

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

SUMMARY

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY
AFTERNOON

33. Compliance matters

33.1 Implementation of Article XIII and Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19)
on CITES compliance procedures..... SC78 Doc. 33.1

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 1 as amended by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as follows:

The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decision to the Conference of the Parties:

Directed to the Standing Committee, with the support of the Secretariat

20.XX With the support of the Secretariat, the Standing Committee shall prepare draft guidance on the scope and application of a recommendation to suspend all trade (or trade for commercial purposes) in specimens of one or more CITES-listed species with a Party subject to a compliance procedure decided consistent with paragraph 30 of Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*, including standard terminology for describing suspensions, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 21st meeting.

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 2 as amended by New Zealand as follows:

- a) The Committee requested the Secretariat to request Indonesia, Kenya, Oman, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Yemen to:
- i) provide information regarding the catch data on *Carcharhinus longimanus*, including location and whether the catches originated from an exclusive economic zone or from areas beyond national jurisdiction;
 - ii) provide detailed information on the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings where export permits were reported to CITES as issued for commercial trade of *Carcharhinus longimanus*;
 - iii) provide information on how applicable measures, including those resulting from other treaties, conventions or national legislation for the conservation or management of *Carcharhinus longimanus* were taken into account when making non-detriment findings and determining the legal acquisition of specimens of *Carcharhinus longimanus*; and

- b) The Committee requested the Secretariat to review the responses in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, as appropriate, and report them to the Standing Committee at its 79th meeting.

60. Trade in stony corals (*Decision 19.178*) SC78 Doc. 60

The Committee noted the comments made by Poland and the North American region about the definition of live coral and agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 3 as amended by New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as follows:

The Committee:

- a) agreed to the amendments to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report* as outlined in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 60; and

In section 3 “**Regarding stony corals**” of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, add a final paragraph as follows:

Live corals should be reported as ‘LIV’ with the unit ‘number of specimens’. Coral rock (as live rock) and dead corals should be reported using the trade term code ‘COR’ with the unit kilograms (kg). Coral rock (as substrate) should be reported as ‘COR’ with the unit ‘number of specimens’.

In section 6a) of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, and section 4 a) of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report*, update the explanations of ‘live’ and ‘corals (raw)’ in the terminology table:

Description	Trade term code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
Live	LIV	no.	kg	live animals and plants, excluding live fingerling fish – see FIG. <u>NB: live stony corals should be recorded as ‘number of specimens’; all coral rock (live rock and substrate) should be reported as ‘COR’.</u>
coral (raw)	COR	no. <u>kg (for live rock and dead corals);</u> <u>no. (for substrate)</u>	kg	raw or unworked coral and coral rock (also live rock and substrate) [as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15)]. Coral rock (live rock and substrate) should be recorded as ‘Scleractinia spp.’ NB: the trade should be recorded by number of pieces only if the coral specimens are transported in water. <u>Live rock (transported moist in boxes) and dead corals should be reported in kg; coral substrate should be reported as number of pieces (since these are transported in water as the substrate to which non-CITES corals are attached).</u>

- b) agreed to submit the following revised draft decisions in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 60 for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *TRADE IN STONY CORALS*

Text proposed to be deleted is indicated with ~~strike through~~. Proposed new text is underlined.

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.177 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals Committee shall:*

- ~~a) taking into account document CoP19 Doc. 46 and its Annex, provide advice on possible amendments to Resolution Conf 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Trade in stony corals, in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts, and report with recommendations to the Standing Committee;~~
- ~~b) make recommendations, as necessary, to revise the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report, to ensure that they provide sufficient clarity on the use of appropriate terms and units for trade in stony corals; and~~
- b) consider the information in the Annex to document AC33 Doc. 24 and in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts, provide advice on the conversion factors used to analyse trade in corals for the CITES Review of Significant Trade process and report to the 21st20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.178 (Rev. CoP20) The Standing Committee shall:

- a) ~~review any proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Trade in stony corals from the Animals Committee; and~~
- b) ~~review any recommendations from the Animals Committee with regard to Decision 19.177, paragraph a), and make its own recommendations, as appropriate.~~
- a) taking into account the progress made at AC33 and in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts, make further recommendations, as necessary, on possible amendments to the definition of live coral in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Trade in stony corals and to revise the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report, to ensure that they provide sufficient clarity on the use of appropriate terms and units for trade in stony corals; and
- b) report their findings to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are invited to:

- a) implement the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports; and the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports on illegal trade adopted at CoP20 regarding the use of appropriate terms and units for trade in stony corals, when issuing CITES documents and drafting their CITES annual reports and CITES annual reports on illegal trade; and
- b) respond to the Notification to Parties under Decision 20.BB, particularly those involved in the trade in stony corals.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to share experiences and challenges in implementing the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports; and the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports on illegal trade regarding the use of appropriate terms and units for trade in stony corals.

- c) agreed to submit amendments to Resolution Conf 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Trade in stony corals, and the consequential amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP19) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as follows;

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO
RESOLUTION CONF. 11.10 (REV. COP15) ON TRADE IN STONY CORALS

Conf. 11.10
(Rev. CoP15)

Trade in stony corals

AWARE that stony corals ~~(in the orders Scleractinia, as well as non-scleractinian corals within the genera *Distichopora*, *Heliopora*, *Millepora*, *Stylaster* and *Tubipora*, *Helioporacea*, *Milleporina*, *Scleractinia*, *Stolonifera*, and *Stylasterina*)~~ are in international trade as live or dead specimens ~~intact specimens for aquaria and as curios~~;

RECOGNIZING that coral rock, skeleton fragments, sand and other coral products are also traded;

NOTING the unique nature of corals, namely that their skeletons are persistent, that they may become mineralized in time and that they are the foundation of reefs, and that, following erosion, fragments of coral may form part of mineral and sedimentary deposits;

NOTING also that coral rock may act as an important substrate for the attachment of live corals and that the removal of rock may have a detrimental impact on coral reef ecosystems;

AWARE, however, that coral rock can ~~not only~~ be readily identified ~~other than~~ to the order Scleractinia, or in the case of non-scleractinian corals, to the genus level (*Distichopora*, *Heliopora*, *Millepora*, *Stylaster* or *Tubipora*), and that accordingly non-detriment findings under Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention cannot be readily applied;

NOTING however, that for practical purposes of implementing the Convention, all coral rock can be reported in trade as "Scleractinia spp." irrespective of whether the coral rock contains scleractinian corals, non-scleractinian corals, or a mixed composition, for ease of identification and reporting.

NOTING that Article IV, paragraph 3, requires the monitoring of exports of specimens of each species in Appendix II, in order to assess whether the species is being maintained at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem;

NOTING that assessments under Article IV, paragraph 3, of the impacts of harvesting corals on the ecosystems from which they are derived cannot be adequately made by monitoring exports alone;

ACCEPTING that coral skeleton fragments and coral sand cannot be readily recognized;

RECOGNIZING also that it is ~~frequently~~ usually difficult to identify live or dead corals to the species level owing to the lack of a standard nomenclature and the lack of comprehensive and accessible identification guides for the non-specialist;

RECOGNIZING that stony corals that are fossilized are not subject to the provisions of the Convention;

NOTING that it has been difficult to apply and enforce the provisions of the Convention to trade in corals;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ADOPTS the working definitions of coral sand, coral skeleton fragments, coral rock, live coral and dead coral provided in the Annex to this Resolution;
2. RECOMMENDS that Parties give much greater emphasis to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 3, when permitting the export of corals and that they adopt the principles and practice of an ecosystem approach, rather than relying on the monitoring of exports alone; and
3. URGES:
 - a) interested Parties and other bodies from range and consumer States to collaborate and provide support, coordinated by the Secretariat, to produce as a priority accessible and practical guides to recognizing corals and coral rock in trade and to make these widely available to Parties through appropriate media; and

- b) Parties to seek synergy with other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives to work for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems.

Annex

Definitions

Coral sand – material consisting entirely or in part of ~~fine sediments finely crushed fragments~~ of dead coral origin no larger than 2 mm in diameter and which may also contain, amongst other things, the remains of Foraminifera, mollusc and crustacean shell, and coralline algae. Not identifiable to the level of genus. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives, coral sand is not considered readily recognizable, and is therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Coral skeleton fragments (including gravel and rubble) – unconsolidated fragments of ~~broken finger-like~~ dead coral and other material between 2 and 30 mm measured in any direction, which is not identifiable to the level of genus. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives, coral skeleton fragments are not considered readily recognizable, and are therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Coral rock¹ is ~~(the collective term used for also live rock and substrate)~~ –hard consolidated material, >3 cm in diameter, formed of fragments of dead coral and which may also contain cemented sand, coralline algae and other sedimentary rocks. The term ‘coral rock’ should not be used on permits; which should instead refer to ‘live rock’ and ‘substrate’.

‘Live rock’ is the term given to large pieces of coral rock (usually > 0,5 kg each) to which are attached live specimens of invertebrate species and coralline algae not included in the CITES Appendices. Live rock should not have live specimens of CITES-listed coral species attached. Live rock is used as decoration and habitat in aquariums and is usually and which are transported in moist condition, but not in water, in crates. Live rock is subject to the provisions of the Convention and should be reported as *Scleractinia* spp.

‘Substrate’ is the term given to small pieces of coral rock (usually < 0.5 kg each), to which are attached invertebrates (of species not included in the CITES Appendices). Substrate is used as pedestal (base) for attached invertebrates, such as sea anemones or soft corals and is therefore and which are transported in water to keep these organisms alive, like live corals. Substrate should not have live specimens of CITES-listed coral species attached. Coral rock is not identifiable to the level of genus but is recognizable to the level of order. The definition excludes specimens defined as dead coral. Substrate, when readily recognizable as coral, is subject to the provisions of the Convention and should be reported as *Scleractinia* spp.

Dead coral – pieces of coral that are dead when exported, but that may have been alive when collected, and in which the structure of corallites (the skeleton of the individual polyp) is still intact; specimens are therefore identifiable to the level of species or genus.

Live coral – pieces of live coral transported in water and that are identifiable to the level of species or genus.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 9.6 (REV. COP19) ON TRADE IN READILY RECOGNIZABLE PARTS AND DERIVATIVES

New text is underlined.

RECALLING Resolutions Conf. 1.5, paragraph 3¹, Conf. 1.7², Conf. 2.18², Conf. 4.8, Conf. 4.24², Conf. 5.9, Conf. 5.22, paragraph c), Conf. 6.18², Conf. 6.22, last paragraph, and Conf. 7.11², adopted by the Conference of

¹ Rock that does not contain any corals or in which the corals are fossilized is not subject to the provisions of the Convention.

¹ Note from the Secretariat: repealed by Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev.), itself replaced by Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18).

