

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION REGARDING THE STANDING COMMITTEE'S  
INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE  
*ROLE OF CITES IN REDUCING RISK OF FUTURE ZOOBOTIC DISEASE EMERGENCE  
ASSOCIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE TRADE*

1. This document has been submitted by Israel and Singapore, co-chairs of the Standing Committee's Intersessional Working Group on the Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade, in relation to agenda item 15.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *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.*

Updated - 27 January 2025

Original - December 2024

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION REGARDING**  
**the Report of the Standing Committee's Intersessional Working**  
**Group on the *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease***  
***emergence associated with international wildlife trade,***  
**contained in Document SC78 Doc. 15**

This information document is submitted to SC78 by **Israel** and **Singapore**, the co-chairs of the Standing Committee's Intersessional Working Group on the *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade*.

The full report of the WG is presented in document [SC78 Doc. 15](#). As mentioned in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the WG report, a possible draft resolution on CITES and One Health was prepared by the co-chairs for discussion by the Working Group, and it is contained in Annex 2 of the WG report.

This information document contains the comments made by the members of the WG (Parties and Observer organizations), during the intersessional online discussions regarding the draft resolution on CITES and One Health.

*Note:* no consensus was reached by the WG on this draft resolution.

**Pages 2-8** present all the "track changes" comments made by the WG members on the draft resolution on One Health mentioned above.

**Pages 9 -14** present general comments by Party members of the WG.

**Pages 15-20** present comments made by Observers organization members of the WG.

The co-chairs, Dr Simon Nemtsov (Israel), and Dr Anna Wong (Singapore) wish to thank the WG members for their enthusiastic and professional engagement in the WG's discussions on this important topic, and also to thank their colleagues from their respective home institutes for their assistance.

Comments by WG members of the Draft Resolution that appears in a clean version in Annex 2 of document [SC78 Doc. 15](#)

**DRAFT RESOLUTION:**

One Health and CITES: ~~Reducing risks to human and animal health associated with risks from trade in wildlife trade~~

~~CONCERNED that novel or unusual zoonotic pathogens pose a significant risk to wildlife, livestock and people, and aspects of this risk pertain to CITES, in that zoonotic pathogens can be transmitted through the international wildlife trade, can affect wildlife and CITES-listed species in trade, and can impact the people involved in such activities;~~

~~CONSCIOUS that emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases in wildlife, including those transmitted between wildlife and humans, can have serious implications for the conservation status of wildlife species, especially when their populations are small and fragmented;~~

~~AWARE that preventative approaches, including pathogen prevention at the source, to managing health issues are much more cost-effective than addressing health problems after they emerge;~~

~~NOTING that wild animal populations can be natural reservoirs of pathogens that could impact other wildlife species, domestic animals and people, increase epidemic and globally by increasing pandemic risk of exposure to pathogens, and affect food production, livelihoods, and wider economies;~~

~~RECOGNIZING that trade in live wild animals presents opportunities and pathways for pathogens to spread between animals and to spill over between humans and wildlife, creating the potential for the emergence and transmission of diseases of zoonotic origin;~~

~~FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the conditions under which live animals included in trade are collected, bred, prepared and shipped, including the effects of crowding, stress and injury, can increase the risk of emergence, viral shedding and mutation and transmission and spillover of pathogens, between and transmission of disease from wild species to other wildlife, domestic animals and/or humans;~~

~~ACKNOWLEDGING that live wildlife markets at which live wild animals are traded and some forms of intensive animal breeding, keeping and farming can act as drivers of create frequent contact opportunities that could result in pathogen emergence and mutation, increasing the likelihood chances of pathogen transmission between species, including between wild wildlife species and humans;~~

~~RECALLING estimates from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) Workshop Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics (2020) of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) that 1.7 million currently undiscovered viruses are thought to exist in mammalian and avian hosts, of which between 631,000 and 827,000 could have the ability to infect humans;~~

~~RECALLING the devastating consequences of COVID-19, which likely originated in wild animals, and previous zoonoses causing pandemics and epidemics which have their origins in wild animal pathogens;~~

~~RECOGNIZING that the One Health approach aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems, and has been endorsed by multiple~~

**Commented [TC1]:** Keeping in mind that trade is defined in the Convention as export, re-export, import and introduction from the sea

**Commented [FD2]:** I think zoonotic pathogen in general pose a significant risk to wildlife, livestock and people, therefore we can delete "novel or unusual"

**Commented [KH3R2]:** This is an issue, we should also be concerned about animal pathogens, not only zoonoses, particularly in the context of animal health (inc. livestock) and biodiversity.

**Commented [U.S.4]:** Overall, we would recommend the preamble be edited down to the most salient points related to international wildlife trade. We believe it is necessary to add text about ensuring actions are feasible and closely related to CITES and the international wildlife trade. It should clarify that while One Health is a broader issue, this resolution is concerned with international wildlife and CITES trade.

**Commented [KH5]:** Again endemic diseases also have an impact. In terms of risks to animals and humans through wildlife trade we should be concerned about WOA listed diseases (including zoonoses) and emerging diseases

**Commented [AAC6]:** Need to include wildlife here if this is about One Health.

**Commented [KH7]:** If we're talking about impact on domestic animals as well as people then we can not only restrict to zoonoses (we would need to include transboundary animal diseases and emerging animal diseases)

**Commented [AAC8]:** Not necessary - by definition, emergence includes transmission. On-going human-to-human transmission is related to human demography and not wild animal trade.

**Commented [KH9]:** Zoonotic origin? A zoonotic disease may have a human or animal origin but it is not a zoonotic origin, Do they mean zoonotic diseases of animal origin?

**Commented [U.S.10]:** We recommend combining these two paragraphs (and shortening)

**Commented [U.S.11]:** Does this mean to refer to pathogen adaptation? Could be adjusted

**Commented [AAC12]:** Not necessary - and including "disease" distracts from the importance of pathogen spillover whether or not disease occurs in the first instance. For example, it is quite possible that SARS-CoV-2 spilled over in the absence of disease and spread amongst people before disease became detectable.

**Commented [KH13]:** Not necessarily a driver, of mutation but an opportunity for spillover

**Commented [TC14]:** Proposed some changes - to make language a bit more neutral, but don't think the statement can be disputed - the link to trade is however missing.

**Commented [TC15]:** To align with suggested citation in the report taking into consideration the disclaimer in the ... ort that the report was not subject to the formal

**Commented [U.S.16]:** Paragraph may not be necessary but is not a red line.

**Commented [AAC17]:** There have been devastating epidemics of zoonoses from wild animals, such as ... pla in West Africa and Nipah in Malaysia &

international organizations, United Nations Agencies and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and the World Bank;

NOTING that the WHO, the WOAH, UNEP, and the FAO, have formed the Quadripartite ~~on~~ Secretariat for One Health, which has developed the One Health ~~Joint~~ ~~Plan~~ of Action (2022- 2026), and established the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP);

ACKNOWLEDGING that the CITES Secretariat recently signed a new MOU with WOAH, with the aim of increasing collaboration among these entities and with specific goals including: assisting WOAH with updating wildlife Standards or Guidelines; increasing awareness of CITES permitting and about "veterinary certificates;" strengthening CITES collaboration in the Quadripartite; collaborating on live animal transport; connecting CITES Authorities and WOAH National Focal Points; and sharing existing WOAH guidance on disease with CITES Authorities.

NOTING ALSO that the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) recognizes the importance of a One Health approach as an overarching consideration for implementation of the GBF, and it includes a commitment in its targets target to ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities-a commitment to prevent overexploitation, minimize impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reduce the risk of pathogen spillover, and ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal.;

WELCOMING the significant work by various bodies, including other biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements, FAO, WOAH including its the WOAH Working Group on Wildlife Diseases and the Resolution No. 31 "How the OIE can support Veterinary Services to achieve One Health resilience" adopted by the 88th General Assembly in 2021, the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group and Conservation Planning Specialist Group, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), including its Resolution 5/6 Biodiversity and Health, and multiple non-governmental agencies and organizations, including but not limited to:

- a) the focus on wildlife disease by the CMS, decisions of the CMS Conference of the Parties in 2024, establishment of the CMS Migratory Species and Health Working Group of the Scientific Council, and the report on diseases of concern in the CMS Review on Migratory Species and Health (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.4.3);
- b) the focus on biodiversity and health by the CBD, including CBD Decision 15/29 adopted at COP15 in 2022 which *inter alia*, encourages CBD Parties " To further integrate the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans . . . . ."
- c) the guidance provided by the *Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual*, which provides practical disease guidance for habitat managers and policymakers;
- d) the Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade released by the WOAH;
- e) the work of the intergovernmental negotiating body Intergovernmental Negotiating Body of the WHO, 'The World Together', to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response;

**Commented [U.S.18]:** It seems important to focus part of this Resolution on the CITES-WOAH new MOU. This MOU will need support to be successful and could be key to lowering risk within CITES trade. We recommend asking the Secretariat what specific actions could be included in the operative text that will bolster the MOU activities. Related to this, we think it could be helpful to include text about better connecting CITES Parties with WOAH focal points and with WOAH and Quadripartite recommendations (and capacity to carry out such recommendations) to lower zoonotic risk in activities related to the international wildlife trade.

**Commented [TC19]:** This is a combination of the paragraph in Section C of the GBF and part of Target 5 - propose target be referenced in full..

Consider adding reference to the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health - the outcome of Cali will be known by the time the doc must be submitted.

**Commented [KH20]:** Should OHHLEP be included? And WOAH wildlife health framework?

**Formatted:** Not Expanded by / Condensed by

**Commented [TG21]:** suggest adding "CMS Migratory Species and Health Working Group of the Scientific Council and CMS Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds" as many of the dot point below were developed by them.

I think as this intro statement is very similar to a statement in the recent CMS resolution :)

**Commented [TC22]:** Could include Global action plan on Biodiversity and Health here?

**Commented [TG23]:** add "the guidance provided by Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade, which provides overarching framework to assess disease risk and identify risk-management strategies in a variety of wildlife trade scenarios,

reference: World Organisation for Animal Health (2024). – Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade. Paris, 93 pp. <https://doi.org/10.20506/woah.3368>. Licence: CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO.

**Formatted:** Font: Italic, Complex Script Font: Italic

**Commented [SL24]:** Note: these negotiations are slated to be completed by May 2025, so this paragraph may have to change.

f) The Guidelines for addressing disease risks in wildlife trade, developed by WOAAH in collaboration with international partners. The Guidelines present a high-level framework to assess risk and identify risk-management strategies for wildlife trade. They are intended to help users to determine appropriate measures to reduce risk and provide insights into how this can be done and how to overcome some of the likely challenges. The Guidelines highlight that significant positive change can be made in a cost-effective way.

e)g) the Global Early Warning System for Health Threats and Emerging Risks at the Human-Animal- Ecosystems Interface (GLEWS+), which aims to inform prevention and control measures, through the rapid detection and risk assessment of health threats and events of potential concern at the human-animal-ecosystems interface;

f)h) Other existing global disease information and intelligence systems, including those coordinated by the Quadripartite related to early warning, emerging infectious diseases and wildlife health;

**WARMLY WELCOMING** the development of national wildlife health strategies by some Parties;

NOTING, HOWEVER, that in some cases, national planning for and responses to wildlife health issues have, in many some situations, yet to be acknowledged as essential elements of pathogen spillover prevention, infectious disease prevention, preparedness, surveillance and monitoring programmes, epidemiological investigations, and/or outbreak responses by all sectors;

NOTING ALSO that many developing countries lack functional wildlife health-related programmes and strategies (such as wildlife disease surveillance system), policies, legislation and the infrastructure needed to protect human health, environmental, and agricultural and wildlife interests, human, animal and ecosystem health from endemic or introduced pathogens or infectious diseases;

NOTING the benefits of cross-sectoral organizational structures, collaboration, and communication involving health management authorities, health professionals, biologists, veterinarians and natural resource professionals, indigenous Peoples, and indigenous peoples and local communities for planning and responding to the complex issues surrounding human, animal and ecosystem health;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of and the need for both urgency in reporting and inclusion of contextual epidemiological and environmental information, and to assure ensure good communication and avoid unnecessary overlap in global reporting requirements;

**RECALLING** the Guidance Statement Interim Guidance on 'Reducing public health risks associated with the sale of live wild animals of mammalian species in traditional food markets' issued in April 2021 by the WHO, WOAAH, and UNEP, which calls on national competent authorities, inter alia, to, where risk assessments have not been carried out and where appropriate regulations are not yet in place, suspend trade in live caught wild animals of mammalian species for food or breeding purposes and to close sections of food markets selling live-caught, wild animals of mammalian species mammals as an emergency measure unless demonstrable effective regulations and adequate risk assessment are in place, and emphasizes the relevance of this guidance to other utilizations of wild animals;

NOTING the existing Cooperation Agreements Instruments Agreements between the CITES Secretariat and the WOAAH, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); and the cooperation between CITES and other biodiversity-related conventions, as recognised in Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, Resolution Conf. 13.3 on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Resolution Conf. 16.4 on Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related

**Commented [U.S.25]:** We recommend editing this down significantly to the name of the agencies and mention of "existing reports, guidance, agreements, and global disease information and intelligence systems."

**Commented [Dd26]:** In addition to these two paragraphs we suggest there should also be recognition that several Parties have existing national plans, strategies and legislation in place as for example shared in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/02. For example to add a point before these two paragraphs along the lines of:

*NOTING that some Parties have robust national health strategies, action plans and legislation in place that focus on prevention of disease and avoiding pathogen spillover*

**Commented [TC27]:** Is this statement factually correct? Is it not rather integration of human, animal and broader environmental health that is missing? I think all governments focus on wildlife health

**Commented [U.S.28]:** We believe this statement applies to more countries than those that are considered developing countries.

**Formatted:** Font: (Default) +Body CS (Arial), 11 pt, Font color: Auto, Complex Script Font: +Body CS (Arial), 11 pt

**Commented [U.S.29]:** We suggest this be moved up in the preamble as this is more relevant to the CITES mandate.

**Commented [U.S.30]:** Can we clarify what type of information is reported and to which entities?

**Commented [TC31]:** Where does this reporting aspect come in? Reporting to whom ; in terms of what mandate?

**Commented [U.S.32]:** We believe this paragraph may not be necessary but is not a red line.

**Commented [Dd33]:** Need to check this reference to understand if it problematic.

**Commented [JB34]:** It is critical to include the full context of this interim guidance – it is not a blanket call for suspension of trade. Also note that WHO is currently developing its own permanent guidance.

**Commented [Dd35]:** Suggest adding full context of this reference for the sake of clarity

**Commented [U.S.36]:** We recommend removal or revisions to this paragraph as CITES has a formal trade suspension process and this measure is not something all Parties have agreed upon.

