

CONVENCIÓN SOBRE EL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPECIES  
AMENAZADAS DE FAUNA Y FLORA SILVESTRES



Trigésima tercera reunión del Comité de Fauna  
Ginebra (Suiza), 12 – 19 de julio de 2024

Cuestiones estratégicas

PAPEL DE LA CITES EN LA REDUCCIÓN DEL RIESGO DE APARICIÓN DE FUTURAS ENFERMEDADES  
ZONÓTICAS ASOCIADAS AL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPECIES SILVESTRES

1. Este documento ha sido preparado por la Secretaría y la Copresidencia del Grupo de trabajo entre períodos de sesiones sobre el *Papel de la CITES en la reducción del riesgo de aparición de futuras enfermedades zoonóticas asociadas al comercio internacional de especies silvestres*.
2. En su 19ª reunión (CoP19, Ciudad de Panamá, 2022), la Conferencia de las Partes adoptó las Decisiones 19.15 a 19.19 sobre Papel de la CITES en la reducción del riesgo de aparición de futuras enfermedades zoonóticas asociadas al comercio internacional de especies silvestres, como sigue:

**Dirigida a la Secretaría**

**19.15** La Secretaría deberá:

- a) *publicar una Notificación a las Partes, solicitando a las Partes que informen sobre las medidas que aplican para prevenir y mitigar el riesgo de derrame y transmisión de patógenos derivado del comercio de vida silvestre y las cadenas de suministro de vida silvestre conexas, incluidos los mercados, y poner los resultados a disposición en el sitio web de la CITES como una compilación de respuestas que pueden ser útiles para otras Partes;*
- b) *revisar su acuerdo de cooperación con la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OMSA) para identificar cualquier actualización necesaria para reflejar la orientación proporcionada por el Comité de Fauna y el Comité Permanente y trabajar con la OMSA a fin de, entre otras cosas, desarrollar un programa de trabajo conjunto para determinar soluciones efectivas y prácticas para reducir el riesgo de derrame de patógenos en las cadenas de suministro de vida silvestre;*
- c) *colaborar con la Convención sobre las Especies Migratorias para evaluar el posible riesgo de derrame de patógenos y encontrar soluciones prácticas con miras a reducir el riesgo de derrame de patógenos derivado de la vida silvestre;*
- d) *tras haber realizado las consultas necesarias, preparar un informe resumiendo las actividades existentes o los acuerdos formales con otras entidades, como por ejemplo, el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB) y otros acuerdos pertinentes relacionados con la biodiversidad, la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO), la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) y el Consorcio Internacional para Combatir los Delitos contra la Vida Silvestre (ICWC), así como las posibles oportunidades emergentes, e identificar oportunidades para una mayor colaboración práctica encaminada a reducir el riesgo de derrame de patógenos o de transmisión de enfermedades zoonóticas en las cadenas de suministro del comercio internacional de vida silvestre, incluida la consideración de un posible órgano asesor de la CITES; y*

- e) *presentar un informe al Comité de Fauna y el Comité Permanente sobre la aplicación de la Decisión 19.15, párrafos a) a d).*

**Dirigida a los Comités de Fauna y de Flora**

- 19.16** *Los Comités de Fauna y de Flora deberán examinar el informe de la Secretaría con arreglo a la Decisión 19.15 y formular recomendaciones al Comité Permanente, inclusive sobre las soluciones efectivas y prácticas para reducir el riesgo de derrame de patógenos en las cadenas de suministro de vida silvestre, las oportunidades para la colaboración práctica bajo la dirección de las resoluciones, decisiones o acuerdos existentes, y la consideración de un posible órgano asesor de la CITES.*

**Dirigida al Comité Permanente, en consulta con el Comité de Fauna y el Comité de Flora**

- 19.17** *El Comité Permanente deberá:*

- a) *examinar el informe de la Secretaría en virtud de la Decisión 19.15, tomando en consideración las recomendaciones de los Comités de Fauna y de Flora con arreglo a la Decisión 19.16.*
- b) *teniendo en cuenta la información facilitada por la Secretaría y los Comités de Fauna y de Flora, plantearse el establecimiento de un órgano asesor de la CITES para brindar a las Partes orientaciones basadas en la mejor información científica disponible, como parte de sus esfuerzos para reducir el riesgo de derrame y transmisión de patógenos zoonóticos asociado al comercio de vida silvestre y las cadenas de suministro de vida silvestre conexas, incluidos los mercados;*
- c) *teniendo en cuenta las propuestas que figuran en el documento CoP19 Doc. 23.2 y en consulta con los Comités de Fauna y de Flora, sopesar la necesidad de preparar una resolución sobre las medidas que pueden adoptar las Partes en la CITES y otros interesados para promover el concepto de “Una sola Salud” en lo que concierne al comercio internacional de vida silvestre; y*
- d) *facilitar sus orientaciones a la Secretaría y sus recomendaciones, que pueden revestir la forma de un nuevo proyecto de resolución, a la 20ª reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes.*

**Dirigida al Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente**

- 19.18** *La Conferencia de las Partes invita al Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) a compartir información procedente de las evaluaciones llevadas a cabo bajo la Asociación cuatripartita para Una Salud con las Partes a través de la Secretaría.*

**Dirigida a las Partes**

- 19.19** *Se invita a las Partes a que:*

- a) *hacer suya la definición del término “zoonosis” de la Asociación Cuatripartita (FAO/PNUMA/OMS/OMSA) como “enfermedades infecciosas que pueden propagarse entre los animales y los seres humanos; pueden propagarse a través de los alimentos, el agua, fómites o vectores”;*
- b) *tomar en consideración un enfoque multisectorial como el que fue definido por el Cuadro de Expertos de Alto Nivel para el Enfoque “Una Salud” (OHHLEP) al aplicar la Convención, contribuyendo a la gestión, prevención y mitigación del riesgo de derrame de patógenos y aparición de enfermedades zoonóticas haciendo lo siguiente:*
- i) *asegurándose de que los animales vivos se comercialicen de conformidad con los Artículos III, IV, V y VII, que exigen que los especímenes vivos sean acondicionados y transportados de manera que se reduzca al mínimo el riesgo de heridas, deterioro en su salud o maltrato, y el Artículo VII, que requiere además que todos los especímenes vivos, durante cualquier periodo de tránsito, permanencia o despacho, sean cuidados adecuadamente, con el fin de reducir al mínimo el riesgo de heridas, deterioro en su salud o maltrato; y*

- ii) *regulando, registrando o administrando de otro modo las instalaciones de cría en cautividad, cría en granjas o cría de otro tipo, entre otras cosas de conformidad con la Resolución Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) sobre Registro de establecimientos que crían en cautividad especies de fauna incluidas en el Apéndice I con fines comerciales, la Resolución Conf. 10.16 (Rev.CoP19), sobre Especímenes de especies animales criados en cautividad, y la Resolución Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) sobre Cría en granjas y comercio de especímenes criados en granjas de especies transferidas del Apéndice I al Apéndice II;*
  - c) *establecer y fortalecer sinergias con las autoridades nacionales e internacionales apropiadas de sanidad animal y salud pública, teniendo en cuenta las definiciones, normas y orientaciones pertinentes de la OMS, la OMSA, la FAO, el PNUMA y otros organismos internacionales y organizaciones expertas según proceda; y*
  - d) *a partir de esas sinergias, asegurarse de que las Autoridades CITES, si se les solicita, trabajen con las autoridades nacionales pertinentes, por ejemplo, los coordinadores nacionales de la OMSA y la OMS para elaborar y aplicar estrategias encaminadas a identificar y reducir el riesgo de transmisión y derrame de enfermedades zoológicas y aparición de patógenos asociado al comercio de vida silvestre.*
3. En la 26ª reunión del Comité de Flora (PC26; Ginebra, junio de 2023) y la 32ª reunión del Comité de Fauna (AC32; Ginebra, junio de 2023), los Comités examinaron el documento [PC26 Doc. 10 / AC32 Doc. 10](#), preparado por la Secretaría, que contenía información relativa a la aplicación de las decisiones antes mencionadas.

