

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 5 – 9 June 2023

Thirty-second meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 19 – 23 June 2023

Species conservation and trade

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON SPECIES AT RISK OF EXTINCTION
AFFECTED BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. This document has been submitted by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees.*
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.186 to 19.188 on *Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade* as follows:

Directed to the Standing Committee, in collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees

19.186 *The Standing Committee shall, in collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees:*

- a) *consider under Resolution Conf. 19.2 on Capacity-building how to provide Parties requesting it with information from any relevant studies, analyses or other sources on the identification of species at risk of extinction that are not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation and that are or may be affected by international trade, working in coordination with the CITES Secretariat, CITES Parties, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, regional competent authorities, and relevant experts as appropriate so that Parties may consider such information, as appropriate, in the preparation of listing proposals under Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on the Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II.*
- b) *establish a working group, with representation from all regions, the Animals and Plants Committees, and observers to review the recommendations developed by the Animals and Plants Committees under Decision 19.187 and make recommendations on the implementation of paragraph a) of the present Decision. The terms of reference for the working group shall be as provided below.*

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Terms of reference for the Standing Committee working group

Mandate

Review recommendations made by the Animals and Plants Committees under Decision 19.187.

Membership

The working group will be Party led. It is proposed to have two co-chairs (and if necessary a vice-chair), with the co-chairs leading the work of the group. Membership will be open to Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and observers in line with the Standing Committee Rules of Procedure.

Modus Operandi

The group will operate by electronic correspondence to the extent possible. Support with translation and interpretation in the working languages of the Convention will be provided by the CITES Secretariat, subject to external resources. Should a meeting be considered necessary, the group may meet virtually or in conjunction with intersessional meetings of the Standing Committee or any other CITES meetings should timings and resources permit.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

19.187 *The Animals and Plants Committees shall develop draft recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee to facilitate the implementation of Decision 19.186.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.188 *The Secretariat shall support the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees in the implementation of Decisions 19.186 and 19.187 including through the provision of technical expertise and, subject to external funding, translation and interpretation as appropriate.*

3. At its 76th meeting (SC76, Panama City, 2022), the Standing Committee established a working group on *Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade* ([SC76 SR](#)). The membership was confirmed in Notification to the Parties [No. 2023/036](#) and the mandate of the working group is available on the [CITES website](#). The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is the Chair of the working group, and were consulted by the Animals and Plants Committee chairs in the development of this document. By AC32 and PC26, the SC working group will have begun their discussions for these to occur in parallels with any AC/PC process.
4. In terms of Decision 19.186 paragraph b), the working group should include representatives from the Animals and Plants Committees. The Animals and Plants Committees should therefore nominate representatives to participate in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group. The Committees could consider allocating this task to the leads and co-leads assigned to this matter as per the workplans to be agreed at the present meetings.
5. In terms of Decision 19.187, the Animals and Plants Committees must develop draft recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee to facilitate the implementation of Decision 19.186. It seems the focus is on a possible process or mechanism ("how") under Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building* to provide Parties with information to be considered in the preparation of listing proposals when Parties request such information.
6. In terms of paragraph 2 e) of Annex 2 (Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees of the Conference of the Parties) of Resolution Conf. 18.2 on *Establishment of Committees*, the Committees shall "upon request by Parties, provide advice related to scientific, technical and nomenclature aspects of proposals to amend the Appendices". The development of any process or mechanism should take into consideration the limited resources of the Committees also referred to in this resolution.
7. The Animals and Plants Committees in developing its recommendations should consider that Decision 19.187 specifies the type of information to be provided to Parties upon request, i.e. relevant studies, analyses

or other sources of information on the identification of species at risk of extinction that are not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation and that are or may be affected by international trade. Furthermore, the process must include coordination with the CITES Secretariat, CITES Parties, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, regional competent authorities and relevant experts, as appropriate.

8. The Committees could consider various options for sharing information, such as:
 - a) publishing the relevant reports of studies commissioned under various decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties and reviewed by the Committees on the CITES website.
 - b) Inviting Parties to share relevant studies undertaken to inform species proposal listings with the Committee for review and publication on the CITES website.
 - c) Providing access to reports compiled by IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, regional competent authorities and experts reviewed by the Committees upon requested by Parties.
9. With regards to capacity building, online workshops and webinars on the preparation of proposals could be considered well in advance of the next Conference of Parties as well as the development of materials that reflect the provisions in relevant resolutions to be considered in the preparation of proposals.
10. The Animals and Plants Committees should consider the need to establish a joint intersessional working group to develop the draft recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee. Draft terms of reference for such a joint intersessional working group are contained in an Annex to the present document should the Animals and Plants Committees decide to establish a working group.

Recommendations

8. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to note the document and to:
 - a) nominate representatives to participate in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group;
 - b) consider the establishment of a joint Animals and Plants Committees intersessional working group tasked to develop draft recommendations for consideration at the joint session of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and 27th meeting of the Plants Committees scheduled to take place in 2024; and
 - c) consider and agree a draft terms of reference of the joint intersessional working group.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE:

INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON SPECIES AT RISK OF
EXTINCTION AFFECTED BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE

In support of the Standing Committee's implementation of Decision 19.186, the joint intersessional working group of the Animals and Plants Committees will develop draft recommendations on:

- A. A possible process or mechanism under Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building* to provide Parties with information to be considered in the preparation of listing proposals when Parties request information such as:
 - a. relevant studies, analyses or other sources of information on the identification of species at risk of extinction that are not yet regulated under CITES and may be affected by international trade or
 - b. relevant studies, analyses or other sources of information on the identification of species that may receive insufficient CITES regulation and may be affected by international trade.
- B. Possible processes/ mechanisms for providing support or guidance to Parties in the development of listing proposals in addition to the process or mechanism referred to under A above.
- C. Coordination with the CITES Secretariat, CITES Parties, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, regional competent authorities, and relevant experts, as appropriate as part of a possible process/es or mechanism/s to provide Parties with information to be considered in the preparation of listing proposals when Parties request information; and
- D. Report back with its recommendations to the joint session of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and 27th meeting of the Plants Committees.