

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



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

Regulation of trade

TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of Parties adopted Decision 19.158 and 19.159 on Transport of live specimens:

***Directed to the Animals Committee and Plants Committee, in consultation with the Standing Committee, the Secretariat and the International Air Transport Association (IATA)***

**19.158** *The Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Standing Committee, Secretariat, and International Air Transport Association (IATA), shall hold a workshop to share best practices related to live animal and plant transport. The Animals and Plants Committees shall invite Parties with expertise in this area to present on their management of live animals and plants in trade and steps to support other Parties in meeting CITES requirements for live animal and plant transport consistent with Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP19) on Transport of live specimens.*

***Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee***

**19.159** *The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Standing Committee, work with IATA to make relevant sections of the IATA Live Animal Regulations and IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations available to authorized representatives of Management Authorities and enforcement authorities as electronic or hard copies, depending on the needs of the Party and consider making them accessible to other relevant exporters, transporters and importers, free of charge.*

Implementation of Decision 19.158

3. At the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee and the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva; June 2023), the United States of America submitted document [PC26 Doc. 21/AC32 Doc. 20](#), which included a proposed way forward for the organization of a virtual workshop to share best practices related to live animal and plant transport.
4. At the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums recommended that the workshop also be open to importers, exporters and transporters since they are the ones implementing the IATA regulations. Wildlife Conservation Society suggested that webinars and training videos on how to transport CITES live specimens be prepared and made available to Parties. Born Free Foundation, speaking also on behalf of Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International and Species Survival Network, welcomed the continuation of the work on the *Guidelines for the non-air transport of wild animals and plants* to which they had contributed and recommended that the workshop also be open to observers and to the World Organisation for Animal Health.
5. At its 26th meeting, the Plants Committee directed the representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) and the representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley), in collaboration with the Secretariat, to develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the virtual workshop to share best practices related to live animal and plant transport

and submit the ToR for consideration by the Standing Committee. At its 32nd meeting, the Animals Committee requested the alternate representative for Asia (Ms. Terada) and the alternate representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) to join the group to develop the ToR for the virtual workshop.

6. Both Committees noted the comments made in their respective meetings and invited their representatives working on the ToR of the workshop to convey the ideas and concerns.
7. The Committees requested the Secretariat to gather additional inputs on the content of the workshop and to invite expressions of interest from Parties and relevant experts in serving as resource persons. Accordingly, the Secretariat issued [Notification to the Parties No. 2023/093](#) of 27 July 2023 to seek input about the content and interest to attend the proposed virtual workshop.
8. To date, the Secretariat received limited responses to the Notification, including names of some prospective resource persons. Based on the discussions in the Committees, input received from the representatives of these Committees and the responses to the Notification, the Secretariat has drafted a ToR for the virtual workshop, available in the Annex to the present document.
9. As funding for the workshop has not yet been secured, the Secretariat encourages any interested Party or potential donor to consider providing financial and in-kind support.

#### Implementation of Decision 19.159

10. Since CoP19, the Secretariat held discussions with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) about making the *IATA Live Animal Regulations (LAR)* and *IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations (PCR)* more easily available to Parties. Most recently, the Secretariat sent a letter to IATA requesting that the CITES-relevant sections of IATA LAR and PCR be made available to CITES Management Authorities and enforcement focal points, free of charge. The Secretariat will update the Standing Committee at the present meeting about the progress made in this regard. The Secretariat will continue its engagement with IATA on this matter.

#### Recommendations

11. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to
  - a) agree to the Terms of Reference for the virtual workshop on transport of live specimens so the Secretariat may finalize them after the 77<sup>th</sup> meeting; and
  - b) subject to the availability of external funds, invite the Secretariat to organize the workshop in accordance with the terms of reference and to collaborate with experts from Parties, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders as resource persons.

Terms of Reference

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ON TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS

Objective

To share best practices related to live animal and plant transport and to increase Parties' use of the *IATA Live Animal Regulations*, *IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations*, and the *CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants*.

Date

The virtual workshop is proposed to take place in March 2024. Specific date and time will be determined at a later stage.

Organization

The workshop will be organized virtually through an online platform. The workshop will use presentations, followed by question and answers and discussions. Interpretation in all three languages of the Convention will be available. The webinar will be recorded and made available on the CITES website and YouTube channel.

Content

- a) Understanding and complying with the IATA LAR and IATA PCR and the *CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants*;
- b) Understanding the process for amending and revising the current methods in the LAR to meet safer transport methods, including crate design; amending ambiguous texts;
- c) Inspections and enforcement and the role of border control authorities; methods for sharing experiences on transport inspection;
- d) Handling dead specimens: immediate triage in the case of sick or injured live specimens;
- e) Temporary holding of wildlife before and/or after transport;
- f) Biosecurity;
- g) Contingency planning at entry points – husbandry, veterinary and disposition provisions for confiscated wildlife;
- h) Recognizing high welfare-risk detentions (e.g., low commercial value/high volume consignments, hazardous species, juveniles);
- i) Accessibility of the *IATA Live Animal Regulations* and *IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations*.

Target participants

Management Authorities, enforcement focal points, importers, exporters, representatives of non-governmental organizations and transporters.

Resource persons

To be identified

### Expected deliverables

1. Improved understanding of the *IATA Live Animal Regulations*, *IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations*, and the *CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants*.
2. Increased engagement and collaboration of Parties on the application of *IATA Live Animal Regulations*, *IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations*, and the *CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants*.

### Budget and funding

The cost of the workshop is estimated to be USD 10,000-15,000 including the web platform, interpretation, etc. Funding for the workshop has not been secured.