**Commented [U.S.37]:** We believe this is referring to MOUs or memorandums of understanding so we recommend either "Cooperation Instruments" or "Memorandums of Understanding".

conventions, Resolution Conf.18.4 on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, and Resolution Conf. 18.5 on *Cooperation and Synergy with the World Heritage Convention*;

RECALLING the requirements in Articles III, IV and V of the CITES Convention that "the Management Authority of the State of export is satisfied that any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment",

RECALLING CITES Resolutions on various aspects of wildlife disease prevention related to international wildlife trade, especially, Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Transport of live specimens*, Resolution Conf 11.3 (Rev CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, and Resolution Conf. 13.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Wild meat*;

CONVINCED that CITES, within the scope of its mandate, and in close collaboration with the Quadripartite on One Health, should play an important central role in taking steps to reduce the risk of spread of zoonotic pathogens through the international trade of wild animals, future human and animal infectious disease epidemics and outbreaks (including pandemics of zoonotic origin) derived from associated with enabled by international trade in wild wildlife species animals, including species in the CITES Appendices;

RECOGNIZING the following definitions:

- **One Health:** An integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent. (from OHHLEP).
- **Spillover:** the process by which an infectious agent, usually at relatively high prevalence, is transmitted into a new host, usually crossing a species barrier.
- **Spillover:** The transmission of a zoonotic pathogen from humans to animals.
- **Wild meat (or 'bushmeat'):** meat from wildlife harvested for food, including game (meat from any wild or feral animal that is hunted killed for food).
- **Wet market:** a marketplace (including informal markets, legal and illegal) selling live animals, fresh meat, fish, produce, and/or other perishable goods (including vegetables) as distinguished from "dry markets" that sell durable goods such as fabric and electronics.
- **Zoonosis:** any disease or infection that is naturally transmissible from vertebrate animals (animal reservoir) to humans (from WHO) and vice and versa.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

*Enabling approaches to address risks to animal health / address disease risks associated with trade in CITES listed species*

1. ENCOURAGES Parties to adopt One Health and ecosystem approaches, based on risk analysis (as they relate to wildlife trade) that recognize the interconnection between people, animals, plants and their shared environment, thereby ensuring equitable, evidence-based and precautionary decision-making and a multi-sectoral unified approach to health and ecosystem management;
2. ENCOURAGES Parties to promote and enhance multisectoral and transdisciplinary collaboration at the national level, and cooperation at the international level, in order

Commented [TC38]: Are these not sufficient to address the key issues - by integrating the necessary elements in those resolutions rather than creating a separate resolution

Commented [U.S.39]: We recommend the inclusion of Article VIII also. Could read something like:

"RECALLING that the CITES treaty (Articles III, IV, V, and VII) requires that "any living specimens are so prepared and shipped" and "transported and cared for as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment"; and the treaty further requires (Article VIII) that "all living specimens, during any period of transit, holding or shipment, are properly cared for so as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment,"

Commented [TG40]: potential adding ?? although guidance as opposed to Resolutions

"CITES 2019 - Guidance materials, activities and tools aimed at enhancing parties' capacity to regulate bushmeat trade. <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/doc/E-CoP18-095.pdf>.

Commented [TC41]: See comment above - I would add Wildlife Policy Reviews resolution that could be updated ... include considerations re: prevention and mitigate

Commented [U.S.42]: We recommend removing this resolutions as there does not appear to any mention of disease prevention.

Formatted: Font: Font color: Auto

Commented [AAC43]: Infectious disease threats to animals are not necessarily zoonotic, yet are One Health issues. By definition, a disease outbreak in people

Commented [Dd44]: EAZA is not convinced that CITES should play a central role, and previous discussions in WG and at AC and SC demonstrated there is a lack

Commented [U.S.45]: Recognizing that these words are defined differently depending on the forum, we commend just the acknowledgement of the various

Commented [JB46]: Full definition please.

Commented [AAC47]: Not necessary & a distraction.

Commented [48]: May be to add: "Prevention of spillover: Upstream prevention addressing drivers of zoonotic disease emergence and activities

Commented [AAC49]: Transmission of a human pathogen to animals is an anthroponosis. Spillover can also refer to transmission from any novel

Commented [TC50]: CITES definition - see Glossary: The harvesting of wild animals in tropical and sub-tropical countries for food and for non-food purposes,

Commented [SM51]: My understanding is that this is not a term widely used anymore. Traditional markets instead?

Commented [U.S.52]: For example, this definition ignores the bi-directional nature of zoonotic disease transmission. The U.S. Center for Disease Control uses

Commented [SM53]: WHO: Zoonoses are defined as those diseases and infections naturally transmitted between people and vertebrate animals.

Commented [U.S.54]: We recommend the explicit mention and consideration for CITES species and the CITES appendices in the following text to ensure that

to prevent and respond to risks to human and animal health associated with trade in wildlife health threats related to wildlife trade;

Formatted: No underline

Commented [TC55]: Keeping in mind that trade is defined in the Convention as export, re-export, import and introduction from the sea

Regarding ~~tackling disease risks /Tackling drivers of risks to wildlife animal health problems related to~~ associated with international wildlife trade in CITES listed species

Commented [TC56]: Animal health and wildlife health used in different sections - propose that use of terms be consistent except where not appropriate... is the intention to address "wild" animals or all animal species whether captive bred or wild

Commented [TC57]: Similar approach in other Resolutions - the "sub-titles"

Commented [TC58]: Rather than urging parties to recognize the link - rather focus on actions to be taken in collaboration with other authorities and include trade aspects

Commented [SM59]: this is a bit simplistic - disease emergence/spillover has other main trigger such as habitat fragmentation leading to increasing the interaction with humans. Suggest to reword

Commented [U.S.60]: We recommend using another term as the points below (a-d) do not seem to clearly address the "interface". Is the intent to address exposure?

Commented [TC61]: This seems to be domestic measure? Link to international trade to be made

Commented [U.S.62]: We recommend adding the need to identify species with high zoonotic potential - carrying or likely to carry pathogens of concern.

Commented [U.S.63]: This is important to include and again relates to the WOA/CITES collaboration.

Field Code Changed

Formatted: Font: Italic, Complex Script Font: Italic

Commented [TC64]: Maybe wild rather than feral - to simplify terminology used

Commented [U.S.65]: We recommend clarifying the connection to CITES and CITES-listed species. Could also consider removing this paragraph, as we are not sure it adds significantly in a specific/clear way.

Commented [FD66]: I would propose to replace this item

Commented [SM67R66]: <https://www.woah.org/app/uplo>

Commented [TC68]: The mandate of the Convention

Commented [U.S.69]: Could be combined with

Commented [TC70]: Solutions to be replaced with

Formatted: Strikethrough

Formatted: Strikethrough

Commented [TC71]: Is the intention to address all health

Commented [TC72]: Similar approaches to other

Commented [U.S.73]: We recommend revising this

Commented [U.S.74]: Parties will need to know what

Commented [TC75]: This covers everything... if CMS

Commented [TG76]: and taking note of the WOA/CITES

Commented [SM77]: Not sure the risk can be reduced to

Commented [Dd78]: You cannot ensure there is no risk.

Commented [TC79]: Can be included in Transport

Commented [U.S.80]: May be best to make this a new

Commented [TC81]: Is this not a short term action?

3. URGES Parties to recognize the links between trade in wildlife, wildlife animals, trade and pathogen spillovers, and the potential for zoonotic pathogen disease emergence and spillover disease emergence spread and to prioritise preventative approaches that minimize the risk of pathogen emergence and spillover infectious disease to humans and wildlife via pathogen spillover and spillback by at reducing wildlife/the interfaces interface between wildlife, livestock and people reducing wildlife/species in trade and humans and domestic animals livestock and wildlife/human interfaces, especially by:

a) endeavoring to reduce spillover to humans at sites of wildlife/wildlife animal/human interfaces in the wildlife trade, especially high-risk sites such as wildlife wet markets at which selling live or freshly slaughtered wild birds and mammals are traded;

b) conducting a risk assessment and developing a risk management strategy, per the guidance of the WOA/CITES Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risk in Wildlife Trade;

b)c) endeavoring to prevent pathogen contamination / spillover transmission to and from wildlife animals from feral or otherwise released animals, from legally and illegally traded animals (including commercial urban markets), and from invasive non-native species;

e)d) focusing efforts on eliminating, reducing or otherwise managing those practices that present are a pose a high risk for pathogen spillover and transfer.