#### Información actualizada de la Secretaría

#### *Memorando de entendimiento entre la Secretaría CITES y la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OMSA)*

4. En su 32ª reunión, el Comité de Fauna examinó el proyecto de Memorando de Entendimiento (MdE) entre la Secretaría de la CITES y la OMSA y el proyecto de programa de trabajo conjunto que figuraban en los Anexos 3A y 3B del documento [PC26 Doc. 10 / AC32 Doc. 10](#). El Comité de Fauna solicitó a la Secretaría que incorporara las observaciones formuladas durante la reunión en su revisión del proyecto de MdE y del programa de trabajo conjunto para su examen por el Comité Permanente. La Secretaría revisó el proyecto de MdE y el programa de trabajo conjunto y presentó el documento [SC77 Doc. 17.2](#) (que incluía el proyecto de MdE y el proyecto de programa de trabajo conjunto con la OMSA en los Anexos 2A y 2B) para su examen por el Comité Permanente en su 77ª reunión (SC77; Ginebra, noviembre de 2023). El Comité Permanente invitó a la Secretaría a que, teniendo en cuenta las observaciones formuladas en la sala, finalizara el proyecto de MdE y el proyecto de programa de trabajo conjunto con la OMSA (véase el acta resumida [SC77 SR](#)). El MdE se finalizó tras la SC77 y fue firmado por la Secretaría de la CITES y la OMSA el 1 de marzo de 2024, en ocasión del sexto período de sesiones de la Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente (UNEA-6). Puede consultarse una copia del MdE firmado en el [sitio web de la CITES](#).
5. La OMSA publicó en mayo de 2024 las [Directrices para abordar los riesgos sanitarios en el comercio de especies de fauna silvestre](#) (*Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade*, disponibles en inglés únicamente). Las directrices permiten a los principales actores del comercio de especies silvestres identificar y seleccionar estrategias de gestión del riesgo pragmáticas, flexibles, prácticas, adaptables y pertinentes, basadas en los riesgos sanitarios identificados y en la capacidad disponible, y garantizar su aplicación eficaz y sostenible.

#### *Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica: 26ª reunión del Órgano Subsidiario de Asesoramiento Científico, Técnico y Tecnológico Asesoramiento - Diversidad biológica y salud*

6. La 15ª reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes (CoP15, Montreal, 2022) en el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB) abordó cuestiones relacionadas con el enfoque de “Una sola salud” en la decisión [15/29](#) del CDB. En respuesta a la petición formulada por la CoP15 del CDB en esa decisión, la Secretaría del CDB preparó un proyecto revisado de plan de acción mundial sobre diversidad biológica y salud. La 26ª reunión del Órgano Subsidiario de Asesoramiento Científico, Técnico y Tecnológico (OSACTT-26) examinó el proyecto de plan de acción mundial y adoptó un proyecto de recomendación que incluye un proyecto de decisión para su examen por la CoP del CDB en su 16ª reunión, prevista para octubre de 2024 (véase el documento [CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.8](#)). El proyecto de plan de acción mundial incluye medidas voluntarias para integrar los vínculos entre la diversidad biológica y la salud en la implementación del Marco Mundial de

Biodiversidad de Kunming-Montreal. Con respecto a las metas 4, 5 y 9, la siguiente medida voluntaria podría ser pertinente para los debates en los procesos de CITES: mejorar, de conformidad con otros acuerdos internacionales, y dentro de las capacidades nacionales, la regulación, la gestión, el uso y el comercio de especies silvestres, de manera que sean sostenibles y seguros para la salud humana y de la vida silvestre.

#### *Aplicación de la Decisión 19.15 párrafo c) – Colaboración con la Convención sobre la conservación de las especies migratorias*

7. La Secretaría siguió colaborando con la Convención sobre las Especies Migratorias (CMS), como se le encarga en el párrafo c) de la Decisión 19.15. La Secretaría asistió a la 14ª reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes en la Convención sobre las Especies Migratorias que tuvo lugar del 12 al 17 de febrero de 2024 en Samarcanda (Uzbekistán) (CoP14 de la CMS). Se adoptó una resolución revisada sobre *Sanidad de la vida silvestre y especies migratorias* [[Resolución 12.6 \(Rev. COP14\)](#)]. La Resolución de la CMS incluye lo siguiente en el texto del preámbulo:

*Reconociendo* los impactos que ciertos tipos de comercio de fauna silvestre puede tener sobre la biodiversidad, especialmente sobre las especies amenazadas o en peligro de extinción, y sobre la seguridad alimentaria, y *reconociendo además* el riesgo que supone el comercio de animales silvestres, el comercio de animales de compañía u otros movimientos regionales e internacionales de animales y productos de origen animal en la propagación de patógenos y la aparición de enfermedades infecciosas en la vida silvestre, los animales domésticos y/o los seres humanos, al tiempo que acoge con satisfacción las iniciativas de colaboración de la CITES y la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OMSA) para abordar los riesgos derivados de los patógenos zoonóticos.

8. Las [decisiones](#) sobre *Salud de la vida silvestre* adoptadas por la CoP14 de la CMS animan a las Partes y a la Secretaría de la CMS a colaborar con la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) en la elaboración continua de un nuevo instrumento para la prevención, preparación y respuesta ante pandemias. Las Partes en la CMS alientan la incorporación de los elementos clave<sup>1</sup> en la resolución de la CMS sobre *Sanidad de la vida silvestre y especies migratorias* en el nuevo instrumento. Las Partes en la CMS solicitaron además a la Secretaría de la CMS que promoviera la cooperación con la Alianza Cuatripartita, el Cuadro de Expertos de Alto Nivel para el Enfoque de “Una sola salud” y la CITES.
9. Las Partes en la CMS también adoptaron una resolución sobre *Gripe aviar* que reflexiona sobre el riesgo asociado al comercio de aves silvestres que podría aumentar la probabilidad de transmisión viral al crear amplias interfaces entre aves domésticas y silvestres, con riesgos adicionales de propagación posterior de la infección a las personas.

#### *Aplicación de la Decisión 19.18 – Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)*

10. De conformidad con la Decisión 19.18, el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) proporcionó a la Secretaría información actualizada sobre sus actividades en la Alianza Cuatripartita del enfoque de “Una sola salud”. El informe remitido por el PNUMA figura en el Anexo 1 del presente documento e incluye la participación del PNUMA como observador en el proceso del órgano intergubernamental de negociación para la redacción del texto del acuerdo sobre las pandemias. En particular, ha procurado incorporar e integrar “Una sola salud” como un enfoque que puede abordar ampliamente el riesgo de propagación de patógenos en la transmisión de enfermedades zoonóticas de manera amplia. Además, la Alianza Cuatripartita ha promovido el enfoque de “Una sola salud”, entre otras cosas en la Reunión de alto nivel sobre prevención, preparación y respuesta frente a pandemias, celebrada en el marco de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Esta Reunión de alto nivel dio lugar a una declaración sobre prevención, preparación y respuesta ante pandemias, que representa la primera vez que se hace referencia a “Una sola salud” en una declaración de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Además, la Alianza Cuatripartita está trabajando con la Secretaría del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB) en la revisión del Plan de Acción sobre Diversidad Biológica y Salud, que fue abordado por el Órgano Subsidiario de Asesoramiento Científico, Técnico y Tecnológico (OSACTT) en mayo de 2024 y se debatirá en la 16ª reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes en el CDB en octubre de 2024.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Elementos clave de la resolución: Insta a la Secretaría y además insta a los puntos focales de la CMS y a los ministerios responsables de la vida silvestre a que colaboren con sus representantes ante la OMS, para garantizar que los mecanismos para prevenir la aparición de patógenos en la fuente y los enfoques de “Una sola salud”, las cuestiones relacionadas con la vida silvestre y la prevención de pandemias en la fuente se reflejen en la convención, acuerdo u otro instrumento internacional de la OMS sobre prevención, preparación y respuesta ante pandemias que se esté negociando.*

