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



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

Strategic matters

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES), INCLUDING POLICY ASPECTS OF THE IPBES ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILD SPECIES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee.

Introduction

2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.28 and 19.29 on *IPBES Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species* as follows:

Directed to Animals and Plants Committees

19.28 The Animals and Plants Committee shall review the scientific aspects of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); consider their relevance to the implementation of the Convention; and provide the results of their review and any associated recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- **19.29** The Standing Committee shall consider the review of the IPBES thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species and associated recommendations prepared by the Animals and Plants Committees; make additional recommendations as appropriate; and submit the resulting conclusions and any recommendations as appropriate to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration.
- 3. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was established to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. At its 18th meeting (CoP18; Geneva, 2019), the Conference of Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 18.4 on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* and acknowledged that the objectives of IPBES have relevance for the objectives of CITES.
- 4. The Secretariat notes that the tenth session of the IPBES Plenary is scheduled to take place from 28 August to 2 September 2023. During this session, the IPBES Plenary is expected to accept the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control. The summary for policymakers of this assessment is not available at the time of writing.

IPBES Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species

- 5. The *IPBES Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* is composed of a Summary for Policymakers approved at the 9th session of the IPBES Plenary (IPBES-9, Bonn, 2022) and a set of six Chapters accepted by IPBES-9. The summary and chapters can be accessed on the IPBES website here: <u>Sustainable use of wild species</u>.
- 6. At the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee and 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva; June 2023), the Committees considered document <u>PC26 Doc. 12 / AC32 Doc. 12</u> which contained in Annex 1 a provisional list of the scientific aspects addressed in Chapter 3 and 4 of the Assessment that could be relevant for CITES implementation and processes and Annex 2 matching the scientific aspects with relevant CITES Resolutions, Decisions, information and processes. Annex 3 contained the key findings in the Summary for Policymakers and the possible relevance to the mandates of the Animals and Plants Committees, as well as the Standing Committee.
- 7. The Plants and Animals Committee established a joint intersessional working group to review the scientific aspects of the Assessment relevant for CITES implementation and identify those that are not adequately covered by existing Resolutions and Decisions and may require further consideration. The working group is expected to prepare a document for consideration by the joint session of the 33rd meeting of Animals Committee and the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee (see summary record <u>PC26 SR</u>).
- 8. The Annex to the present document contains the key findings in the Summary for Policymakers with a listing of CITES Resolutions, Decisions and processes that the Standing Committee may wish to consider in the context of the IPBES Assessment.
- 9. The Standing Committee may wish to consider establishing an intersessional working group to facilitate the implementation of Decision 19.29 with participation of Members of the Animals and Plants Committee joint working group to ensure that the two workstreams are aligned and do not duplicate their efforts. The Standing Committee may wish to consider the following terms of reference for the intersessional working group.

The intersessional working group on the IPBES Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species will work through electronic means to:

- a) review the summary for policymakers of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);
- b) consider the recommendations related to Decision 19.29 of the joint session of the 33rd meeting of Animals Committee and the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee;
- c) using the Annex to document SC77 Doc. 19 as the starting point, identify aspects relevant to CITES implementation that are not adequately covered in existing Resolutions and Decisions, and may require further consideration by the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) prepare a draft report of the results of the review and possible recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting.

Recommendations

- 10. The Standing Committee is invited to
 - a) consider establishing an intersessional working group to facilitate the review of the IPBES Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species; and
 - b) consider and agree the draft terms of reference for the working group in paragraph 9 of the present document.

IPBES THEMATIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILD SPECIES – SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS

PRELIMINARY LIST OF RELEVANT CITES RESOLUTIONS/DECISIONS/PROCESSES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Extract from IPBES Thematic Assessment Report)
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IPBES finding	CITES Resolutions, Decisions, processes (etc.)
A. Sustainable use of wild species is critical for people and nature	
A1.Billions of people in all regions of the world rely on and benefit from the use of wild species for food, medicine, energy, income and many other purposes.	
(A.1.1) The use of wild species directly contributes to the well-being of billions of people globally on a day-to-day basis and is particularly important to people in	Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES and livelihoods
vulnerable situations (well established)	Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines</i>
(A.1.2) About 50,000 wild species are used for food, energy, medicine, materials and other purposes through fishing, gathering, logging and terrestrial animal harvesting	Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13) on <i>Recognition of the benefits of trade in</i>
globally.	wildlife
(A1.3) Wild species are important sources of subsistence resources and income. Uses of wild species form the basis for economically and culturally important	Decisions 19.30 and 19.31 on World Wildlife Trade Report
activities worldwide (established but incomplete)	CITES Trade Database
(A.1.4) Gathering wild plants, fungi and algae takes place in both developed and developing countries worldwide. Such a practice is closely associated with cultural and subsistence practices, and can also supply global markets (established but incomplete)	Decisions 19.186 to 19.188 on Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade
(A.1.5) Wild tree species are currently the major source for wood and wood products and will continue to be so in the coming decades (well established)	Decisions 19.32 to 19.34 on CITES and Forests
	CITES Tree Species Programme
(A.1.6) Nature-based tourism, including wildlife watching, supports mental and physical well-being, raises awareness and facilitates connections to nature, in	Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES and livelihoods
addition to bringing local benefits such as direct income generation to local	Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis

communities (well established)	Ababa Principles and Guidelines
	Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13) on Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife
	Decisions 19.30 and 19.31 on World Wildlife Trade Report
(A.1.7) Potential contributions from sustainable use of wild species to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals are substantial, but largely overlooked (established but incomplete)	CITES Strategic Vision
A2.Sustainable use of wild species is central to the identity and existence of many indigenous peoples and local communities.	Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES and livelihoods
(A.2.1) Wild species play essential roles in the well-being of many indigenous peoples and local communities. Loss of opportunity to engage in sustainable use of	Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines</i>
wild species represents an existential threat to indigenous peoples and local communities (well established)	Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13) on <i>Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife</i>
(A.2.2) Sustainable use of wild species contributes to the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities through subsistence, as well as trade in informal and formal markets (well established)	Decisions 19.30 and 19.31 on World Wildlife Trade Report
(A.2.3) Knowledge, practices and worldviews guide sustainable uses of wild species by many indigenous peoples and local communities (well established)	
A3.Ensuring sustainability of the use of wild species, including by promoting sustainable use and halting overexploitation, is critical to reverse the	Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings
global trend in biodiversity decline	Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species
(A.3.1) Effective management systems that promote the sustainable use of wild species can contribute to broader conservation objectives (established but incomplete)	
(A.3.2) Overexploitation has been identified as the main threat to wild species in marine ecosystems and the second greatest threat to those in terrestrial and	Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on Conservation and management of sharks
freshwater ecosystems (well established)	Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I
(A.3.3) Indigenous peoples manage fishing, gathering, terrestrial animal harvesting and other uses of wild species on more than 38 million km^2 of land in 87 countries	and II Listing proposals (marine species included in Appendix II)

(well established)	Decisions 19.189 to 19.191 on Aquatic species listed in the CITES Appendices
	Decisions 19.140 to 19.141 on Introduction from the sea
	Decisions 19.222 to 19.227 on Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)
	Decisions 19.135 to 19.139 on Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction

B. Status and trends in uses of wild species	
B1.Status and trends in uses of wild species vary depending on types and scales of use, and social ecological contexts.	
(B.1.1) Recent global estimates indicate that approximately 34 per cent of marine wild fish stocks are overfished and 66 per cent are fished within biologically sustainable levels, but this global picture displays strong heterogeneities (well	Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on Conservation and management of sharks
established)	Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II</i>
(B.1.2) Unintentional bycatch of threatened and/or protected marine species is unsustainable for many populations, including wild sea turtles, seabirds, sharks, rays, chimaeras, marine mammals and some bony fishes. Reducing unintentional	Resolution Conf. 19.5 on Conservation of and trade in marine turtles
bycatch and discards is progressing, but still insufficient (well established)	Listing proposals (marine species included in Appendix II)
	Decisions 19.189 to 19.191 on Aquatic species listed in the CITES Appendices
	Decisions 19.140 to 19.141 on Introduction from the sea
	Decisions 19.222 to 19.227 on Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)
	Decisions 19.135 to 19.139 on Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction
(B.1.3) Trade in wild plants, algae and fungi for food, medicine, hygiene, energy, and ornamental use is increasing (well established)	Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on Regulation of trade in plants
	Decisions 19.186 to 19.188 on Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade
	Decisions 19.246 to 19.248 on Products containing specimens of Appendix II

