

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3 - 8 February 2025

Strategic matters

ROLE OF CITES IN REDUCING RISK OF FUTURE ZOO NOTIC DISEASE EMERGENCE
ASSOCIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE TRADE

This document has been prepared by Israel and Singapore at the request of the Standing Committee on the basis of the recommendations in document SC78 Doc. 15, paragraph 16, subparagraphs d) and e).

Recommendations

In addition to the recommendations in document SC78 Doc 15, paragraph 16, subparagraphs a), b) and c),

The Standing Committee is invited to:

1. welcome the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc 15; and
2. agree to submit the following recommendations for consideration at CoP20:

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall, subject to external budgetary resources where necessary, and in collaboration with the Animals Committee:

- a) update the webpage on the *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international trade*, and organize it so that Parties can rapidly access up-to-date information on pathogens and wildlife trade from the Quadripartite and other relevant international organizations;
- b) through the CITES-WOAH and FAO partnerships, convey CITES' expertise on wildlife trade in the Quadripartite's work;
- c) encourage Parties, as appropriate, to implement the WOAH *Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade* as well as operational tools developed by FAO to mitigate the risk of pathogen spillover along the wildlife supply chain;
- d) making use of existing information, encourage Parties to implement guidelines and best practices in international wildlife trade recommended by WOAH, FAO and the Quadripartite, including compliance with WOAH international standards, collaboration with national veterinary services, and development of wildlife surveillance, to mitigate infectious disease transmission and zoonotic spillover risks;
- e) as a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), advise the CPW on how the work being conducted by CITES Parties and the Animals Committee can contribute to the CPW joint initiative focussed on embedding the sustainable use and management of wildlife through a One Health approach.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB The Animals Committee shall:

- a) through its Chair and as appropriate, participate in the processes of relevant organizations with mandates in animal health; in particular WOA, FAO as well as other One Health partners such as WHO, UNEP and other relevant partners, to develop guidelines that could be used by Parties in developing or improving their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for prevention, detection and control of zoonosis risk and pathogen spillover;
- b) gather tangible good practices for prevention, detection and control of zoonosis risk and pathogen spillover, for at least one or two high-risk taxonomic groups included in the CITES Appendices, in the context of conducting international wildlife trade in CITES-listed species, and make this information available to the Parties through the Secretariat (possible taxonomic groups of focus could include old World monkeys (Cercopithecidae) or other non-human primates; bats (Pteropodidae); certain rodent groups, or others);
- c) continue to work with the International Air and Transport Association (IATA) and other relevant organizations on standards and protocols for transport of live animals and biological and veterinary samples as appropriate, in order to reduce zoonosis risk and pathogen spillover associated with wildlife trade; and
- d) report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of Decision 20.BB sub-paragraphs a) to c), as appropriate and on aspects relevant to the Standing Committee's mandate.

Directed to the Parties

20.CC Parties are encouraged to:

- a) take appropriate measures to implement relevant international standards and best practices in international wildlife trade for prevention, detection and control of pathogen spillover risks, including those of WOA and FAO;
- b) ensure collaboration between their CITES and wildlife authorities, their national Veterinary Services and animal health authorities, and their focal points to WOA, WHO and CBD in order to ensure national implementation of international standards, guidelines and action plans relevant to risk management during wildlife trade, and to advocate through them for strengthening of existing international standards and tools; and to ensure the proper implementation of all necessary measures in respect to the different existing relevant international agreements and mechanisms; and
- c) share their best practices and experiences with the Animals Committee and the Secretariat for consideration in the implementation of Decision 20.BB.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Animals Committee referred to in paragraph d) of Decisions 20.BB and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting, as appropriate.

Revised decision agreed to be renewed by the Standing Committee:

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

19.17 (Rev.CoP20) The Standing Committee shall

- ac) ~~taking into account the proposals in document CoP19 Doc. 23.2 and in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, the documents considered and recommendations adopted by the joint session of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and the 27th meeting of the Plants Committees (AC33 SR / PC27 SR) as well as the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78 SR) and consider the need for and development of a Resolution on actions CITES Parties and others could~~

take to advance a 'One Health' approach as it pertains to international wildlife trade;
and

- bd) provide its guidance to the Secretariat and recommendations, which may include a new draft Resolution, to the 20th21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.