#### Grupo de trabajo entre períodos de sesiones

11. Además, en su 32ª reunión, el Comité de Fauna estableció un grupo de trabajo entre reuniones sobre enfermedades zoonóticas con el mandato de examinar la información facilitada por las Partes, las organizaciones y el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente, que figura en el Anexo 2 del documento [PC26 Doc. 10 / AC32 Doc. 10](#), y de preparar recomendaciones para su examen por el Comité de Fauna en su 33ª reunión sobre lo siguiente:
  - a) proponer soluciones eficaces y prácticas para reducir el riesgo de propagación de patógenos en las cadenas de suministro de la vida silvestre; y
  - b) oportunidades de colaboración práctica bajo la dirección de las resoluciones, decisiones y acuerdos existentes.
12. Se acordó que el grupo de trabajo entre períodos de sesiones estuviera integrado por:
  - Copresidencia: representante suplente de Asia (Sr. Diesmos) y especialista de nomenclatura (Sr. van Dijk);
  - Miembros: representante suplente de África (Sr. Diouck) y representante suplente de América del Norte (Sr. Leuteritz);
  - Partes: Alemania, Arabia Saudita, Argentina, Australia, Benín, Canadá, China, Colombia, Estados Unidos de América, Unión Europea, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japón, Níger, Nigeria, Malasia, Namibia, Perú, Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte, República Democrática del Congo, República Unida de Tanzania, Singapur, Sudáfrica; Suiza, Zimbabue; y
  - OIG y ONG: Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente – Centro de Monitoreo de la Conservación Mundial, Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Western Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Dallas Safari Club, Defenders of Wildlife, European Animal Research Association, European Pet Organisation, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Fur Federation, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, National association for Biomedical Research, Organization of Professional Aviculturists, Pet Advocacy Network, Pro Wildlife, SUCO-SA, TRAFFIC, Sociedad para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre, Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza, Zoological Society of London.
13. El grupo de trabajo trabajó por medios electrónicos para dar cumplimiento a su mandato. The co-chairs invited the members of the working group on 12 March 2024 to provide inputs based on the mandate as contained in paragraph 10, with a deadline of 10 April 2024. Two Parties responded (Canada and the United States of America), the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Organization on Animal Health and 10 other observer organizations<sup>2</sup>. The consolidated responses received arranged per question posed to the working group are contained in Annex 2 to the present document.

#### Proyecto de propuestas del grupo de trabajo que se someten a la consideración del Comité de Fauna, en su 33ª reunión

14. En cuanto a las soluciones eficaces y prácticas propuestas para reducir el riesgo de propagación de patógenos en las cadenas de suministro de la vida silvestre, el grupo de trabajo entre reuniones propuso lo siguiente:
  - a) Se solicita a la Secretaría que, en colaboración con el Comité de Fauna, actualice la página web sobre el *Papel de la CITES en la reducción del riesgo de aparición de futuras enfermedades*

---

<sup>2</sup> Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free Foundation, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, International Fur Federation, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, German Society of Herpetology, TRAFFIC, Sociedad para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre, Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza, Zoological Society of London

*zoonóticas asociadas al comercio internacional* y cree un Portal de comunicación en el que las Partes puedan acceder rápidamente a información actualizada sobre patógenos y comercio de especies silvestres.

- b) Teniendo en cuenta que no todas las Partes disponen de procedimientos operativos estándar (POE) detallados y sólidos para la vigilancia sanitaria de la fauna silvestre, el Comité de Fauna puede considerar la elaboración de directrices basadas en los materiales existentes de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO), el PNUMA, la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) y la OMSA y en los materiales sobre el comercio internacional de la Organización Mundial de Aduanas (OMA) y la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC) para que las Partes lo utilicen como modelo en la elaboración o mejora de sus POE para la vigilancia sanitaria de la fauna silvestre.
  - c) Recopilar buenas prácticas tangibles para uno o dos grupos taxonómicos de alto riesgo incluidos en los Apéndices de la CITES, y poner esta información a disposición de las Partes. Entre los posibles grupos taxonómicos de interés podrían incluirse los monos del Viejo Mundo (Cercopithecidae) u otros primates no humanos; los murciélagos (Pteropodidae); o determinados grupos de roedores, que son objeto de comercio CITES.
  - d) A través de la asociación entre la CITES y la OMSA, aplicar la experiencia de la CITES sobre el comercio de especies en el trabajo de la Alianza Cuatripartita y mejorar la capacidad de las Partes para seguir los pasos recomendados por la OMSA y la Alianza Cuatripartita (lo que incluye el cumplimiento de las normas internacionales de la OMSA, la colaboración con servicios veterinarios nacionales, el desarrollo de POE para la vigilancia de fauna silvestre, y vínculos con la información y las herramientas existentes de la Alianza Cuatripartita para mitigar los riesgos zoonóticos).
  - e) Seguir trabajando en la mejora de las normas y protocolos de transporte de animales vivos y muestras veterinarias.
15. El grupo de trabajo entre reuniones propuso las siguientes oportunidades de colaboración práctica con la orientación de las resoluciones, decisiones y acuerdos existentes:
- a) alentar a las Partes a tomar las medidas adecuadas para garantizar que en su legislación nacional se apliquen las normas y las mejores prácticas de la OMSA y a poner en marcha una red de vigilancia operativa para controlar los riesgos de propagación de patógenos
  - b) considerar la posibilidad de llevar a cabo una revisión del enfoque actual de las Partes en relación con el transporte de animales vivos para identificar los medios de potenciar/mejorar el proceso, incluida la revisión por la Autoridad Científica de una solicitud de permiso CITES, la expedición del permiso CITES y el transporte de especímenes vivos para garantizar la colaboración en cada paso del proceso para un transporte rápido y seguro del espécimen;
  - c) invitar a las Partes a colaborar con sus servicios veterinarios nacionales para garantizar la aplicación nacional de las normas y directrices internacionales pertinentes para la gestión del riesgo del comercio de especies silvestres, y a promover, a través de sus servicios veterinarios, el fortalecimiento de las normas y herramientas internacionales existentes;
  - d) promover la coordinación de las autoridades competentes que intervienen en el proceso de autorización, certificación y control del comercio internacional de animales vivos y productos de origen animal (importación, tránsito y exportación) para garantizar la correcta aplicación de todas las medidas necesarias con respecto a los diferentes acuerdos y mecanismos internacionales pertinentes existentes.
  - e) La Secretaría de la CITES, en su calidad de miembro de la Asociación de Colaboración sobre Manejo Sostenible de la Fauna Silvestre (CPW), podría brindar asesoramiento sobre la manera en que el trabajo que está llevando a cabo el Comité de Fauna puede contribuir a esta iniciativa conjunta de la CPW centrada en integrar el uso y la gestión sostenibles de la fauna silvestre en la agenda de “Una sola salud”, incluida la asistencia a los países en la aplicación experimental de las *Directrices para abordar los riesgos sanitarios en el comercio de especies de fauna silvestre* de la OMSA.
16. El [plan de trabajo para 2023-25](#) de la Asociación de Colaboración sobre Manejo Sostenible de la Fauna Silvestre (CPW) contiene una iniciativa conjunta centrada en integrar el uso y la gestión sostenibles la fauna

silvestre en la agenda de “Una sola salud”, incluida la asistencia a los países en la prueba experimental de las directrices de la OMSA mencionadas.

