

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

Appendices of the Convention

Annotations

INFORMAL REVIEW MECHANISM FOR EXISTING AND PROPOSED ANNOTATIONS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.266 and 19.267 on *Informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations* as follows:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**19.266** *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall prepare a proposal on the feasibility and requirements for an informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations, provide its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee.*

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

**19.267** *The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, shall evaluate the Secretariat's proposal for an informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations and submit any relevant recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. At the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74; Lyon, March 2022), the Secretariat presented document [SC74 Doc.82](#), proposing the establishment of a mechanism for the review of annotations. It was suggested to design a single mechanism to undertake both a review of existing annotations and an *a priori* review of annotations to be proposed for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The objective of the mechanism was to ensure consistency in the annotations and harmonise their interpretation and implementation. While supporting the general aims of the document, various Parties expressed concerns regarding several aspects of adopting a formal mechanism, including its architecture as well as its role, and suggested that the matter be discussed during the next intersessional period.
4. At CoP19, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.266 and 19.267 and requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal on the feasibility and requirements for an informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations. The aim of such a mechanism remains to ensure consistency in the annotations included in the Appendices and to harmonize their interpretation and implementation.
5. At the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26; Geneva, June 2023) and the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32; Geneva, June 2023), the Secretariat presented document [PC26 Doc. 39 / AC32 Doc. 44](#) in which it informed the Committee:
  - a) about the estimated cost of preparing such a proposal for an informal review mechanism, thanking Switzerland for pledging the sum necessary for the implementation of Decision 19.266; and,

- b) about the drafting of the terms of reference for this proposal to be submitted to the Standing Committee, taking into account the concerns and comments expressed at SC74.
- 6. As reflected in the summary record of PC26 and draft summary record of AC32, the Plants Committee and the Animals Committee noted document PC26 Doc. 39 /AC32 Doc. 44.
- 7. At the time of writing, the Secretariat has selected and is in the process of recruiting a consultant to undertake the study of the feasibility and requirements for an informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations in accordance with Decision 19.266, taking into account the proposal for the establishment of a review mechanism for annotations as contained in document SC74 Doc. 82 as well as the comments made during SC74.

#### Recommendations

- 8. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of Decisions 19.266 and 19.267.