

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

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

## SUMMARY RECORD

Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened and participants were welcomed by Mr. David Morgan, CITES Officer-in-Charge. Mr. Morgan thanked colleagues in the Secretariat, particularly the Scientific Support team led by Mr. Tom De Meulenaer, and all colleagues working behind the scenes on the documentation, registration and logistics. He also reminded participants that the opening of the 18th Conference of the Parties (CoP18) would take place in just over 300 days.

The Chair of the Animals Committee, Mr. Matthias Lörtscher, then welcomed Committee Members, Parties, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

1. Agenda

The Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) introduced document AC30 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1).

The Committee adopted the agenda in document AC30 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1).

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

2. Working programme

The Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) introduced document AC30 Doc. 2 (Rev. 1).

The Committee adopted the working programme in document AC30 Doc. 2 (Rev. 1).

Pursuant to Resolution Conf 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat asked Committee members to state any conflict of interest.

The Committee noted that no member present declared any financial interests that he or she considered calling into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the meeting agenda.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

3. Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 3, noting that it contained draft Rules of Procedure for the Animals and Plants Committees produced by the Secretariat, and that Decision 17.7, adopted at the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties, directed the Secretariat to prepare these based on the Standing Committee's Rules of Procedure adopted at its last meeting. As the Animals and Plants Committee share the same Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat had circulated a draft version to the members of both Committees for comment. A total of ten members of the scientific committees had provided feedback. The Secretariat noted that the suggested changes were outlined in the main body of text in document AC30 Doc. 3. This included the addition of a new rule regarding conflict of interest.

Committee members were generally pleased with the addition of the conflict of interest process, as it would prevent problems arising in working groups where certain participants had a commercial interest in a particular area. An intervention raised concern that it was not clear what provisions applied should the Chair of the Committee be the individual with a conflict of interest.

Parties voiced concerns on some of the technical language used in Rules 11, 16 and 17, as well as on the proposed deletion of Rule 23 on the treatment of information, which they felt was useful. and the need to reinsert it in Rule 11 was suggested.

The Committee adopted the Rules of Procedure of the Animals Committee contained in Annex 2 of document AC30 Doc. 3 with the following amendments:

- Include provisions in old Rule 23 in new Rule 11 as follows:
  1. Information documents on the protection, conservation or management of wild fauna and flora may be submitted for information purposes only. They will not be translated and cannot be discussed at the meeting. However, such documents may be referred to, if they relate to the existing agenda items, but not discussed. Information documents may be submitted by:
- In Rule 16, insert “or acting Member” after “At the request of the Chair or of any Member”; and
- In Rule 17, replace “Such” by “Intersessional” as follows: “Intersessional working groups shall normally work electronically”.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to share with the Plants Committee the final adopted Rules of Procedure of the Animals Committee.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); Canada, Japan, Mexico and the United States of America.

#### 4. Admission of observers

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 4 (Rev. 2).

The Committee noted the list of observers provided in document AC30 Doc. 4 (Rev. 2).

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

#### 5. Animals Committee strategic planning for 2017-2019 (CoP17-CoP18)

##### 5.1 Implementation of the work plan for 2017-2019

The Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) introduced document AC30 Doc. 5.1, noting that the number of Decisions in the Committee’s work plan had doubled since the previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties, while the available resources had not increased. The Chair suggested that the implementation of the next work plan that would result from the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18), should start as early as possible, and not wait for the first regular meeting of the Animals Committee. He suggested that the Committee could start using electronic means to help address some of the challenges faced in trying to comply with the requests of the Conference of the Parties.

An intervention raised some concern over the lack of transparency associated with the use of intersessional decision-making and electronic means for substantive discussions.

The Committee noted the oral update by the Chair of the Animals Committee.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov).

## 5.2 Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Committee noted that the Chair of the Animals Committee is responsible for preparing a report on the activities of the Committee for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and that he will seek input from all Committee members in compiling this report.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

## 6. Review of Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17)

The Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) introduced document AC30 Doc. 6/PC24 Doc. 6.

Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on Rules of Procedure, was requested to make comments regarding where the Standing Committee stands and how she envisions progress.

Regarding the amendments proposed to Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat noted that it would be important that the scientific committees and the Standing Committee collaborate to have one revised resolution moving forward to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Additionally, it noted the omission in the proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) of a process for replacing members and alternate members that are resigning during an intersessional period, and drew attention in this regard to changes made in paragraph 7 of Annex 2.

Concerns were voiced on the wording of the proposal made by the Secretariat.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 6/PC24 Doc. 6 and established an in-session working group on the terms of reference of the Animals and Plants Committees with the following mandate:

The in-session working group shall discuss and agree the proposed amendments to Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of committees*, as set out in the annexes to document AC30 Doc. 6/PC24 Doc. 6 for endorsement by the Animals and Plants Committees. In doing so, the working group shall take into account the discussions in plenary of the joint session and any additional information about the progress of the work in the relevant Standing Committee's intersessional working group.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: The Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) and the Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms. Sinclair);

Parties: Austria, Canada, Japan, United States of America and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: Humane Society International and IWMC-World Conservation Trust.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) introduced document AC30/PC24 Com. 3.

The Committees agreed to the amendments to Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) in document AC30/PC24 Com. 3.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah), the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemptzov), the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz), the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk), the PC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. McCough); Canada, China, the United States of America; and World Conservation Trust.

## 7. CITES Strategic vision

Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on the Strategic Vision, provided an update on the progress made, noting that the working group had started to review the current strategic vision while waiting for it to be renewed at CoP18, and in light of other developments, such as the post-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity under the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), and the Sustainable Development Goals. The majority of the working group members thought that the current strategic vision was a good place to start but recognised that some additional work on the presentation of the vision, goals and objectives was yet to be done.

Committee members voiced concern that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the post-2020 biodiversity framework had been omitted from objective 4.1, and noted that there was a need to try to achieve more balances between the objectives in terms of the goals set (i.e. some objectives had many goals while others only had a few).

The Committees noted an oral update of the Chair of the Standing Committee, and provided feedback on the draft CITES Strategic Vision for the period after 2020 to the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, as the Committees' representatives on the Standing Committee's working group on the Strategic Vision.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); and Canada.