### Recomendaciones

17. Se invita al Comité de Flora a:

- a) tomar nota de lo siguiente:
  - i) el Memorando de Entendimiento entre la Secretaría de la CITES y la OMSA firmado el 1 de marzo de 2024 y las *Directrices para abordar los riesgos sanitarios en el comercio de especies de fauna silvestre* publicadas por la OMSA en mayo de 2024;
  - ii) la información actualizada relativa a la aplicación del párrafo c) de la Decisión 19.15 sobre la colaboración con la Convención sobre las Especies Migratorias; y
  - iii) la actualización facilitada por el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente sobre los trabajos pertinentes realizados en el marco de la Alianza Cuatripartita del enfoque de “Una sola salud” u otras iniciativas pertinentes;
- b) compartir las soluciones eficaces y prácticas propuestas para reducir el riesgo de propagación de patógenos en las cadenas de suministro de especies silvestres y las oportunidades de colaboración práctica que figuran en los párrafos 13 y 14 con el Comité Permanente a través de su grupo de trabajo entre reuniones; y
- c) acordar que la Decisión 19.16 se ha aplicado y puede proponerse que sea suprimida.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION 19.18 – UPDATE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

### On Quadripartite

As Chair of the Quadripartite collaboration on One Health between March 2023-March 2024, UNEP has continued to raise the environmental dimension of One Health, through its Quadripartite activities.

This includes engaging as an observer in the intergovernmental negotiating body (INB) process for the drafting of the text for the pandemic agreement, which will be submitted to the 77th session of the World Health Assembly for adoption by Member States. In particular, it has sought to incorporate and mainstream One Health as an approach that can address the risk of pathogen spillover of zoonotic disease transmission broadly. Moreover, the Quadripartite has championed the One Health approach, including at the High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response at UNGA. This High-Level Meeting led to a declaration on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, which constitutes the first time One Health is referenced in a UNGA declaration. Further, the Quadripartite is working with the CBD Secretariat on the revision of the Biodiversity and Health Action Plan, which will be discussed at SBSTTA in May and is anticipated to be adopted at COP 16.

The One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), that independently advises the Quadripartite organisations, completed its first term in December 2023. During its first term, OHHLEP produced several deliverables that touch on the transmission of zoonotic diseases, including the recent publication on the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1, and the development of One Health case studies, from which a first round of five cases were selected to be published in a peer reviewed journal in 2024. The selection of the members of the second term of OHHLEP has been completed. The panel will continue to provide support in the roll out of the JPA and provide the Quadripartite with policy relevant scientific assessments on the emergence and spread of health risks arising at the human-animal-ecosystem interface.

The Quadripartite has moreover produced and launched two resources for country-level work, with relevance for the implementation of the One Health approach, including on zoonotic disease transmission. At the COP 28, the Quadripartite launched the Implementation Guide for the OH Joint Plan of Action (JPA). The Joint Plan of Action and its Implementation Guide are further complemented by a Guidance Note for UN Resident Coordinators to mainstream the OH approach into UNSDCFs. The Quadripartite has also held regional One Health workshops to support the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action in countries.

The second Quadripartite Executive Annual Meeting (QEAM2) was held in Nairobi, alongside the United Nations Environment Assembly, from 29th of February to the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. This presented an opportunity to build greater synergies and understanding for multilateral environmental decision-making processes within the Quadripartite. The meeting discussed joint strategic planning and actions to mainstream and operationalise the One Health approach at all levels. This included in particular how the Quadripartite can:

- Promote and support the implementation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action at country level, including with reference to zoonotic disease transmission
- Generate and share science and evidence for the implementation of the One Health approach, including around zoonotic disease transmission
- Maintain the political engagement and advocacy for One Health, including on the approach to zoonotic disease transmission

### On N4H:

As the Secretariat for the Nature4Health (N4H) initiative, UNEP has continued to focus on reducing the risks of pandemics and other health risks through the strengthening of the environmental dimension of One Health. With the inception phase of N4H having come to a close, the programming of the initiative has moved into the scoping phase. All of the 6 N4H Phase I partners (Zambia, Vietnam, Ghana, Ecuador, Mongolia, Rwanda) have submitted their scoping documents and 5 of 6 have kicked off their scoping projects through scoping



workshops in order to support the implementation at the country-level through a systemic approach. The scoping workshops conducted aim to have in-depth discussions with stakeholders on the ground and analyse the situations at hand, prioritise key activities and identify potential solutions pathways for the main issues of national concern.

RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE INTERSESSIONAL  
WORKING GROUP ON THE ROLE OF CITES IN REDUCING RISK OF FUTURE ZOOLOGIC DISEASE  
EMERGENCE ASSOCIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE TRADE

**a) Practical actions that the Animals Committee could consider to reduce pathogen spillover risk in wildlife supply chains**

*Canada*

- The AC could consider working with the Secretariat to update the webpage on the *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international trade* and create a Communication Portal where Parties could rapidly access information on pathogens. Currently, the webpage includes information on CITES working groups, hyperlinks to reports and scientific papers and on OneHealth Action Plan. The AC should collaborate with the Secretariat and Parties in establishing a process for keeping this website up to date with the most pertinent information. In addition, the Communication Portal could be designed to be interactive and contain useful and current information on pathogens and wildlife trade.
- Not all Parties have detailed and robust Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for wildlife health surveillance. The AC could consider developing guidelines based on existing material from FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOAHA and on the international trade (WCO and WTO) for Parties to use as a model in developing or improving their SoP for Wildlife Health Surveillance.

*United States of America*

The Animals Committee could make progress by considering strategies that both (a) answer Parties' more immediate need for practical, tangible, on-the-ground recommendations, such as good practices related to rearing, handling, processing, and transport of live animals considered high-risk, and (b) enhance CITES' longer-term and higher-level collaborations that will strengthen Parties' capacity to follow WOAHA International Standards, work with national veterinary services, and take other steps to mitigate infectious disease transmission and zoonotic spillover risks. We envision that the Animals Committee could:

1. **Gather tangible good practices for one or two high-risk taxonomic groups and make this information available:** To provide Parties with some practical recommendations in the more immediate term, it will be helpful to focus – as a starting point – on one or two CITES-listed taxonomic groups with *known* zoonotic potential (e.g., as summarized in [SC77 Inf. Doc. 12](#) provided by the UK). We appreciate related comments from TRAFFIC, AZA, and others about identifying specific taxa. Possible taxonomic groups of focus could include Old World monkeys (Cercopithecidae, as highlighted in the JNCC report) or non-human primates; bats (Pteropodidae); or certain rodent groups, in CITES trade. The Animals Committee could work with relevant experts/organizations to compile existing “good practices” for working with the chosen taxonomic groups along the supply chain (e.g., for rearing, care, and transport, with information on sanitation, personal protective equipment, housing conditions, etc.). The Animals Committee could then convene Parties and relevant experts through a workshop to discuss the taxa-specific good practices, listen to the Parties' challenges and needs related to these, and (as per the CITES-WOAH MOU) share the higher-level *Guidelines for Reducing the Risk of Disease Spillover Events at Markets Selling Wildlife and along the Wildlife Supply Chain*. While scientific evidence will continue to grow, this risk-focused step will help reduce vulnerabilities to zoonoses now, based on current knowledge, and may deepen CITES Parties' engagement with this issue. It would also provide a framework through which further data on zoonotic diseases can be fed as the evidence base expands over time.
2. **Use the CITES-WOAH partnership to:**
  - **Apply CITES' expertise on wildlife trade in the Quadripartite's work:** CITES Authorities hold unique knowledge on international wildlife trade that is sometimes missing from global discussions on zoonotic spillover risk mitigation, pandemic prevention, and One Health operationalization. The activities identified in the [CITES-WOAH joint programme of work](#) could help to fill this gap, and we

consider here how to further utilize this partnership. The Quadripartite (WHO/FAO/WOAH/UNEP) is actively institutionalizing One Health and building frameworks to prevent and prepare for pandemics and zoonotic threats. CITES can position itself to inform and supplement these ongoing efforts with its expertise, instead of duplicating efforts. One Health implementation will better account for zoonotic risks in wildlife trade if CITES trade data can inform the efforts of the Quadripartite, via WOAH. Per the existing CITES-WOAH programme of work, CITES will be helping to: update WOAH standards/guidelines, exchange information on wildlife (host) species and specimens of mutual interest, become involved in relevant activities of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026) of the Quadripartite, co-lead trainings with WOAH, and other activities. We recommend, additionally: (a) data-sharing from CITES to WOAH on wildlife trade volumes (by country/region/species/years) and the complexity and patterns of international wildlife supply chains; and (b) consideration of a mechanism through which WOAH could engage CITES and its international wildlife trade expertise to inform the Quadripartite's next One Health joint plan of action for beyond 2026 and to (as appropriate) inform WOAH's selection of additional WOAH-Notifiable Diseases in the future. Further: Depending on the needs of WOAH and the Quadripartite for such data and to ensure a more holistic understanding of wildlife trade trends, Parties might also be encouraged to monitor, collect, and share species-specific data on wildlife trade with regard to all wildlife, as appropriate, in accordance with national laws.

- **Enhance Parties' capacity for steps recommended by WOAH and the Quadripartite:** As suggested by WOAH, Canada, and others, Parties could benefit from receiving information and support that will help them:
    - Comply with WOAH international standards;
    - Collaborate with national veterinary services;
    - Develop Standard Operating Procedures for wildlife surveillance plans, and add surveillance data on diseases of concern to the World Animal Health Information System-Wild (WAHIS-Wild);
    - Connect with existing Quadripartite information and tools to mitigate zoonotic risk, including the [Tripartite Zoonoses Guide](#) and related documents that help countries: identify and prioritize zoonotic threats ([Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool \(JRA OT\)](#)), coordinate on One Health to manage zoonotic diseases ([Multisectoral Coordination Mechanisms Operational Tool](#)), and establish or improve surveillance/information-sharing on zoonoses ([Surveillance and Information Sharing Operational Tool](#)).
  - Wildlife surveillance and veterinary capacity are often highlighted as insufficient in the Joint External Evaluations conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO). CITES could assist with sharing information with Parties and working to understand Parties' challenges and successes in implementing these recommendations.
3. **Provide a way for CITES Parties to communicate (such as through the Communications Portal suggested by Canada) and to share information on positive pathogen tests during pre-export and post-import quarantine:** We are supportive of this idea and eager to further discuss what form this might take. We also suggest that Parties use this as a way to share pathogen screening information on specimens in CITES trade.
4. **Continue to work on improving transport of live animals:** Through the existing MOU between CITES and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), it would be helpful for CITES to identify a few selected taxa around which IATA could consider updating the *IATA Live Animal Regulations*, specifically to take wildlife disease and zoonotic disease risk into account. This would be helpful to CITES, because CITES Parties are required to follow these regulations (and the CITES non-air transport guidelines) to comply with proper transport under CITES.

#### *International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)*

- The CIC agreed with comments by WOAH that the Animal Committee should closely collaborate with other international organizations that already have a mandate to actively work on issues relating to reducing pathogen spillover.

- The CIC supports and encourages strong collaboration between CITES and Quadripartite on the matter and agrees with the comment submitted by Canada in advising the AC to develop guidelines based on existing material from FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAHA directed to Parties to use for improving their National Health Surveillance processes.

#### *World Organization for Animal Health*

For reducing pathogen spillover risk in wildlife supply chains, the Animal Committee could consider the existing international organisations which are mandated to work on reducing pathogen spillover risk, in line with a One Health approach, (in particular the Quadripartite [FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOAHA]) and on the international trade (e.g. WCO and WTO) and should ensure coordination to make best use of the existing mechanisms and tools developed by these organisations, recognising the opportunities to strengthen existing tools in the areas of wildlife trade risk management (for example for WOAHA, the Guidelines for addressing disease risks in wildlife trade and the upcoming e-learning modules for surveillance and wildlife trade that should be available for 2025).

#### *Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)*

- We support the comments made by the Wildlife Conservation Society (and other working group members) that prevention at the source is critical, and implementing (and promoting) a One Health approach will strengthen our ability to reduce the risk of future pandemics.
- Multiple disciplines must work together to ensure the health of environments, humans, and non-human animals by recognizing the interconnection between them, and ensuring we utilize existing tools and guidance on wildlife trade risk management, including those of the Quadripartite.
- The Animals Committee could also collaborate with entities that are working to identify CITES-listed species which are likely to pose a higher risk of pathogen spillover.
- We agree with TRAFFIC's comments that the Animals Committee could provide expertise on the work of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and UNEP-WCMC (SC77 InfDoc34).
- We also urge the Animals Committee to collaborate with organizations that track animal data, such as Species360. The Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) collects and curates data on more than 22,000 species and could be instrumental in identifying high-risk taxa.

#### *Born Free Foundation*

- We urge the Committee to promote the adoption of a holistic One Health approach to international and domestic trade in CITES-listed species, and associated activities including wildlife collection, breeding, farming, handling, transport, markets and sale, recognising the intimate relationship between human health and well-being, animal health and welfare, and the health of the wider environment.
- We also urge the Committee to engage in and encourage meaningful collaboration between the authorities responsible for human, animal and environmental health and well-being within and between State Parties.
- The Committee should promote the need for a highly precautionary approach to activities along the wildlife trade chain where the risk of zoonotic pathogen emergence and spillover is considered to be significant or uncertain.
- The Committee should incorporate demand reduction considerations into this work, and (as provided in the Joint Programme of Work with WOAHA) advocate for increased support for the development of sustainable alternative economic opportunities for local communities who currently rely on high-risk activities.
- The advisory role of CITES on international wildlife trade issues to the Quadripartite organisations involved in the development of the WHO-led Pandemics Agreement should be strengthened. In addition, CITES authorities should be encouraged to familiarise themselves with and act upon relevant guidance emerging from the Quadripartite and its member organisations.

## TRAFFIC

The Animals Committee could consider how to further build upon the work done by JNCC and UNEP-WCMC, as highlighted by the UK as [SC77 InfDoc34](#), to focus attention on particular CITES-listed taxonomic groups in international trade associated with WHO R&D Blueprint Priority Diseases, to ensure that any additional resources are focused on those traded CITES taxa which are likely to pose higher risk of pathogen spillover. Expertise from Animals Committee members (whether in specific higher risk taxonomic groups, wildlife supply chain dynamics, or particular human behaviours and practices which increase risks of pathogen spillover at human-animal interfaces in wildlife supply chains) will be essential to continue building the evidence base for addressing known hazards as well as risks of zoonotic disease emergence associated with CITES species in international trade. AC expertise may also be applied to monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks to assess the relative practicality and success/failure of risk reduction interventions based on past, current and future experience, which will in turn support adaptive management of identified risks.

### *IWMC-World Conservation Trust*

IWMC—World Conservation Trust recommends to delegate matters concerning pathogen spillover risk to organisations most adept at addressing such concerns, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) or the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). It is notable that the Terms of Reference of the CITES Animals Committee, as outlined in Resolution Conf. 18.2, do not explicitly address human health considerations. Nevertheless, the Animals Committee could engage in collaboration with specialised entities by furnishing trade data pertaining to species with significant zoonotic potential on a recurring basis.

### *World Conservation Society (WCS)*

Recent papers and agenda items discussed by the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (SCSC) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) are also of relevance to the work of the Animals Committee. The SCSC discussed issues involving the use of wild terrestrial, avian, and aquatic species for human consumption (wild meat). We recommend that the CITES Animals Committee coordinate with the CMS SCSC on these issues, and that Parties' focal points on CMS and CITES coordinate internally (for those CITES Parties that are also CMS Parties). CITES deals with international trade in listed species, and CMS deals with domestic use of listed species (and other threats), as well as habitat issues; a One Health approach would benefit from increased coordination at the national level—on environmental, conservation, veterinary, animal health, and human health issues.

## **b) Practical actions the Animals Committee could recommend to Parties and other appropriate stakeholders, that would reduce pathogen spillover risks;**

### *Canada*

The AC could encourage Parties to take appropriate measures to ensure their national laws implement the standards and best practices of WOAH and to implement a functional surveillance network to monitor the pathogen spillover risks. This could be facilitated by developing and implementing an effective SoP. The AC could also strongly encourage Parties to use existing databases and platforms such a Wildlife Health Intelligence Platform (WHIP) designed for wildlife health surveillance and to collaborate with other levels of government and NGOs and other stakeholders to monitor wildlife health and to share information with various implicated agents and partners.

### *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

- FAO also recommends CoP to consider adopting the Progressive Management Pathway for Terrestrial Animal Biosecurity (PMP-TAB)<sup>3</sup>, a framework developed by FAO for stepwise improvements in biosecurity along animal value chains. This approach identifies risks and develops evidence-based intervention measures to reduce the impact of diseases to both animals and humans and should be promoted by the Animals Committee based on its relevance to wildlife value chains and associated spillover risks. Related to this, FAO plans to pilot and implement PMP-TAB in countries across Africa and Asia and South America focusing on improvements to the wild meat value chain, and with the

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cc5771en>

Wildlife Health Intelligence Network (WHIN) who are working towards global improvements of wildlife health surveillance systems.

- FAO recommends the analysis and management of risks at the animal-wildlife interface including the uptake of biosecurity to effectively detect and mitigate the risk and spread of emerging zoonoses, such as HPAI, through interventions such as joint capacity building and training. In this regard, FAO's Virtual Learning Centers<sup>4</sup> could be leveraged to develop and cascade such trainings powered by Communities of Practice to facilitate exchange of knowledge and good practices on wildlife health and pandemic prevention.
- It's important that CoPs leverage domestic and international financing instruments such as the Pandemic Fund to strengthen their animal health system and capacity for prevention, early detection and mitigation of the risk of zoonotic diseases at the animal source – through strengthening risk-based interface surveillance, laboratory diagnostics (genomic characterization) as well as adoption of risk reduction measures along the wildlife supply chain.
- As an important instrument of the OH JPA pathway of data and knowledge delivery, the Quadripartite has put forth a proposed architecture for a One Health Intelligence System (OHIS)<sup>5</sup>. The Quadripartite is currently seeking political engagement and financing to pilot OHIS at global level and in pilot countries. A modular development based on case studies is proposed. Engagement of CITES to identify case studies relevant for epidemic intelligence in wildlife would be invaluable.
- FAO is developing a Strategic Framework for Early Warning of Animal Health Threats to support countries in strengthening their risk monitoring, detection and preparedness against animal health threats. CITES collaboration and participation in the revision of the framework<sup>6</sup> would be instrumental to ensuring that the role of wildlife is properly accounted for and countries get relevant guidance.
- Early detection of wildlife diseases is critical for effective prevention and mitigation of transmission among affected wildlife species as well as spillover to other species. As such, countries need to strengthen their wildlife diagnostic capacities to undertake accurate diagnosis locally and safely ship samples to reference laboratories for confirmation. However, to obtain CITES related permission for shipping samples abroad usually takes quite a long time, subsequently resulting and facilitating further spread of the disease under investigation. To address this, a special arrangement needs to be considered for fast-tracking shipment of diagnostic specimens of wildlife origin. FAO recommends a session to discuss further the 'need for fast-track procedure for diagnostic specimens of wildlife origin'.

#### *International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)*

- The Animal Committee could recommend the Parties and other appropriate stakeholders to closely collaborate with their National Veterinary Services and encourage that the international guidelines be successfully implemented on the national level.
- In this regard, Parties and other appropriate stakeholders could also be encouraged to continuously review and identify gaps in the national veterinary checking process that should be reviewed and refined in turn informing the CITES convention and strengthening the existing international mechanisms.
- The Parties could further encourage national wildlife health monitoring efforts on the ground with the involvement of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs), NGOs and other stakeholders and share the information with relevant competent authorities

#### *World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)*

- For reducing pathogen spillover risk and the risk of international spread of diseases and pathogenic agents, the Animals Committee could recommend to Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the national implementation of the WOAH international Standards and Guidelines (for Animal health,

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://virtual-learning-center.fao.org/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cc4480en>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.fao.org/animal-health/news-events/news/detail/call-for-members-expert-advisory-group-to-support-the-development-of-the-strategic-framework-for-early-warning-of-animal-health-threats/en>

welfare, and veterinary public health) and their application for the surveillance at the national level of the wildlife diseases (e.g. notification of wildlife health events to national veterinary authorities and WOAAH to ease the disease risk analysis process) and at the international level in the framework of the international trade of live wild animals and wild animal products (Special attention should be paid to the importance of the systematic implementation of Sections 2 and 5 of the *Terrestrial animal health code* and the *Aquatic animal health code* to identify and define the sanitary measures necessary to manage such risks, as well as for their effective and fair implementation).

- In this framework, the Animal Committee could invite Parties to collaborate with their national Veterinary Services to ensure national implementation of International Standards and Guidelines relevant to wildlife trade risk management, and to advocate through their Veterinary Services for strengthening of existing International Standards and tools.
- The Animals Committee could also recommend to Parties and stakeholders to ensure coordination with and across national representatives of the different international organisations working on the One health concept and international trade. For example, regarding WOAAH, the Animals Committee could suggest to Parties and stakeholders to take an active participation in the WOAAH Standards Setting process, through the National WOAAH Delegate, to ensure that WOAAH International Standards are kept up to date and respond to CITES Parties' needs, including those to reduce the risk of zoonotic pathogen spill-over and transmission.
- In the same way, the Animal Committee could recommend to Parties to promote the coordination of relevant competent authorities involved in the process of authorisation, certification, and control of international trade of live animals and products of animals (importation, transit, and exportation) to ensure the proper implementation of all necessary measures in respect of the different existing relevant international agreements and mechanisms (e.g. CITES, WTO, WCO, WOAAH).

#### *Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA):*

- We strongly encourage the Animals Committee to make Parties fully aware of best practices to reduce the risk of pathogen spillovers, including the WOAAH International Standards and Guidelines, and provide more practical examples of holistic, trans-sectoral approaches to wildlife trade risk management that could be shared between Parties. Further, national implementation of these standards could be encouraged.
- We urge the Animals Committee to encourage Parties to pursue closure of commercial live animal markets, so long as such closures do not impede upon the needs and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities that are dependent upon wildlife consumption for their food security or cultural expression.
- We suggest that the Animals Committee apprise Parties of the elements of the Memorandum of Understanding between CITES and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) that will clarify and promote best practices for safe and secure transport of wildlife; implementation of the standards and procedures as outlined in the IATA Live Animals Regulations and Perishable Cargo Regulations; and, take into consideration the risk of pathogen emergence and zoonotic disease transmission when implementing Resolution Conf 9.7 (Rev CoP15) on Transit and transshipment, Resolution Conf 11.3 (Rev CoP18) on Compliance and enforcement, Resolution Conf 10.21 (Rev CoP16) on Transport of live specimens and other Resolutions as appropriate

#### *Born Free Foundation (BFF)*

- The Committee should urge Parties and other stakeholders to adopt a highly precautionary approach to international and domestic trade in CITES specimens, particularly live animals, where there is perceived to be a risk of zoonotic pathogen emergence, or where the risk is uncertain.
- Parties should be urged to adopt a focus on 'primary prevention' to reduce the likelihood of emergence of potentially zoonotic pathogens, by proactively identifying and tackling risk factors, including those associated with international and domestic trade in CITES-listed species, including collection from the wild, breeding, farming, handling, transport, markets and sale.
- CITES authorities of Parties exporting and importing wild animals, especially live animals, should be advised to shorten and simplify supply chains, improve welfare and hygiene standards across the

whole supply chain, and ensure that regular disease screenings are conducted, particularly of those taxa that are believed to present the highest risk for potentially zoonotic pathogen emergence.