² Note from the Secretariat: repealed by the adoption of document Com. 9.14.

the Parties at its first, second, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh meetings (Bern, 1976; San José, 1979; Gaborone, 1983; Buenos Aires, 1985; Ottawa, 1987; Lausanne, 1989), relating to readily recognizable parts and derivatives;

RECOGNIZING that Article I of the Convention defines a 'specimen' as including readily recognizable parts and derivatives of animals and plants but does not define the term 'readily recognizable', which is therefore subject to differing interpretations by the Parties;

NOTING that the trade in parts and derivatives regulated by one Party is therefore not always subject to regulation in others;

ACKNOWLEDGING that, under Articles III, IV and V of the Convention, Parties may allow import of CITES specimens from other Parties only upon presentation of CITES documentation;

CONSIDERING that proper monitoring of and reporting on trade in ranched specimens are only possible if all importing countries consider all products of the operation to be readily recognizable;

RECOGNIZING that the species or genera of coral from which coral sand and coral skeleton fragments [as defined in the Annex of Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15)³] are derived cannot be readily determined;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. AGREES that the term 'readily recognizable part or derivative', as used in the Convention, shall be interpreted to include any specimen which appears from an accompanying document, the packaging or a mark or label, or from any other circumstances, to be a part or derivative of an animal or plant of a species included in the Appendices, unless such part or derivative is specifically exempted from the provisions of the Convention;
2. RECOMMENDS that:
 - a) Parties consider all products of ranching operations to be readily recognizable;
 - b) Parties consider all specimens produced through biotechnology that meet the criteria in paragraph 1 to be readily recognisable unless specifically exempted from the provisions of the Convention; and
 - c) importing Parties that require that CITES export permits or re-export certificates accompany imports of parts and derivatives do not waive that requirement when such parts and derivatives are not considered to be readily recognizable by the exporting or re-exporting Party;
3. AGREES also that:
 - a) coral sand and coral skeleton fragments [as defined in the Annex of Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15)³] are not considered readily recognizable and are therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention; and
 - b) urine, faeces and ambergris that has been naturally excreted are waste products and are therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention; and
4. REPEALS the Resolutions, or parts thereof, listed hereunder:
 - a) Resolution Conf. 4.8 (Gaborone, 1983) – *Treatment of Exports of Parts and Derivatives without Permit from a Party to Another which Deems them Readily Recognizable*;
 - b) Resolution Conf. 5.9 (Buenos Aires, 1985) – *Control of Readily Recognizable Parts and Derivatives*;
 - c) Resolution Conf. 5.22 (Buenos Aires, 1985) – *Criteria for the Inclusion of Species in Appendix III* – recommendation c); and

³ Corrected by the Secretariat following the 12th, 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties: originally referred to Resolution Conf. 11.10, later corrected to Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP12), then to Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP14).

- d) Resolution Conf. 6.22 (Ottawa, 1987) – *Monitoring and Reporting Procedures for Ranching Operations* – the paragraph under RECOMMENDS.

33. Compliance matters

33.8 Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic..... SC78 Doc. 33.8

The Committee agreed the recommendation in in-session document SC78 Com. 4 as follows:

- a) Parties shall continue to suspend trade with the Lao People's Democratic Republic in specimens of all CITES-listed species for commercial purposes until the Lao People's Democratic Republic has substantially achieved the following recommendations, except for CITES-listed flora species for which an export quota has been published on the CITES website, noting that Lao PDR commits to share with the Secretariat the NDF for CITES-listed plants species prior to the issuance of any export permit:

Recommendations b) to u) were agreed at the third session of plenary as set out in executive summary SC78 Sum. 3.

61. Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

61.2 Implementation of paragraph 5 j) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) SC78 Doc. 61.2

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 5 as amended by Mexico and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as follows:

- b) agreed that the following provide guidance to Parties to implement the requirement stated in paragraph 5 j) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) that the Management Authority shall satisfy itself that the captive-breeding operation will make a continuing meaningful contribution according to the conservation needs of the species concerned:
- i) implementation of one or more of the seven conservation strategies referred to in registration applications received to date or others that could appear in the future along with adequate details and explanations on the specific strategy/-ies used, including how it is intended to benefit the conservation of populations of the species in the wild: reduction of the pressure on wild populations; contribution to the genetic diversity of the captive-bred population; potential reintroduction into the wild; contribution to research on the species; financial contribution to a conservation fund intended for the species bred by the facility; public awareness; and contribution to capacity building;

The other recommendations on this item remain unchanged from executive summary SC78 Sum. 3.

15. Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade (Decision 19.17)..... SC78 Doc. 15

The Committee agreed to propose the deletion of Decisions 19.15, 19.16 and 19.19 and the renewal of Decision 19.18 to the Conference of the Parties and agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 6 (Rev. 1) as follows:

The Committee welcomed the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc 15 and agreed to submit the following draft decisions 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* so that Parties can readily access 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) making use of existing information, encourage Parties, as appropriate, to make use of the guidelines and best practices in international wildlife trade recommended by WOAH, FAO and the Quadripartite, such as the WOAH *Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade*, including collaboration with national veterinary services, and development of wildlife surveillance, to mitigate infectious disease transmission and zoonotic spillover risks; and
- d) 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 developing guidelines by relevant organizations with mandates in animal health; in particular WOAH, FAO as well as other One Health partners such as WHO, UNEP and other relevant partners, 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 WOAH and FAO, as appropriate;
- b) promote collaboration between their CITES and wildlife authorities, their national Veterinary Services and animal health authorities, and their focal points to WOAH, 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:

- a) ~~review the report of the Secretariat under Decision 19.15, taking into account the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees under Decision 19.16;~~
- b) ~~taking into account the information provided by the Secretariat and the Animals and Plants Committees, consider the establishment of a CITES advisory body to provide guidance based on best available science to Parties, in their efforts to reduce the risk of zoonotic pathogen spillover and transmission from wildlife trade and associated wildlife supply chains, including markets;~~
- ae) ~~taking into account 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), 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~~
- be) provide its ~~guidance to the Secretariat and its~~ recommendations, which may include a new draft Resolution, to the ~~20th~~ 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Report of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee

The Committee agreed the recommendations of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee in in-session document SC78 Com. 7 with the deletion of paragraph 9 b) as follows:

7. Financial matters (Resolutions Conf. 19.1 and 18.2)..... SC78 Doc. 7

The Committee:

- a) approved the reports on the costed programme of work for the full year of 2023 and for the period up to 30 September 2024;
- b) approved the request to transfer the amount of USD 40,500 budgeted for year 2024 (under Standing Committee – conference staff-interpretation) to year 2025 to cover the actual 78th meeting of the Standing Committee meeting in February 2025; and
- c) noted other information provided in the report.

8. Report on proposed budget scenarios for 2026-2028 SC78 Doc. 8

The Committee:

- a) requested the Secretariat to brief the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) virtually by end of March 2025 on the draft budget scenarios and opportunities for cost savings (e.g. streamlining agenda items, document volume and translated pages) and revenue and, if the FBSC requests, again when reports for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties have been finalized;

- b) requested the Secretariat to prepare a budget scenario for true zero nominal growth, in which any increases in salary costs would be offset by decreases in the budget elsewhere, resulting in a flat budget;
- c) noted that the FBSC has advised the Secretariat on desired information to facilitate the discussion on the budget scenarios at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- d) encouraged Parties to consider the number of decisions and their associated costs when submitting or referring decisions to the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the impact on the limited resources of the Secretariat.

9. Administrative matters

9.1 Report of the Secretariat..... SC78 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1)

The Committee noted the report.

9.2 Report of the United Nations Environment Programme on administrative matters..... SC78 Doc. 9.2

The Committee noted the report and requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to make available the UNEP Partnership Policy to Parties.

13. Arrangements for meetings of the Conference of the Parties (*Resolution Conf. 19.1*)..... SC78 Doc. 13

The Committee noted the Secretariat's request to include a new budget line for arrangements of meetings of the Conference of the Parties in the operational budget under the CITES Core Trust Fund (CTL) for the triennium 2026-2028.

73. Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) (Decision 19.253)..... SC78 Doc. 73

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 8 as amended by the United States of America as follows:

The Committee:

- a) invited Brazil to share via a Notification to the Parties any relevant information on *Paubrasilia echinata* (including but not limited to plantation growth and stockpiles) and allowing Parties and other relevant stakeholders to consider and respond to it prior to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20); and,
- b) invited Brazil to share with the Secretariat any comments received from the Notification, so that they can be considered as part of the revisions to the draft report on "*Paubrasilia echinata* bows: Fine Tuning Traceability Solutions"; and
- c) requested the Secretariat to submit the following draft decisions on Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at CoP20:

Directed to Parties, in particular source, transit and destination Parties for Paubrasilia echinata

20.AA Parties, in particular source, transit and destination Parties for *Paubrasilia echinata* are invited to:

- a) consider the findings of the report "Paubrasilia echinata bows: Fine Tuning Traceability Solutions" (CITES Secretariat, 202X);
- b) collaborate, as appropriate, with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and entities to develop voluntary marking or identification systems for *Paubrasilia echinata* musical instruments to enhance traceability mechanisms for individual bows;
- c) establish a mechanism to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles; and

- d) provide the Secretariat with information relating to the voluntary marking or identification systems developed for bows and the mechanism used to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) consolidate information relating to:
 - i) the voluntary marking or identification systems developed by source, transit and destination Parties for *Paubrasilia echinata*;
 - ii) the mechanisms used to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles; and
 - iii) make the information available to Parties on request; and
- b) submit a report to the Standing Committee and Plants Committee relating to the information received from Parties in terms of Decision 20.AA.

Directed to the Plants Committee

20.CC The Plants Committee shall consider the report submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.BB and make recommendations as appropriate in preparation for the Secretariat's reporting to the Standing Committee under Decision 20.DD.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD The Standing Committee shall consider the report submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.BB, including any recommendations by the Plants Committee under Decision 20.CC, and make recommendations for consideration by:

- a) the source, transit and destination Parties for *Paubrasilia echinata*; and
- b) the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting, as appropriate.

65. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

65.2 Implementation of the priority recommendations from the review of the ETIS programme (Decision 19.96) SC78 Doc. 65.2

and

65.3 ETIS categorization of Parties (Decision 19.98) SC78 Doc. 65.3

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 9 as follows:

The Committee:

- a) agreed that no data validation will occur in relation to the additional data fields included in the ETIS data collection form (SC78 Sum. 4 – trade route known: Yes/No; Trade route verified: Yes/No) for data that was submitted prior to SC78, as the data validation process will not be applied retroactively to new data elements;
- b) agree to submit the following draft decision for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall, in consultation with TRAFFIC and the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group, revise the draft protocol in Annex 2a of document SC78 Doc. 65.2 taking

into consideration the different scenarios associated with the status of records subject to inquiry and their implications for the ETIS analysis.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.BB The Standing Committee shall, through the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, consider the revised draft protocol prepared under Decision 20.AA.

- c) agreed to submit the draft criteria for the categorization of Parties in paragraphs 9 a) and b) of document SC78 Doc. 65.3 for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Based on the advice provided by the MIKE-ETIS TAG and after obtaining further clarification from TRAFFIC on the use of the key data elements, the Secretariat proposes the following draft criteria to be used by TRAFFIC in Step 1 paragraph a) of the *Guidelines to the NIAP Process*:

- a) *Exclusion criteria – countries NOT to be included in analysis (as established in the ETIS trend analysis):*

Parties that over a 10-year period scored less than 100 based on seizure-in or seizure-out data using the following formula:

1 x number of small-scale seizures (less than 10 kg) +

10 x number of medium seizures (between 10 kg and 100 kg) +

100 x number of large-scale seizure (at least 100 kg)

- b) *Categorization criteria – Based on ETIS data (Note: Thresholds per category are not specified):*

- i) *Categorization criterion 1): Measure of scale of trade based on seizure-in and seizure-out bias-adjusted variables summarized as:*

A. Number of seizures by ivory type and weight classes

B. Total weight

C. Percentage volume of trade

The above criterion will be used as follows to inform the three NIAP categories:

Category A: A Party with among the highest volume of illegal trade compared to others.

Category B: A Party with large volume of illegal trade compared to others.

Category C: A Party with medium volume of illegal trade that could potentially escalate and become of greater concern if not closely monitored and addressed.

- ii) *Categorization criterion 2): Illegal ivory trade links and measure of law enforcement effort [LE ratio of seizure-in/(seizure-in+seizure-out)⁴]*

The above criterion will be used as follows to inform the three NIAP categories:

Category A: Parties regularly associated with ivory seizures made elsewhere and that fail or often fail to detect illegal consignments originating from, transiting through or entering their territories (low law enforcement ratio).

⁴ LE ratio of seizure-in/(seizure-in+seizure-out) also abbreviated as LE ratio of sz-in/sz-in+sz-out. Seizures made within country or territory are referred to as seizure in and seizures in which the Party was implicated along the trade chain as a country or territory of origin, re-export, export, or destination are referred to as seizure out.

Category B: Parties occasionally associated with ivory seizures made elsewhere, and that successfully intercept most illegal ivory consignments originating from, transiting through or entering their territories (medium to high law enforcement ratio)

Category C: Parties that are implicated in ivory seizures for the first time or are part of an emerging trend in terms of implicated records and vary in terms of law enforcement (low or medium law enforcement ratio)

61. Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

61.1 Review of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) (Decision 19.181) SC78 Doc. 61.1

The Committee invited Mexico to submit to the Conference of the Parties its proposal to delete “or Standing Committee” in new paragraph 5 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15).

The Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of Decision 19.181.

The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes* in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 61.1 and in in-session document SC78 Com. 10 as amended by the United States of America as follows:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 12.10 (REV. COP15) ON
REGISTRATION OF OPERATIONS THAT BREED APPENDIX-I ANIMAL SPECIES
IN CAPTIVITY FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strike through~~

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 8.15, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (Kyoto, 1992) and Resolution Conf. 11.14, adopted at its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000);

RECOGNIZING that Article VII, paragraph 4, of the Convention provides that specimens of Appendix-I animal species bred in captivity for commercial purposes shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix II;

RECOGNIZING also that the provisions of Article III of the Convention remain the basis for permitting trade in specimens of Appendix-I species of animals that do not qualify for the exemptions of paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article VII;

NOTING that import of wild-caught specimens of Appendix-I species for purposes of establishing a commercial captive-breeding operation is precluded by Article III, paragraph 3 (c), as explained further in Resolution Conf. 5.10 (Rev. CoP19)⁵, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting (Buenos Aires, 1985) and amended at its 15th and 19th meetings (Doha, 2010; Panama City, 2022);
RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19)⁶, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 10th meeting (Harare, 1997) and amended at its 11th and 19th meetings (Gigiri, 2000; Panama City, 2022), establishes the definition of 'bred in captivity' and provides the basis for determining whether or not an operation is eligible to be considered for registration;

NOTING that, in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 5, the import of specimens of Appendix-I species bred in captivity not for commercial purposes that are covered by a certificate of captive breeding does not require the issuance of an import permit and may therefore be authorized whether or not the purpose is commercial;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. DETERMINES that the term 'bred in captivity for commercial purposes', as used in Article VII, paragraph 4, shall be interpreted as referring to any specimen of an animal bred to obtain economic

⁵ Corrected by the Secretariat following the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

⁶ Corrected by the Secretariat following the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

benefit, whether in cash or otherwise, where the purpose is directed toward sale, exchange or provision of a service or any other form of economic use or benefit;

2. AGREES that the exemption of Article VII, paragraph 4, should be implemented through the registration by the Secretariat of operations that breed specimens of Appendix-I species in captivity for commercial purposes;
3. AGREES to the following procedure to register a captive-breeding operation for each Appendix-I listed animal species bred for commercial purposes;
4. AGREES also that determination of whether or not to apply the exemptions in Article VII, paragraph 4, for the export of specimens of Appendix-I animals bred in captivity for commercial purposes remains the responsibility of the Management Authority of the exporting Party on the advice of the Scientific Authority that each operation complies with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19);
5. RESOLVES that:
 - a) an operation may only be registered according to the procedure in this Resolution if specimens produced by that operation qualify as 'bred in captivity' according to the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19);
 - b) the first and major responsibility for approving captive-breeding operations under Article VII, paragraph 4, shall rest with the Management Authority of each Party, in consultation with the Scientific Authority of that Party;
 - c) the Management Authority shall provide the Secretariat with appropriate information to obtain, and to maintain, the registration of each captive-breeding operation as set out in Annex 1;
 - d) the Secretariat shall notify all Parties of each application for registration following the procedure set out in Annex 2;
 - e) Parties shall implement the provisions of Article IV of the Convention with respect to specimens of species included in Appendix I originating from operations that breed such specimens in captivity for commercial purposes;
 - f) registered captive-breeding operations shall ensure that an appropriate and secure marking system is used to clearly identify all breeding stock and specimens in trade, and shall undertake to adopt superior marking and identification methods as these become available;
 - g) the Management Authority, in collaboration with the Scientific Authority, shall monitor the management of each registered captive-breeding operation under its jurisdiction and advise the Secretariat in the event of any major significant change in the nature of an operation (such as a significant change in the composition of the breeding stock; change in marking methods; significant change in breeding methods; etc.) or in the type(s) of products being produced for export;
 - h) the Secretariat shall publish the Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes on the CITES website including the following information: code; name of operation; contact details reported by the Management Authority consistent with domestic law; date of establishment; date of CITES registration for each Appendix-I species registered; Appendix-I species registered; type(s) of products being produced for export reported by the Management Authority; any exclusions of products from the registration for the operation by the Management Authority or Standing Committee; origin of breeding stock; and marking methods;
 - hi) any Party within whose jurisdiction an operation is registered may unilaterally request the removal of that operation from the Register or amendment to exclude products from the registration for that operation without reference to other Parties by so notifying the Secretariat, and, in this case, the operation shall be removed or amended immediately;
 - j) the Secretariat shall note in the Register updated information received from a Management Authority pursuant to paragraph 5 g);

- ik) any Party, based on documented, evidence-based concerns, believing that a registered operation does not comply with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) or the original conditions for registration of the operation may, after consultation with the Secretariat and the Registering Party concerned, propose to the Standing Committee that the operation be deleted from the Register. At its following meeting, the Standing Committee shall, considering the concerns raised by the objecting Party, any other relevant information (documented evidence), and any comments from the Registering Party and the Secretariat, determine whether the operation should be deleted from the register, if the objection is justified; or whether to reject the objection. If so deleted, such an operation may only be reinstated in the Register by satisfying the procedure outlined in Annex 2; and
- jl) the Management Authority shall satisfy itself that the captive-breeding operation will make a continuing meaningful contribution according to the conservation needs of the species concerned;

6. URGES that:

- a) Parties, prior to the establishment of captive-breeding operations for exotic species, undertake an assessment of the ecological risks, in order to safeguard against any negative effects on local ecosystems and native species;
- b) Management Authorities work closely with captive-breeding operations to prepare the information required in Annex 1 of this Resolution, or establish a support group with members representing breeders and government in order to facilitate the procedure; and
- c) Parties provide incentives to their captive-breeding operations to register, such as faster processing of permit applications, issuance of a formal certificate of approval as an internationally registered breeding operation, or possibly reduced export permit fees;

7. ENCOURAGES:

- a) Parties to provide simple application forms and clear instructions to operations that wish to be registered (a sample application form is provided in Annex 3); and
- b) importing countries to facilitate import of Appendix-I species from registered captive-breeding operations;

8. AGREES further that:

- a) Parties shall restrict imports for primarily commercial purposes, as defined in Resolution Conf. 5.10 (Rev. CoP19), of captive-bred specimens of Appendix-I species to those produced by operations included in the Secretariat's Register and shall reject any document granted under Article VII, paragraph 4, if the specimens concerned do not originate from such an operation and if the document does not describe the specific identifying mark applied to each specimen; and
- b) comparable documentation granted in accordance with the Convention by States that are not Parties to the Convention shall not be accepted by Parties without prior consultation with the Secretariat; and

9. REPEALS the Resolutions listed hereunder:

- a) Resolution Conf. 8.15 (Kyoto, 1992) – *Guidelines for a procedure to register and monitor operations breeding Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes*; and
- b) Resolution Conf. 11.14 (Gigiri, 2000) – *Guidelines for a procedure to register and monitor operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes*.

**Changes to Annex 1 on Information to be provided to the Secretariat
by the Management Authority operations to be registered**

- 11. Type of product exported (e.g. live specimens, skins, hides, other body parts, etc.) and any products specifically excluded from export for the operation.

[NO CHANGES PROPOSED TO ANNEX 2]

Changes to Annex 3 – Sample application form

11. TYPE OF PRODUCT EXPORTED

Indicate the type of product exported (e.g. live specimens, skins, hides, other body parts, etc.) and any products specifically excluded from export for the operation.

11. Access to funding (*Decision 19.9*)SC78 Doc. 11

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 11 as amended by New Zealand and the United States of America as follows:

The Committee:

- a) noted the update provided by the Secretariat on access to funding;
- b) agreed on the revisions of Decisions 19.4 and 19.5. and agreed to renew Decision 19.6 as contained in Annex 1, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting (CoP20).
- c) agreed to propose to incorporate Decisions 18.4, 19.5, 19.6 and 19.7 in Resolution Conf. 19.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium* for consideration by the Conference of Parties at CoP20; and
- d) agreed that, with the amendments to Resolution 19.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium*, Decisions 19.8 and 19.9 can be proposed for deletion.