## 8. Appendix I-listed species

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc. 8, noting that it had been unable to identify donors interested in partially or fully funding the large research project envisaged. It had therefore not yet enlisted the assistance of the advisory group that had been established at AC29/PC23. The Secretariat outlined a series of steps that it felt would need to be undertaken in order to complete the work envisaged in Decision 17.22, and sought the views of the Animals and Plants Committees on whether they saw any merit in continuing this work after CoP18.

Interventions made indicated that there was support for the continuation of the work.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc. 8 and requested the Secretariat to submit draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting in order to continue the work called for in Decisions 17.22 to 17.25, taking into account the steps outlined in paragraph 11 of document AC30 Doc. 8/PC24 Doc. 8.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov); and Mexico.

## 9. Capacity building and identification materials

### 9.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 9.1/PC24 Doc. 9.1, noting that there are two main issues that may require a mandate to continue with an intersessional working group on capacity building and identification materials: (1) work under Decision 17.161 c) on improving the accessibility of the identification sheets from the CITES identification manual and (2) the review of Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical cooperation* and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev CoP16) on *Identification manual*.

The Chair of the intersessional working group, the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson), noted the receipt of only two responses out of more than fifty participants in the intersessional working group. He highlighted that one of the comments received was on the importance of training tools and identification materials as part of capacity building.

There was consensus that the proposed Decision on capacity building should go forward, and that decisions on identification materials could be kept separate.

Concern was raised on the challenge of finding educational materials on the CITES website due to the limited functions of the search tool.

The Committees agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting:

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

The Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a joint working group on identification materials that are used by Parties to identify CITES-listed species and undertake the following tasks, in consultation with the Secretariat:

- a) review selected identification materials and assess the need for their revision and improvement, taking into account the materials that are being developed or have already been developed by Parties and materials requested in Decisions;
- b) review Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual* and make recommendations, including possible amendments to this Resolution if appropriate, to promote accuracy and availability of identification materials;
- c) provide input to the Secretariat to improve the accuracy and availability of identification materials on CITES-listed species; and
- d) report on progress with these activities at the next meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees, as well as the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### ***Directed to Parties***

Parties are encouraged to support the efforts of the working group on identification materials by providing to the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance materials that are used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspection officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); the Republic of Korea and the United States of America (on behalf of Canada, North America region and Mexico).

## 9.2 Update of the identification guide for CITES-listed alligator lizards (*Abronia* spp.)

Mexico introduced document AC30 Doc. 9.2 which highlighted the development of an identification guide for *Abronia* spp. in two formats (leaflet and digital format with pdfs for tablets and smartphones) for non-specialists to identify the species and provide further information.

Committee members and a Party were very appreciative of the guide and suggested that it would be useful for the pdf online format to be translated into English. Committee members observed that the guide will be of great assistance in implementing the CITES listing.

The Committee noted Mexico's progress in the development of identification material for the genus *Abronia* in information document AC30 Inf. 2 and requested the Secretariat to publish the Identification Guide for CITES-listed alligator lizards on the CITES website.

The Committee invited Parties and other stakeholders to review the different formats of the Guide and send feedback, including photographs of *Abronia matudai* and *Abronia salvadorensis*, to the Scientific Authority of Mexico: [ac-cites@conabio.gob.mx](mailto:ac-cites@conabio.gob.mx).

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Asia (Mr. Mobaraki), the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam); France and Mexico.

## 10. Non-detriment findings

### 10.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 10.1/PC24 Doc. 10.1, noting that it has two sections: the first dealing with instructions emanating from the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

the second proposing a set of draft decisions on non-detriment findings (NDFs) for consideration at CoP18. These draft decisions include proposals to inventory and review the materials and guidance for the making of NDFs that are available to the Parties, identify any apparent gaps or needs, identify priorities for additional or improved guidance and address these by developing new guidance materials in collaboration with experts, Parties and organizations and organise one or more interdisciplinary workshops, as appropriate.

The acting PC representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Díaz), supported by several Parties and an NGO, stressed the importance of a second international workshop for experts, and to develop updates to the NDF guidance for species case studies derived from the first International Expert Workshop on CITES NDFs (Cancun, 2008), as well as for specimens traded under W, F and R source codes.

Parties expressed support for the continuation of the process moving forward and stressed the importance of sharing NDFs.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 10.1/PC24 Doc. 10.1 and established an in-session working group on non-detriment findings with the following mandate:

The in-session working group shall review and revise the edits proposed during the plenary by the representative of North America of the Plants Committee and the Chair of the Plants Committee to the set of Decisions presented in document AC30 Doc. 10.1/PC24 Doc. 10.1 to be submitted by the Secretariat to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the acting representative of North America of the Plants Committee (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and the representative of Africa of the Animals Committee (Mr. Mensah);

Members: the representative of Oceania of the Animals Committee (Mr. Robertson);

Parties: China, Colombia, European Union, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America;

IGOs and NGOs: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Investigation Agency United States of America, Save our Seas Foundation and Species Survival Network.

Later in the meeting, the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) presented AC30/PC24 Com. 2.

The Committees adopted the recommendations in document AC30/PC24 Com. 2 with the following amendments:

– in draft decision 18.AA, paragraph c) subparagraph ii) should read as follows:

- ii) organising one or more interdisciplinary expert workshops on NDFs, including the 2nd international expert workshop on non-detriment findings, with assistance of the Animals and Plants Committees, where draft guidance materials on NDFs are to be reviewed, advanced or completed;

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Germany, Mexico, Peru; and TRAFFIC.

#### 10.2 Results of the 'International expert workshop on non-detriment findings for hunting trophies of certain African species included in CITES Appendices I and II' (Seville, April 26-29, 2018)

The European Union (EU) introduced document AC30 Doc. 10.2 (Rev. 1), noting the complicated environmental, social and economic issues experienced in some countries in Africa. The EU stated that while trophy hunting can stimulate the sustainable use of resources and has the potential to benefit communities, it can pose threats to the conservation of wildlife if not properly managed. The need to improve the management of hunting and have a balanced representation of interests in future workshops which should be held in African countries were also highlighted.

Committee members, Parties and NGOs recognized that this first workshop as an initial step. Some concerns were raised regarding the voices heard throughout the workshop, the need to welcome Eastern African countries to these workshops, and to look further at trophy hunting and how it related to NDFs.

Some NGOs were concerned that age and size should not be the only aspects reviewed when making an NDF for hunting trophies. They also felt that the review cannot be narrowed down to a checklist, and reported that most of the countries whose species were discussed in the workshop had already done NDFs but that these were not analysed.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 10.2 (Rev. 1) and the results of the 'International expert workshop on non-detriment findings for hunting trophies of certain African species included in CITES Appendices I and II'; supported the continuation of the work on non-detriment findings for hunting trophies and requested Parties to keep the Animals Committee informed of any new workshop and its outcomes.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the acting AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov); South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania; Conservation Force, ProWildlife (on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity, Survival Species Network and Humane Society International), World Conservation Society and World Conservation Trust.

#### 11. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES)

The PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz), who represented CITES at the 6th plenary meeting of IPBES, gave an oral update on the meeting, noting the adoption of four decisions. He explained that there was agreement at that meeting to commence a thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species. The assessment will be undertaken over three to four years, and will have a total budget of approximately 1.4 million USD.

The Secretariat explained that the Plenary of IPBES had requested the IPBES Secretariat to consult appropriate multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations partners with respect to ongoing work on sustainable use. In this context, the IPBES Secretariat presented the scope of the assessment during a meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management held on 14 June 2018, at which the Secretariat was represented. At this meeting, the IPBES Secretariat explained to the members of the Partnership what opportunities there would be to provide inputs to the process.

The Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) reported on the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel meeting in Bonn on 26-28 June 2018, noting that the issues tackled included the selection of experts (which had already been submitted by Parties) and proposals for co-leads of the assessment. He also noted that a letter received by IPBES was contained in information document AC30 Inf. 34. In this letter, IPBES seeks information in relation to the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species on the following:

- a) ongoing work an existing decisions, publications or other materials under CITES relevant to the assessment;
- b) issues and questions which the IPBES assessment could assess, within its agreed scope, to make the assessment most useful for CITES;
- c) processes under CITES for the consideration of the key messages of the assessment once completed; and, more broadly:
- d) requesting inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer term strategic needs [of CITES] that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme.

There was consensus among participants for continued collaboration between CITES and IPBES.

The Committees noted the oral updates of the acting representative of North America of the Plants Committee (Mr. Benítez Díaz), of the Secretariat, of the Chair of the Animals Committee and Canada, in their capacity as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on IPBES.

The Committees requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification transmitting IPBES' call for requests, inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer term strategic needs that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme and the IPBES assessment of the sustainable use of wild species, issues and questions which the IPBES assessment could address to make the assessment most useful for CITES. The Committee further requested the Secretariat to compile Parties' responses for transmittal to the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on IPBES.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the alternate AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); and France.

## 12. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

### 12.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade (RST)

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 12.1, which provided an update of the status of species/country combinations subject to review and noted any changes that have occurred since the last meeting of the Animals Committee (AC29, Geneva, July 2017). It highlighted a number of recommendations to remove species/country combinations that were agreed at SC69 (Geneva, November 2017), namely *Hippopotamus amphibius* from Mozambique, *Python reticulatus* from Malaysia, and *Hippocampus trimaculatus* from Thailand.

The Secretariat announced that funding has been secured from the European Union and Switzerland in order to move all of the Decisions related to the RST process forward. Concerning the development of an RST tracking and management database, the Secretariat sought support from the Committee to establish a small informal advisory panel to work with the consultants to ensure no important elements in the development of the database are overlooked, and to test any prototypes that may be developed.

Committee members welcomed the proposed development of a database and supported the idea of an informal advisory group and the way forward proposed by the Secretariat.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 12.1 and the update on the Review of Significant Trade (RST) tracking and management database. The Committee invited Parties and observer bodies and agencies interested in participating in the informal advisory group on the RST database to contact the Secretariat, outlining their relevant experience.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); and the United States of America.

### 12.2 Species selected following CoP17

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 12.2, noting that it was prepared in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and related to a total of 19 species/country combinations that were selected for review at the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee following the new provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix II species*. Range State responses were presented in Annex 1, and a report on the biology, management of and trade in the species selected for review was presented in Annex 2. The Secretariat invited the Animals Committee to review the information in these Annexes and categorise each species/country combination as 'action is needed' or 'less concern', formulating recommendations for those categorised as the former.

The Secretariat pointed out that in the case of four species/country combinations, the country in question is not a range State for the species concerned. As a result, these cases were categorised by UNEP-WCMC as of 'less concern'. This was the case for *Poicephalus gullelmi* from Mali and *Uromastyx geyri* from Benin, Ghana and Togo. However, noting that these species/country combinations were originally selected for high volumes of trade, with sharp increases, of specimens of wild, ranched and unknown sources, the Secretariat suggested that further attention may be warranted, with referral to the Standing Committee as appropriate, in accordance with paragraph 1 i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17).

The Secretariat also noted that one of the recommendations from the eel workshop held in London that was discussed under the agenda item on eels, was to ask the Animals Committee to consider whether

*Anguilla anguilla* from Turkey should also be included in the Review of Significant Trade as an exceptional case.

UNEP-WCMC presented the document included in the Annex that contained the review of the 19 species/country combinations.

Concerns were raised on thousands of wild specimens of *Poicephalus guillemi* and *Uromastix geyeri* of unsure origin that were exported from Mali, Benin, Ghana and Togo and the need to identify whether there is an issue with importing countries' annual trade reports.

Noting that an in-session working group had already been established on eels, the Committee decided to refer the three existing RST cases on eel (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) to that working group for their initial review, and to ask that working group to consider whether *Anguilla anguilla* from Turkey should be added to the Review of Significant Trade as an exceptional case.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 12.2 and agreed to the recommendation in paragraph 12 b) of document AC30 Doc. 12.2, with the amendment by Canada, for the Secretariat to also follow-up with the importing countries.

The Committee agreed to the recommendation in paragraph 12 b) in document AC30 Doc. 12.2 with the amendment by Canada for the Secretariat to also follow-up with the importing countries.