- CITES authorities should be encouraged to ensure that the trade in live CITES-listed species is conducted in full compliance with the requirements in Articles III, IV, V and VII that “.. *any living specimen will be so transported and cared for as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.*”, Resolution 10.21 (Rev. CoP19) on Transport of Live Specimens, the Revised CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants published in 2022, and the IATA LARs in relation to air transport.
- Governments and international institutions can only achieve equity for the people most at risk – and by doing so protect us all from future pandemics – by supporting those communities in transitioning away from high-risk activities. CITES authorities should be encouraged to promote the need for such support at a national level.
- Pandemics are One Health challenges that require collaboration between institutions and experts specialised in human health and wellbeing, animal health and welfare, wildlife conservation and environmental health. Pathways to prevent, prepare and respond to pandemics should not be the sole responsibility and burden of human health institutions. CITES authorities should be encouraged to liaise closely with their colleagues in other relevant disciplines (particularly those responsible for human and animal health) to ensure consistency in approaches to the risks associated with international and domestic wildlife trade.

#### *IWMC – World Conservation Trust*

IWMC—World Conservation Trust proposes the identification of endemic species or those traversing national borders with notable zoonotic potential, advocating for the meticulous collection of trade data to be shared with the CITES Secretariat, the WHO, the WOAHA as well as the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). National conservation strategies, in conjunction with the active involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), should prioritise these species. This entails comprehensive monitoring of their conservation status, local utilisation, and international trade, aiming to mitigate the potential transmission of zoonotic diseases and minimise pathogen spill-over risks to the fullest extent feasible.

#### *TRAFFIC*

While CITES processes focus on international trade, many of the potential health risk scenarios could be more effectively addressed in the country of origin, i.e., upstream in the supply chain, prior to export. Leadership and advocacy by the Animals Committee to work with individual Parties, whether by request or necessity, would no doubt be valuable in terms of overall risk reduction effectiveness. With respect to reduction of pathogen spillover risks associated with legal trade in CITES-listed species, there is an important link between CITES compliance and enforcement with the various sanitary/phytosanitary requirements that support biosecurity at points of export and import. In many cases the level of veterinary health screening required prior to export, for example as we understand from consultations regarding trade in live specimens of non-human primates for biomedical research, is dictated by protocols imposed by the importing country. Thus the bilateral collaboration between CITES Parties, including between various departments at national level, is essential to make sure that these veterinary health requirements for live specimens are being met prior to export, as well as the necessary quarantine and surveillance at point of import. The AC’s support to highlight to Parties the ongoing importance of multi-sectoral collaboration at national and international levels, bringing wildlife trade management together with veterinary and public health agencies in support of the One Health approach, would bolster an integrated approach to managing risks posed to safe, sustainable and legal trade. The Animals Committee could also continue to work proactively with Parties to ensure further examples of good practice in such holistic approaches to wildlife trade risk management continue to be shared between Parties and to augment the dedicated [online resource](#) already set up by the Secretariat.

#### *Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)*

In December 2022 the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(GBF\)](#), with 4 Goals and 23 Targets. [Target 5 of the GBF](#) specifically states:



Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and *reducing the risk of pathogen spillover*, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities (emphasis added).

Therefore, all 196 CBD Parties (183 of the 184 CITES Parties) are committed to taking actions involving the use and trade of wild species that will reduce the risk of pathogen spillover (in addition to preventing overexploitation and illegal use). An integrated approach to delivery of Target 5 of the GBF should involve CITES implementation, globally and at the national level, and must also involve all relevant government ministries. CBD Parties are required to finalize and submit their CBD National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and associated national targets. Parties are encouraged to ensure that their NBSAPs include targets and actions designed in such a way that any use, offtake, or trade of wild species, including CITES-listed species, is legal, safe, and sustainable; that includes uses of wildlife at the national level that may lead to international trade and engagement of CITES Management and Scientific Authorities. The required NBSAPs and national targets and actions must therefore include measures to reduce the risk of pathogen spillover (focused on human/wildlife/livestock interfaces, wildlife markets, etc.). We encourage States with commercial markets for live wildlife to pay particular attention to these issues, whether they are range States, exporting, re-exporting, or importing States. We recommend that Parties consider closure of large urban commercial markets for live and freshly slaughtered wildlife (that are not related to basic food security), particularly birds and mammals, as the most feasible and cost-effective option, and the safest for human and animal health.

Further in the CMS context, we call the attention of the Animals Committee to Decisions and Resolutions adopted by CMS Parties at the recent 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (CoP14), held February 2024 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Decisions 14.218-14.220 and Resolution 12.6 (Rev. CoP14) are particularly relevant. The operative paragraphs of this Resolution are particularly relevant here, and should be taken into consideration and implemented by those CITES Parties that are also CMS Parties; we recommend they are considered as well by non-CMS Parties.

CMS Resolution 12.6 (Rev. CoP14), operative paragraphs 1 and 2, are particularly relevant to the work and recommendations of the CITES Animals Committee:

*Tackling drivers of health problems*

- 1) *Urges* Parties to recognize the links between the drivers of population decline and disease emergence, and urgently enhance actions to address the drivers of migratory species population decline by, inter alia, reducing habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation; addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation; preventing pollution; preventing the spread of invasive non-native species; addressing high-risk agricultural and aquacultural practices, preventing over-exploitation, reducing the wildlife/livestock and wildlife/human interfaces;
- 2) *Urges* Parties and others to minimize the risk of infectious disease to wildlife and pathogen spillover by:
  - a) taking robust measures at livestock-wildlife interfaces, inter alia, those linked to agriculture and aquaculture and encroachment into wild areas, pastoralism, improving biosecurity, livestock vaccination if necessary and better planning and reassessment of intensive production where risks have been identified,
  - b) endeavouring to prevent pathogen contamination / spillover to and from wildlife from feral or otherwise released animals, from legally and illegally traded plants and animals (including commercial urban markets), and from invasive non-native species, recognizing, at all times, the value of preventative approaches, and
  - c) focusing efforts on reducing or otherwise managing those practices that are high risk for pathogen transfer and drivers of pathogen change;

We recommend that Parties collaborate at the national level (including between the CMS and CITES focal points/authorities, and all relevant ministries/departments). We recommend that the Animals Committee pay particular attention to the prevention of over-exploitation, reducing wildlife/livestock/human interfaces, and

prevention of pathogen spillovers from wildlife, with particular focus on commercial urban markets. We note that although CITES implementation deals with international trade, all such trade begins with domestic use (e.g. removal from the wild, farming/captive breeding, domestic markets, transportation) and practices and actions at the national level are critical to prevention of pathogen spillovers. We urge Parties to reduce, manage, and restrict those practices that pose a risk of pathogen spillovers.

Furthermore, international movements of live animals and some products (such as fresh meat) require veterinary import/export permits. These veterinary permits should address risks associated with zoonotic-origin pathogens. It is vital that Parties work to bridge the capacity and increase awareness across multiple agencies (CITES authorities, environment authorities, veterinary and animal health authorities, human health authorities, etc.).

We strongly encourage national governments to make their CITES Scientific and Management Authorities fully aware of all of the above, and the requirement and need to reduce any interfaces between people, their livestock, and live wildlife, and to take all necessary actions to reduce the risk of pathogen spillovers, when making decisions on import, export, or commercial markets in live wildlife, particularly involving birds and mammals.

**c) Increased collaboration within existing CITES mechanisms.**

*Canada*

For example, the transport of live animals could be done more rapidly. As such, the AC could consider undertaking a review of the existing approach, including the SA review of a CITES permit application, the issuing of the CITES permit and the transport of live specimens to ensure collaboration at each step of the process for a rapid and safe transport of the specimen.

*International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)*

The CIC agrees with the recommendations provided by TRAFFIC and further notes that there should be closer collaboration and coordination with National Veterinary Services that are more specialized in detecting and dealing with emerging zoonotic diseases.