Directed to the Parties

18.4 ~~*Parties are invited to provide non-reimbursable loan of personnel services to the CITES Secretariat noting that the salary and administrative fee of non-reimbursable loan personnel shall be covered by the Party, with such personnel remaining under the administrative authority of the sending Party. Non-reimbursable loan personnel shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the mandate of the CITES Secretariat.*~~

19.4 *Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *engage with their Global Environment Facility (GEF) national focal points in order to take part in the national GEF processes and facilitate use of allocated GEF funding through the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program;*
- b) *contribute to the development and implementation of GEF projects, in line with existing GEF procedures and guidelines, that may have components related to the implementation of CITES, by communicating with their national GEF counterparts and informing them of relevant CITES requirements and processes; and*
- c) ~~*monitor*~~ *maintain awareness of the progress of the GEF Global Wildlife Program and the discussion on the implementation establishment of the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program under the eighth ninth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-89) and ensure that national projects, where applicable, can enhance the beneficiary Parties' ability to meet their obligations under CITES.*

Directed to the Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities

19.5 *All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are invited to provide financial or technical assistance for ~~ensuring~~ supporting the effective implementation of the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.*

19.6 *In providing financial assistance, Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are encouraged to take into consideration the administrative and financial management support needed to ensure that the funded activities*

are managed in an efficient, effective and accountable manner, and that they do not affect the Secretariat's core administrative tasks.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.7 — ~~The Secretariat shall:~~

- ~~a) continue to participate in the Program Steering Committee of the GEF Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, or other GEF mechanisms as appropriate, to ensure that GEF projects under the program are, as far as possible, aligned with CITES Decisions and Resolutions and contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention; and~~
- ~~b) provide technical advice and in-kind support to Parties in the development and implementation of their GEF projects under the Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, or other GEF mechanisms as appropriate.~~

Directed to the Parties

19.8 — ~~The Secretariat shall report on the progress on the implementation of Decisions 19.5 and 19.7 and make any recommendations, as necessary, to the Standing Committee.~~

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.9 — ~~The Standing Committee shall review the Secretariat's report and make recommendations, as necessary, to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.~~

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 19.1 ON
FINANCING AND THE COSTED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECRETARIAT
FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2023-2025

(new text is underlined)

After paragraph 18, insert the following new paragraphs:

- X. INVITES Parties to provide non-reimbursable loan of personnel services to the CITES Secretariat, noting that the salary and administrative fee of non-reimbursable loan personnel should be covered by the Party, with such personnel remaining under the administrative authority of the sending Party. Non-reimbursable loan personnel should carry out their duties and act in the interest of the mandate of the CITES Secretariat;

After paragraph 28, insert the following new paragraph:

- X. ENCOURAGES Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities to provide financial or technical assistance for ensuring/supporting the effective implementation of the Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. In providing financial assistance, consideration should be made for the administrative and financial management support needed to ensure that the funded activities are managed in an efficient, effective and accountable manner, and that they complement and do not affect the Secretariat's core administrative tasks;

After paragraph 37, insert the following new paragraphs:

- X. REQUESTS the Secretariat to:

- a) continue to participate in the Program Steering Committee of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Programme and other GEF mechanisms as appropriate, and to support the alignment of GEF projects under the program, as far as possible, with CITES Resolutions and Decisions and contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention; and

- b) provide technical advice and in-kind support to Parties in the development and implementation of their GEF projects under the Global Wildlife Program as appropriate;

47. Legal acquisition findings (Decision 19.131) SC78 Doc. 47

The Committee:

- a) agree to submit to the Conference of the Parties the amendments to Annexes 1 and 3 to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) contained in in-session document SC78 Com. 12 and set out below;
- b) requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to gather additional feedback and comments on the draft guidance on the chain of custody required for demonstrating the legal acquisition of the parental/breeding stock contained in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 47;
- c) requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft guidance taking into account comments made during this meeting, in-session document SC78 Com. 12 and feedback received to the Notification, and submit this to the Conference of the Parties for discussion at its 20th meeting;
- d) requested the Chair of the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, to prepare draft decisions to be submitted at CoP20, to allow for further consideration of this draft guidance in the next intersessional period.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 18.7 (REV. COP19) ON
LEGAL ACQUISITION FINDINGS

Annex 1

Guidance for making legal acquisition findings

4. Practical tools

- a) For the purpose of establishing the chain of custody, the Parties may make use of information systems and traceability tools.
- b) In verifying legal acquisition, Parties may wish to consult existing international legal databases such as CITES-LEX, ECOLEX, FAOLEX, and the World Legal Information Institute.
- c) Where Parties consider that more certainty is required to establish that a specimen was legally acquired, Parties may have recourse to request verification by the applicant using forensic tools such as DNA testing, stable isotope analysis, and radiocarbon dating.
- d) Management Authorities may use for their convenience the rapid guide for verifying legal acquisition below.

(...)

Annex 3

Rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings

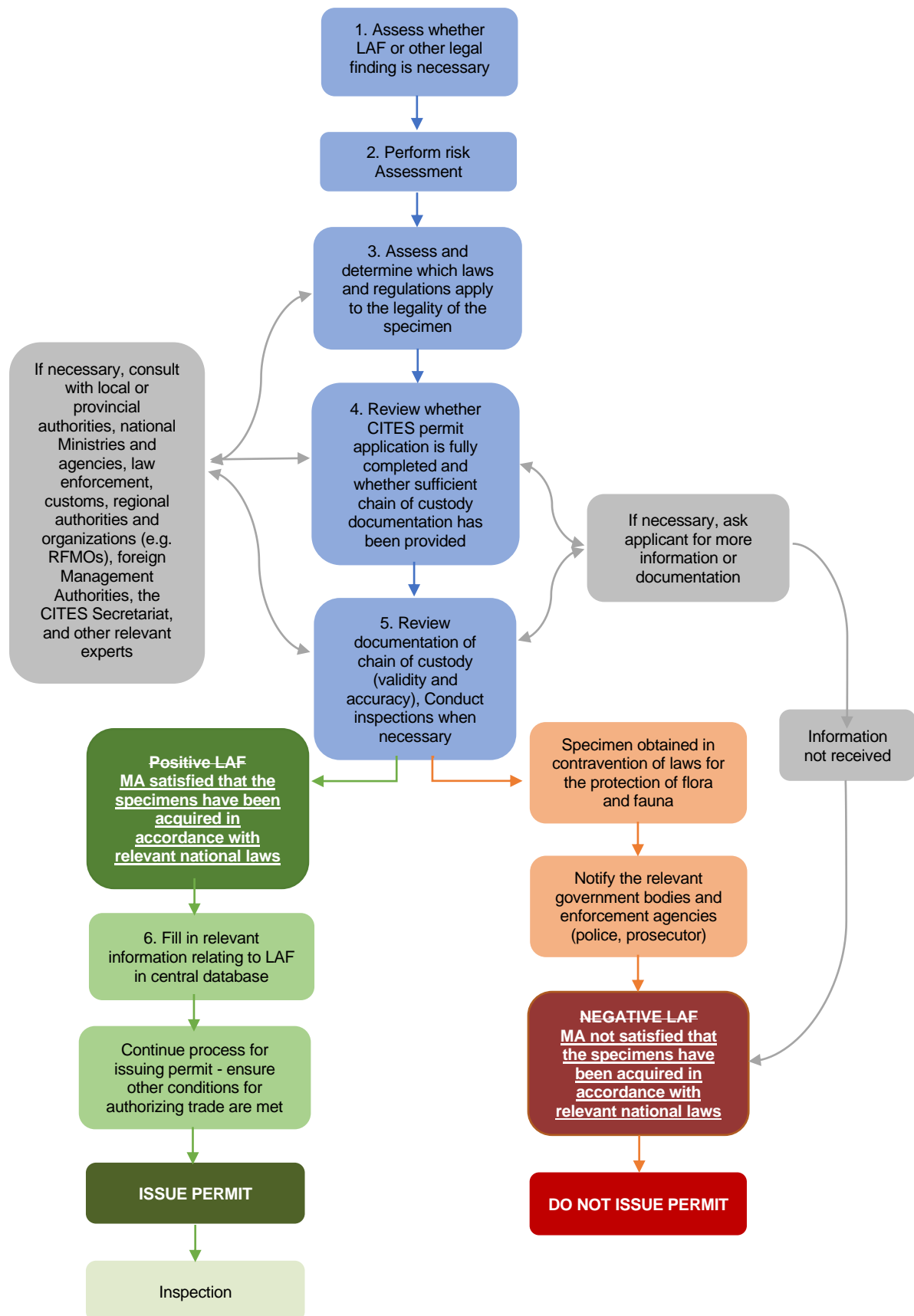
3. What laws and regulations apply to the legality of the specimen?

The Management Authority might identify, review and assess relevant national laws, regulations, policies, and management plans for the protection of flora and fauna to determine the relevant rules governing activities along wildlife supply chains. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and building upon FAOLEX, has developed the database “CITES-LEX” to provide a catalogue of instruments and resources aimed at facilitating Parties’ access to legislation and related information relevant to CITES implementation, and materials and resources to support the making of legal acquisition findings.

collaborating with FAO to design a tool to assist the CITES Management Authorities and the regulated community in responding to this question.

(see proposed amendments in the next page)

7. Framework for making a Legal Acquisition Finding



65. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

65.6 Trade in Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) (Decision 19.108)..... SC78 Doc. 65.6

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 13 as amended by the United States of America as follows:

Regarding the *List of key elements to be considered regarding registering, marking and tracing systems for captive Asian elephants* presented in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 65.6, the Committee endorsed the following version of the list and encouraged Asian elephant range States where any of the elements in the list are not yet included in their national systems for registering, marking, and tracing captive Asian elephants to include such elements to facilitate strengthened controls and oversight regarding captive elephants, including those in international trade.

LIST OF KEY ELEMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED
REGARDING REGISTERING, MARKING AND TRACING SYSTEMS FOR CAPTIVE ASIAN ELEPHANTS

The Standing Committee at its 78th meeting (SC78, Geneva, February 2025), endorsed the following *List of key elements to be considered regarding registering, marking and tracing systems for captive Asian elephants*. Asian elephant range States, when reviewing their existing national systems or considering the establishment of a new national system, are encouraged to where any of these elements are not yet included in their national systems for registering, marking, and tracing of captive Asian elephants, consider inclusion of these elements to facilitate strengthened controls and oversight regarding captive Asian elephants, including those in international trade.

1. National legislation or regulations making the registration of each individual captive Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) mandatory should be implemented.
2. A captive elephant registration database must be established and maintained by an appropriate governmental agency.
3. It should be compulsory to register and record in the database, any elephant born in captivity, within the first year from the date the animal was born.
4. An elephant identification document should be issued for each registered captive elephant, containing as a minimum, the following information:
 - i) a unique identification number;
 - ii) date of birth;
 - iii) sex
 - iv) parentage; if parentage of an elephant born in captivity is unknown then the individual is assumed to have been conceived in the wild and is classified as an F1 consistent with the terminology adopted by the Conference of the Parties in Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev CoP19) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*;
 - v) a detailed description of unique physical markings;
 - vi) a detailed description of any unique identifying characteristics, to include fixed morphological traits of tusk and ear types;
 - vii) the weight and size of the elephant at the time of registration;⁷

⁷ It should be compulsory to update the registration database and elephant identification document if any significant changes occur, i.e. as the elephant matures.

