

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

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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  
MONDAY 21 JUNE 2021

Adoption of the executive summary ..... AC31/PC25 Sum. 1

The Committees adopted executive summary AC31/PC25 Sum. 1 with the following amendments:

- under agenda item AC31 Doc. 19/PC25 Doc. 21, add at the end of the sentence: “for further work beyond the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties”; and
- under agenda item AC31 Doc. 42/PC25 Doc. 40, add the following sentence: “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.”

**Strategic matters**

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

The Committees adopted the recommendations in document AC31/PC25 Com. 1 amended as follows.

The Committees agreed to invite the Secretariat to undertake the following:

- a) to continue the collaboration with the University of Applied Sciences Van Hall Larenstein (Netherlands) in carrying out the analysis of a selection of Appendix-I species and use these case studies to compile possible measures that CITES could adopt within its mandate to improve the conservation status of potential species of concern; and
- b) in consultation with the Plants and Animals Committees, through their chairs, and invited experts to:
  - i) further refine the methodology and its criteria for carrying out an assessment of species listed in Appendix I that might benefit from measures adopted by the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the suggestions from the working group; and
  - ii) draft decisions for submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to ensure the further advancement of this work, including the possible development of an ongoing assessment for Appendix-I listings under the CITES provisions.

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 agreed the recommendations in document AC31/PC25 Com. 3 with the following amendments.

The Committees agreed to recommend that an ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee be established to advise the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 18.132. The Committees further agreed that the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees will advise the Secretariat on the modalities, terms of reference (ToR) and timing for the establishment of the ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee. The Committees recommended that the additional priorities and workstreams suggested in document AC31/PC25 Com. 3, as well as the proposed prioritization, be considered when establishing final priorities and workstreams for implementing Decision 18.132.

The Committees invited the Secretariat to verify whether the term “Committee” or “Group” should be used in the context of the establishment of an advisory body and amend the name of the ad hoc technical advisory body accordingly, if necessary.

The Committees agreed to submit the following draft decisions on non-detriment findings guidance to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as proposed in document AC31/PC25 Com. 3 and amended by the Chair of the Animals Committee, the Plants Committee representative for the North American region (Ms. Gnam), and China:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

19.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, address priorities in capacity-building related to non-detriment findings (NDF) agreed by the Secretariat and the ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties, by:
  - i) continuing to support the ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee through which the Animals and Plants Committees provided support and advice for implementing Decisions 18.132 to 18.134;
  - ii) organizing in consultation with the ad hoc TAC an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings to review, advance or complete draft guidance materials on NDFs; and
  - iii) undertaking targeted research in support of the development of new or updated NDF guidance materials in close collaboration with the ad hoc TAC, relevant experts, Parties and organizations;
- b) compile and present the results of the work under paragraph a) to the Animals and Plants Committees for their review and make suggestions on how best to use the outputs to assist Scientific Authorities in the making of NDFs;
- c) make available to Parties on the CITES website the NDF guidance materials resulting from the implementation of the present Decision;
- d) develop a strategy and feedback mechanism for Parties and the wider CITES community to share experiences with using NDF guidance materials, which should allow the Animals and Plants Committees to make recommendations pertaining to review and update the NDF materials as may be needed; and

- e) consult the Animals and Plants Committees on the implementation of the present Decision and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

19.BB The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) continue the ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) established under the recommendations in document AC31/PC25 Com. 3 through which the Animals and Plants Committees provided support and advice for implementing Decisions 18.132 to 18.134, review the functioning of the ad hoc TAC, and make any appropriate decisions to ensure continued advice and assistance for the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC;
- b) participate as appropriate in the international expert workshop on NDFs where draft guidance materials are to be reviewed, advanced or completed;
- c) review and make recommendations concerning: the outcomes of the international expert workshop on NDFs; the use of its outputs in support of the making of NDFs by Scientific Authorities; and their publication on the CITES website;
- d) based on the strategy and feedback from Parties and the wider CITES community on experiences with using NDF guidance materials, review and update NDF materials as may be needed; and
- e) report on these activities at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to Parties***

19.CC Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide any help and information regarding methodologies, tools, scientific information, expertise and any other resources used to formulate NDFs in order to contribute to such a workshop;
- b) make use of the guidance materials on NDFs resulting from the implementation of Decisions 19.AA and 19.BB and participate as appropriate in the feedback mechanism on NDF guidance, to be developed by the Secretariat as referred to in Decision 19.AA, paragraph d); and
- c) provide financial and technical support for the implementation of Decision 19.AA, including for an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings.

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

The Committees agreed to submit to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting the draft resolution and draft decisions in document AC31/PC25 Com. 2 with the following amendment:

- insert "to the extent possible" in paragraph 4 a) of the draft resolution that should read: "provide identification information to the extent possible in the proposals for amendment of Appendices including information as outlined in paragraphs C 1. "taxonomy", 3. "species characteristics", and 9 "information on similar species" in Annex 6 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and the Annex to this Resolution;"

The Committees further agreed to, if necessary, mandate their Chairs, with the assistance of the in-session working group members, to continue to draft the proposed new resolution on identification materials, and submit it to the Standing Committee for inputs and onward submission to the Conference of the Parties.

**Species specific matters**

Maintenance of the Appendices

39. Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings [Decision 18.313] ..... AC31 Doc. 39/PC25 Doc. 33 and Addendum

The Committees agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 18.313 and 18.314 to the Standing Committee as follows:

***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

18.313 (Rev. CoP19) The Animals and Plants Committees shall, taking into consideration the current guidance in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*, paragraph 2 g), evaluate how nomenclature changes affect Appendix-III listings and propose further guidance and recommendations as necessary, ~~for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting,~~ that address how such nomenclature changes are to be handled, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

18.314 (Rev. CoP19) The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, shall ~~at its 73rd meeting~~ take into account the guidance and recommendations from the Animals and Plants Committees and make recommendations to address nomenclature changes that affect an Appendix-III listing, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) or Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III*, for consideration at the ~~49~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

41. Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II  
**[Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)]**

- 41.1 Overview of species under Review ..... AC31 Doc. 41.1/PC25 Doc. 39.1

The Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 41.1/PC24 Doc. 39.1.

Closing remarks..... No document

The CITES Secretary-General made closing remarks. The Chairs of the Committees then closed the joint session of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee.