

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



Joint sessions of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and
the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee
Online, 4 and 21 June 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2021

Opening of the meeting..... *No document*

The Chair of the Plants Committee (PC), the Chair of the Animals Committee (AC) and the Secretary-General welcomed the participants to the joint sessions of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee.

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

11./14. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) [Resolution Conf. 18.4]..... *No document*

The Committees noted the oral report of the Chair of the Animals Committee.

9./10. Appendix-I listed species [Decision 18.29]..... AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10 and Addendum

The Committees established an in-session working group on Appendix-I listed species with the mandate to:

- a) review the criteria and methodology used for the rapid assessment presented in information document AC31 Inf. 6/PC25 Inf. 8 and its Annexes 1 and 2, together with the additional criterion mentioned in paragraph 9 to the addendum of document AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10; and
- b) provide guidance to the Secretariat on its further implementation of Decision 18.28, as outlined in paragraphs 7 to 9 of document AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10 and its addendum.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Africa of the Plants Committee (Mr. Mahamane), representative for Asia of the Plants Committee (Ms. Atikah), alternate representative of the Plants Committee for Asia (Ms. Zeng) (**co-Chair**), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), representatives for Europe of the Animals Committee [Mr. Loertscher (**co-Chair**) and Ms. Zikova], alternate representative for Asia of the Animals Committee (Ms. Terada), nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: Argentina, Austria, Canada, China, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

Observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature; Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Center for Biological Diversity, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Conservation Analytics, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, Natural Resources Defense Council, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Safari Club International, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Parrot Trust, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Interpretation and implementation matters

Regulation of trade

14./17. Non-detriment findings

14.1/17. Report of the Secretariat

[Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)

and Decisions 18.132 and 18.133]..... AC31 Doc. 14.1/PC25 Doc.17 and Addendum

The Committees established an in-session working group on non-detriment findings with the mandate to:

- a) review the Secretariat's suggestions regarding priority gaps and weaknesses and corresponding workstreams, as presented in the Annex to the Addendum of document AC31 Doc. 14.1/PC25 Doc.17;
- b) review the terms of reference of the Technical Advisory Committee in paragraph 8 of the Addendum;
- c) consider the draft decisions in paragraph 9 of the Addendum for submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) formulate recommendations for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees later in this meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Africa for the Plants Committee (Ms. Khayota), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean of the Animals Committee (Mr. Ramadori), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean of the Plants Committee (Ms. Núñez Neyra), representative for Europe of the Animals Committee (Ms. Zikova), alternate representative for Europe of the Plants Committee (Mr. Wolf) (**co-Chair**), representative for North America of the Plants Committee (Ms. Gnam), alternate representative for North America of the Animals Committee (Ms. Loughheed) (**co-Chair**), alternate representative for Oceania of the Animals Committee (Ms. McIntyre), nomenclature specialist for the Animals Committee (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: Argentina, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

Observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature; Animal Welfare Institute, Blue Resources Trust, Born Free USA, Center for Biological Diversity, CIC – International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Dallas Safari Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency US, European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation, ForestBased Solutions, Forest Trends, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, International Wood Products Association, Safari Club International, Sea Shepherd Legal, TRAFFIC,

- 17./20. Specimens produced through biotechnology
[Decision 18.148]..... AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc.20

The Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc. 20 and agreed that the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committee, in consultation with their members, would represent the views of the scientific committees at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and provide input to the Standing Committee’s intersessional working group on specimens produced through biotechnology.

- 19./21. Captive-bred and ranched specimens

- 19.3/21. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source **[Decision 18.172]** AC31 Doc. 19.3/PC25 Doc. 21

The Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 19.3/PC25 Doc. 21 and agreed to propose to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting the extension of Decision 18.172 for further work beyond the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Strategic matters

- 8./9. CITES Strategic Vision* **[Decision 18.25]**..... AC31 Doc. 8/PC25 Doc. 9

The Committees endorsed the mapping of the *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 objectives* against the CITES Resolutions and Decisions, as presented in Annex 1 to document AC31 Doc. 8/ PC25 Doc. 9 with the addition of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual* and Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* under objectives 2.2 and 2.3, and in particular the placement of the species-specific Resolutions and Decisions under objective 2.5 and objective 3.5. The Committees requested the Secretariat to submit Annex 1 as revised above and Annex 2 to document AC31 Doc. 8/PC25 Doc. 9 to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

- 10./11. Capacity-building* **[Decision 18.40]**.....AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc.11 and Addendum (Rev. 1)

The Committees noted the edits to paragraph 6 b) of the revised addendum AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc. 11 Add. (Rev. 1) proposed by Mexico and the United States of America:

The Committees agreed that:

- a) some form of CITES capacity-building conceptual framework (strategy) is needed;
- b) a wide variety of elements must be considered when developing the capacity-building conceptual framework;
- c) wide stakeholder consultation is needed for the development of the capacity-building framework; and
- d) elements for both face-to-face and online means of capacity building delivery must be considered in the framework.

The Committees invited the Standing Committee to consider the views of the Animals and Plants Committees in its discussions through the continued participation of their four representatives in the Standing Committee’s intersessional working group on capacity-building.

Interpretation and implementation matters

Regulation of trade

- 15./18. Identification materials* [Decision 18.137] AC31 Doc. 15/PC25 Doc.18 and Addendum

The Committees established an in-session working group on identification materials with the mandate to:

- a) review the proposed draft resolution contained in the Annex to document AC31 Doc. 15/PC25 Doc. 18, Addendum and, if needed, revise it for consideration of the Animals and Plants Committee and onward submission to the Standing Committee; and
- b) draft or revise decisions on identification materials for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Europe of the Animals Committee (Ms. Zikova), representative for North America of the Plants Committee (Ms. Gnam) (**co-Chair**), representative for Oceania of the Animals Committee (Mr. Robertson) (**co-Chair**);

Parties: China, Singapore, and United States of America; and

Observers: International Union for Conservation of Nature; Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society International, and World Resources Institute.

General compliance and enforcement

13. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species
[Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)]

- 13.5/15.6 Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews* AC31 Doc. 13.5/PC25 Doc. 15.6

The Committees requested the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees to consult their Members and the leads on Decision 18.72 as per their respective workplans (AC31 Doc. 7.2 and PC25 Doc. 7.2) to represent the views of the Committees on these issues through the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on capacity-building and at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and to work with the Secretariat to develop recommendations on country-wide Significant Trade Reviews and present the outcomes of this work to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Species specific matters

Maintenance of the Appendices

- 40./35. Annotations* [Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18)] AC31 Doc. 40/PC25 Doc. 35

The Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 39/PC25 Doc. 33 and the oral update by the Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations.

- 42./40. Guidance for the publication of the Appendices*
[Decision 18.331] AC31 Doc. 42/PC25 Doc. 40

The Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 42/PC25 Doc. 40 and invited Parties and observer organizations to submit to the Secretariat their comments on the draft revised *Guidance for the publication of the Appendices* in document SC73 Doc. 26 (Rev. 1). Given that the Animals and Plants Committees were not provided an opportunity for input or discussion of the document, it was requested that the record reflect that noting the document does not imply agreement or endorsement.