

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

Exemption and special trade provisions

REVIEW OF CITES PROVISIONS RELATED TO  
TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS NOT OF WILD SOURCE

1. This document has been prepared by Belgium and Canada as the co-chairs of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on the *Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source*.\*
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.179 and 19.180 on the *Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source* as follows:

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

**19.179** *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, develop specific terms of reference including modus operandi and a roadmap as appropriate, to guide the continuation of the review of trade in specimens of both CITES-listed animals and plants not of wild source;*
- b) *continue to consider amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19), as well as any amendment to other Resolutions concerning provisions on trade in specimens of both CITES-listed animals and plants not of wild source, taking into account findings and suggestions in document SC74 Doc. 56 and any related comments and recommendations from the Standing Committee, Parties, the Secretariat or other stakeholders;*
- c) *review issues and challenges in the application of the Convention for trade in non-wild specimens of both CITES-listed animal and plant species, in particular key elements that may contribute to the uneven application of Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5, and consider the scientific advice and guidance from the Animals and Plants Committees on the need for implementing these Articles differently for either animal specimens from species bred in captivity or plant specimens that are artificially propagated; and*
- d) *make recommendations for addressing these issues and challenges, including amendments to existing Resolutions or development of a new Resolution or Decisions to address these issues and challenges, for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

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\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

## **Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees**

**19.180** *In support of the Standing Committee's implementation of Decision 19.179, the Animals and Plants Committees shall, separately and together in their joint session:*

- a) *consider the key elements in the current implementation of Article VII paragraphs 4 and 5 for animals and plants, respectively, in the current applicable Resolutions;*
  - b) *determine if there is a need to implement Article VII paragraphs 4 and 5 differently for either animal specimens from species bred in captivity or plant specimens that are artificially propagated than what is outlined in existing Resolutions, and provide their recommendations to the Standing Committee in time for its 78th meeting; and*
  - c) *provide any other scientific advice and guidance on CITES provisions concerning trade in non-wild specimens of CITES-listed animal and plant species to the Standing Committee upon request and as appropriate.*
3. At its 76th meeting (SC76; Panama City, November 2022) the Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on the *Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source* ([SC76 SR](#)). The membership of the intersessional working group was confirmed by the Standing Committee through Notification to the Parties [No. 2023/036](#) and the mandate of the working group is available on the [CITES website](#). Belgium and Canada are the co-Chairs of the working group. As per Decision 19.179 paragraph a) the Standing Committee's intersessional working group will, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committee, develop specific terms of reference including *modus operandi* and a roadmap as appropriate, to guide the continuation of the review of trade in specimens of both CITES-listed animals and plants not of wild source.
  4. The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees prepared document [PC26 Doc. 23 / AC32 Doc. 25](#) on the *Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source* for consideration by the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26, Geneva, 2023) and the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32, Geneva, 2023). The establishment of a joint intersessional working group was proposed to support the implementation of Decision 19.180.
  5. Canada, as the co-Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on trade in specimens not of wild source, provided an update on the working group's activities at both PC26 and AC32 and drew the Committee's attention to information document [PC26 Inf. 2 / AC32 Inf. 5](#) that provided a draft road map for a review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source and invited comments on the roadmap.
  6. The Plants Committee established a joint intersessional working group (AC/PC joint intersessional working group) on trade in specimens not of wild source that will work separately and jointly with the following mandate as agreed and reflected in the summary record ([PC26 SR](#)):
    - a) consider the key elements in the current implementation of Article VII paragraphs 4 and 5 for animals and plants, respectively, in the current applicable Resolutions;
    - b) determine if there is a need to implement Article VII paragraphs 4 and 5 differently for either animal specimens from species bred in captivity or plant specimens that are artificially propagated than what is outlined in existing Resolutions, and provide their recommendations to the Standing Committee in time for its 78th meeting;
    - c) provide any other scientific advice and guidance on CITES provisions concerning trade in non-wild specimens of CITES-listed animal and plant species to the Standing Committee upon request and as appropriate; and
    - d) report on progress to the joint session of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and 27th meeting of the Plants Committee.
  7. The Animals Committee agreed with the recommendations of the Plants Committee ([AC32 SR](#)) and the [membership and mandate](#) can be accessed on the CITES website.

8. The co-chairs of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on trade in specimens not of wild source and the chairs of the Animals and Plants Committee (AC/PC) joint intersessional working groups met to discuss the implementation of the respective mandates. At the time of preparation of this document the Standing Committee intersessional working group have not had further engagements and the AC/PC joint intersessional working group did not initiate its work. A verbal update will be provided during the meeting in case additional action is undertaken between the time of submission of the document and the start of the Standing Committee meeting.

#### Recommendations

9. The Standing Committee is invited to note this document.