The Committee established an in-session working group on the Review of Significant Trade with the following mandate:

For the species/country combinations selected following the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) at the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC29), in accordance with paragraphs 1) g) and i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), the in-session working group shall:

- a) review the responses received from range States contained in Annex 1 of Document 12.2 (and any additional information provided by range States), the report in Annex 2 to document AC30 Doc. 12.2 and the review and recommendations of the in-session eels working group of the information concerning *Anguilla anguilla* from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, and if appropriate, revise the preliminary categorizations proposed by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) for the species/range State concerned, providing a justification for such recategorization;
- b) formulate recommendations directed to the range States retained in the review process, using the principles outlined in Annex 3 of the Resolution and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33; and
- c) formulate separate recommendations directed to the Standing Committee for problems identified in the course of the review that are not directly related to the implementation of Article IV paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a), following the principles outlined in Annex 3 of the Resolution.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the representatives of Europe (Mr. Fleming) and of North America (Ms. Gnam);

Members: the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah) and the acting AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov);

Parties: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, European Union, France, Germany, Guyana, Indonesia, Japan, Netherlands, Peru Portugal, Republic of Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, SEAFDEC, Born Free USA, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, DGHT, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, Lewis and Clarke College – International Environmental Law Project, Ornamental Fish International, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, ProWildlife,

Society for Wildlife and Nature, SSN, Sustainable Users Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Impact, World Animal Protection, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), World Wildlife Fund and Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming) introduced document AC30 Com.11.

During the discussion of the species *Poicephalus gularis* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), one of the recommendations was that DRC should develop studies and monitor trade and status of the species. DRC stated that it could not agree with the quota of 450 specimens to be implemented in 60 days, as it had already granted permits for the export of 1,870 specimens. DRC also noted the lack of support and capacity building to carry out the necessary surveys and studies. DRC was reminded of the reasoning behind the selection of this species/country combination for the Review of Significant Trade, which was that a 2-and-a-half-fold increase in parrot exports (from 450 to more than 2,000) was reported in the past years so it was suggested to stop exports for the rest of 2018 and apply the quota of 450 specimens for 2019.

Committee members agreed on the export of 1,870 specimens whose permits have already been issued for 2018, and for the restriction to a conservative quota of 450 specimens starting from 2019. It was indicated to DRC that if it wants to increase the quota for 2019, it would need to communicate it to the Secretariat and develop a scientifically robust NDF.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 11 with the following amendments:

- insert Hungary as a member of the in-session working group;
- on page 3, at the end of paragraph 7, include the following sentence: “The working group agreed with the recommendation of the eels in-session working group of not supporting the inclusion of Turkey for *Anguilla anguilla* in the Review of Significant Trade at this stage.”;
- on page 3, in the last paragraph, replace “*Poicephalus robustus*” by “*Poicephalus gularis*”;
- for *Balearica pavonina*/Mali, *Amazona farinosa*/Suriname, *Ara ararauna*/Suriname, *Ara chloropterus*/Guyana, *Ara chloropterus*/Suriname, *Poicephalus gularis*/Democratic Republic of the Congo, *Uromastix geyri*/Mali, *Anguilla anguilla*/Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia: deleted under short term action i) “in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee”; and
- for *Poicephalus gularis*/Democratic Republic of the Congo, the short term action i) should read as follows: “No additional export permit should be issued for 2018 as of 19 July 2018, noting that permits for 1,870 specimens have been issued as of 19 July 2018. Establish an interim conservative export quota not to exceed the average trade level during recent years for which Annual Reports are available (450 specimens for 2019) within 60 days for the species, and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.”.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah), the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Kasoma), the C acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk); Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Turkey and United States of America; UNEP-WCMC; German Society of Herpetology, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Society, Species Survival Network, and World Conservation Trust.

### 12.3 Country-wide significant trade reviews

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3, drawing attention to the report in the Annex.

UNEP-WCMC presented an overview of the report, noting that Madagascar was the only country to be subjected to a country-wide significant trade review between 2001 and 2008, and the challenges of undertaking such a review.

The Chair of the intersessional working group, the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), presented the working group's views on the report and made some recommendations to be considered during an in-session working group.

A Committee member underlined concerns on some inconsistencies in the technical review, especially on the progress made through the country-wide review, the inappropriate use of some of the indicators chosen in the review, and pointing at the need to provide an estimate of the cost of undertaking a country-wide significant trade review in comparison with the costs of undertaking reviews on a species-by-species basis.

Madagascar presented an update on the progress made since the review, and expressed its views on the challenges of having limited capacity in place and its dependency on external support. Madagascar welcomed future assessments and reviews.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3 and established an in-session working group on country-wide significant trade reviews with the following mandate:

Pursuant to Decision 17.111, the in-session working group shall, based on document AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3 and its Annex, undertake the following:

- a) consider the outcomes of the report in the Annex to AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3, and any other relevant findings;
- b) draft conclusions and recommendations as appropriate; and
- c) draft a way forward to bring the results of the implementation of Decision 17.111, and its conclusions, to the attention of the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and/or of the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

- Chair: the representative of Europe of the Animals Committee (Mr. Fleming);
- Members: the representative of Africa of the Plants Committee (Ms. Koumba Pambo), the representative of Europe of the Plants Committee (Mr. Carmo) and the botanical nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);
- Parties: Canada, European Union, Hungary, Madagascar, South Africa and United States of America; and
- IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC and World Wildlife Fund.

Later in the meeting, the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming) introduced document AC30/PC24 Com. 1.

The Committees adopted the recommendations in document AC30/PC24 Com. 1 with the following amendments:

- include the representative of Africa of the Plants Committee (Mr. Mahamane) and specify that Mr. Beltetón Chacon is the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean of the Plants Committee;
- spell out RST as Review of Significant Trade in paragraphs 1 and 5 and spell out MG as Madagascar in paragraph 5;
- in paragraph 5, replace “paragraph iii) and iv)” by “paragraph 3) and 4)”;
- in the Spanish version, include a comma after “párrafos iii) and iv) anteriores”.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Belton Chacon), the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); and Madagascar.

### 13. Captive-bred and ranched specimens

#### 13.1 Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc 13.1, noting that the rationale for the selection of cases was presented in Annex 1. After AC29, the Secretariat notified those Parties indicated in Table 1, expressing the concerns raised by the Animals Committee on trade in the species selected, and requesting responses to the questions posed. In Table 1, the Secretariat noted two cases where responses were not received (Sudan which is carrying out investigations, but the Secretariat had not received a report yet; and the former Republic of Macedonia which had not produced a response due to the change in CITES authorities). Grateful appreciation was expressed to the United States of America and the European Union for the generous support that allowed Annex 3 to be prepared.

Committee members and Parties were appreciative of the document and stressed the importance of the process moving forward through external funding. Information on NDFs, to the extent available, was necessary in the longer term, and the development of a guide on source code would make the process easier.

A Party pointed out an error on the source code of *Agalychnis callydrias*.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 13.1 and established an in-session working group on captive-breeding with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 13.1, the in-session working group shall:

- a) review the responses from countries in Annex 2 of document AC30 Doc. 13.1, the information in Annex 3 of document AC30 Doc. 13.1 and any additional relevant information and determine if trade is in compliance with Article III and Article IV of the Convention, as well as Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5.
- b) In instances where this is not the case, the in-session working group shall:
  - i) identify concerns appropriately within the Committee's remit;
  - ii) in consultation with the Secretariat, formulate draft recommendations directed to the relevant country which are time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and aimed at ensuring long-term compliance which, where appropriate, aim to promote capacity building and enhance the ability of the country to implement relevant provisions of the Convention; and
  - iii) prepare supporting information for the Standing Committee on these cases.
- c) identify any concerns that are more appropriately considered by the Standing Committee.

Concerning agenda item 13.2, the in-session working group shall, in the light of discussion in the plenary and taking into account the comments and recommendations of the Secretariat in document AC30 Doc. 13.2, draft observations and recommendations regarding the first iteration of Resolution Conf. 17.7, including opportunities for harmonisation with the process in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) and other opportunities to achieve the aims of the Resolution most effectively and cost efficiently.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher);

Members: the AC representatives of Africa (Mr. Kasoma and Mr. Mensah) and the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov);

Parties: Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Annamiticus, Association of Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Environmental Investigation Agency USA, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Humane Society International, Lewis and Clark College – International Environmental Law Project, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Ornamental Fish International, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa (PASA), Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, ProWildlife, Society for Wildlife and Nature, Species Survival Network (SSN), Species360, Sustainable Users Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Animal Protection, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), World Wildlife Fund, Zoological Society of London and Zoological Society of San Diego.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) introduced document AC30 Com. 7.

Canada noted that part of the recommendations asked Parties for further information on their species management and on their NDFs as part of the captive-breeding review process. Perhaps this second round of asking questions might have been avoided by asking Parties for more comprehensive questions in the initial step of the process (instead of focusing on the implementation of specific source codes). It would have been useful to ask more generally for a description of the production systems in their country, and how they ensure there is no detriment to the species in the wild resulting from trade in captive-bred specimens.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 7 with the following amendments:

- include the Czech Republic and Hungary as members of the in-session working group;
- on page 2 for *Vulpes zerda* from Sudan, on page 4 for *Centrochelys sulcata* from Sudan, and on page 5 for *Testudo hermanni* from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the last sentence should read as follows: “Should a response be received, the ~~Chair of the~~ Animals Committee, through its Chair, and the Secretariat should confer to make any appropriate recommendations to the Standing Committee.”
- on page 2, at the end of the paragraph on “*Cacatua alba* from Indonesia” and on page 5, at the end of the paragraph on “*Ornithoptera croesus* from Indonesia”, insert “The working group notes that Indonesia has suspended all trade in this species since 2017.”;
- on page 5, the first paragraph should read as follows: “information on the ability of the facilities in Jordan to produce F1 and/or F2 in an amount that corresponds to the number of specimens exported by this facility or manage the species in a manner demonstrated to be capable of doing so.”
- the paragraph under “*Ornithoptera croesus* from Indonesia” should read as follows:

“~~Recommendation: Retain the species-country combination in the process. The working group recommends to the Animals Committee that by 1 February 2019~~ Indonesia ~~should~~ provide a report on the ranching operation to the Secretariat ~~by 1 February 2019~~ and confirm that an NDF will be made prior to authorizing exportation of any specimens with source code ‘R’.”
- on page 5, in the first paragraph under “General recommendations”, delete “draft decisions” and replace by “new paragraphs to be included in Resolution Conf. 17.7”;

- insert after the first paragraph on page 6 the following text: “Recommends to insert a new paragraph in Resolution Conf. 17.7 as follows: “Where the Animals Committee finds that a species/country combination raises concerns better dealt within the process of the Review of Significant Trade, it can introduce that combination into stage 2 of the process in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 1 d) as an exceptional case.”; and
- on page 6, in the fourth paragraph, replace “controlled conditions” by “controlled environment” twice and insert the following “. Existing source codes” before “might not adequately capture the life history...”.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk); Austria, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America; and TRAFFIC.

### 13.2 Observations and recommendations on the first iteration of Resolution Conf. 17.7

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 13.2, noting that the Resolution was adopted at the last Conference of the Parties, and further noting that major changes should only be made after a full cycle of implementing of Resolution Conf 17.7 on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*.

Committee members and Parties agreed that this process was at its first iteration, and to the need of completing a full cycle prior to proposing major changes. In terms of lessons learned, they noted the need to be more cautious in the number of species selected. In addition, concerns were raised on the funding of the individual cases.

A Party and an NGO raised technical suggestions on the 60-days’ timeline and concerns over the vague expression “in time for Animals Committee to consult”.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 13.2.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming); Canada, Mexico, South Africa, the United States of America; Humane Society International (on behalf of Species Survival Network) and the World Wildlife Fund.

### 13.3 Non-detriment findings for specimens with source codes W, R and F

The Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) presented AC30 Doc. 13.3, noting that the Secretariat was not able to secure funds for a consultant to collect a broad range of examples of NDF coming from F and R to assist the intersessional working group in its work.

The European region underlined the significance of the exercise and pointed out the importance of Parties using the correct source codes, suggesting that the Secretariat and Parties work together to formulate a workshop to create clear guidance to Parties on the correct use of source codes.

Mexico noted that no exports of *Crocodylus moreletii* with source R had occurred despite Mexico being in the table in Annex 1 and supported the idea of a workshop. Colombia likewise asked for Annex 3 to be amended due to an error with *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* exports.

Concerns were raised for the same source code guidance being used for different species as it might differ on a case-by-case basis, and the need of support from the Secretariat for further studies.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 13.3; requested the Secretariat to continue to seek case studies from Parties identified in the table in Annex 1 of document AC30 Doc. 13.3 as trading in species using the source code R; and requested the Secretariat to include a comparative review of non-detriment findings (NDF) for specimens from source codes F and R with those taken from the wild (source code W), as well as the development of NDF guidance when using those source codes in the agenda of any NDF workshop that might be mandated by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemptov); Colombia and Viet Nam.

#### 13.4 Publication of a ranching protocol for Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) in Mexico

Mexico introduced document AC30 Doc. 13.4.

Mexico was congratulated for the guidance and asked for a further translation of the protocol into English, once funding was secured.