Solutions Regarding interventions to reduce for tackling disease risks and health associated with health problems related to wildlife trade in CITES listed species

4. ENCOURAGES Parties to adapt/inform their regulation of wildlife use, management, and health by:

a) making proactive use of the substantial existing guidance provided by multilateral environmental agreements, the UN and its specialized agencies and intergovernmental and other organizations on how to prevent, manage and respond to infectious wildlife pathogens and diseases within wildlife trade and to share best practice guidelines and experience;

b) taking note of the CMS Migratory Species and Health Review (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.4.3) and implementing its key recommendations, where relevant;

c) taking note of and implementing WOA/CITES Guidelines for addressing disease risks in wildlife trade

5. URGES Parties to develop strategies for prevention, preparedness and response to health threats related to wildlife trade by:

a) Adopting biosecurity measures to ensure mitigate the risk that live animals, when implementing the requirements of the Convention, to mitigate risks to animals in trade do not present a risk to animal or human health, when implementing the requirements of the Convention to ensure and to ensure that husbandry and shipping of live living animals specimens are so prepared and shipped as to minimise/minimise/minimises the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment, and ensuring animal welfare;

b) Developing national action plans, in plans, in plans, in collaboration with other

- agencies where appropriate, focused on the prevention of pathogen spillover and health threats to wildlife, livestock, and humans developing national action plans that include appropriate regulation and management of wildlife exploitation and trade designed to eliminate/reduce the risk of pathogen spillover/transmission;
- c) Developing wildlife health strategies with contingency and emergency response plans, with input from all relevant stakeholders, thus ensuring to promote appropriate responses in emergency situations;
  - d) strengthening and supporting wildlife health and disease surveillance, especially related to wildlife trade, including integrating ecological and population monitoring into pathogen and disease surveillance systems;
  - e) ensuring that national regulation of wildlife ranching/farming and wildlife markets at which wildlife is traded related to CITES trade fully addresses all known risks of pathogen spillover and infectious disease transmission, and adopting a precautionary approach to such practices;
  - f) encouraging and supporting outbreak investigations, improvements in wildlife diagnostics, testing facilities and reporting systems, and data- and information-sharing, while additionally preventing unnecessary delays in diagnosis and research caused by regulatory requirements (including CITES regulation) on transporting diagnostic or research specimens across national boundaries;

**Commented [TC82]:** This is a bit challenging to read - the trade aspect must be clear - otherwise it will be challenging for CITES Parties to support as its not clearly linked to CITES mandate.. Possible rephrasing: Developing national action plans to reduce disease risk / risk of pathogen spillover associated with trade in collaboration with other agencies / authorities where appropriate and focused on prevention of pathogen spillover and health threats.

**Commented [TC83]:** This duplicates regulation issues addressed in paragraph 4 above..

**Commented [TC84]:** CITES mandate? Integrate in action plan idea in 5 b)?

**Commented [AAC85]:** Need to say what surveillance systems are being referred to here.

**Commented [TG86]:** Suggest either defining specifically "wildlife farm" and "wildlife market" above or align with above definitions.

**Commented [TC87]:** Maybe replace with risk assessment approach rather than precautionary approach

**Commented [TC88]:** Link to trade - otherwise this falls outside the CITES mandate... - consider including as element of national action plan

**Commented [TC89]:** This is not CITES mandate

**Formatted:** Strikethrough

#### Knowledge Regarding Knowledge gaps and prioritization

6. ENCOURAGES Parties and organizations, including research organizations, to address the significant knowledge gaps concerning the epidemiology and drivers of many infectious wildlife diseases of wildlife and of the risks of pathogen emergence and spillover related to international wildlife trade along the entire trade chain;
7. ENCOURAGES Parties and funding organizations to support research and resourcing targeted at priority health threats to wildlife in trade, particularly CITES-listed species and imperiled those species with on the CITES Appendices or Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; unfavourable conservation status and in high demand on the international wildlife trade;

#### Regarding Cooperation

##### Cooperation

8. INVITES Parties to contribute voluntarily to rapid reporting systems for wildlife morbidity and mortality events, especially those related to wildlife trade, in collaboration with WOA National delegates and Wildlife Focal Points, taking fully into account the WOA World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), the joint FAO-WOA-WHO Global Early Warning System for health threats and emerging risks at the human-animal-ecosystems interface (GLEWS+), and existing regional and national information systems;
9. ENCOURAGES Parties to collaborate with relevant national authorities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to work with the Quadripartite to assess response and capacity development needs; evaluate resources needed to deliver these; and work collectively with the donor community to provide the necessary resources;
10. URGES the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and government agencies responsible for regulating wildlife management and conservation trade to engage with their national representatives to WHO and other Members of the Quadripartite, to ensure that mechanisms to prevent pathogen emergence and

**Commented [KS90]:** Can we add in

ENCOURAGES Parties and non-governmental organizations to work with the International Alliance Against Health Risk in the Wildlife Trade on zoonoses risk mitigation initiatives

Given that they are specifically aim to address health risks associated with wildlife trade?

**Commented [TC91]:** This reporting obligation is problematic and not CITES MA / SA responsibility. A system already exist - rather invite Parties to liaise with the relevant authorities to support the reporting...

Res Conf 4.6 (Rev. CoP19) recommends that reporting burden on Parties should be kept to a minimum. How is this related to the mandate of the Convention?

**Commented [SM92]:** very broad. suggest to be more specific by reiterating the focus



~~spillover at source and One Health approaches are reflected in the WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response under negotiation, and other WHO processes; processes relevant to regulating international wildlife trade;~~

Commented [SL93]: As above, those negotiations are slated to complete by May 2025 and this paragraph will need to be amended accordingly.

11. ENCOURAGES the WHO, Quadripartite Organizations to further work with the wildlife and environment sector on pandemic prevention and preparedness, and urges ongoing collaboration and coordination between intergovernmental bodies to further incorporate conservation and environmental considerations into existing mechanisms established through the Quadripartite;

Commented [TC94]: Should this not be directed to the Quadripartite?

12. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to promote cooperation on prevention of zoonoses and pathogen spillover from associated with international wildlife trade with the Quadripartite (especially the One Health High-Level Expert Panel), with CMS, CBD, and with other relevant bodies;

Commented [U.S.95]: We recommend either adding revisions to make this more relevant to CITES and wildlife trade, or removing.

13. REQUESTS the Animals Committee to proactively collaborate engage with relevant work of other multilateral environmental agreements and the WOAHA Working Group on Wildlife, UN and its specialized agencies the CMS's Scientific Council and the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) related to international wildlife trade along the entire trade chain and prevention of zoonoses and pathogen spillover;

Commented [TC96]: Broaden scope... previous practice - Chair of AC and SC participated in WOAHA process to develop guidance

#### Regarding sSupport

#### Support

14. ENCOURAGES all Parties, donors, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, as a matter of urgency, to support the implementation of this Resolution through the provision of financial and technical support and capacity building to Parties and the Secretariat, and -where necessary, by- providing technical and financial support to assist low- and middle-income countries in establishing appropriate wildlife management and use protocols and regulations that aim to prevent not only illegal and unsustainable trade, but also pathogen spillovers, transmission and enhance pathogen and disease surveillance in wildlife populations, and management and control of wildlife diseases, including outbreak management; species subject to international trade;

Commented [MJ97]: Could reference Target 5 of the GBF: Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal

15. FURTHER ENCOURAGES particular emphasis on building the capacity for Parties to meet the Convention's requirements related to live specimen preparation, shipment, and transport (Articles III, IV, V, VII, and VIII), including through providing clear summarized information and trainings about how Parties can better comply with such requirements for inclusion on the CITES website, and, subject to external funding, ensuring that Parties have affordable access to the standards adopted by the Conference of the Parties for use in Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Transport of live specimens*.

Commented [TC98]: Scope - refine to focus and link to trade

## COMMENTS FROM PARTIES

### AUSTRALIA

Dear co-Chairs and colleagues

Warm regards from Australia. We remain agnostic as to the need for a new Resolution, and concur with UNEP and others that this need should be better substantiated in order to support discussions at the Standing Committee and CoP. We also support the view of Canada that there is perhaps more discussion to be had before a Resolution is considered, and that there may be benefit in reviewing the new WOAAH guidelines as a preliminary step.