- viii) photos of the animal⁸, to include photographs of fixed morphological traits of tusks and ears, as well as front, back, right and left profile photos; and
 - ix) full details about the owner of the animal, including name, address and contact details, as well as records of any ownership transfer or translocation.
5. The following are elements that all Asian elephant range States should endeavour to include in their registration systems, if not yet done:
- i) microchipping of all captive elephants to facilitate identification through a unique microchip number; and
 - ii) establishing a database containing the DNA profile of each elephant in captivity.
6. Registration systems should make it compulsory for elephant owners to report:
- i) change of ownership;
 - ii) translocation of captive elephants;
 - iii) change of physical characteristics;
 - iv) change of unique markings;
 - v) death of elephants, within one month of the date of death; and
 - vi) for live elephants in international trade, the CITES permit information (purpose and source codes, importer, exporter, permit number, date of issuance and validity date).
7. Legislation or regulations should make provision for strict measures to be taken and penalties to be imposed on elephant owners that do not comply with any of the registration system requirements.

70. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) (Decisions 19.226 and 19.227)

70.1 Report of the intersessional working group..... SC78 Doc. 70.1

70.2 Report of the Animals Committee..... SC78 Doc. 70.2

and

70.3 Report of the Secretariat..... SC78 Doc. 70.3

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 14 as amended by the United States of America as follows:

With regards to responsibilities of the exporting State

The Committee:

- a) agreed to the proposed amendments in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings* to CoP20, with option 1 as the preferred option;

Rapid guide for the making of legal acquisition findings

[...]

3. What laws and regulations apply to the legality of the specimen?

The Management Authority should, in consultation with other relevant authorities, as appropriate, identify, review and assess national laws, regulations, policies, and management plans for the protection of flora and fauna to

⁸ It should be compulsory to update the registration database and elephant identification document with new photos if any significant changes occur, i.e. as the elephant matures.

determine the relevant rules that establish the requirements applicable to the CITES-listed species that are subject of an application for a CITES permit or certificate. To ensure a practical assessment, the Management Authority should ensure, as a minimum, that all legal requirements for obtaining a CITES-listed specimen pursuant to national laws, regulations, policies, and management plans for the protection of flora and fauna are fulfilled prior to the issuance of the CITES permit or certificate. For specimens of CITES-listed species being re-exported it should be established that prior trade was in accordance with the provisions of CITES, governing activities along wildlife supply chains. The Secretariat, in collaboration ~~is collaborating~~ with FAO, ~~to design~~ has developed 'CITES-LEX',⁹ an information system that provides national catalogues and comprehensive search capabilities of policies and legislation relevant to CITES and its implementation, ~~tool~~ building upon existing legal databases managed by FAO (for example, FAOLEX¹⁰ and the 'Shark Measures Database'¹¹) to assist the CITES Management Authorities and the applicants of CITES permits or authorizations ~~the regulated community~~ in identifying national laws, regulations, policies, and management plans for the protection of flora and fauna. ~~responding to this question.~~

[...]

5. Review validity, accuracy, and completeness of documentation of the chain of custody

The complexity and specific elements of the chain of custody will vary from taxa to taxa, and depend on the circumstances. The tables below provide an overview of elements that may be considered for (i) flora and fauna, (ii) timber, and (iii) marine species, and can be used to help identify relevant evidence.

Note that the columns containing "examples of possibly relevant documentation" are ~~merely~~ intended as illustrations of what documents an applicant could provide to demonstrate compliance with national laws. The applicability of these examples will depend on national regulatory/management regimes, including operational guidelines national legal frameworks. The lists of examples are not intended to be used as complete or exhaustive checklists. Rather, they are a set of options and examples of documentation which an applicant might provide to demonstrate compliance with applicable laws at each step of the chain of custody.

Table 1: Evidence of legality along the chain of custody for flora and fauna

This table also contains elements that may apply to timber and marine species, depending on applicable legal frameworks.

The applicant could be asked to provide evidence on:	Type of Activity/Specimen	Type of Legal Finding	Examples of possibly relevant documentation
1. Sourcing	Wild-sourced Specimens	LAF	Records, such as permits, <u>certificates</u> , licenses, and tags, records of quotas, harvest locations, and capture means, that demonstrate the specimen was legally removed from the wild under relevant wildlife or forestry laws or regulations; evidence of firearms license where restricted and relevant; invoices related to the hiring of guides or professional hunters, where required; salvage permits.
	Ranched specimens	LAF	Records, such as permits, licenses, and tags, that demonstrate that the specimen was legally removed from the wild under relevant wildlife conservation laws or regulations. Records that document the rearing of specimens at the facility, including signed and dated statement by the owner or manager of the facility that the specimens

⁹ *CITES-LEX is a non-binding research tool that provides national catalogues and comprehensive search capabilities of legislation and policies relevant to the implementation of CITES to assist Parties and regulated individuals and entities engaged in trade provides.*
<https://citeslex.fao.org>

¹⁰ <https://www.fao.org/faolex/en>

¹¹ <https://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/>

			were reared at the facility in a controlled environment; marking system, if applicable; and photographs or video of the facility.
	Confiscated specimens	LAF	Copy of remission decision, legal settlement, or disposal action after forfeiture or abandonment that demonstrates the applicant's legal possession.
	Bred in captivity	In accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Specimens of animal species bred in captivity</i>	Records that identify the breeder or propagator of the specimens that have been identified by birth or hatch date, sex, size, band number, or other marks. <u>Records, such as permits and licenses, that demonstrate that the breeder has authorization under relevant wildlife conservation laws or regulations.</u> <u>Any relevant management plans for the species.</u>
	Artificially propagated	In accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Regulation of trade in plants</i>	Records that identify the nursery or propagator of the specimens that have been identified by the propagation date.
	Captive-born (F)	LAF	Records that identify the breeder or propagator of the specimens that have been identified by birth or hatch date, sex, size, band number, or other marks.
	Assisted production plant (Y)	LAF	Records that identify the propagator of the specimens that have been identified by propagation date.
	Previously imported specimens	Re-export	Copy of the previous CITES document that accompanied the shipment into the importing country.
2. Ownership and transfers			Certificates of ownership, and documentation of legal transfers, such as sales bills, receipts, and registrations. In the case of older specimens, in particular, those benefiting from pre-Convention status, this documentation may not exist. If the level of risk is low, an affidavit of ownership that explains the circumstances might be permissible. Additionally, for ivory and rhinoceros horn benefiting from pre-Convention status, the use of reliable methods to verify the date of acquisition, such as carbon-14 dating, may be possible in cases where documentation does not exist.
3. Transport			Licenses, waybills relating to transport of specimens of fauna and flora from place of capture or harvest to place of provisional storage prior to export, packing lists established by the applicant

		which clearly describe the specimens to be dispatched and inspection records.
4. Processing – taxidermy, meat processing, leather or fur processing, cosmetic, medicinal and food processing		Facility registrations, facility licenses, receipts, invoices, other official transaction documents, sanitation, <u>last inspection reports</u> and health code records.
5. Payment of taxes, duties and fees		Proof/receipt of payment of taxes, duties and fees applicable to trade in fauna and flora within the specific national context.

[...]

Table 3: Evidence of legality along the chain of custody for marine species

The Convention regulates international trade in specimens as well as including trade in specimens taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

When a specimen is taken from ABNJ by a vessel flagged in one State, and landed in a different State, this qualifies as export and import under the Convention. The flag State of the vessel is the exporting State and the State where the specimen is landed is the importing State, and the provisions of Articles III, IV and V concerning legal acquisition findings apply. If, after landing, the State where the specimen was landed (importing State, in such case) exports the same specimen to another State, this qualifies as a re-export under the Convention. In this scenario, the State where the specimen was landed becomes the State of re-export, and the provisions of Articles III, IV and V concerning legal acquisition findings apply.

When a specimen is taken from ABNJ by a vessel flagged in one State, and landed in the same State, this is known as an introduction from the sea. Such State is the State of introduction, and the provisions of Article III and IV concerning legal acquisition findings apply. Resolution. Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea* states that Parties involved in such a transaction should satisfy themselves that the specimen was acquired and landed in accordance with applicable measures under international law for the conservation and management of living marine resources. For further details, see Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16). If, after landing, the State of introduction exports the specimen to another State, this qualifies as an export and import under the Convention. The State of introduction becomes the State of export, the other State receiving the specimen is the State of import, and the provisions of Articles III, IV and V concerning legal acquisition findings apply.

If a specimen is taken from ABNJ by a chartered vessel and transported to the chartering State, the transaction may be treated as either an introduction from the sea, or as an import-export, as mutually agreed in writing by the States in question (i.e. the State where the vessel is registered and the chartering State). This applies regardless of whether the specimen is of an Appendix-I or Appendix-II species. However, when the specimen is of an Appendix-II species, and the specimen is transported to a third State, the trade should be treated as export-import. For further details, see Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16).

When a specimen is taken from the jurisdictional waters of a coastal State and landed in a different State, this qualifies as export and import under the Convention. That coastal State is the exporting State and the State where the specimen is landed is the importing State, and the provisions of Articles III, IV and V concerning legal acquisition findings apply.

It is therefore important, as a preliminary step, to identify where the catch will occur (e.g. ABNJ, a State's exclusive economic zone or a State's territorial waters) and all States involved in the trade transaction to determine the requirements that may apply to each State. ~~including if the vessel is chartered and it is useful to identify whether the State is a port State and Party to the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA).~~

Additionally, it is pertinent to identify:

- i) the State under whose flag the vessel (that has harvested the specimen of a CITES-listed species) is operating;

- ii) the State where the specimen is landed;
- iii) whether the vessel involved is chartered by another State;
- iv) whether, after landing, the specimen is subject of another international trade transaction involving a different State;
- v) whether the States involved in the trade transaction are members of or participants in a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) and whether such RFMO has applicable obligations, including conservation and management measures (CMMs) that apply to regional port State measures; and
- vi) applicable measures under international law for the conservation and management of living marine resources, including those of any other treaty¹², convention or agreement with conservation and management measures for the marine species in question.

It is also important to note that for the authorization of trade in marine species under the Convention, it is irrelevant whether the caught specimen was targeted or bycatch. Both targeted catch and bycatch should be documented and reported. The provisions of the Convention fully apply to bycatch.

