

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

SUMMARY

THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER
AFTERNOON

66. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.) SC77 Doc. 66

The Committee:

- a) noted the information in paragraphs 14 to 17 concerning the ongoing work on eels being carried out by the Animals Committee with regards to the implementation of Decision 19.220 and the information on illegal trade in European eel outlined in paragraphs 21 to 33;
- b) invited the views of the Animals Committee on the possible development of a specific resolution on European eels or a Resolution on the genus *Anguilla* spp.;
- c) established an intersessional working group with the following mandate:
 - i) review the Secretariat's summary of the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 and Notification to the Parties No. 2023/062 on eels, including any updates provided under Decision 19.218 and any recommendations from the Secretariat to improve the implementation of the Convention for European eels;
 - ii) consider the recommendations of the Animals Committee;
 - iii) consider the applicability of developing a specific Resolution on European eel; and
 - iv) make draft recommendations to improve the implementation of the Convention for European eel for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting.

Membership was agreed as follows: Australia, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; Convention on Migratory Species, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Global Guardian Trust, World Wide Fund for Nature, and Zoological Society of London.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to follow-up with the members of the working group in order to identify a Chair.

- d) encouraged Parties to actively engage in any operations and targeted activities to address illegal eel trade; and
- e) noted the comments made on the floor.

40. Marine turtles (Cheloniidae spp. and Dermochelyidae spp.)..... SC77 Doc. 40

The Committee:

- a) noted the observations of the Secretariat presented in paragraphs 8 to 10 of document SC77 Doc. 40;
- b) established an intersessional working group on marine turtles, with a mandate to conduct the review anticipated in paragraph a) of Decision 18.217 (Rev. CoP19) with a particular focus on compliance and enforcement aspects relevant to marine turtles, and to propose amendments to Resolution Conf. 19.5 to further strengthen it, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting; and
- c) requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to invite Parties and observers to express an interest in participating in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on marine turtles.

68. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)..... SC77 Doc. 68

The Committee:

- a) noted the reports produced under Phase 1 of the UNCTAD-OECS-CITES Blue BioTrade project on queen conch referred to in paragraph 16 of document SC77 Doc. 68;
- b) reminded Parties that the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report* in Annex 2 to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/044 indicate that shells should preferably be reported by number and that meat should be reported in kilograms;
- c) reminded Parties that, according to paragraph 3 b) iv) of Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Control of trade in personal and household effects*, up to three specimens of queen conch shells as personal or household effects are exempt from the requirement for CITES permits; and
- d) noted the comments made on the floor.

62. West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.)..... SC77 Doc. 62

The Committee:

- a) encouraged Parties, West African range States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to strengthen efforts in mobilizing activities as anticipated by Decision 19.193;
- b) encouraged West African vulture range States to strengthen and expand initiatives aimed at implementing demand reduction strategies concerning belief-based use and consumption of vulture parts and derivatives; and
- c) noted the enquiry made by Benin about the best way to reduce belief-based demand and invited the Secretariat to consider this issue as part of its work on demand reduction.

64. Great apes (Hominidae spp.): Report on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18)..... SC77 Doc. 64

The Committee:

- a) recalled recommendations in Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in great apes* and, considering the continued declines in great ape populations reported in document SC77 Doc. 64 and its Annexes, encourage Parties, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations to implement comprehensive enforcement controls to address illegal trade in great apes, including local and online sales of specimens, including live apes;
- b) encouraged all great ape range States to take urgent steps to develop, implement, or expand *in situ* great ape management and conservation programmes addressing the major drivers of great ape population declines and illegal trade, namely poaching for wild meat, or conflict, and deforestation of great ape habitats;
- c) encouraged great ape range States to coordinate action on known or suspected illegal great ape trade;

- d) urged all Parties to provide accurate and up-to-date information on illegal trade in great apes in the CITES Annual Illegal Trade report in a timely manner, following the guidelines developed by the Secretariat and, as appropriate, consider contributing to the GRASP Apes Seizure database and the IUCN SSC A.P.E.S. database as per Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18); and
- e) encouraged Parties, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations to consider any relevant actions or assistance to address illegal trade in great apes and support the conservation of great apes, and to bring any such actions or assistance to the attention of the Secretariat.

