

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

Exemption and species 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 the Chair of the Standing Committee working group on *Species at risk of extinction affected by international trade*.*

Background

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 below, including the mandate for the Standing Committee intersessional working group:

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 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

* *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.*

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

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.*

3. Initial discussions of the working group were reported to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee (see document SC77 [Doc. 60](#)). At SC77, the interim working group report was [noted](#) and further comments requested in response to Notification [2023/130](#). Comments were received from Japan, New Zealand (on behalf of the Oceania region), Nigeria, the United States of America, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Born Free Foundation and SSN, and were used to inform the further discussions of the SC working group.
4. To achieve Decision 19.187, a joint intersessional working group established by 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26, Geneva, 2023) and the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32, Geneva, 2023) with a mandate to develop recommendations for the Standing Committee to consider under Decision 19.186 ([PC26 SR](#); [AC32 SR](#)). There was a pause in the work of the Standing Committee working group while the joint Animal and Plant Committee (AC-PC) working group completed its mandate and developed recommendations.
5. The joint AC-PC working group reported to the joint session of PC27 and AC33 in document [PC27 Doc. 24 / AC33 Doc. 29](#), including draft recommendations and general observations. The recommendations agreed by the joint session of PC27/AC33 are set out the summary records (paragraph 24 of [PC27 SR](#); [AC33 SR](#)) and, *inter alia*, relate to capacity-building, information sharing and collaboration activities.
6. Given the short period of time for the SC working group to consider the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees prior to the submission of documents for SC78, draft decisions were prepared by the SC working group Chair based on the AC-PC recommendations. These draft decisions were used as a starting point for discussion in the SC working group and were shared via electronic means. Several rounds of comments from SC working group members were received and the draft decisions iterated. The draft decisions incorporating the comments of the working group received up to the point of finalisation of this report are included in the Annex to the present document.
7. The SC working group did not make a determination on whether to recommend the amendment of Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity building* as proposed in paragraph 24.h) of the AC-PC recommendations. The proposed text recommended by AC-PC is included below with new text underlined:

2. *INVITES Parties to:*

- d) upload to and update the CITES website, either directly or through the Secretariat, with relevant studies, analyses, other sources and methods to identify species that are or may be affected by international trade, are at risk of extinction and are either not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation.

Recommendations

8. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the present document;
- b) propose to CoP20 that Decisions 19.196-19.188 can be deleted and replaced with the draft decisions in the Annex to the present document, subject to any amendment agreed at SC78; and
- c) consider whether to communicate the amendment to Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building* included in paragraph 7 to CoP20 for its consideration.

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

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are invited to:

- a) submit information for inclusion on the dedicated page described in Decision 20.BB paragraph b) relating to methodologies, information or analyses on species or other taxonomic groups at risk of extinction that are or may be threatened by international trade, plus their look-alikes; and
- b) recognise and prioritise the best available scientific data and technical information, including peer-reviewed materials or publications, government reports or reports from other official bodies and relevant stakeholders and state whether the information has been peer-reviewed. Parties are encouraged to consider utilising the IPBES four-box model for the qualitative communication of confidence or other appropriate methods where possible.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall, subject to external resources:

- a) update and expand the materials in the Virtual College relating to the preparation and submission of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices.
- b) develop a dedicated page with a link to a restricted section on the CITES website accessible to Parties to make the following information submitted by Parties, by non-Party observers through Parties, and by the United Nations and its specialized agencies through either a Party or the Secretariat available to Parties:
 - i) methodologies used for identifying and / or selecting species at risk of extinction that might merit consideration to be included in the CITES Appendices;
 - ii) information or analyses on the status of species (or other taxonomic groups) not yet included in the Appendices which might merit such an inclusion; and
 - iii) information in regards Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), specifically in Annex 2.b, on species (or other taxonomic groups) that may be considered as look-alikes of taxa referenced in paragraph b)ii.
- c) update the page described in paragraph b) with information:
 - i) provided by Parties, including the name of the Party(s) that submitted the information and the date of submission; and
 - ii) derived from activities implemented by the Secretariat based on Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
- d) assess the feasibility of developing a functionality for Parties to upload material directly to the page described in paragraph b).

Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other experts

20.CC Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other experts are invited to work with Parties to identify, develop or submit the information referred to in Decision 20.AA.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committee, is requested to:

- a) review the implementation and effectiveness of Decisions 20.AA to 20.CC;
- b) consider any other actions or mechanisms that may be necessary to identify species at risk of extinction that are or may be threatened by international trade and develop listing proposals; and
- c) provide any recommendations relating to paragraphs a) and b) to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration.