

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



Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-21 July 2018

Regional matters

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This document has been prepared by Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom), Mathias Loertscher (Switzerland), Simon Nemtsov (Israel) and Dagmar Zikova (European Union, EU). This document reports on activities undertaken in the Region since the 29th Meeting of the Animals Committee (18-22 July 2017).*
2. General information
 1. Animal Committee (AC) members: Mathias Loertscher (Switzerland) and Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom). Alternate members: Simon Nemtsov (Israel) and Dagmar Zikova (European Union).
 2. The representatives divide their duties as follows: Vincent Fleming (VF) represents those Parties in the European Union (29 Parties consisting of the 28 EU Member States and the European Union itself); as Mathias Loertscher has been elected as Chair of the Animals Committee, Simon Nemtsov, as alternate, represents the 21 Parties in the region that are not in the European Union.
 3. Number of Parties in European region: 49; number of non-Parties: 2.

Overview of major developments

a) Review of Significant Trade

5. No significant new issues to report.

b) Periodic Review of the Appendices

6. No significant new issues to report.

c) Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

7. No significant new issues to report.

* *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.*

d) Non-detriment findings

8. European Union. With respect to the implementation of the Appendix II listing of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), the European Union has established measures aimed at achieving the recovery of the species. These measures include temporary prohibition on fishing of European eels measuring 12 cm or longer (overall length) in Union Waters of ICES areas including the Baltic Sea for three consecutive months (to be determined by each Member State between 1 September 2018 and 31 January 2019), to protect spawners (silver eels) during their migration. The status of, and trade in, the species has also been reviewed frequently by members of the EU CITES Scientific Review Group (SRG; see paragraph 16 below). The SRG has concluded that it is not possible at present to make a non-detriment finding (NDF) for the export from, or import into, the EU of specimens of European eel. EU Member States have notified the CITES Secretariat of a zero annual export quota for European eel since 2011.
9. Spain. The Spanish Scientific Authority (SA) has elaborated a “*Methodology for drawing up Non-Detriment Findings reports for CITES vertebrate species of Annex B of Regulation (EC) 338/1997*”. This methodology involves for the first time the use of thresholds for decision-making in NDF reports. It was presented at the SRG80 (18 September 2017).
10. Spain has also presented this methodology by videoconference to the ‘*Workshop on NDF for amphibians and reptiles*’ organised by Colombia (24 November 2017) for the Scientific Authorities of Colombia, Peru, México y Argentina.
11. Colombia expressed interest in the proposed methodology for its application to particular species and, recently (7th May 2018), a second videoconference was held between CITES Authorities of Colombia and Spain. As a result, it was agreed that Spain and Colombia will cooperate in order to elaborate jointly the NDF for two crocodile species: *Crocodylus acutus* and *Caiman crocodilus fuscus*.

e) Other issues

12. Israel. Israel's Scientific Authority has been involved in establishing new domestic guidelines in Israel in line with the CITES resolutions on trade in animal hybrids (Resolution Conf. 10.17 (Rev. CoP14), hunting trophies (Resolution 17.9), and live coral (Notification 2013/035). The Israel Scientific Authority is also looking at the worrying increase in registered operations for breeding *Psittacus erithacus*. This relates to Israel's stricter domestic measures (see: Notification 2004/025), specifically Israel's measure to treat all Appendix I species as such, and not to accept the Article VII exemption treating these captive-bred specimens as Appendix II. Israel has also been engaged in a number of activities related to uplisting species in the Convention on Migratory Species and its daughter agreements, especially species that are already listed in the CITES Appendices, such as whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) and various old world raptors (Falconiformes).

Activities of regional representatives

13. All Parties in the region were contacted by the European regional representatives in May 2018 to invite their contributions to this report.
14. Mathias Loertscher, in addition to his other duties as Chair of the Animals Committee, participated in the “*CITES capacity development workshop on monitoring captive breeding and ranching facilities for all taxa, and on conducting non detriment findings (NDFs) for CITES snakes*” organized by IUCN, the CITES Secretariat and the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (1-4 May 2018, Bogor, Indonesia). The Spanish Scientific Authority also participated in this event.
15. Vincent Fleming (VF) regularly attends all meetings of the EU CITES Scientific Review Group (see paragraph 20 & the Annex); these meetings are chaired by Dagmar Zikova (alternate member for Europe), enabling both to keep in touch with all the other Scientific Authorities of the 28 EU Member States. By the time of this meeting, the Scientific Review Group will have met four times since the 29th Animals Committee.
16. VF, as Chair of the inter-sessional working group on eels, also participated in, and moderated, the CITES International Technical Workshop on Eels (*Anguilla* spp.), organised by the Secretariat and hosted by the United Kingdom, held at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew on 18-20 April 2018. The workshop

addressed the issues required under Decision 17.186; the outcome of the workshop will be discussed at the 30th Animals Committee along with other issues relating to eels.

17. VF also participated, on behalf of the United Kingdom, in the 2nd Meeting of Range States for the European Eel organized by the Convention on Migratory Species and held in Malmö, Sweden on 15-16 May 2018.

Regional cooperation and priorities

18. European Union. The European Union (EU) has been providing significant funding to support a range of initiatives in support of CITES implementation and which are relevant to the work of the Animals Committee (see some examples of funded activities in the Annex).
19. Spain. The '*Spanish Action Plan against illegal trafficking and international poaching of wild species*' ([Plan TIFIES](#)) (April, 2018) was approved to enhance both the efficiency in the development of the actions that the '[EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking](#)' entrusts to the Member States of the EU and the coordination of the different ministerial departments of Spain involved in this task.