However should the group wish to continue to consider a Resolution, we would add our voice to those of the UK, USA, UNEP and others that there are significant elements of the draft Resolution that drift or completely step beyond the mandate of the Convention and thank colleagues for pointing out those areas – we had identified the same. We also noted that there are a number of short-term actions that would better be considered in the form of Decisions. In more specific comments, we would add the follow on the draft Resolution, we suggest ‘domestic animals’ instead of ‘livestock’ – it is not only livestock animals that pose potential risks. We are also cautious about urging Parties (paragraph 5) to create ‘national action plans’ or similar as this does seem overly duplicative of other human/animal biosecurity processes at national borders.

In a final more general comment, I wonder if I have missed the justification for presenting this as a CoP20 document? Presumably as a Standing Committee working group, we will be reporting to Standing Committee and perhaps, dependent on our discussions, presenting a draft Resolution as an Annex? This may be an oversight or perhaps I have missed the reasoning, but it does seem a little presumptive to assume the SC will agree to propose a CoP document along these lines.

With kind regards

Rhedyn

**Dr Rhedyn Ollerenshaw**

**Assistant Director Policy and International Engagement**

**CITES Management Authority of Australia**

Live Import List and CITES Policy Section | Ocean and Wildlife Branch

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Ph: 02 5156 3738 Mob: 0481 141 487 E: [Rhedyn.ollerenshaw@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:Rhedyn.ollerenshaw@dcceew.gov.au)

Gunnawal Country, John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 Australia

GPO Box 3090 ACT 2601

---

### CANADA

Dear co-Chairs,

Thank you for your good work on this topic. Canada aligns with the EU concerning the draft Resolution. Some parts go beyond the CITES mandate and other parts could be integrated in other CITES Resolution. Canada strongly supports the work on One Health and agrees that CITES has a role to play. However, Canada believes it is premature to develop a new Resolution on One Health. At the last AC meeting, Canada voiced the importance to have more conversations on this topic and to review the new WHOA guidelines before considering the development of a new Resolution. In this view, Canada would prefer that the working group takes the time to review those new guidelines and discuss how CITES can integrate them.

Sincerely,

Marie-Eve

**Marie-Eve Paquet (Elle/she/her)**

*Conseillère scientifique, CITES*

Environnement et Changement Climatique Canada

[Marie-Eve.Paquet@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Marie-Eve.Paquet@ec.gc.ca)

Teams: +1 873-800-5087

\*\*\*\*\*

*CITES Scientific Advisor*

Environment and Climate Change Canada

[Marie-Eve.Paquet@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Marie-Eve.Paquet@ec.gc.ca)

Teams: +1 873-800-5087

---

## EUROPEAN UNION

Dear Co-chairs,

Thank you very much for your work on this topic. Whereas the EU agrees that CITES has a role to play in the context of One Health, we have doubts as to the added value of a CITES resolution on this topic. We believe that many parts of the draft go beyond CITES mandate, and that there are organisations that are better placed to act on those. Other elements of the draft could possibly be integrated in other resolutions or could be subject of decisions as far as short-term concrete actions are concerned.

We would also like to point out that the discussion on CITES role within One Health should also address its other aspects, in particular access to and use of medicinal plants. Illegal trade, which poses even more risk than legal trade, should also be given more attention.

Best regards,

Agata

**Agata SOBIECH**

Team Leader – CITES and wildlife trafficking

European Commission

DG Environment

Unit ENV F.3 – Global Environmental Cooperation and Multilateralism

+32 2 29 80860

[agata.sobiech@ec.europa.eu](mailto:agata.sobiech@ec.europa.eu)

---

## JAPAN

Dear Simon and Anna,

Thank you for your efforts in chairing the working group on this important issue and for compiling the meeting documents.

We would like to inform you that Japan has no comments on the draft resolution as it stands.

Best regards,

Akira Osawa

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Email: [akira.osawa@mofa.go.jp](mailto:akira.osawa@mofa.go.jp)

---

## LIBERIA

Dear Simon and Anna,

Thank you for your email and your efforts in developing the draft resolution on One Health and CITES. Liberia supports the resolution which we consider an excellent starting point for the working group's deliberations. We also support the suggestions by WCS.

As stated in CoP19 Doc. 23.2, "the West African region is fully committed to ensuring that its people are protected from the risk of zoonotic disease transmission, a commitment which is inherently linked to wildlife trade, as demonstrated by the Vision of the West Africa Strategy on Combating Wildlife Crime (WASCWC)." Liberia considers a dedicated resolution on One Health and CITES that adopts a precautionary approach and effectively addresses the risk of pathogen emergence and disease transmission from wildlife trade (as proposed in CoP19 Doc. 23.2), and recognizes the urgency of the issue, is an important complement to other initiatives to prevent the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases.

With best regards

Blamah Sando Goll

Technical Manager and Head of CITES MA

Conservation Department

Forestry Development Authority

Republic of Liberia

Email address: [blamahg@yahoo.com](mailto:blamahg@yahoo.com)

Mobile Numbers : (+231)886581397/777247214

---

## PERU

Dear Co-Chairs,

Thank you very much for sharing the document "*One Health and CITES: Reducing human and animal health risks from wildlife trade*". Like others consulted, the CITES Scientific Authority of Peru agrees that it is a good starting point to resume discussions on these important issues stemming from the mandates.

In this regard, we align with the concerns expressed by the European Union and UNEP. In particular, we believe that discussions should be refined regarding the texts related to national markets and the types of taxa where One Health efforts should be focused, as these issues are relevant for countries that legally and traceably trade in live specimens.

**Yuri Beraun Baca** | Dirección de Conservación de Ecosistemas y Especies | Especialista en Gestión de Fauna Silvestre

**T:** +(51) 6116000 | Anexo: | Móvil : 956755464

**E:** [yberaun@minam.gob.pe](mailto:yberaun@minam.gob.pe) | [www.gob.pe/minam](http://www.gob.pe/minam)

D: Av. Antonio Miroquesada 425, Magdalena del Mar, Lima - Perú.

---

## SINGAPORE

Dear Simon,

Apologies for our late response. Thank you for working on the draft resolution. We have no objection to its inclusion, and have suggested two edits as tracked in the attached. These edits add mention of the MOU signed between the CITES Secretariat and WOA in May 2024 and urges the CITES Secretariat to implement this.

Additionally, we have updated the Report of the Working Group earlier prepared with the addition of Annex 1, in the second attachment. You can place the updated draft resolution in Annex 1 when ready. This should help to complete the report by the working group. For your consideration please.

Thank you.

Kind regards,  
Hazelina

Hazelina Yeo ▪ Deputy Director (Wildlife Trade) ▪ National Parks Board ▪ Tel: 6908 3012

Sign up for NParks e-newsletter [here](#), or join us on Telegram [t.me/NParksBuzz](https://t.me/NParksBuzz) for the latest updates on events & happenings at our Parks.

[www.nparks.gov.sg](http://www.nparks.gov.sg) ▪ [www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz](https://www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz) ▪ [instagram.com/nparksbuzz/](https://www.instagram.com/nparksbuzz/) Hashtag #nparksbuzz ▪ [www.twitter.com/nparksbuzz](https://www.twitter.com/nparksbuzz) ▪ [youtube.com/NParksSG](https://www.youtube.com/NParksSG)

---

## UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Co-Chairs and members of the Working Group,

We would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the group for the work that they have done to pull together an extensive draft Resolution for us to consider. We have some general comments below as well as some on a few of the related elements proposed in the draft Resolution but not on the full draft text of the Resolution.

We support national and international efforts to coordinate and take forward a one health approach and recognise that CITES has a role to play in that process. However, any CITES Resolution would need to be justified and fully focused on the remit of CITES. For instance, whilst we understand that CITES has a role in reducing the risk of future human and animal infectious disease epidemics and pandemics of zoonotic origin derived from international trade in wild animals, we should at the same time recognise that CITES only focuses on endangered species and that this doesn't include many of the high zoonotic risk wildlife species and that the wider focus of this approach is not only on

international trade.