The Committee noted the ranching protocol for Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) in Mexico in information document AC30 Inf. 3 and requested the Secretariat to publish the ranching protocol in the section on non-detriment findings on the CITES website.

The Committee invited Parties and other relevant stakeholders to review the ranching protocol in information document AC30 Inf. 3, and provide feedback to the Mexican Scientific Authority: [ac-cites@conabio.gob.mx](mailto:ac-cites@conabio.gob.mx).

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Asia (Mr. Mobaraki), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam); and Colombia.

#### 14. Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc. 14 (Rev. 1).

The consultant of the study "*Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA*" presented findings and results, noting that the study was not yet finalized, and was divided in three main parts. The consultant noted issues with the terminology used in the relevant Decisions and the title of the study.

Committee members and Parties were concerned about the specificity of the study and stressed the need to review the final version. Additionally, concerns were raised about overlapping or similar activities undertaken by different organizations, and the need for effective collaboration with them. Moreover, Committee members, Parties and NGOs agreed on broadening the scope of the study to include other biotechnologies used, and to focus on all final products and not only on the production of synthetic animal horn and its possible consequences for trade in wild-sourced products.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc. 14 (Rev. 1) and agreed that the title of this subject matter should be changed from "specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA" to "specimens produced through biotechnology".

The Committees agreed that decisions should be drafted and submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting so that the study on specimens produced through biotechnology can be presented to the Animals and Plants Committees at their next joint session in 2020.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee), the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemptov), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Austria, China, France; Lewis & Clark Law School (on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and the Natural Resources Defense Council) and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

#### 15. Quotas for leopard hunting trophies

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 15, noting that six (out of 12) range States (Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) had submitted substantial information concerning the outcome of their reviews of quotas for trade in leopard hunting trophies, and consideration of whether these quotas are still non-detrimental for the survival of the species.

In general, some concern was expressed over the importance of the trade and the lack of recent information and thus, the necessity of establishing a monitoring framework that produces robust data on distribution, abundance, and population trend that can be shared and upon which quotas can be set.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 15 and established an in-session working group on quotas for leopard hunting trophies with the following mandate:

Pursuant to Decision 17.115, the in-session working group shall, based on document AC30 Doc. 15 and its annexes, document AC30 Doc. 10.2, and other relevant information, including in information documents, undertake the following:

- a) review the information submitted by the leopard range States concerned by Decision 17.114, and other relevant information;
- b) if necessary, draft recommendations to the Standing Committee for consideration at its 70th meeting; and
- c) if necessary, draft recommendations to the leopard range States with quotas established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16).

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) and the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Kasoma);

Members: the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah);

Parties: Austria, Belgium, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Mozambique, Namibia, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA, Center for Biological Diversity, Conservation Force, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), International Professional Hunters Association, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, ProWildlife, Safari Club International Foundation, FACE, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund, Zoological Society of London and Zoological Society of San Diego.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) introduced document AC30 Com.10.

The AC representative of Europe noted that Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) contained no review mechanism for quotas and suggested that a 'periodic review' of Appendix-I quotas established by the Conference of the Parties could perhaps be inserted in Resolution Conf. 9.21 (Rev. CoP13) on *Interpretation and application of quotas for species included in Appendix I*.

An NGO was concerned that no independent scientific review like the one done for the Review of Significant Trade was provided as a basis for discussion, and asked the Committee to review the quotas using vigorous scientific process to ensure quotas were set at levels that are not detrimental for the conservation of the species.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 10 with the following amendments:

- insert Hungary as a member of the in-session working group and delete European Union as a member of the in-session working group;
- insert a new recommendation e) on page 2 as follows:

“e) recommends that upcoming meetings dealing with the conservation of leopards, among other species, provide an opportunity for discussion and lessons learned on monitoring of populations of leopards (for instance, the meeting of the CMS/CITES African Carnivores Initiative, and, if held, the upcoming meeting in Africa on non-detriment findings for sport-hunted trophies).”
- insert a new recommendation f) on page 2 as follows:

- “f) requests the Standing Committee to consider establishing a process to review and if necessary revise, quotas for Appendix I species which have been established by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.21 (Rev. CoP13) on *Interpretation and application of quotas for species included in Appendix I*, such as those for leopards in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16).”

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah), the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov); the European Union; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Center for Biological Diversity (on behalf of Born Free USA, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, ProWildlife and Animal Welfare Institute), Conservation Force, Humane Society International (on behalf of Pro Wildlife, Center for Biological Diversity and Species Survival Network), Species360, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund and World Conservation Trust.

#### 16. Definition of the term ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations’

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 16 (Rev. 2), noting that the revised version was updated to correct a quoted text of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) and to amend paragraph 18 to indicate that a response was also received from Global Eye. The Secretariat pointed out that the requirement of a determination of “appropriate and acceptable destinations” currently only applied to trade in *Ceratotherium simum simum* (Southern white rhinoceros) from South Africa and Swaziland; and to the export of live specimens of certain African populations of *Loxodonta africana* (African elephants). The Secretariat further pointed out that the original definition of the term “appropriate and acceptable destinations” contained in paragraph 1 a) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) is identical to that used in Article III, paragraphs 3 (b) and 5 (b) of the Convention. The new provisions of the revised Resolution introduced paragraph b) which states that the Scientific Authorities of the State of import are satisfied that the trade would promote *in situ* conservation. Furthermore, it encourages that any permit authorizing trade of live rhinoceroses or elephants under an “appropriate and acceptable destinations” annotation contain a condition stating that the rhinoceros horn or elephant ivory from those animals and from their progeny may not enter commercial trade and be sport hunted outside of their historic range.

The Chair of the intersessional working group, the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), presented the progress made since AC29 in preparation for AC30. The working group had reviewed the study and drafted some findings and recommendations for discussion at AC30, including the proposed development of “non-binding best practice guidance” for determining whether a recipient of a live Appendix-I specimen was suitably equipped to house and care for it.

Some Parties expressed concerns about the creation of a binding checklist that takes into consideration only physical factors and not psychological factors (i.e. of elephants) or the well-being of the animal where it is kept.

China presented the progress made in the country regarding rhino breeding.