Meetings and workshops

20. European Union. The Scientific Review Group (SRG) of the European Union, which comprises the Scientific Authorities of the EU Member States and the European Commission, meets regularly (c4 times a year) to discuss scientific aspects of CITES and the implementation of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. More information about opinions formed by the SRG and reports considered by it are detailed in the Annex.
21. Spain. The Spanish SA has organized an '*International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings for Hunting Trophies of certain African species included in CITES Appendixes I and II*' (Seville, 26-29th April, 2018). The results of this workshop will be presented as an Agenda document to AC30.

European Regional Report – contribution of the European Union to the implementation of CITES relevant to the work of the Animals Committee

The EU is providing large volume of bilateral support to developing countries and regions to protect biodiversity and manage protected areas. Since the adoption of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking in 2016, significant new EU funds (around € 340 million) have been mobilised under the EU development and cooperation policy to support regional and international projects contributing to fight against wildlife crime.

This includes regional programmes against cross-border wildlife crime in Central and Eastern Africa, as well as in support to conservation for ACP countries¹ and national support to specific countries (for example Guinea).

The EU global programme is designed to reinforce law enforcement and combatting wildlife and forest crime through financial support amounting to €43.5 million. The first component of this programme consists of reinforcing the operational capacities of the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) against wildlife trafficking, through grants to Interpol and UNODC², which are members of the Consortium alongside with CITES, the World Customs Organisation and the World Bank. This component (amounting to €13.5 million) should improve wildlife and forest law enforcement in targeted countries as well as international coordination. The second component of this new programme (amounting to €30 million) will consist of support to civil society organisations active against wildlife trafficking in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The European Commission allocated 7 M Euro for the period 2017-2020 to the CITES tree species programme aiming to provide direct financial assistance to Parties in taking conservation and management measures to ensure that their trade in timber, bark, extracts and other products from CITES-listed tree species is sustainable, legal and traceable."

The EU provides financial support to the project "Minimising the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES)"; the programme is running in the period 2014-2018 (12.3 Mio EUR granted to the CITES Secretariat) (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1193_en.htm)

The EU provides financial support (€ 1.1 million) to the project "LIFE for Danube Sturgeons"³ (2016-2020) aiming at improving enforcement of laws and regulations against sturgeon poaching and illegal caviar trade in Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. The LIFE programme has also been providing considerable support to projects against the illegal killing of birds throughout the EU.

In November 2017, a call for proposals⁴ for projects aiming to boost operational activities of the Member States on environmental crime including wildlife crime was launched under the EU **Internal Security Fund - Police programme**, with an overall budget of €2.5 million.

- Support to the Secretariat for the implementation of CoP 17 decisions (August 2013 – March 2017, 0.7 Mio EUR)
- Species+ and monitoring of the status of several CITES-listed species (0.65 Mio EUR granted to UNEP-WCMC)
- Support to the Secretariat for the implementation of CoP 17 decisions and further capacity building for developing countries –an allocation of EUR 2.25 million approved in March 2017 has now become available.

¹ *African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States*

² *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

³ <https://danube-sturgeons.org/the-project/>

⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/isfp/topics/isfp-2017-ag-env.html>

Revision of EU rules governing trade in Appendix II specimens

Revision of EU Wildlife Trade Regulations

- The Commission is currently reviewing the Commission Implementing Regulation (Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 of 4 May 2006 (Official Journal OJ L 166, 19.6.2006, p.1). The adoption of the new Commission Regulation is expected for second half of 2018.
- The Commission is in the process of reviewing the *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2017/1915* in order to reflect decisions taken at AC 29.

Other activities

UNEP-WCMC has been contracted to provide reports on the biological and trade data regarding a large number of species traded under CITES as well as a number of additional scientific matters relating to CITES implementation. A number of reviews carried out by UNEP-WCMC as a basis for SRG work can be accessed on the European Commission website:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/reports_en.htm

TRAFFIC has been contracted to monitor the implementation and enforcement of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, and to provide studies and assessments on particular topics.

More information on the EU wildlife trade rules can be obtained via the specific webpage of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/home_en.htm

Regional cooperation and priorities - Meetings and workshops

The European Union Scientific Review Group

The Scientific Review Group of the European Union with the CITES Scientific Authorities of the 28 Member States meets regularly (usually four times a year) in order to discuss scientific aspects of the CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations implementation, including the importation into the EU of several animal species. In particular, the SRG monitors non-detriment findings (NDFs) regarding imports into the EU of species from several exporting countries, as well as exports from the EU of CITES-listed species. The Group also works inter-sessionally to deliver advice on scientific issues.

Further information on work done by the SRG can be found under the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/srg_en.htm

A number of reviews carried out by UNEP-WCMC as a basis for SRG work can be found on the European Commission register of expert groups website

(<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=365&NewSearch=1&NewSearch=1>).

- Update to the Analysis of 2017 CITES export quotas
- Analysis of EU Annual reports 2015
- EU Wildlife Trade 2015 Analysis of European Union and candidate countries annual reports to CITES 2015
- Review of species selected from the Analysis of 2017 export quotas. Part I
- Review of species selected from the 2015 EU Analysis
- No opinion ii since SRG 76
- Review of Annex D species - Part I