We strongly support prioritising further consideration of how we might continue to identify and take forward some potentially effective and practical solutions that are within the remit of CITES for reducing pathogen spillover risk, as highlighted by the Animals Committee and its intersessional working group, including such things as addressing some immediate concerns in wildlife supply chains, gathering tangible good practices for high-risk taxonomic groups included in the Appendices, developing guidelines where needed, considering practical ways to facilitate Parties' access to up to date information on pathogens and wildlife and for CITES Parties to communicate & share information.

In this respect we think that the general considerations highlighted in particular by UNEP should be carefully considered as we take forward the work of this group, taking into account the many CITES Resolutions, Decisions and collaborative arrangements already in place and the possible need and means to strengthen those or reflect one health principles more clearly in them where needed, taking into account CITES remit and the capacity of Parties.

We have commented below on some of the elements of the draft Resolution to illustrate some of the general questions we have about the need for and overall content of a Resolution and the extent to which it should reflect on the work and outputs of other agreements and collaborative arrangements.

Broadly, the preambular text covers a great many points and issues. As suggested in the draft a lot of it might be considered introductory or background information. The extent of the proposed preambular text also highlights the extent of the work going on elsewhere and re-enforces the need to focus on where CITES has a role in addressing the risks within its remit, in particular practical efforts to mitigate risks and to collaborate with and provide information to support the work of other agreements, organisations and collaborative arrangements.

*Specific elements in the text, comments in red*

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the conditions under which live animals are collected, bred, prepared ~~and~~ shipped **and sold**, including the effects of crowding, stress and injury, can increase the risk of mutation and spillover of pathogens and transmission of disease from wild species to other wildlife, domestic animals and/or humans;

*The selling stage is one of the key points in the trade chain where diseases can spread.*

ACKNOWLEDGING that **conditions within** live wildlife markets and some forms of intensive animal breeding and farming can ~~act as drivers of~~ **drive** pathogen mutation, increasing likelihood of pathogen transmission between species, including between wild species and humans

*Conditions, practices, species etc rather than markets themselves are some of the likely drivers of pathogen mutation (see for instance IPBES Workshop on biodiversity and pandemics).*

RECOGNIZING that the One Health approach aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems, and ~~has been endorsed by~~ **is embedded within the work of** multiple international organizations, United Nations Agencies and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

*We should recognise the different nature of discussions and agreements on One Health and other holistic approaches under different agreements and negotiations but not try to summarise them or express what they are.*

CONVINCED that CITES should play a central role in significantly reducing the risk of future human and animal infectious disease epidemics and pandemics of zoonotic origin derived from international trade in wild animals

*This language does not recognise breadth of discussions on what role CITES should play, referring as it does to CITES having a 'central' role rather than a 'supporting role' or 'key role' in identifying opportunities for 'practical collaborations' and 'joint programs of work to advance the One Health approach'.*

*Definitions*

*One Health: An integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems (from OHHLEP).*

*This is only part of the definition by OHHLEP. The full definition illustrates the linkages between the health of humans, animals and plants, and clarifies that the approach is about multiple sectors working together.*

*<https://www.who.int/news/item/01-12-2021-tripartite-and-uneep-support-ohhlep-s-definition-of-one-health>. The guidelines say: Suspend the trade in live caught wild animals of mammalian species for food or breeding purposes and close sections of food markets selling live caught wild animals of mammalian species as an emergency measure unless demonstrable effective regulations and adequate risk assessment(a) are in place.*

*Spillback: The transmission of a pathogen from humans to animals.*

*Spillback is when a pathogen is transmitted back to the host species - which does not have to be human to animal.*

*Enabling approaches for health*

1. ENCOURAGES Parties to adopt One Health and ecosystem approaches that recognize the interconnection between **the health of** people, animals, plants and their shared environment, ensuring equitable, evidence-based and precautionary decision-making and a multi-sectoral unified approach to health and ecosystem management

*We strongly support encouraging CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and government agencies responsible for wildlife management and conservation to engage with their national representatives to the wide range of other relevant agreements, organisations and collaborative arrangements, as expressed in the draft Resolution in relation to the WHO and its processes and in relation to the international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response under negotiation.*

Many thanks again and kind regards

**Dornford Rugg**

UK CITES Management Authority

International Biodiversity and Wildlife | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Floor 1, Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

Mobile: +44 (0)7887 560 828 | Email: [dornford.rugg@defra.gov.uk](mailto:dornford.rugg@defra.gov.uk) | Direct line: +44 (0)20 802 63056

---

## UNITES STATES OF AMERICA

Greetings,

Thank you for this opportunity to review the draft One Health Resolution. The U.S. is supportive of the concept of a One Health Resolution, and we offer a variety of edits and comments on this first draft towards that aim. We hope to have more discussions in the working group prior to the Resolution going to the Standing Committee.

We recommend numerous edits to the document (attached) and suggest the need for two considerations particularly. It is important to ensure that the Resolution:

- Links closely to the international wildlife trade and CITES trade. The draft would benefit from making the text more specific to international wildlife trade throughout (e.g., the current operative text does not mention CITES-listed species). We recognize the value of One Health efforts in a broader sense. Related to this Convention, however, CITES will be most effective and be able to assist within its capacity best by narrowing its focus to risk within wildlife-trade-related activities.
- Boosts the work of the CITES-WOAH Memorandum of Understanding that was recently signed; connects to the Quadripartite's efforts and recommendations related to wildlife trade; and helps Parties meet existing requirements for live wildlife transport.

We appreciate the working group's ideas on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Dara Satterfield

(at the U.S. Management Authority)

**Dara Satterfield, PhD** (she/her) | CITES Policy Specialist

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#), International Affairs | 703-358-1818

---

## ZIMBABWE

Dear Co-Chairs,

We would like to thank you for professionally coordinating the discussions and all other work you they have done to date. We appreciate that CITES has a role to play in reducing human and animal health risks from wildlife trade in the context of One Health. Just like in our earlier submission, we are convinced that there is no need for a new and separate Resolution on pathogen spillover. Addressing issues on all species including non – endangered species falls outside the remit of CITES. We are of the opinion that the proposed resolution will not add value as most of the aspects proposed are already comprehensively covered in other conventions and agreements such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (covered in the (WOAH guidelines) and the Convention on Biological Diversity. We would rather contribute separately or collectively to documents being developed or reviewed by various organisations which are better placed to address health issues including pathogen/disease spillover. CITES already has several provisions in various documents which ensures strict monitoring of international trade including movement of animals. We encourage CITES to stick to its mandate of regulating international trade in endangered species and combating illegal wildlife trade. Actually, it is the illegal wildlife trade or movement that poses more risk of pathogen spillover due its evasion of regulatory hygiene controls put in place for legal trade.

Thank you

Dickson Chitupa

For Director General, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

## COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS

### BORN FREE FOUNDATION & THE DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Dear Simon and Anna,

Many thanks for your outreach and for your efforts to progress the work of the group. I'm responding on behalf of Working Group members Born Free Foundation and the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation.

We fully support the development of a draft Resolution for submission to Standing Committee, and ultimately for the consideration of Parties at CoP20, in fulfilment of parts 'c' and 'd' of the Working Group's mandate. It is clear to us that CITES has a vital role in addressing the risks of zoonotic pathogen spillover associated with international wildlife trade. Any proposed CITES actions should be designed to complement efforts to secure action to prevent future zoonoses through other international mechanisms, including the WHO Pandemics Agreement process, the CBD's Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, and the CMS workstream on migratory species and health.

We broadly support the draft Resolution text you have circulated. We have made a number of suggested amendments in track changes in the attached, largely aimed at securing clarity and consistency in the language relating to human-livestock-wildlife interfaces.

Thank you again for your efforts, and we look forward to engaging in the Working Group's discussions going forward.

Sincerely,

Mark Jones (for and on behalf of Born Free and DSWF)

**Dr Mark Jones, veterinarian**

**Head of Policy**

**Born Free Foundation** | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor | Frazer House | 14 Carfax | Horsham | West Sussex | RH12 1ER  
M. 07947749475 | Skype. markj.bornfree | W. [bornfree.org.uk](http://bornfree.org.uk)

---

### CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Dear Co-Chairs and WG members,

Thank you all for the discussions and work here. The Center for Biological Diversity supports the draft Resolution and the edits offered by WCS.