	orchids (Orchidaceae spp.)
(B.1.4) Terrestrial animal harvesting takes place in a variety of governance, management, ecological and socio-cultural contexts, which affect the outcomes for sustainable use. Globally, populations of many terrestrial animals are declining due to unsustainable use, but the impacts of use on wild species and society can be neutral or positive in some places (well established)	
(B.1.5) Large-bodied mammals are the most targeted species for subsistence and commercial hunting, as these animals provide more meat for consumption and sale to generate more economic benefits for hunters' households (well established)	Resolution Conf. 17.9 on <i>Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II</i> Resolution Conf. 13.11 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Wild meat</i>
(B.1.7) Destructive logging practices and illegal logging threaten sustainable use of natural forests (established but incomplete)	Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on Implementation of the Convention for tree species
<i>B.1.8)</i> Nature-based tourism is an important nonextractive practice and recreational use of wild species. Demand for media (e.g., documentaries) and in situ observing (e.g., wildlife watching tourism) related to wild species was growing up to 2020 (well established)	
B2.The sustainability of the use of wild species is influenced negatively or positively by multiple drivers.	
 (B.2.1) Multiple drivers affect the sustainability of the use of wild species and these interact with one another (well established) (B.2.2) Drivers such as landscape and seascape changes, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species impact the abundance and distribution of wild species, and can increase stress and challenges for the human communities who use them (well established) (B.2.3) Climate change is an increasingly strong driver affecting sustainable use, creating many challenges (well established) 	CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030 and its indicators
(B.2.4) Regulations, together with market forces, have resulted in a shift from wild species to specimens derived from farmed stocks (established but incomplete)	Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes Decision 19.181 on Review of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for

	commercial purposes
	Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i>
(B.2.5) Throughout the world, where people living in poverty rely on the use of wild species, environmental degradation and resource depletion threaten their livelihoods and well-being (well established)	Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES and livelihoods
(B.2.6) Multiple drivers threaten indigenous peoples' and local communities' ability to maintain and restore practices associated with sustainable use of wild species (well established)	
(B.2.7) Land tenure and resource rights can contribute to sustainable use (well established)	
(B.2.8) Inequitable distribution of costs and benefits from the use of wild species often undermines sustainability (well established)	
(B.2.9) Gender is seldom taken into account in the governance of wild species, leading to inequities in the distribution of costs and benefits from their use. There are often gender inequities in how the costs and benefits of wild species' uses are distributed, with women bearing more of the costs and receiving fewer benefits of use (well established)	Resolution Conf. 19.3 on <i>Gender and international trade in wild fauna and flora</i> Decisions 19.51 to 19.53 on <i>CITES gender action plan</i>
(B.2.10) Urbanization is a dominant global trend which has negative impacts or indirect positive influences on sustainable use (well established)	-
(B.2.11) Global trade in wild species is a major driver of increased use. When not effectively regulated, it can become a driver of unsustainable use. Global trade in wild species has expanded substantially over the past 40 years in terms of volumes, value and trade networks (well established)	CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030 and its indicators
(B.2.12) Illegal harvesting and trade in wild species occur across all practices, involving numerous species, and often lead to unsustainable use (established but incomplete)	Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)
(B.2.13) Conflict, including armed conflict, can have significant and diverse impacts on sustainable use. Indigenous peoples and local communities and other people in vulnerable situations can be displaced from territories, severing their relationships to valued species. This can result in unsustainable use in other areas due to the	

migration and settlement of displaced peoples (established but incomplete)	
(B.2.14) Culture, comprising language, knowledge, religion, food habits, values and philosophies, influences people's interactions with wild species and the extent to which particular practices and uses are acceptable and sustainable (well established)	CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030 and its indicators Decision 19.38 and 19.39 on Language strategy for the Convention
(B.2.15) Education, communication and public awareness are key drivers of sustainable use as they provide knowledge and capacity for improved decision-making regarding the sustainability of wild species' uses (established but incomplete) but are seldom prioritized as policy options (established but incomplete)	CITES Virtual College Resolution Conf. 18.6 on Designation and role of Management Authorities Resolution Conf. 17.5 (Rev. CoP18) on Youth engagement
(B.2.16) Science, research and technology create conditions that can support or undermine sustainable use of wild species, and local livelihoods based on them by, for example, setting quotas or harvest levels (established but incomplete)	Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Management of nationally established</i> <i>export quotas</i> Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Non-detriment findings</i>
B3.Key elements of sustainable use of wild species have been identified in relevant international and regional standards, agreements and certification schemes but indicators are incomplete, most notably for social components.	
(B.3.1) Conceptualizations of sustainable use are evolving over time. Nevertheless, statements in international and regional agreements continue to maintain a common emphasis on not causing irreversible harm to biodiversity and supporting the material and non-material contributions of biodiversity to human well-being (well established)	CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030 and its indicators
(B.3.2) Available indicators provide a fragmented view of wild species' use in social- ecological systems across the globe and within each practice, impeding both full evaluation of sustainability of practices in many instances and comparisons of sustainability across practices (well established)	
(B.3.3) Many of the ecological, economic and governance indicators in global and regional indicator sets have low sensitivity or specificity for the sustainability of individual practices, thus requiring substantial contextual information to be interpreted reliably (established but incomplete)	