The applicant could be asked to provide evidence on:	Examples of possibly relevant documentation
1. Legal authority to capture a specimen	Quotas, Licenses, Fishing agreements, Fishing permit, Ministerial agreement or regulation, or fishing record.
2. Timing and location of the catch	Digital positioning data, including Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data, Navigation system data (e.g., GPS data), or Automatic Identification System (AIS) data (for larger vessels). <u>Harvest location(s) such as fishery management areas, including regional management areas,</u> <u>Physical and/or electronic catch report forms, when available,</u> <u>Port of landing,</u> Observer data or logbooks; physical and/or electronic catch report forms.
3. Gear/technique employed	License/permit, Fishing agreements, Observer data or logbooks, when available, Physical and/or electronic catch report forms, when available.
4. The name of the vessel that captured the specimen	Vessel registration, flag State, License, authorization, permit.
5. Identification of vessel captain/master	Captain's certificate/license.
6. Transshipment occurrences	Authorisation issued by the national competent authority to engage in transshipment, Observer data relating to transshipment, when available, Transshipment entries in logbooks, Transshipment authorization by the competent national authority, VMS, AIS, or GPS data showing transshipment activity. <u>Compliance with relevant RFMOs obligations and/or national regulations related to transshipment including:</u> <u>Authorisation issued by the national competent authority to engage in transshipment,</u>

¹² For instance, as applicable, the Agreement on Port States Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA), whose Annex B explicitly refers, among the documentation to be reviewed during port inspection procedures, the documents required under CITES.

	<u>Observer data relating to transshipment, when available,</u> <u>Transshipment entries in logbooks,</u> <u>Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), Automatic Identification System (AIS),</u> <u>or navigation system data (e.g. GPS data) showing transshipment activity</u>
7. Compliance with measures relating to processing and handling of catch	<u>Records or other information showing compliance with safe handling guidelines and the requirements to land sharks with or without their fins naturally attached, as fin-to-carass ratios and/or fins attached rules (in case of shark fishing) established under domestic measures or any applicable RFMO Conservation and Management Measures,</u> <u>Observer data,</u> <u>Logbooks,</u> <u>Records showing compliance with national regulations, including measures consistent with individual National Action Plans for the conservation and management of sharks adopted by the country,</u> <u>Records showing compliance with regulations on prohibition to take and land certain species,</u> <u>Records showing compliance with regulations including those that establish time and/or area closures for temporary bans to fish certain species.</u>
8. Compliance with bycatch ¹³ and discard measures	<u>Records showing compliance with obligations domestic measures or RFMO Conservation and Management Measures related to bycatch and discards, such as time and/or area closures, specific gear requirements, retention prohibitions, safe handling guidelines; as established under domestic measures or to demonstrate for compliance with RFMO obligations, where relevant.</u> <u>Observer data or logbooks,</u> <u>Physical and/or electronic catch report forms, when available,</u> <u>Catch report forms.</u>
9. Payment of taxes, duties and fees	Proof or receipt of payment of taxes, duties and fees applicable to marine species within the specific national context.
10. Landing at a port or beach	<u>Fishing permit or fishing records,</u> <u>Certificate of monitoring and control and landing (identification and quantification of species; inspection of fishing methods,</u> <u>Authorization and distribution of permits for movement of fishing products,</u> <u>Documents/regulations demonstrating compliance with requirements to land sharks with or without their fins naturally attached, or finning.</u> <u>For artisanal fisheries: a r</u> <u>Review of authorized ports for landing; review of formats which include a certificate of the landing of marine species; the information gathered is registered in the country database (Fisheries Ministries or Agencies).</u>

b) invited the Secretariat to propose edits to wording in option 1 to be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to CoP20 noting that the intention is to refer to all areas that are not areas beyond national jurisdiction; and

c) noted that certain Parties were in favor of option 2 in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 70.1.

With regards to the eNDF tool

d) The Committee invited the Secretariat to propose draft decisions to host the eNDF tool on the CITES website with the most cost-efficient and effective method, which would be subject to external funding, to CoP20.

¹³ *Bycatch is understood by the FAO as being a 'component of the catch which represents non-targeted fish associated with the catch of the target species or group towards which fishing effort is directed, or other aquatic organisms taken incidentally during the course of fishing (e.g. birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates).*

With regard to the addition of catch locations to reporting

The Committee

- e) invited the Secretariat to propose the inclusion of catch location information, by expanding source code X for specimens taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any state and source code W for specimens taken from the wild, using FAO Major Fishing Areas in the *Guidelines for preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and practical guidance on how Parties can consistently and accurately collect this information for all relevant trade; and
- f) noted that there are practical concerns regarding the implementation and certain Parties expressed preference for expanding source codes X and W using Ocean Basins; and

With regards to draft decisions

- g) The Committee agreed to submit the draft decisions in Annexes 1 and 2 to document SC78 Com. 14 to CoP20 and agreed to propose for deletion Decisions 19.222 to 19.227:

CONSOLIDATED DRAFT DECISIONS ON SHARKS AND RAYS (*ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.*)

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) consistent with Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, provide brief information (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat, in particular on any national management measures, including new or updated national plans of action for sharks, that prohibit commercial take or trade;
- b) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 20.BB including sharing any non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, and any other scientific information on sharks and rays and share their experience in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark and ray species, in particular current challenges;
- c) consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) reviewed under Decision 20.EE, paragraphs a) and c); if so, these Parties are strongly encouraged to participate in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision 20.EE; and
- d) seek external funding for a dedicated marine species officer and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
 - i) consistent with Resolution Conf 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, provide concise (with 200 word executive summary, if the report exceeds four pages) new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular:
 - A. the making of NDFs;
 - B. the identification of CITES-listed shark-products in trade;
 - C. the monitoring of export data of CITES-listed shark, parts and derivatives, and any suitable remedial measures applied to limit the export of specimens in order to maintain each species throughout its range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem;
 - D. capacity-building needs; and

- ii) share with the Secretariat their non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, and any other scientific information on sharks and rays, to post in the sharks and rays web portal;
- iii) share with the Secretariat their experience in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark and ray species, in particular:
 - A. challenges related to CITES permitting process including but not limited to the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings; and
 - B. challenges related to transport of biological samples for research and data collection purposes in the context of fisheries management including the context of the provisions on introduction from the sea in Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16);
- b) provide information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010, sorted by species and, if possible, by product at the shipment level;
- c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above; and
- d) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

20.CC Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties, especially developing countries and small island developing states, upon request;
- b) liaise with relevant Regional Fishery Bodies (RFB) including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Arrangements (RFMO/As) to identify opportunities for capacity-building with the same organizations, possibly in the form of attending meetings (where the RFB permits such attendance) or by directly liaising with the Secretariat of the organization to provide this information to its membership and/or the provision of training;
- c) collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to verify that information about Parties' shark management measures is correctly reflected in the shark measures database developed by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/>) and if not, support FAO in correcting the information;
- d) seek to collaborate with Parties and organizations to establish a repository to hold imagery under a Creative Commons license of wet and dried unprocessed shark, parts and derivatives (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of automated species identification development through a range of novel technologies; and
- e) investigate mismatches and possible errors (e.g. differences in transactions reported by exporter/importer countries under the same permit; weights; species; etc.) in the CITES Trade Database and make corrections, where possible;
- f) communicate with Parties that do not appear to be reporting exports of sharks and rays despite available information showing otherwise (i.e., trade only reported by importing countries) to determine the reason for underreporting and provide necessary support to encourage reporting;
- g) explore opportunities for information exchange between fisheries researchers, fisheries authorities and CITES Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities, as appropriate, to facilitate efficient transport of biological samples for scientific and diagnostic purposes taking into consideration the discussions that occurred under Decision 19.160 and the responses to the Notification called for in Decision 20.BB, paragraph a) iii); and
- h) bring the results of activities in this present Decision to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.DD The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the information collated by the Secretariat under Decision 20.BB and the results of activities described under Decision 20.CC; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to Standing Committee

20.EE The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider if there is a need to develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II;
- b) consider the FAO's on-going guidance on Catch Document Schemes, Port State Measures and any other measures to reduce Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing;
- c) in consultation with the Animals Committee, review challenges and consider the need for the development of further appropriate mechanisms, including guidance, related to transport of biological samples for research and data collection purposes in the context of fisheries management including the context of the provisions on introduction from the sea in Resolution Conf 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) and make recommendations to CoP21; and
- d) report its findings under the present Decision to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

20.FF The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the comments and recommendations provided by the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat under Decisions 20.AA, 20.BB, 20.CC and 20.DD; and
- b) prepare a report with any necessary recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention for sharks and rays for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON THE *FEASIBILITY OF AN ADAPTED RST PROCESS FOR SHARKS AND RAYS*

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) draft a report that envisions an adapted Review of Significant Trade process for sharks and rays, which would:
 - i) select high priority species in international trade consistent with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*;
 - ii) determine the stocks that are affected for the selected species; then
 - iii) identify range and fishing States with significant trade for the relevant stocks of concerns; and
- b) provide the Animals Committee with the report with the implications and feasibility of implementing such a process and any amendments that may be necessary to Resolution Conf 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB The Animals Committee shall review the report by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA and make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall review the recommendations by the Animals Committee under Decision 20.BB and report to CoP21.

63. Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade (Decision 19.186) SC78 Doc. 63

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 15 as amended by the Secretariat as follows:

The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties:

**DRAFT DECISIONS ON IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON SPECIES
AT RISK OF EXTINCTION AFFECTED BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall, subject to external resources:

- a) update and expand the materials in the Virtual College relating to the preparation and submission of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices as a capacity-building measure with the goal of providing more comprehensive and useful advice to Parties who may wish to prepare such proposals;
- b) develop a dedicated page, where Parties can upload material such as:
 - i) methodologies used for identifying species at risk of extinction that are or may be threatened by international trade and are either not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation;
 - ii) information or analyses on the status of species (or other taxonomic groups) at risk of extinction that are or may be threatened by international trade and are either not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation; and
 - iii) information in regards to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), specifically in Annex 2.b, on species (or other taxonomic groups) that may be considered as look-alikes of taxa referenced in paragraph b) ii).
- c) update the page described in paragraph b) with information derived from activities implemented by the Secretariat based on Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
- d) report on progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) to c) above to the Standing Committee when appropriate.

Directed to Parties

20.BB Parties are invited to:

- a) upload information for inclusion on the dedicated page described in Decision 20.AA, paragraph b), relating to methodologies, information or analyses on species or other taxonomic groups at risk of extinction that are or may be threatened by international trade, plus their look-alikes, including the name of the Party or Parties that submitted the information and the date of submission;
- b) thereby prioritise the best available scientific data and technical information, including peer-reviewed materials or publications, government reports or reports from other official bodies and relevant stakeholders and state whether the information has been peer-reviewed. Parties

are encouraged to consider utilising the IPBES four-box model for the qualitative communication of confidence or other appropriate methods where possible; and

- c) provide feedback to the Secretariat on their experiences with the approaches in Decisions 20.AA and 20.BB, once implemented.

Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other experts

20.CC Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other experts are invited to share with Parties the information referred to in Decision 20.BB.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, will review, as appropriate, the progress on the implementation of Decisions 20.AA to 20.CC as reported by the Secretariat.

27. Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities
[Decisions 17.57 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.31 (Rev. CoP19)] SC78 Doc. 27

The Committee agreed the recommendations in in-session document SC78 Com. 16 as follows and noted the comment made by Indonesia.