42. Illegal trade in African great apes (*Gorilla gorilla*, *Gorilla beringei*, *Pan troglodytes* and *Pan paniscus*) SC77 Doc. 42

The Committee:

- a) noted the information in document SC77 Doc. 42;
- b) invited the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties on behalf of Liberia seeking inputs and comments on the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to document SC77 Doc. 42 and the proposed changes to Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in great apes* in Annex 2 to document SC77 Doc. 42 and to provide these comments to Liberia; and
- c) invited Liberia to submit draft decisions on illegal trade in African great apes and proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18) to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting (CoP20).

45. Rhinoceroses (*Rhinocerotidae* spp.) SC77 Doc. 45

The Committee:

- a) welcomed the [Chitwan Declaration for Asian Rhinos Conservation 2023](#) agreed by the five Asian rhinoceros range States;
- b) welcomed the reduction in poaching incidents observed in Botswana in 2022 and 2023 compared to previous years and encourage the Party to rapidly progress implementation of its 2023 to 2028 National Anti-Poaching Strategy;
- c) requested the Parties to which Decisions 19.117, 19.118 and 19.119 are directed to take the comments and observations of the Secretariat in paragraphs 47 to 59 of document SC77 Doc.45, as relevant to them, into consideration in their implementation of these respective Decisions;
- d) encouraged Angola and Namibia 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;
- e) noted that Viet Nam submitted a report to the Secretariat on 3 November 2023, which is available as information document SC77 Inf. 29, and that Malaysia submitted a report to the Secretariat on 8 November 2023, which is available as information document SC77 Inf. 33, and request the two Parties to take any comments and observations from the Secretariat in accordance with recommendation f) i) into consideration in their implementation of Decisions 19.118 and 19.119, as applicable to them;
- f) requested the Secretariat to:
 - i) review the reports from Malaysia and Viet Nam available in information documents SC77 Inf. 29 and Inf. 33 and provide its comments and observations to these Parties;
 - ii) seek information from the Parties concerned by recommendations c) to e), on activities conducted and measures implemented in accordance with these recommendations; and
 - iii) report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee on the results of activities conducted in accordance with recommendations f) i) and ii), together with any recommendations the Secretariat may have; and

- g) requested Parties included in the [Directory of illegal trade in rhinoceros horn focal points](#) to immediately inform the Secretariat if the details of their national focal points in the Directory should be updated.

35. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

35.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade SC77 Doc. 35.1 (Rev. 1)

The Committee noted document SC77 Doc. 35.1 (Rev. 1) and agreed that Decisions 17.108 (Rev. CoP19) and 17.109 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented.

35.2 Implementation of recommendations of the Animals Committee SC77 Doc. 35.2 (Rev. 1)

a) Concerning *Chelonoidis denticulatus* from Suriname, the Committee:

- i) agreed to retain trade in *Chelonoidis denticulatus* from Suriname within the review;
- ii) encouraged Suriname to continue to work with the Secretariat through the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) to develop a non-detriment finding for this species; and
- iii) encouraged Suriname to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations to the Secretariat by 1 March 2024 for consideration and inclusion in its report to the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee.

b) Concerning *Malayemys subtrijuga* from Indonesia, the Committee:

- i) congratulated Indonesia for the significant progress it has made towards implementing the recommendations of the Animals Committee;
- ii) agreed to remove *Malayemys subtrijuga* from Indonesia from the review;
- iii) encouraged Indonesia to publish an export quota of 125 for live individuals of *Malayemys subtrijuga*, including a maximum straight carapace length (SCL) of 10 cm; and
- iv) invited Indonesia to share its new management plan for *Malayemys subtrijuga* with the Animals Committee when it becomes available.