C. Key elements and conditions for the sustainable use of wild species	
C1.Policy instruments and tools are most successful when tailored to the social and ecological contexts of the use of wild species and support fairness, rights and equity	
(C.1.1) Conceptualizations of sustainable use of wild species influence policymaking by determining the ecological and social elements that are considered, monitored, assessed and used in policy (established but incomplete) NOTE: Box SPM.2 page 26 – CITES	CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030 and its indicators Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on National laws for implementation of the Convention
The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was established in 1973 to protect wild species from overexploitation associated with international trade and to avoid utilization that is incompatible with their survival. As at April 2021, the Convention had 183 parties. The assessment found that the Convention has been an important instrument for driving global coordination of regulations and enforcement regarding international trade in wild species, as well as the establishment of institutions and tools to ensure sustainable use (<i>well established</i>). As a result of those efforts, 101 countries now have the legislation and institutions in place to fully implement the Convention and a further 43 countries are in a position to partially implement it. Tools for assessing whether trade is detrimental to the survival of a species in trade (termed non-detriment findings) have been developed for a wide range of taxa with different life histories and vulnerabilities to trade. As at 2021, over 38,700 species were listed in the appendices to the Convention and subjected to regulation by the parties. Based on these operational indicators, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is a successful policy instrument. Nevertheless, based on trends of continuing decline in the status of species affected by international trade, these species continue to be affected by unsustainable levels of use and illicit trade (<i>established but incomplete</i>). The Convention focuses on regulating international trade but other factors affecting	
affected by international trade, these species continue to be affected by unsustainable levels of use and illicit trade (<i>established but incomplete</i>).	

CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and indicators
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 (C.2.4) Strengthening customary institutions and rules often contributes to the sustainable use of wild species (well established) C3.Effective monitoring of social, including economic, and ecological outcomes supports better decision-making. Scientific evidence is often limited, and indigenous and local knowledge is underutilized and undervalued. 	
 (C.3.1) Monitoring of the ecological and social, including economic, aspects of uses of wild species is critical for sustainable use (well established) (C.3.2) Policy instruments and tools are more effective when they are inclusive of plural knowledge systems (well established) Bringing together scientists and holders of indigenous and local knowledge improves decision-making (well established) 	Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</i>
 D. Pathways and levers to promote sustainable use and enhance the sustainability of the use of wild species in a dynamic future D1. The sustainability of the use of wild species in the future is likely to face challenges due to climate change, increasing demand and technological advances. Addressing and meeting these challenges will require transformative changes. 	
(D.1.1) According to most scenarios and models, climate change is expected to lead to multiple changes, such as changing wild species distribution and population dynamics, increasing frequency of extreme events and altering nutrient cycles, as well as ecological changes, which will affect wild species and their use across all practices, through multiple impacts. There is uncertainty however about future trajectories. Climate change may further exacerbate social, including economic, vulnerabilities and inequalities (well established)	
 (D.1.2) For many practices, demand is linked to demographic trends and consumption patterns. Growing human populations and consumption will result in greater pressure on wild species (well established) (D.1.3) Technological advances will affect future uses of wild species both negatively 	

and positively (well poteblished)	
and positively (well established)	
(D.1.4) Scenarios projecting the future use of wild species are few in number (well established), but they indicate that transformative changes are needed to ensure sustainable use and to enhance the sustainability of the use of wild species (established but incomplete)	
D2. To address current and projected future pressures, concerted interventions will be needed to implement and scale up policy actions that have been shown to support the sustainable use of wild species.	
(D.2.1) Key elements (sets of policy actions) that support sustainable use of wild species have been identified. However, with the exception of fishing, these key elements are poorly integrated into binding agreements and this limits progress towards their implementation (established but incomplete)	CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and indicators
(D.2.2) These seven key elements [Table SPM 1] have been deployed in limited contexts and could be used as levers of changes to promote sustainable use and enhance the sustainability of the use of wild species in the future if they are scaled up across practices, regions and sectors (well established)	
D3. The world is dynamic and to remain sustainable, use of wild species requires constant negotiation and adaptive management. It also requires a common vision of sustainable use and transformative change in the human nature relationship.	
(D.3.1) Successful adaptation and negotiation require attention to the dynamics of both the social and ecological contexts of uses (well established)	CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and indicators Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II
(D.3.2) Intensification of existing uses and/or the emergence of new uses for wild species have often led to the rapid and substantial reconfiguration of trade-offs and synergies within and among practices, with negative impacts on the sustainability of the use (well established)	CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and indicators
(D.3.3) Achieving transformative change relating to the use of wild species requires moving towards a common vision while recognizing different value systems and conceptualizations of sustainable use (established but incomplete)	
(D.3.4) The sustainable use of wild species will benefit from a transformative change	

	in the prevailing conceptualization of nature, shifting from the human nature dualism deeply rooted in many (but not all) cultures, to a more systemic view that humanity is part of nature (well established)	
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