The Committee:

- a) regarding Decision 17.57 (Rev. CoP19), recognized that there is a need for consistency in the terminology used in CITES and invited the Conference of the Parties to advise on the preferred terminology;
- b) regarding Decision 18.31, agreed to submit the non-binding *Guidance on consulting indigenous peoples and local communities* on proposals to amend the Appendices* found in the Annex to document SC78 Com. 16 for consideration to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) agreed to submit the following draft decisions to CoP20:

Directed to the Parties

20.AA Parties are invited to:

- a) use the non-binding *Guidance on consulting with indigenous peoples and local communities* on proposals to amend the Appendices*, as appropriate to their national circumstances, when preparing for CITES CoP21;
- b) consider funding, facilitating or otherwise supporting the consultation taking place within the range State, including supporting the cost of translation and interpretation to local languages; and
- c) share their views and experiences in using the non-binding guidance on consulting indigenous peoples and local communities* on proposals to amend the Appendices.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.BB Taking into consideration document SC78 Doc. 27, the Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider approaches to seek and review Party experiences in using the *non-binding guidance on consulting indigenous peoples and local communities* on proposals to amend the Appendices* in their preparations for CoP 21 in order to adjust the nonbinding guidance, as appropriate;

* For the purpose of these Decisions, "indigenous peoples and local communities" is understood to include rural communities

- b) consider whether and how to incorporate the ideas on engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities* at the national level proposed in document SC78 Doc. 27 into Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods* in a manner that avoids duplication;
- c) identify opportunities and limitations of the ideas on engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities* in CITES processes at the international level presented in document SC78 Doc. 27; and
- d) make recommendations regarding Decision 20.BB, paragraphs a), b) and c) to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- d) agreed that Decisions 17.57 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.31 (Rev. CoP19) have been completed and can be proposed for deletion.

CONSULTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES* ON PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE APPENDICES

Objective

The objective of this guidance is to support Parties in meaningfully engaging with indigenous peoples and local communities* during the development and submission of proposals to amend the Appendices. The guidance is aimed at supporting range State consultations in the consideration of proposals to amend the Appendices. The guidance could also be used for consultations prior to including species in Appendix III.

Guiding Principles of Consultation

To be meaningful, consultation is most effective when it is:

- Bi-directional and reciprocal: consultation should be two-way, with feedback provided to the consultees on how their views were addressed;
- When engaging with Indigenous Peoples, consultations should be undertaken to obtain free, prior and informed consent as stated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)
- Timely and predictable: engagement should begin early and follow a clear timeline, allowing sufficient time for meaningful feedback and input
- Accessible: consultation should be undertaken in clear jargon-free language, ideally in the language of the consultee
- Honest, transparent, respectful and gender responsive: the process should be unbiased and conducted with integrity and sensitivity to cultural norms
- Inclusive: the consultation process should reflect the diversity of indigenous peoples and local communities* and involve a diverse range of communities and community members

Identifying audience

National CITES Authorities are best placed to undertake the relevant consultations. These Authorities are able to identify relevant indigenous peoples and local communities* for consultations, including established national representative networks that may exist or other unique cultural context. Additionally, Parties may have provisions in national laws, regulations or policies that govern when and how to undertake consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities* within their borders.

* For the purpose of this guidance, "indigenous peoples and local communities" is understood to include rural communities

Timing of consultation

Parties are encouraged to initiate engagement (if they are a range State) or contact the national CITES Authorities of the range State(s) as soon as they begin considering preparing a proposal to amend the CITES Appendix I or II. Early consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities* at the proposal development stage will better allow for meaningful, substantive, relevant and timely consultation. Building on the guidance provided in Resolution Conf. 8.21 (Rev CoP16) on *Consultation with range States on proposals to amend Appendices I and II*, Parties should aim to begin consultations 182 – 250 days before the next scheduled Conference of the Parties.

Structure of a consultation

Each consultation process should be tailored to and respect the distinct characteristics of the indigenous peoples and local communities* being consulted. Some key elements of a consultation would include:

- Informed – the consultation clearly explains the CITES context and the relevance, implications and consequences of the proposal(s), including both its benefits and potential impacts, in a language and format that allows it to be understood in sufficient detail
- Deliberate – the consultation process provides indigenous peoples and local communities* relevant information with sufficient time for their review and for their holding independent discussion
- Respectful – the consultation acknowledges, honours, and respects any traditional knowledge being shared, and enables that knowledge to inform decision-making with science- and evidence-based approaches;
- Documented – a detailed record of the consultation process, including participants, discussions and outcomes, is made available in the language of the consultee
- Feedback – the consultees are provided with clear and timely communication on how the information and views shared were used in the proposal development

Documentation

Proponent Parties should include comprehensive details of the consultation process, such as whether consultations with indigenous peoples or with local communities took place, who was consulted, and the feedback received, including any views, concerns, or support expressed on the proposal. This information should be included in Section 10 of the supporting statement, in line with Annex 6 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*.

69. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.) (Decision 19.221)

69.1 Report of the intersessional working group..... SC78 Doc. 69.1

and

69.2 Report of the Secretariat..... SC78 Doc. 69.2

The Committee agreed that consensus could not be achieved on this issue within the Standing Committee and the draft decisions and the draft resolution on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species* (*Anguilla* spp.) in in-session document SC78 Com. 17, as amended by Poland and the Republic of Korea, be submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

The Committee noted the comments made by Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, the Dominican Republic, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of Decisions 19.218 to 19.221.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *EELS* (*ANGUILLA SPP.*)

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

20.AA Parties and relevant stakeholders are invited to provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 20.XX on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species* (*Anguilla spp.*).

Directed to Cuba, Egypt and Türkiye

20.BB Cuba, Egypt and Türkiye are requested to submit to the Secretariat up-to-date detailed information on trade in anguillid eels using the templates provided in Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018, to allow it to report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification inviting Parties and relevant stakeholders to provide information on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 20.XX on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species* (*Anguilla spp.*);
- ab) subject to extrabudgetary resources, develop a dedicated page on the CITES website to make relevant information on the trade and conservation of anguillid eel species or activities relating to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 20.XX on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species* (*Anguilla spp.*) provided by Parties or others, available; and
- bc) bring any updated information received under Decisions 20.AA and 20.BB and the results of activities under Resolution Conf. 20.XX on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species* (*Anguilla spp.*) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, with recommendations, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.DD The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels to the wild;
- b) explore options to facilitate discerning between European eels raised in aquaculture and wild European eels in CITES trade data;
- bc) consider any information brought to its attention by the Secretariat under Decisions 20.AA and 20.BB, paragraph b); and
- c) make recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee or the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.EE The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the comments and recommendations provided by the Animals Committee and the Secretariat under Decisions 20.AA to 20.DD; and
- b) prepare a report with any necessary recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention for anguillid eels, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 20.XX on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species* (*Anguilla spp.*), for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON *TRADE, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT*
OF ANGUILLID EEL SPECIES (ANGUILLA SPP.)

RECOGNIZING there is significant international demand for and trade in specimens of anguillid eels, and this can vary depending on the availability of certain species;

NOTING that anguillid eel species are traded internationally at several life stages, both live and processed - as juvenile/fingerling eels for consumption, restocking and aquaculture, as larger specimens both wild-caught and from aquaculture, and as processed products;

RECOGNIZING the important role anguillid eel species play in their ecosystems and in promoting the long-term conservation and restoration of these ecosystems;

RECOGNIZING that well managed anguillid populations of anguillid eel species can support sustainable fisheries and contribute to sustainable livelihoods, food security and development;

RECOGNIZING the important role that sustainably managed populations of anguillid eel species play in supporting the rights of Indigenous peoples, and local communities, and international trade and the conservation of that does not threaten the conservation status of anguillid eel species;

NOTING common threats to anguillid eel species, including unsustainable and/or illegal fisheries and associated trade, lack of appropriate domestic regulatory measures, habitat degradation or loss, barriers to migration including hydropower, disease and parasites, invasive species, pollution and oceanic and climate change;

CONCERNED that some anguillid eel species have poor conservation status, including low juvenile recruitment, and the aforementioned threats have contributed to this status;

CONCERNED ~~ALSO~~ that CITES-listed anguillid eel species are known to have been trafficked internationally as non-CITES-listed anguillid eel species contrary to the requirements of the Convention, undermining anguillid eel conservation;

RECOGNIZING that anguillid eels are semelparous and panmictic across their natural ranges with multiple life stages often migrating through different jurisdictions and therefore require international collaboration for successful conservation and management, including aligning domestic measures where appropriate;

~~RECOGNIZING the duty of all States to cooperate, either directly or through appropriate sub-regional or regional organizations in the conservation and management of anguillid eels;~~

RECALLING that coastal States in whose waters anguillid eel species spend the greater part of their life cycle have a responsibility for the management of this species in accordance with the paragraph 1, Article 67 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

RECALLING that European eel has been listed in CITES Appendix II since 2009 and in the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) Appendix II since 2015;

ACKNOWLEDGING the difficulties in identification among different anguillid eel species across life stages and specimen types, including parts and derivatives, notably where domestic trade, traceability, and management measures are insufficient to support such identification;

COMMENDING the efforts to date towards improved fisheries management and legal, traceable and sustainable trade of anguillid eels, including national or regional trade restrictions for particular species; and

WELCOMING the availability of updated CITES guidance on the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for trade in CITES specimens from the NDF workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya (December 2023), applicable to anguillid eel species;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. URGES Parties, especially range States of anguillid eel species and Parties involved in their trade, to:

- a) strengthen sub-national, bilateral, and multilateral co-ordination and information sharing within and between countries involved in international trade in anguillid eels to improve traceability and the effectiveness enforcement measures;
 - b) identify knowledge gaps that contribute to uncertainty relating to population status and hinder effective conservation and management of anguillid eels, including prioritising species-specific research and data collection in all life stages, trade patterns and volumes and mitigation measures for addressing direct and indirect threats;
 - c) ensure appropriate monitoring of anguillid eel populations, including use of fishery-dependent and fishery-independent methods, and share the results and other relevant data on the status of anguillid eel populations with the appropriate ~~regional fisheries~~ bodies (e.g., regional fisheries or other bodies with management authority) so that a current assessment of the state of anguillid eel stocks can be established and updated on a regular basis.
 - d) collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding any non-detriment finding or other sustainability studies and fisheries management best practice on anguillid eel species they have undertaken, especially where the Parties share catchments or water bodies, and explore the different approaches that might be taken for making non-detriment findings for species traded as fingerlings (FIG) compared with those traded as other live eels (LIV), seeking the review and advice from the Animals Committee or other suitable bodies on any non-detriment findings, where appropriate;
 - e) develop and/or implement adaptive eel management plans with defined and time-bound goals at national, sub-national, or catchment level to enhance collaboration between authorities and other stakeholders with responsibilities for eel management both within and, where water bodies or catchments are shared, between States;
 - f) provide the Secretariat with information regarding new or updated measures, including quotas, that have been implemented to restrict the trade in live anguillid eels or their parts and derivatives at any life stage; and
 - g) report trade in CITES-listed anguillid eels at species-level and differentiated by life stage (as set out in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*) and consider modifying their national customs code system to differentiate between different eel products and life stages;
2. RECOMMENDS that Parties in which illegal harvest or trade of anguillid eels species occurs:
- a) if not yet in place, develop and enact legislation and other enforcement measures to address illegal harvest or trade in anguillid eel species;
 - b) strengthen existing measures that safeguard the effective implementation of the Convention, ensuring that the trade in CITES-listed anguillid eels is legal, sustainable and traceable;
 - c) collaborate with national and sub-national enforcement authorities and fisheries bodies to ensure that measures are in place to adequately address and tackle any illegal trade, such as evaluating the data and cases of illegal trade for anguillid eels and adapting, where appropriate, fisheries management and authorisations to reduce unsustainable and/or illegal harvest and eliminate opportunities for illegal trade; and
 - d) identify opportunities ~~for collaboration to collaborate internationally~~ amongst law enforcement agencies, at the national, sub-national, and international level, on investigative and prosecutorial best practice for addressing illegal trade of *Anguilla* species, to characterise illegal trade routes and share intelligence to support enforcement efforts;
3. RECOGNIZES that due to limited understanding of the stock recruitment relationship for CITES-listed eel species, source code R (Ranching) is not appropriate for wild harvested specimens of CITES-listed anguillid eels raised in aquaculture facilities, unless there is sufficient scientific evidence that the definition of Ranching as included in Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) is met, including requirements for non-detriment findings;
4. ENCOURAGES Parties to improve coordination between the respective national focal points for other relevant international bodies or instruments, such as ~~Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)~~ the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES),

