

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

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

1. This document has been submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as chair of the Standing Committee Intersessional Working Group on *Species at risk of extinction affected by international trade*.*
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.186 to 19.188 on *Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade* as follows:

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

19.186 *The Standing Committee shall, in collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees:*

- a) *consider under Resolution Conf. 19.2 on Capacity-building how to provide Parties requesting it with information from any relevant studies, analyses or other sources on the identification of species at risk of extinction that are not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation and that are or may be affected by international trade, working in coordination with the CITES Secretariat, CITES Parties, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, regional competent authorities, and relevant experts as appropriate so that Parties may consider such information, as appropriate, in the preparation of listing proposals under Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on the Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II.*
- b) *establish a working group, with representation from all regions, the Animals and Plants Committees, and observers to review the recommendations developed by the Animals and Plants Committees under Decision 19.187 and make recommendations on the implementation of paragraph a) of the present Decision. The terms of reference for the working group shall be as provided below.*

Terms of reference for the Standing Committee working group

Mandate

Review recommendations made by the Animals and Plants Committees under Decision 19.187.

* *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.*

Membership

The working group will be Party led. It is proposed to have two co-chairs (and if necessary a vice-chair), with the co-chairs leading the work of the group. Membership will be open to Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and observers in line with the Standing Committee Rules of Procedure.

Modus Operandi

The group will operate by electronic correspondence to the extent possible. Support with translation and interpretation in the working languages of the Convention will be provided by the CITES Secretariat, subject to external resources. Should a meeting be considered necessary, the group may meet virtually or in conjunction with intersessional meetings of the Standing Committee or any other CITES meetings should timings and resources permit.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

19.187 *The Animals and Plants Committees shall develop draft recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee to facilitate the implementation of Decision 19.186.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.188 *The Secretariat shall support the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees in the implementation of Decisions 19.186 and 19.187 including through the provision of technical expertise and, subject to external funding, translation and interpretation as appropriate.*

Progress update:

3. At its 76th meeting (SC76, Panama City, 2022), the Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on *Species at risk of extinction affected by international trade* ([SC76 SR](#)) with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as chair. The [membership and mandate](#) of the Standing Committee intersessional working group can be accessed on the CITES website.
4. The Standing Committee intersessional working group has begun its discussions, including an initial virtual discussion held on 10 July 2023. The key points of discussion to date have been establishing a common understanding of the working group mandate, establishing a plan for progressing this mandate and initiating discussions on the species risk assessment and capacity building aspects of the mandate. Several working group members provided examples of existing assessments that identified potential candidate species for the development of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices for the working group to consider, as well as potential gaps in the provision of guidance and support to Parties wishing to develop a species listing proposal.
5. To progress Decision 19.187, the topic of species at risk of extinction threatened by international trade was discussed at both the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26, Geneva, 2023) and the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32, Geneva, 2023) with a joint intersessional working group established (PC26 SR, AC32 SR) (the [membership](#) of the joint working group can be accessed on the CITES website). This joint AC/PC intersessional working group has a mandate to develop draft recommendations on:
 - a) a possible process or mechanism under Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building* to provide Parties with information to be considered in the preparation of listing proposals when Parties request information such as:
 - i) relevant studies, analyses or other sources of information on the identification of species at risk of extinction that are not yet regulated under CITES and may be affected by international trade, or
 - ii) relevant studies, analyses or other sources of information on the identification of species that may receive insufficient CITES regulation and may be affected by international trade;

- b) possible processes/mechanisms for providing support or guidance to Parties in the development of listing proposals in addition to the process or mechanism referred to under a) above;
 - c) coordination with the CITES Secretariat, CITES Parties, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, regional competent authorities, and relevant experts, as appropriate as part of a possible process/es or mechanism/s to provide Parties with information to be considered in the preparation of listing proposals when Parties request information; and
 - d) report back with its recommendations to the joint session of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and 27th meeting of the Plants Committees.
6. The Standing Committee and joint AC/PC intersessional working groups will work in parallel and the Standing Committee intersessional working group will consider any recommendations agreed at the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and 27th meeting of the Plants Committee in order to provide its own recommendations for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.
7. Following SC77, the main areas for discussion and developing recommendations within the working group are expected to be to:
- a) continue to review methods of identifying species that may be at risk of extinction and threatened by international trade, including any existing assessments that have looked at this previously;
 - b) understand the issues or difficulties Parties face when developing proposals to amend the CITES Appendices;
 - c) review and provide recommendations on the support, materials, guidance or any other capacity building (considering Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building*) that Parties might benefit from in developing proposals to amend the CITES Appendices; and
 - d) review the recommendations of the joint AC/PC intersessional working group and provide any recommendation of its own to the Standing Committee.

Recommendations

8. The working group invites the Standing Committee to:
- a) take note of this interim report and the progress made in implementation of Decisions 19.186 to 19.188 and offer guidance to the working group as it seeks to fulfil its mandate; and
 - b) provide any views from their respective regions on the main areas for future discussion described in paragraph 7, in particular where issues or difficulties have been experienced by any Parties within their region seeking to develop or submit species listing proposals.