Some Parties expressed their support for the proposal to develop guidance as suggested by the Chair of the intersessional working group.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 16 (Rev. 2) and established an in-session working group on appropriate and acceptable destinations with the following mandate:

Taking into account discussions in plenary and any information from the Animals Committee’s intersessional working group on the definition of the term “appropriate and acceptable destinations”, the in-session working group shall:

- a) review the information contained in document AC30 Doc. 16 (Rev. 2) and its Annex, particularly paragraphs 36 to 40,
- b) develop (the outline) of a non-binding checklist similar to that outlined in paragraph 40, and
- c) make recommendations, including draft decisions, as appropriate, for the Committee’s consideration and submission to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, in accordance with Decision 17.179.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam);

Members: the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk);

Parties: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Namibia, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Annamiticus, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free Foundation, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Fondation Franz Weber, DGHT, Global Eye, Humane Society International, IFAW, Lewis and Clark College – International Environmental Law Project, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Safari Club International, Species360, World Animal Protection, WAZA, Zoological Society of London and Zoological Society of San Diego.

Later in the meeting, the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam) introduced document AC30 Com. 6.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 6 with the following amendments:

– amend Decision 18.BB as follows:

“Parties are invited to:

a) use the non-binding guidance [contained in Document CoP18 Doc. XX] on how to assess whether proposed recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix I listed species are suitably equipped to house and care for them; and ~~are further encouraged to~~

b) submit relevant information for the webpage created under Decision 18.~~xx~~AA paragraph a).”

– replace “Decision 18.XX” by “Decision 18.AA” in paragraph d) of Decision 18.CC and paragraph b) of Decision 18.DD;

– amend Decision 18.DD as follows:

“a) consider the report of the Animals Committee, regarding ~~guidance on “in situ conservation” and existing non-binding guidance using the new~~ the non-binding guidance developed in accordance with Decision 18.CC, paragraphs a) and b) and the guidance [contained in Document CoP18 Doc. XX] and make recommendations, as appropriate, including possible revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) and any other relevant resolution, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and”

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah on behalf of Benin), the AC representative of Asia (Mr. Mobaraki), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk); Canada, China, Senegal, South Africa, the United States of America; and the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (on behalf of Association of Zoos and Aquariums, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, San Diego Zoo Global, Wildlife Conservation Society and Zoological Society of London).

## 17. Sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.)

### 17.1 Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 17.1, in which it noted that no export quotas for caviar and meat of Acipenseriformes species from shared stocks had been communicated to the Secretariat, in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraph 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17), since 2010 and that it will therefore suspend its written reports to the Animals Committee until the situation changes.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 17.1 and noted that the Secretariat will only provide written reports to meetings of the Animals Committee in cases where range States of shared wild stocks of species of *Acipenseriformes* spp., as indicated in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*, have agreed in the previous year on export quotas for caviar or meat of wild origins from such stocks.

During the discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming).

#### 17.2 Identification of sturgeons and paddlefish specimens in trade

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 17.2, in which it informed Parties that no funding had been made available for the study on genetic identification called for in Decision 16.136 (Rev. CoP17) since CoP16. In its oral update, the Secretariat however noted that it had been approached by several Parties and that this issue remains highly relevant in particular in countries that are range States for sturgeons and that have established aquaculture operations in which mixing of caviar originating from captive-bred and wild caught sturgeons can more easily occur.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 17.2 and recommended that Decisions 16.136 (Rev. CoP17) to 16.138 (Rev. CoP17) be renewed by the Conference of the Parties. The Committee invited the Secretariat to consult with Parties trading in caviar to better identify their needs in order to propose revisions to Decisions 16.136 (Rev. CoP17) to 16.138 (Rev. CoP17), if necessary.

The AC representative for Europe and NGOs were happy to see interest in continuing this work, but underlined the urgent need for funding for the proposed way forward.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming); the International Caviar Importers Association, and World Wildlife Fund (on behalf of TRAFFIC).

### 18. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.)

#### 18.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 18.1 and thanked the European Union for its generous support to undertake the work. The Secretariat explained that it had engaged the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) to undertake the two studies referred to in paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 17.186, which are presented in Annexes 1 and 2. The first study (Annex 1) compiles information on the implementation of the Appendix-II listing of *Anguilla anguilla*, including the making of non-detriment findings, enforcement and identification challenges, and illegal trade. It presents a review of implementation issues, including reporting, enforcement, non-detriment findings, traceability and illegal trade and draws conclusions about the effectiveness of the listing. The second study (Annex 2) presents accounts of the other 15 species of *Anguilla*, which are not CITES-listed. It includes information on biology, population, threats, use and the status of the stock and management, investigates trade levels, notably since the listing of *Anguilla anguilla* on CITES Appendix II, looks at management at a regional level and draws conclusions about the sustainability of the trade. Furthermore, in compliance with paragraph d) of Decision 17.186, the Secretariat convened a 3-day international workshop on the conservation, management, fisheries and trade in anguillid eels, which took place at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in London in April of this year. In addition to the funding for the workshop provided by the European Union, the Secretariat acknowledged the substantial in-kind support from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the valuable logistical and technical support provided by UNEP-WCMC and the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. The workshop report was presented in Annex 3.

The Zoological Society of London summarized the key conclusions of the reports found in Annex 1 and 2.

The Secretariat noted that the *Anguilla anguilla* species will be further discussed under the agenda item on the Review of Significant Trade.

The Chair of the intersessional working group, the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), presented the progress made, welcoming the amount of information received and describing the e-mail

discussions in the working group that had taken place prior to the meeting on issues such as reporting, the use of source codes, ranching, and custom codes.

An NGO expressed concern over the overfishing and trade of *Anguilla* spp. and recommended that the Animals Committee consider proposing to the Standing Committee a resolution or a decision recommending that range States of other eels propose listing of their *Anguilla* spp. at the 18th Conference of the Parties.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming); and Humane Society International.

#### 18.2 Report of the workshop of range States of the American eel

The United States of America presented the results of the workshop of range States of American Eel which was convened under Decision 17.187 to exchange science, management and trade and enforcement on American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), while fostering regional opportunities and information networks.

Support and gratitude were expressed by a Committee member and a Party for the organization of this workshop and to Canada, the Dominican Republic and the United States of America for making it possible.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC acting representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Lemus); Canada and the United States of America.

#### 18.3 Report from the 2nd meeting of the range States for the European eel (*Anguilla Anguilla*) under the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

The Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) presented the report from the 2nd meeting of the range States for the European eel, noting the strong feeling of participants for urgent coordinated action.