c) Concerning *Notochelys platynota* from Indonesia, the Committee:

- i) congratulated Indonesia for the significant progress it has made towards implementing the recommendations of the Animals Committee;
- ii) invited Indonesia to publish an annual export quota from 2024 of 250 specimens of *Notochelys platynota* with a maximum straight carapace length (SCL) of 15 cm;
- iii) reminded Indonesia that any change to this quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification, for their agreement;
- iv) agreed that recommendations d) to g) of the Animals Committee remain outstanding; and
- v) encouraged Indonesia to provide an update on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations d) to g) to the Secretariat by 1 March 2024 for consideration and inclusion in its report to the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee.

d) Concerning *Strombus gigas* from Grenada, the Committee is invited to:

- i) congratulated Grenada for the significant progress it has made towards implementing the recommendations of the Animals Committee; and
- ii) encouraged Grenada to continue working closely with the Secretariat and the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES working group on queen conch (QCWG) to implement the recommendations and provide an update to the Secretariat by 1 March

2024 for consideration and inclusion in its report to the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee, as appropriate.

- e) Concerning *Triceros feae* from Equatorial Guinea, the Committee:
 - i) agreed to remove *Triceros feae* from Equatorial Guinea from the RST subject to the publication of a zero export quota; and
 - ii) reminded Equatorial Guinea that any change to this quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee along with a non-detriment finding, including a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of best available scientific information, for their agreement in advance of any trade taking place.
- f) Concerning *Triceros montium* from Cameroon, the Committee:
 - i) agreed to remove *Triceros montium* from Cameroon from the RST subject to the publication of a zero annual export quota;
 - ii) noted that, with the establishment of a zero quota, Cameroon will have implemented the recommendations of the Animals Committee; and
 - iii) reminded Cameroon that any change to this quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee along with a non-detriment finding, including a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of best available scientific information, for their agreement in advance of any trade taking place.
- g) Concerning *Triceros quadricornis* from Cameroon, the Committee:
 - i) agreed to remove *Triceros quadricornis* from Cameroon from the RST subject to the publication of a zero annual export quota;
 - ii) noted that, with the establishment of a zero quota, Cameroon will have implemented the recommendations of the Animals Committee; and
 - iii) reminded Cameroon that any change to this quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, along with a non-detriment finding, including a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of best available scientific information, for their agreement in advance of any trade taking place; and an update on the implementation of Animals Committee recommendations a) to c).
- h) Concerning *Amazona farinosa* from Guyana, the Committee:
 - i) requested Guyana to share the results of its population study of psittacines; and
 - ii) urged Guyana to provide information on the implementation of recommendations c) to l) by 1 March 2024 so that it can be considered by the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting.
- i) Concerning *Amazona farinosa* from Suriname, the Committee:
 - i) congratulated Suriname on the significant progress it has made in implementing the recommendations of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee;
 - ii) agreed to establish an export quota of 200 specimens, reminding Suriname that any increases to the interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of best available scientific information, for their agreement;