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, or CMS, where appropriate, and work through the respective mechanisms to strengthen research, training and data collection and harmonize with activities under CITES;

5. ENCOURAGES Parties to engage with relevant stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and sub-national authorities, in the development and/or implementation of conservation strategies and management plans for anguillid eel species;
6. INVITES Parties to share via the Secretariat any additional science-based conservation actions that have been implemented or are being considered to address non-harvest threats and improve the conservation status of anguillid eel species, such as altered hydrology, barriers to migration, habitat loss, pollution, parasites, disease, invasive species or climate change. This should include metrics used to assess the effectiveness of such measures;
7. INVITES Parties to share with other range States any lessons learned or best practices pertaining to the implementation of effective management and population monitoring of anguillid eels, ~~and other relevant aquatic species~~ and encourage Parties to exchange scientific, management, responsible fisheries and enforcement best practices;
8. INVITES Parties to provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Resolution to allow the Secretariat to provide recommendations to Parties via the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.
9. REQUESTS the Secretariat to make relevant information on the trade and conservation of anguillid eel species provided by Parties or others, including any relevant information provided under paragraph 1 of this Resolution, available on the CITES website and provide recommendations to Parties via the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

28. Livelihoods [Decision 18.34 (Rev. CoP19)] SC78 Doc. 28

The Committee agreed that consensus could not be achieved on this issue within the Standing Committee and that the recommendations in document SC78 Doc. 28 be submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

The Committee noted the comments made by Brazil, Canada, China, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Kuwait, Nigeria, Poland, Senegal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zambia.

14. CITES Strategic Vision (Decisions 19.13 and 19.14)..... SC78 Doc. 14

The Committee:

- a) agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.4 on *Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions* contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 14, noting that, at the request of Brazil, the first time the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, it should be followed by the terminology “adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its 15th meeting”;
- b) requested the Secretariat to publish the mapping of the areas of alignment between the *CITES Strategic Vision* and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework as contained in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 14 on the CITES website;
- c) requested the Secretariat to monitor the development of additional indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and bring to the attention of the Standing Committee any indicator that could be relevant for the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030*;
- d) agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of Decision 19.14;
- e) agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the amendments to Resolution Conf. 18.3 on *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* contained in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 14; and
- f) agreed that Decisions 19.11 to 19.13 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 16.4 ON
COOPERATION OF CITES WITH OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

RECOGNIZING the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2012, developed and adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its 10th 15th meeting in Nagoya, Japan/Montreal, Canada;

STRESSING that effective implementation of CITES is needed to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2012 and to achieve the Aichi targets;

UNDERLINING the commitment of the Convention CITES to demonstrate how the effective implementation of CITES contributes to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi targets;

RECOGNIZING the already existing significant cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions;

COMMENDING the ongoing and important cooperation among the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, such as through the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the Environmental Management Group, and in particular through its Issue Management Group on Biodiversity;

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Resolution Conf. 13.3 on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and Resolution Conf. 18.5 on Cooperation and synergy with the World Heritage Convention, as well as Decision 15.19 and Resolution Conf. 18.3 on CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-21-20430;

WELCOMING the decisions taken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals on cooperation, coordination and synergies with CITES and other biodiversity-related conventions;

RECOGNIZING the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *The Future We Want*, that recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and encouraging the Parties to MEAs to consider further measures to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance cooperation and coordination amongst MEAs;

CONVINCED of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to enhance coherent national level implementation of each of the conventions, as appropriate;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ENCOURAGES Parties to consider further opportunities to strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels; ~~and~~
2. RECOMMENDS that Parties further strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and other partners at the national level, as appropriate, to enhance coherent national-level implementation of the Convention;
3. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to contribute to the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by providing to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) any relevant data it has collected on the indicators for the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030, if so requested by the CBD Secretariat; and
4. ENCOURAGES Parties, through their CITES and CBD focal points, to take into account the information gathered for the development of non-detriment findings when reporting to CBD.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 18.3 ON
CITES STRATEGIC VISION: 2021-2030

(new text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~)

~~NOTING that the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at their 15th Conference of the Parties in 2020;~~

RECOGNIZING that the *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030* can make an important contribution to the ~~post 2020~~ Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its 15th meeting;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the findings in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the 2022 Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species to the work of CITES; and

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of global cooperation to address the threats posed by illegal trade in wildlife as recognized in, among others, Resolution ~~69/314~~ 77/325 of the United Nations General Assembly on *Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife* and the important role of the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime in this regard;

[...]

Annex

CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030

Introduction

[...]

With this new Strategic Vision, the Conference of the Parties to CITES outlines the Convention's direction for the 2021-2030 timeframe in fulfilment of its mandate. It is additionally recognized that Parties' efforts to implement the Convention may also provide benefit to, and draw strength from, efforts being undertaken in other fora, and in this sense highlights the linkages between CITES and, *inter alia*, the processes and actions listed below:

- the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and targets relevant to CITES, including those for terrestrial and marine wildlife;
- the ~~Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the post-2020~~ Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework being developed adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the 2022 Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species; and
- relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

[...]

Objective 4.2 The importance of achieving CITES' aim as a contribution to achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the ~~post-2020~~ Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, is recognized.

21. Capacity-building framework (*Decisions 19.41 and 19.43*)..... SC78 Doc. 21

The Committee agreed to propose the renewal of Decision 19.40 and the revisions of Decisions 19.41 to 19.43 as contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 21 to the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS 19.40 AND 19.41 (REV. COP20) TO 19.43 (REV. COP20) ON
CAPACITY-BUILDING FRAMEWORK

Directed to Parties

19.40 Parties are invited to share ideas, experiences, and information related to the development of an integrated capacity-building framework aiming to guide Parties, the Secretariat and external partners, as appropriate, to identify capacity-building needs and to prioritize, plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and review the benefit of their capacity-building efforts for more effective implementation of the Convention.

Directed to the Standing Committee, with inputs from the Animals and Plants Committees, the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, and the Secretariat

19.41 (Rev. CoP20) The Standing Committee shall establish an intersessional working group on the development of an integrated capacity-building framework to:

- a) continue the development of an integrated capacity-building framework, including a common language and clear definitions, to improve the implementation of the Convention, with inputs from the Animals and Plants Committees, the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, and the Secretariat;
- b) in doing so, ensure the representation of perspectives and contexts of different regions and stakeholders (including from Parties that fund and Parties that receive capacity-building support) and consider developing a mechanism for Parties to identify the specific needs that, if met, would allow them to achieve full capacity to implement CITES; and
- c) provide a draft integrated capacity-building framework (which may include conceptual models, tools and guidance), along with its recommendations, for consideration of the Standing Committee and onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its ~~20th~~ 21st meeting.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

19.42 (Rev. CoP20) The Animals and Plants Committees shall engage in consultations with the Standing Committee, as called for in Decision 19.41 (Rev. CoP20); and with the Secretariat as called for in Decision 19.43 (Rev. CoP20).

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

19.43 (Rev. CoP20) The Secretariat shall provide input to the Standing Committee and, subject to the availability of external funding and in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, as well as the Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, organize technical workshops and regional consultations that would facilitate the implementation by the Standing Committee of Decision 19.41 (Rev. CoP20).

74. Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species (Decision 19.264)..... SC78 Doc. 74

The Committee noted that the recommendations in paragraph 15 a) of document SC78 Doc. 74 could not be discussed and agreed that Decisions 19.261 to 19.264 can be replaced by the draft decisions recommended by the Plants Committee for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 74.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *TRADE IN MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS*
AGREED BY THE 27TH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 20TH
MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) finalize the study developed under Decision 19.261, paragraph c), and summarized in document PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add. for the consideration of the Plants Committee;

- b) work with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to consider the identified discrepancies listed in Annexes 2 to 4 of document PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add, and identify whether corrections or improvements to the nomenclature in CITES databases are necessary;
- c) subject to external funding, implement cross-references between CITES databases and the Medicinal Plant Names Services for CITES-listed MAPs, taking into account the technical advice of the Plants Committee agreed at its 26th meeting (see summary record PC26 SR); and
- d) report to the Plants Committee.

Directed to the Plants Committee

20.BB The Plants Committee shall

- a) review the study and the report submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.AA;
- b) continue to consider the draft Resolution on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants contained in the Annex to document PC27 Com. 3, including taking into account the report submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA, and make any recommendation as appropriate; and
- c) report to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Plants Committee and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

- 20. Language strategy for the Convention (Decision 19.39) SC78 Doc. 20
- 22. Implementation of Resolution Conf. 19.2 on Capacity-building..... SC78 Doc. 22
- 30. Review of Resolutions and Decisions SC78 Doc. 30
- 72. Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids (Orchidaceae spp.) (Decision 19.248) SC78 Doc. 72
- 78. Orchid specimens exempted through annotation #4 g) (Decision 19.271) SC78 Doc. 78

For agenda items 20, 22, 30, 72 and 78, the Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties inviting comments from Parties and other stakeholders for consideration by the Chair of the Standing Committee when these documents are submitted to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- 85. Any other business *No document*

There was no decision taken by the Committee.

- 86. Determination of the time and venue of the 79th and 80th meetings..... *No document*

The Committee noted that its 79th meeting would take place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 23 November 2025, and that its 80th meeting would be held immediately after the close of CoP20, on 5 December 2025.

- 87. Closing remarks *No document*

Following the remarks by the Secretary-General, the Chair thanked all participants for their cooperation, the Secretariat and the interpreters, and closed the meeting at 17h.