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
Geneva (Switzerland), 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
Interpretation and implementation matters

Regulation of trade

14.17. Non-detriment findings


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. Lougheed) (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


17./20. Specimens produced through biotechnology

[Decision 18.148] 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


Strategic matters

8./9. CITES Strategic Vision* [Decision 18.25] 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] The Committees noted the edits to paragraph 6 b) of the revised addendum AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc. 11 and Addendum (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]
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**

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)]

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]

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).