

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



Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2017

Species specific matters

Aquatic species

PRECIOUS CORALS (ORDER ANTIPATHARIA AND FAMILY CORALLIIDAE)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.190 to 17.193 on *Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae)* as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.190 *The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to:*

- a) *issue a notification that invites precious coral range States and relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, on a voluntary basis, to complete a questionnaire/survey (Annex 2 of document CoP17 Com. I. 11) to report data on their precious coral resources (black, red, and pink coral species including species within the order Antipatharia, and family Coralliidae), especially current and historical abundance, biological status, management, and any known harvest for domestic or international trade; and*
- b) *compile range States' and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations' data into a report for submission to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee for its consideration.*

17.191 *The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to commission a study by species experts on CITES and non-CITES listed precious coral species (black, red, and pink coral species including species within the order Antipatharia, and family Coralliidae) including:*

- a) *consideration of any responses received to the Notification issued in response to Decision 17.190;*
- b) *compilation of available data and information on the biology, population status, use and trade in each species, as well as identification of gaps in such data and information;*
- c) *comparison of the management and harvest regulation schemes for black and red and pink coral species; and*
- d) *preparation of a report for consideration at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee, on the conservation status and trade of precious corals, including guidance, if appropriate, on the actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of precious corals.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

17.192 *The Animals Committee is requested to:*

- a) *analyse the outcomes of the precious coral survey and the FAO study and prepare recommendations, as appropriate, on actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable harvest and use of all precious corals in international trade; and*
- b) *report these recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.193 *The Standing Committee is requested to consider the information and recommendations of the Animals Committee, made in accordance with Decision 17.192, and make its own recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties or for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. Pursuant to Decision 17.190, the Secretariat issued in [Notification to the Parties No. 2017/25](#) the survey on precious corals, inviting Parties and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to provide, on a voluntary basis, information on precious coral resources. To ensure wide distribution, the Secretariat also sent the questionnaire to RFMOs with mandates relating to corals.
4. At the time of writing of the document (May 2017), the Secretariat has received replies from Australia, Croatia, the European Union, France, Greece, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC). The replies, in the language as received, are attached in the Annex to this document. The Secretariat has not yet been able to compile the responses into a report as requested in Decision 17.190, paragraph b), noting that several replies were received after the set deadlines and that no external funding has been made available. The Secretariat will provide an oral update on this, as well as information on any further replies it received.
5. At the time of writing of this document (May 2017), the Secretariat was discussing funding opportunities for the implementation of Decision 17.191, but no external funding source had been confirmed.
6. Once external funding becomes available, the Secretariat intends to implement Decision 17.191 so that the report will be available for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 30th Meeting (AC30). To facilitate the analysis and the formulation of recommendations at AC30, the Committee may wish to establish an intersessional working group that could consider outcomes of the study conducted under Decision 17.191 as they become available.

Recommendations

7. The Animals Committee is invited to:
 - a) analyse, in compliance with Decision 17.191, paragraph a), the outcomes of the precious coral survey, and the information provided by range States and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in response to Decision 17.190; and
 - b) consider establishing an intersessional working group as suggested in paragraph 6 above.