

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3-8 February 2025

Regulation of trade

RISK ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS FOR BORDER CONTROL OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of Parties adopted Decision 19.153 to 19.155 on *Risk assessment and analysis for border control*, and Decision 19.152, paragraph a), on *Electronic systems and information technology*, as follows:

Directed to Parties

19.153 *Where this has not yet been done, Parties are encouraged to undertake risk assessments to develop risk profiles specific to CITES-listed specimens frequently exported and imported by the Party, and to reach out to the World Customs Organization for support in this regard, where needed.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.154 *The Secretariat shall, subject to available resources, work with the World Customs Organization and other partners to develop guidance, including a specific guidance for a risk-based analysis related to the process of analysis and inspection under CITES permit issuing systems, and elements for a national policy on physical inspections and present its report and recommendations to the Standing Committee.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.155 *The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and endorse any guidance, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.152 *The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding:*

- a) *undertake a study on the information used by different Parties in a risk-based approach for CITES trade controls;*

Implementation of Decision 19.154 and Decision 19.152, paragraph a)

3. The Secretariat has initiated a study and the development of a guidance on risk assessment and inspections for CITES trade controls, thanks to funding from the European Union. This study is currently underway, though additional time was required for the development of appropriate methodologies and receipt of survey responses. Additionally, the Secretariat is collaborating with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to review this work. The objective is to incorporate insights from the study, including current practices from the Parties, into guidance on physical inspections. Once the final drafts are available, the Secretariat will discuss the study and draft guidance with interested Parties in an online meeting to gather further feedback for the

finalization of the guidance. It is expected that it will be presented for endorsement at the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee.

4. The Secretariat would like to thank those who already provided information for the study and invites Parties to indicate their interest in participating in the online consultation.

Recommendations

5. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) take note of the present document;
 - b) encourage Parties to participate in the online consultation for the finalization of the guidance on risk assessment and inspections for CITES trade controls; and
 - c) consider proposing to the Conference of Parties the renewal of Decisions 19.153 to 19.155.