

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

Appendices of the Convention

Annotations

INFORMAL REVIEW MECHANISM FOR EXISTING AND PROPOSED ANNOTATIONS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.266 and 19.267 on *Informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations* as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.266 *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall prepare a proposal on the feasibility and requirements for an informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations, provide its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee.*

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

19.267 *The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, shall evaluate the Secretariat's proposal for an informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations and submit any relevant recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. The Secretariat estimates the cost of preparing a proposal on the feasibility and requirements for an informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations mentioned in Decision 19.266 at USD 30,000. The Secretariat wishes to thank Switzerland which has pledged the sum necessary for the implementation of Decision 19.266.
4. Based on the considerations outlined in document [SC74 Doc. 82](#), the Secretariat is currently developing terms of reference for the development of the proposal mentioned above. The aim of such a mechanism would be to ensure consistency in the annotations and to harmonize their interpretation and implementation.
5. In doing so, the Secretariat is taking note of all the concerns and comments expressed by the Standing Committee in the discussion about the annotations at SC74. It is important to bear in mind that the Standing Committee in its discussion supported the general aims of the Secretariat's document, but expressed concerns regarding several aspects of a mechanism to review annotations. They suggested that the matter be delayed to the next intersessional period. The concerns expressed by the Committee included, *inter alia*, questions about the proposed review process, the status of the proposed panel within the CITES structure, and the proposed composition of the panel.

6. The Secretariat will submit a report to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee and invites the Animals and Plants Committees to designate focal points for the consultation with the Standing Committee on the outcomes of the proposal.

Recommendations

7. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to take note of the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of Decisions 19.266 and 19.267.