*World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)*

The following suggestions could increase collaboration or effectiveness within CITES mechanisms with the global aim of reducing pathogen spillover risk in wildlife supply chains: (1) consider including health certificate with the CITES permit, and (2) to urgently facilitate and faster the movement of wildlife diagnostic samples in simplifying the current CITES mechanisms (CITES permit – reference to the current work of the CITES Working Group on rapid movement of wildlife diagnostic samples and of musical instruments).

*Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)*

- The recent Memorandum of Understanding between CITES and WOAH provides an opportunity to work together to address pathogen spillover risks in wildlife trade and supply chains. This MoU could be used as a model for collaboration with other One Health Quadripartite members, particularly to provide expertise and guidance on the WHO Pandemic Agreement.
- Similarly, the MoU between CITES and IATA provides an opportunity for ongoing dialogue, collaboration, and communication regarding best practices for the transport of live animals and plants, including reducing the risks of pathogen emergence and zoonotic disease transmission

*Born Free Foundation (BFF)*

CITES authorities should make full use of existing mechanisms and agreements with other relevant organisations in order to ensure cross-disciplinary collaboration and cooperation at national, regional and international levels on the implementation and operationalisation of a One Health approach to preventing and responding to zoonotic pathogen emergence associated with wildlife trade. This should be incorporated into the ongoing work on cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements and other international organizations, and the implementation of the associated Decisions adopted at CoP19, including (but not limited to) collaborative work with CBD, WOAH, CMS and IPBES, all of which have important workstreams relating to zoonotic disease prevention and response.

The incorporation of a need for disease risk assessments to be conducted by the relevant authorities prior to issuing CITES permits for the international trade in live animals should be considered and encouraged.

Every effort should be made to facilitate the timely transfer of diagnostic samples from CITES-listed species to accredited laboratories, where CITES permits are required

#### *IWMC – World Conservation Trust*

IWMC—World Conservation Trust recommends prioritising collaboration with key focal points across various conventions and bodies, facilitating seamless information exchange. This should encompass expedited sharing of samples from specimens exhibiting heightened zoonotic risk potential. In instances where a CITES-listed species is flagged for its elevated zoonotic risk, it becomes paramount to ensure unequivocal identification of its origin and traceability along trade routes. To achieve this objective, national authorities must be equipped with comprehensive documentation, including health certificates enabling the Management Authority to issue inclusive CITES permits.

#### **TRAFFIC**

The finalization in March 2024 of the MoU between CITES and WOA, together with their joint programme of work, creates a new set of opportunities for the two Secretariats and CITES Parties and WOA Delegates to work together on addressing pathogen spillover risks associated with international trade in wildlife trade and associated supply chains. As mentioned in the response from WOA to this call for recommendations, WOA will finalize Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade together with e-learning modules for the same topic in 2025 which will further help national CITES Authorities and WOA focal points expand their multi-sectoral collaboration. Activating this enhanced CITES collaboration with WOA should support existing CITES mechanisms for collaboration with other One Health Quadripartite members FAO and UNEP, as well as working through the Quadripartite to further refine the draft WHO instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Ongoing CITES collaboration mechanisms with other relevant MEAs are also important for the Animals Committee considerations, such as CMS (see CMS Decisions 14.218-14.220 on Wildlife Health and CMS Resolution 12.6 (Rev. CoP14) on Wildlife Health and Migratory Species), and the CBD (particularly on the implementation of Target 5 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) which focuses on ensuring that the ‘...use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover...’). Additionally, with respect to Target 5 of the KMGBF, we note that the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) [workplan for 2023-25](#) contains a joint initiative focused on embedding the sustainable use and management of wildlife in the One Health agenda, including assisting countries in piloting the aforementioned WOA Guidelines. The CITES Secretariat, as a member of the CPW, could advise on how the work being conducted by the AC can contribute to this CPW joint initiative, and vice versa.

#### **General comments:**

##### *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

- Considering the importance of the One Health approach for effective prevention and mitigation of zoonoses spillover from wildlife to humans, FAO believes the engagement of stakeholders from the public health sector such as WHO and other similar actors would be important in the processes and deliberations of the Animals Committee's Intersessional Working Group on the *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade*.
- FAO recommends that CITES Parties adopt the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) developed by the Quadripartite organizations in 2022, specifically Action Tracks 2 and 6 of the OH JPA, to reduce the risk of emerging zoonoses and the drivers that underpin the emergence, spillover and transmission of zoonotic pathogens along wildlife supply chain.

##### *Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)*

Transformational change is needed to address this growing threat and will require a collaborative, One Health approach. As the global wildlife trade regulator with 183 member countries, CITES has a critical role to play.

### *Born Free Foundation (BFF)*

- Tackling the root causes of pathogen spillover between animals and from animals to humans through the identification and mitigation of risks at source costs a fraction of responding to a pandemic once it has begun.
- CITES, as the international wildlife trade regulator, has a vital role to play in ensuring that international trade in listed species does not present a high risk of potentially zoonotic pathogen emergence and spillover, and in doing so can play an important part in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework

### *IWMC – World Conservation Trust*

IWMC—World Conservation Trust holds the perspective that addressing zoonotic diseases falls beyond the purview of CITES, as the Convention does not address matters related to human health. Also the Fundamental Principles outlined in Article II do not permit an interpretation that integrates human health into the criteria for listing decisions or into the operational framework of CITES.

### *German Society of Herpetology*

Information specific to Amphibians provided – see submission.

Includes recommendations:

- No general import ban on live amphibian
- Registration of imported amphibians
- Mandatory quarantine for imported amphibians – specific recommendations made relating to quarantine
- Definition of a uniform test and therapy regime
- Definition of a certification system for examination facilities
- Reporting and central recording of positive diagnoses
- Establishment of an “amphibian diseases” task force
- Promote research on amphibian diseases
- Education and activation of private owners

### *Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)*

It is vital that prevention at source (particularly of pathogen spillover from wildlife) of the next outbreak, epidemic, or pandemic of zoonotic origin be addressed at the national as well as the multilateral level. We believe that CITES and its implementation have a role to play in this prevention, although there is also a great deal that needs to be done that is outside the remit of CITES (nationally and internationally).

This is a matter of great urgency, and there are urgent actions that are critical for governments to take, to help prevent another devastating pandemic of zoonotic origin. Implementation of a true trans-sectoral One Health approach is vital in that regard, and we recommend that such an approach, including as relates to prevention of pathogen spillover, be incorporated into wildlife management and CITES implementation, for both export and import (particularly of live animals).

We see CITES implementation at the national level as part of such a trans-sectoral approach, which must include management and regulation of domestic wildlife use, habitat degradation and loss, wildlife captive breeding/farming and handling, markets for live wildlife, and multiple other factors, and by necessity must involve multiple agencies and national authorities.

The extensive scientific information and data now available are clear on what is needed to prevent the next pandemic of zoonotic origin, particularly in terms of commercial breeding, handling, and trade in live (and freshly slaughtered) wild birds and mammals. We know enough to act, and the precautionary principle necessitates action on a fast track.

We appreciate that many Parties have taken positive steps to address the risk of pathogen spillover from wildlife (farmed and from the wild), but many have not yet taken sufficient action. WHO, WOAHA, and UNEP have issued excellent guidance, and ongoing work of the Quadripartite provides important information particularly on the risk of pathogen spillovers.

*World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)*

- WWF notes that the factors affecting novel zoonosis outbreaks are a complex matrix of
  - biodiversity-related factors, such as take of wild species, but also disturbance or fragmentation of natural habitats, especially in the context of land conversion, and
  - poor practice around the housing (in the case of farmed animals, whether domestic breeds or farming of species still found in the wild), as well handling and transport of live animals and their meat, whether of wild or domestic origin.

As such, we agree that many of the necessary measures are the responsibility of national or sub-national administrations, and some are outside the remit of CITES.

- However, we do agree that greater alignment of veterinary/ phytosanitary permitting procedures with those of CITES should be explored.
- We also support WOAHA's comments regarding the movement of biological samples, and note the discussions on this topic in a separate working group