- iii) agreed that recommendation l) has been implemented; and
 - iv) encouraged Suriname to continue working closely with the Secretariat to implement the outstanding recommendations and provide an update to the Secretariat by 1 March 2024 to be included in its report to the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee.
- j) Concerning *Ara ararauna* from Guyana, the Committee:
- i) requested the Secretariat to publish an annual export quota of 660 birds for *Ara ararauna* from Guyana;
 - ii) urged Guyana to clarify how the data from the survey was used to determine the sustainable level of off-take and the proposed export quota; and address the concerns by the Animals Committee in its review of the study (see Annex 2 to document SC75 Doc. 8); and
 - iii) invited Guyana to submit a new non-detriment finding, based on survey data by 1 March 2024 for review by the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting.
- k) Concerning *Ara ararauna* from Suriname, the Committee:
- i) congratulated Suriname on the significant progress it has made in implementing the recommendations of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee;
 - ii) agreed to establish a conservative quota of 500 specimens on *Ara ararauna* for Suriname;
 - iii) reminded Suriname that any increases to the interim quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of best available scientific information, for their agreement;
 - iv) agreed that recommendation m) has been implemented; and
 - v) encouraged Suriname to continue working closely with the Secretariat to implement the outstanding recommendations and provide an update to the Secretariat by 1 March 2024 to be included in its report to the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee.
- l) Concerning *Ara chloropterus* from Guyana, the Committee:
- i) requested Guyana to share the results of its population study of psittacines; and
 - ii) urged Guyana to provide information on the implementation of recommendations c) to k) before 1 March 2024 for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting.
- m) Concerning *Ara chloropterus* from Suriname, the Committee:
- i) acknowledged the progress that has been made by Suriname;
 - ii) welcomed the fact that the process of establishing quotas in Suriname is now being done by the Scientific Authority;
 - iii) encouraged the Management Authority to follow the advice of the Scientific Authority and maintain the zero quota until further studies can justify a sustainable quota to be agreed with the Chair of the Animals Committee;
 - iv) agreed that recommendation l) has been implemented; and
 - v) urged Suriname to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations outstanding by 1 March 2024 so it can be considered by the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting.

- n) Concerning *Poicephalus gulielmi* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Standing Committee urged the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide an update on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations c) to g) by 1 March 2024 for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting.
- o) Concerning *Uromastix geyri* from Mali, the Standing Committee recommends that all Parties suspend trade in specimens of *Uromastix geyri* from Mali until it demonstrates compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, for trade in this species, and provides full information to the Secretariat regarding compliance with the recommendations of the Animals and Standing Committees.
- p) Concerning *Cuora amboinensis* from Indonesia, the Committee:
- i) congratulated Indonesia for the significant progress it has made in implementing the recommendations of the Animals Committee
 - ii) agreed to remove *Cuora amboinensis* from Indonesia from RST subject to the publication of a revised export quota of 7,200 specimens from the wild, including a minimum straight carapace length (SCL) of 18 cm; and
 - iii) reminded Indonesia that any change to this quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee along with a non-detriment finding, including a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of best available scientific information, for their agreement.
- q) Concerning *Anguilla anguilla* from Algeria, the Standing Committee requested Algeria to provide an update on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations by 1 March 2024 for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting.
- r) Concerning *Anguilla anguilla* from Morocco, the Standing Committee:
- i) congratulated Morocco for the significant progress it has made in implementing the recommendations of the Animals Committee; and
 - ii) agreed to remove *Anguilla anguilla* from Morocco from the review;
 - iii) requested Morocco to continue to communicate their quota to the Secretariat;
 - iv) reminded Morocco that any change to this quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee along with a non-detriment finding, including a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of best available scientific information, for their agreement in advance of any trade taking place.
- s) Concerning *Anguilla anguilla* from Tunisia, the Committee:
- i) commended Tunisia for its ongoing progress in implementing the remaining recommendations d) to l);
 - ii) invited the anguillid specialist group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to assist Tunisia in the development of its non-detriment finding; and
 - iii) invited Tunisia to provide an update on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations by 1 March 2024 for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 33rd meeting.

The Committee noted comments made on the floor.