Sincerely,

Tanya Sanerib

International Legal Director, Senior Attorney (she/her/hers)

Center for Biological Diversity

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal +1 (206) 379.7363

---

### EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA (EAZA)

Dear Co-chairs of the SC Working Group on Zoonoses and One Health,

Thank you for drawing the attention of the Working Group to the remaining points of our mandate, and especially for the work in preparing for our discussion.

EAZA could see value in a One Health Resolution and appreciate the extensive draft provided. We have provided our initial comments in the attachment and look forward continuing this discussion in the next few weeks.

All the best, Danny

Danny de Man

Deputy Executive Director

**European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)**

Plantage Middenlaan 45

1018 DC Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Website: [www.eaza.net](http://www.eaza.net)

---

### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GAME AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (CIC), AND THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION (FACE)

Dear Co-Chair and Working Group Members

First of all, apologies for coming back with our input after the deadline.

I am writing on behalf of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), and the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE). Thank you very much for your work on this topic and for all the feedback provided by the working group members.

We share the concerns of other members of the Working Group regarding the added value of a draft resolution on this topic.

Emerging zoonotic diseases and the One Health approach remain to be one of our top priorities and we recognise the growing need to address the challenges associated with prevention of emergence and transmission of these new diseases. However, we are deeply concerned with the decision to develop a CITES resolution on *Reducing human and animal health risks from wildlife trade*.

The primary mission of CITES is to ensure that international trade does not threaten the survival of the species. Therefore, we strongly encourage CITES to stay committed and focused on the original mandate in ensuring that the international trade in wild species is legal, safe and sustainable. Moreover, bringing in species that are not endangered or are not internationally traded into CITES discussions will result in CITES ultimately diverting from its mission. We encourage that Parties strengthen their efforts in combating illegal trade and empower the national efforts on health and safety checks.

While we recognize that there are growing health concerns from international trade, we also recognize that there are organizations with much broader scope that are better suited and equipped to tackle these concerns. We believe it would be highly valuable if CITES would continue to hold close cooperation with the members of Quadripartite who have already developed guidelines to address the emerging issues of zoonosis. To ensure a strong focus on the mandates and avoid duplicating efforts, we see real value in a stronger partnership between CITES and the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the issue of zoonosis diseases.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input and we look forward to actively engaging in the Working Group's discussions moving forward.

Kind regards

CIC & FACE

**Alexandra KALANDARISHVILI**  
*Senior Policy Coordinator*

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

Rue de Trèves 67

B - 1040 Bruxelles

Phone: +32 499 81 67 36

E-mail: [a.kalandarishvili@cic-wildlife.org](mailto:a.kalandarishvili@cic-wildlife.org),

Website: <https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r02/> [www.cic-wildlife.org](http://www.cic-wildlife.org)

[.YzJIOnJhdGFnOmM6bzoyNjIjZmRmOTY3Yjg4MDI2NGUwZThhNTIjZmQ0YjY4Njo3OmU2Y2E6OGExYzBkMzAyZDU4YTNkMjMyNGMyZDQwNDQ4Yjk2NGM1MTRjYmU0MGJhMml2NTg1OTg3NmQ4Mjk2NzFiNTU2ODp0OIQ6Tg](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r02/)

---

#### **INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE (IFAW)**

Dear co-chairs and working group members,

Thank you for the reminder regarding our mandate and the draft resolution. Like others who have already responded, IFAW very much supports the idea of taking forward a resolution on this matter and welcomes the draft provided by the co-chairs. We also welcome the inputs provided by other WG members to date and have nothing additional to add on drafting suggestions.

Kind regards,

[Matthew Collis](#)



Senior Director, Policy

Pronouns: he/him

c/o IFAW UK  
209-215 Blackfriars Road  
London SE1 8NL

+44 7494 328257 m

[mcollis@ifaw.org](mailto:mcollis@ifaw.org)

[www.ifaw.org](http://www.ifaw.org)

[@MattCollisFAW](#)

---

#### **INTERNATIONAL FUR FEDERATION (IFF)**

Dear Co-Chairs,

International Fur Federation (IFF) appreciates the efforts of the Co-Chairs and the Working Group. IFF shares the concerns and concurs with comments submitted earlier on this matter by Canada, IWMC, and several others.

Thank you,

Michael O'Brien

Special Advisor- Wildlife Science and Policy

IFF

---

#### **IWMC-WORLD CONSERVATION TRUST**

Dear co-chairs and members of the Working Group,

IWMC-World Conservation Trust is writing in response to the draft resolution titled "One Health and CITES: Reducing Human and Animal Health Risks from Wildlife Trade." While we appreciate the interconnectedness between human, animal, and ecosystem health, we must express concern that this draft resolution extends beyond the core mandate of CITES.

CITES was established to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Its primary focus is conservation, and while health concerns may arise tangentially from international wildlife trade, other international bodies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), are better equipped and mandated to handle zoonotic disease prevention and control. In fact, the draft resolution itself lists these organizations, which are already coordinating under the Quadripartite initiative on One Health.

Furthermore, it is important to note that not all species regulated under CITES carry the same potential for zoonotic disease transmission. The current wording of the resolution risks creating an unnecessarily broad focus, which may divert limited resources away from core conservation efforts. It would be more appropriate to tailor specific health risk measures to those species and contexts where zoonotic threats are more likely.

Rather than expanding CITES' role into areas better addressed by specialized health organizations, we believe the focus should remain on strengthening national and international efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade, which often bypasses the health and safety checks that CITES-regulated trade undergoes. Legal wildlife trade, particularly when regulated by CITES, already requires health checks and compliance with international standards, minimizing the risk of zoonotic spillover. It is the illegal and unregulated trade that presents the greatest risk, and this is where CITES should focus its efforts.

Moreover, the expansion of CITES into health-focused areas could take critical resources away from its core mandate, particularly in countries where resources are already scarce and enforcement of CITES provisions is already a challenge. Allocating additional tasks to CITES, such as managing zoonotic disease prevention, risks undermining the capacity of these countries to properly enforce CITES regulations, especially in addressing illegal wildlife trade.

That said, IWMC fully supports the exchange of information and close cooperation between CITES and those international bodies better equipped to deal with zoonotic diseases. Such collaboration ensures that the global community effectively addresses these health risks while allowing CITES to continue focusing on its conservation mandate. By fostering stronger partnerships, we can ensure that the expertise of each organization is utilized effectively without overextending CITES' role.

Strengthening enforcement mechanisms, promoting inter-agency cooperation, and supporting capacity-building efforts in countries with limited resources are crucial steps to further reduce health risks. CITES should remain focused on ensuring sustainable, legal trade and combating illegal wildlife trade, while health risks associated with zoonotic diseases are addressed by the appropriate international bodies.

Thank you for considering these points. We strongly support CITES' core focus on conservation, while supporting national and international efforts to address zoonotic diseases through more suitable platforms.

On behalf of IWMC-World Conservation Trust,

Dr Nikolas Sellheim

---

#### **PAN AFRICAN SANCTUARY ALLIANCE (PASA)**

Dear co-chairs:

Thank you for your leadership in moving forward the discussion and the prepared draft resolution. Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) supports the development of a One Health resolution while recognizing that One Health implementation requires inter-governmental/ministerial agency coordination with government stakeholders beyond the CITES authorities.

A One Health resolution would provide a sustained focus on this ongoing public health and conservation challenge. PASA is the largest alliance of primate and wildlife rescue centers and sanctuaries with 23 member organizations in 13 African countries. Many of our member sanctuaries are located in countries with Ebola and ongoing mpox outbreaks. Majority of the live primates and other wildlife under our members' care are rescued from the illegal trade in CITES listed species. One Health approach is essential to our members' daily operations from caring for confiscated CITES-listed live animals to their programs on community engagement and alternative livelihoods.

We support the edits by WCS and Born Free. We also echo the comments by the U.S. government to narrow the focus of the resolution to risks within wildlife trade related activities.

