elephant Fund, Law of the Wild, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pan-African Sanctuary Alliance, Robin des Bois, Species Survival Network, WildAid and Wildlife Trust of India) supported the draft decisions in Annex 3 as amended by the European Union and its Member States, Kenya and the United Kingdom. The Wildlife Justice Commission (also on behalf of WWF and International Rhino Foundation) echoed its support for time-bound reporting requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 12h05.