35.3 Implementation of recommendations of the Plants Committee SC77 Doc. 35.3

The Committee:

- a) *Dalbergia retusa*/Nicaragua:
 - i) noted that the Secretariat is exploring avenues to support Nicaragua's request for financial support, as part of the field-testing phase of the NDF-project (as per Decision 19.132);
 - ii) requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification inviting Parties and relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources in support of Nicaragua's implementation of outstanding RST recommendations; and,
 - iii) urged Nicaragua to make significant progress in the implementation of outstanding recommendations c) and d) of the Plants Committee in time for the matter to be considered at SC78.
- b) *Dalbergia retusa*/Panama: in accordance with recommendation h) of the Plants Committee for this case, agreed that Panama has complied with all recommendations in the framework of the RST process for *Dalbergia retusa* and can be removed from the process.
- c) *Pericopsis elata*/Congo: urged Congo to continue to make progress on outstanding recommendations, in close collaboration with the Secretariat, and request Congo to provide an update in time for the matter to be considered at SC78.
- d) *Pericopsis elata*/Democratic Republic of the Congo: in accordance with recommendation l) of the Plants Committee for this case, agreed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has complied with all recommendations in the framework of the RST process for *Pericopsis elata* and can be removed from the process.
- e) *Prunus africana*/Cameroon: agreed that Cameroon has complied with all recommendations for *Prunus africana* and can be removed from the RST process.
- f) *Prunus africana*/Democratic Republic of the Congo: in accordance with recommendations m) and n) of the Plants Committee for this case, agreed that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has complied with all recommendations in the framework of the RST process for *Prunus africana* and can be removed from the process.
- g) *Pterocarpus santalinus*/India: agreed that India has complied with all recommendations for *Pterocarpus santalinus* and can be removed from the RST process;

The Committee noted the Secretariat's report as contained in paragraphs 16 and 17 of document SC77 Doc. 35.3 and the comments made on the floor.

69. Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids (Orchidaceae spp.) SC77 Doc. 69

The Committee:

- a) emphasized the need for identification manuals and training;
- b) urged Parties and other donors to support red list assessments for tuberous orchid taxa in international trade;
- c) urged Parties to improve regulation and enforcement relating trade in tuberous orchids as is currently required under the Convention;
- d) requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties inviting them to provide information on:
 - i) trade volumes;
 - ii) manuals and regulations relating to trade in tuberous orchid, including domestic trade;

- iii) enforcement challenges; and
- iv) other relevant information related to trade in tuberous orchids, including any capacity-building needs; and
- e) agreed to consider the study called for in paragraph b) of Decision 19.246, if available; the Plants Committee's recommendations on the study, and including any responses to the Notification under Decision 19.268 at its 78th meeting and propose recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP20), including any draft decisions, as appropriate; and
- f) requested the Secretariat to present all relevant information from studies and Notifications under Decision 19.246 to the Standing Committee at its next meeting.

61. Phytosanitary certificates that are regarded as artificial propagation certificates SC77 Doc. 61

The Committee:

- a) noted the information presented in document SC77 Doc. 61 and its Annex;
- b) i) invited Parties no longer implementing special procedures to issue phytosanitary certificates in lieu of CITES certificates of artificial propagation to notify the Secretariat of such; and
 - ii) Parties implementing this provision are reminded of the recommendations set forth in Resolution Conf. 12.3 on *Permits and certificates*, paragraph 15.a) that: "Such certificates must include the scientific name of the species and the type and quantity of the specimens and bear a stamp, seal or their electronic equivalent, or other specific indication stating that the specimens are artificially propagated as defined by CITES;"
- c) requested the Secretariat to update the CITES website, based on the information provided in accordance with paragraph b) i) above, including the CITES Exemptions and special procedures webpage website as well as this information in the Country profiles; and
- d) requested the Chair of the Standing Committee, in coordination with the Chair of the Plants Committee, submit a draft decision to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to further explore the applicable taxa and how Parties apply the special procedures in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article VII and as outlined in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19), section VIII, for consideration during the next intersessional period.

70. Annotations SC77 Doc. 70

The Committee noted this interim report and invited comments or guidance regarding the tasks included in the Terms of Reference contained in paragraph 3 and 4 of document SC77 Doc. 70 to be submitted directly to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as Chair of the intersessional working group on annotations.

73. Informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations SC77 Doc. 73

The Committee noted the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of Decisions 19.266 and 19.267 and requested the Secretariat to consult with the scientific committees to identify focal points.