Best wishes,

Iris

Iris HO

Head of Policy and Campaigns

Pan African Sanctuary Alliance

TEL/WhatsApp: +1(301)347-8423

---

#### **PRO WILDLIFE**

Dear Simon and Anna,

Thank you very much for the great efforts and congratulation to the outcoming resolution, which we fully support. We have realised that our few edit requests are almost completely in line with those of WCS. To avoid producing more documents for your review, we would therefore like to just agree with the WCS recommendations.

As a member of the International Alliance Against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade we have just completed a two-year project in four African countries aimed at raising awareness of the risks of zoonotic spillover events from the bushmeat and wildlife trade. This project has confirmed the urgency of this issue in every respect, and we highly appreciate the CITES work on this topic.

All the best,

Sandra

Sandra Altherr | Pro Wildlife [sandra.altherr@prowildlife.de](mailto:sandra.altherr@prowildlife.de)

---

## UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Dear Co-Chairs,

Thank you for your efforts on this. Please find attached UNEP's comments on the proposed resolution, as well as a few general comments below.

- It would be good to more strongly substantiate the need for a new Resolution. It seems that some key provisions could be integrated into existing Resolutions e.g. Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Transport of live specimens*; Resolution Conf. 13.11 (Rec. CoP18) on *Wild meat*; Resolution Conf. 15.2 on *Wildlife trade policy reviews*. This approach would ensure integration of the key issues in the various existing Resolutions, which we feel may be a better approach.
- We feel in some instances the draft resolution goes beyond the CITES mandate, e.g. where it deals with domestic markets.
- Short term actions should be included in Decisions and not Resolutions - see Res Conf. 4.6 (Rec. CoP19) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other docs for meetings of the CoP*: draft resolutions should not include instructions or requests to committees, working groups or Secretariat, unless part of a long-term procedure; and recommendations that will be implemented soon after their adoption and will then be obsolete
- National action plans are called for as well as various strategies – these ideas can be consolidated but we don't think they should be included in the Resolution. A more constructive way forward may be to propose a decision to further explore what could be done in collaboration with other relevant authorities.
- In general a lot of these 'actions' must be done in collaboration with other national authorities because the main mandate to address disease risk may not be in the CITES MA and SA and Parties made it clear that mandates must be respected and that the CITES MA and SA cannot take responsibility for activities that are the responsibility of other authorities.
- Consistency in the use of language could be improved – particularly around animal health / wildlife health / animal and wildlife health noting that in the CITES context, wildlife relates to both animals and plants.

Hope these comments are useful.

Best regards

Julian

Julian Blanc

One Health Coordinator

Biodiversity and Land Branch

Ecosystems Division

UN Environment Programme

UN Avenue, NOF 1, Level 2 South

Nairobi 00100, Kenya

Cell: +254 (0) 709 025 174

WhatsApp: +254 (0)722 885 724

Email: [julian.blanc@un.org](mailto:julian.blanc@un.org)

---

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (WCS)

Dear Co-chairs Israel and Singapore,

Thank you very much for this email, and for all your efforts. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) appreciates this draft resolution, and we fully support and recommend development of a draft Resolution by this Working Group, for the consideration and submission by the Standing Committee to CoP20. We support using this draft as a starting point for our deliberations. We consider this an important contribution to fulfillment of the mandate of this Working Group, and fully consistent with and informed by the discussions in the Animals Committee.

We made a few small, suggested edits to your excellent draft, and look forward to discussing this in the working group, and at the next meeting of the CITES Standing Committee. In addition to our wildlife conservation work around the globe, WCS also operates a large wildlife health programme. We stand ready to assist the Parties on this important issue.

For more information, please see [WCS and International Policy](#) and [WCS and Pandemic prevention at source](#)

Best regards,

Sue

Susan Lieberman, Ph.D.

Vice President, International Policy

[Wildlife Conservation Society](#)

IUCN Regional Councilor, North America & the Caribbean  
Chair, IUCN Council Programme & Policy Committee  
Mobile phone/WhatsApp: +44 7306 275626

---

#### WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (WOAH)

Dear Dr Simon Nemtsov and Dr Anna Wong,  
Thank you very much for your email, and for all your efforts to advance the work of the group. We are responding on behalf of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).  
We fully support the development of a draft Resolution for the Standing Committee, and ultimately for the consideration of Parties at CoP20. As a general comment, we think that any proposed CITES actions to prevent the spread of zoonoses through the international trade of wildlife should take into account the efforts of the other international organisations working in this area and in particular the Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WOAH and WHO). In addition, areas of collaboration with the relevant partners should be clarified. Please find our comments and proposed amendments in track changes in the draft recommendation here attached.

Specifically, we suggest edits to para 3 and 5 of the draft resolution, as detailed below.

#### Para 3 (proposed additions underlined):

3. URGES Parties to recognize the links between trade in wildlife, pathogen spillovers, and disease emergence and to prioritise preventative approaches, informed by WOAH standards, guidelines and recommendations, that minimize the risk of infectious disease to humans and wildlife via pathogen spillover by reducing wildlife/livestock and wildlife/human interfaces, especially by and under the responsibility of wild animal health competent authorities: ...

**Rationale:** WOAH has developed standards, comprehensive guidelines and recommendations that allow addressing disease risks in wildlife trade. These rules and guidance have to be followed with the support and under the responsibility of wild animal competent authorities.

#### Para 5 (proposed additions underlined):

5. URGES Parties to develop strategies for prevention, preparedness and response to health threats related to wildlife trade, with the support and under the responsibility of wild animal health competent authorities, by: ...

**Rationale:** Any strategies for prevention, preparedness and response to health threats related to wildlife trade need to involve and to be under the responsibility of wild animal health authorities.

We look forward to discussing this draft resolution with the members of the working group. Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this important piece of work.

Kind regards

François and Sophie

**Dr François Diaz**

*Scientific Coordinator (Bees and Wildlife)*

*Coordinateur Scientifique (Abeilles et Faune Sauvage)*

*Coordinador científico (Abejas y Fauna silvestre)*

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France

T. +33 (0)1 44 15 18 88

F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

---

## WORLD WILDLIFE FUND – INTERNATIONAL (WWF-INTL)

Dear colleagues

While we appreciate some of the EU's remarks regarding the mandate of CITES, the need to emphasise illegal trade in particular (since it evades scrutiny for all other hygiene controls), we still believe that there is merit in principle in a bespoke Resolution where stakeholders can find all aspects of the relationship of CITES to One Health. Indeed, the argument that issues such as access to medicinal plants need to be considered with regard to CITES and One Health strengthens the case for a bespoke Resolution.

We believe Israel's draft could serve as a starting point (no Resolution was ever adopted precisely as proposed, at least in my experience and some changed beyond recognition), but if other members of the group have different ideas about the content and structure we can also consider those.

Best regards

Colman

(Dr) Colmán Ó Críodáin (he/ him)

Head of Policy, Biodiversity Practice

WWF International

Driebergseweg 10, 3708 JB Zeist, The Netherlands

Tel: + 31 6 255 44 574 | E-mail: [cocriodain@wwfint.org](mailto:cocriodain@wwfint.org) | Skype: colman1959

---

## ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

Dear Simon & Anna

This looks very good to me. I have made a few relatively minor suggested edits in the attached using Track Changes along with a justification note for each.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Andrew

Andrew A. Cunningham BVMS PhD Dip. ECZM (Wildlife Population Health) FRCVS

Professor of Wildlife Epidemiology & Deputy Director of Science

Honorary Professor, University College London

Visiting Professor, Royal Veterinary College

Visiting Professor, Universidad Andres Bello

Visiting Professor, University of Leeds

Institute of Zoology

Zoological Society of London

Regent's Park

London NW1 4RY

+44 (0)20 7449 6674

[a.cunningham@ioz.ac.uk](mailto:a.cunningham@ioz.ac.uk)

<https://www.zsl.org/about-zsl/our-people/andrew-cunningham>