The Committee noted documents AC30 Doc. 18.1, Doc. 18.2 and Doc. 18.3 and established an in-session working group on eels with the following mandate:

Taking into account the discussions in plenary, any additional information coming from range States and any updates provided by the intersessional working group of the Animals Committee on eels, the in-session working group shall:

- a) review the studies presented in Annexes 1 and 2 of document AC30 Doc. 18.1;
- b) consider the outcome of the regional workshops presented in Annex 3 of documents AC30 Doc. 18.1, AC30 Doc. 18.2 and AC30 Doc. 18.3, as well as information contained in relevant information documents;
- c) review the information in document AC30 Doc. 12.2, Annexes 1 and 2, concerning the Review of Significant Trade in *Anguilla anguilla* from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, and provide advice on the recommendations that should be drafted under the Review of Significant Trade for these range States should they be categorised as “action is needed”;
- d) consider the available information on trade in *Anguilla anguilla* from Turkey to determine if it should be included in Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade as an exceptional case;
- e) draft recommendations on the implementation of the CITES listing of European eel (*A. anguilla*) for reporting to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- f) draft recommendations to ensure the sustainable trade in other *Anguilla* species for reporting to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- g) draft recommendations for reporting on the illegal trade in European eel to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70).

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming) and the alternate representative of Asia (Mr. Ishii);

Parties: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, European Union, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America and Viet Nam; and

IGOs and NGOs: Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), UNEP-WCMC, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IUCN, SEAFDEC, Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, SSN, Sustainable Eel Group, TRAFFIC, Vulcan/Paul G. Allen Philanthropies, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund and Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming) introduced document AC30 Com. 5.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 5 with the following amendments:

- delete the Czech Republic as a member of the in-session working group;
- under the recommendation “On reporting trade in European eels”, include “and in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports*” after “*Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*” twice on page 2;
- under Decision 18.AA: amend paragraph a) as follows:
  - “a) share and publish any non-detriment finding studies on European eel they have undertaken, explore the different approaches that would be needed for making non-detriment findings for European eels traded as fingerlings (FIG) and those traded as other live eels (LIV), seek peer review where appropriate, collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding such studies and their outcome, especially where they share catchments or water bodies;”
- clearly separate Decision 18.BB from the recommendation of the Animals Committee on page 3;
- under Decision 18.CC, amend paragraphs c) and f) as follows:
  - “c) establish monitoring programmes and develop abundance indices in range States where none exist. For ongoing programmes, identifying opportunities for expanding to new locations and/or life stages would be favourable;”
  - “f) report progress on these measures to the Animals Committee at its 31st and 32nd meetings.”
- amend Decision 18.DD as follows:

“The Secretariat shall invite Parties, through a Notification, to report on their progress in implementing Decision 18.CC and prepare a summary report with draft recommendations in time for submission to the 31st and 32nd meetings of the Animals Committee.
- amend Decision 18.EE as follows:

“The Animals Committee shall, at its 31st and 32nd meetings, consider the progress reports provided by Parties and the report by the Secretariat with respect to Decisions 18.CC and 18.DD and make any recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.”

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming); China, Japan; and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

19. Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae)

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 19, in which it outlines the progress on the implementation the relevant Decisions and noted the close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in preparing the study, which was still ongoing.

FAO presented an overview of the draft study and noted the great input received from the Mediterranean and Asian study. It would be working towards the finalization of the study and make it available by the end of the year.

The Chair of the intersessional working group, the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov), noted that a draft of the study had been available to the working group shortly before the meeting of the Animals Committee, but due to the time constraints imposed by the late availability of the draft study, the intersessional working group could not analyse the document in depth. The Committee member therefore supported the continuation of the work in the future.

Parties also underlined the length of the draft study, raised concern that some sections of the draft study went beyond the scope of the study by analysing the effectiveness CITES, and emphasized the need to focus on recommendations for management and conservation efforts.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 19 and established an in-session working group on precious corals with the following mandate:

Taking into account the information provided in document AC30 Doc. 19, the expert study and the analysis of the intersessional working group thereof, as well as discussions in plenary, the in-session working group shall endeavour to prepare draft recommendations, as appropriate, on actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable harvest and use of all precious corals in international trade and on any other relevant issues it identified for reporting to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting. Where this is not possible, the in-session working group shall advise on a way forward, including draft decisions.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the acting representatives of Asia (Mr. Diesmos) and of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov);

Parties: China, European Union, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: FAO, Association of Western Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Conservation Force, Environmental Investigation Agency US, Global Guardian Trust, NRDC, TRAFFIC, World Wildlife Fund, and University of Cagliari.

Later in the meeting, the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov) introduced document AC30 Com. 4 (Rev. 1) noting that a revision was made to address wording to make it clearer on what the working group was proposing.

The Committee established a drafting group composed of the co-Chairs of the intersessional working group and the Secretariat to revise the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 4 (Rev. 1).

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 4 (Rev.1) with the following amendment:

– recommendation 4 c) should read:

“c) remind Parties which export CITES Appendix-II listed black coral species, to make non-detriment findings (NDFs) and encourage these Parties to provide copies of the NDFs to the Secretariat.”

– recommendation 8 should read:

“Notwithstanding the possible future implementation of Decision 17.192, the working group encourages the Animals Committee to keep the issue of precious corals under review, in order to determine what new data are available with a view to updating the study before the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19, 2022)

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), Canada, India, the United States of America; the Food and Agriculture Organization; and the Natural Resources Defence Council.

20. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 20, which contained an analysis of 13 responses by Parties and three responses by NGOs to a request for concise information about new shark implementation activities and an analysis of the shark trade data from the CITES trade database. The Secretariat prepared a summary of all information that can be found in information document AC30 Inf. 21. The document also contains an update on the capacity building activities of the CITES Secretariat to assist Parties in implementing the new listings in cooperation with partner organizations.

A member highlighted that two further information documents on the agenda item were available which might be useful to discuss in the working group and noted the unusual results of Secretariat's analysis of trade data that might be due either to under reporting or to drastic changes in trade.

The African region noted many changes not only in the listing but also in the implementation of conservation projects and noted the need to continue progressing.

Peru presented progress on the implementation of CITES for listed shark species. Particularly with sharks and rays, a number of ministerial resolutions have been adopted and the country was working towards improving sustainability of its fisheries. Peru also noted the support of NGOs which allowed the Ministry of Environment to organize a workshop to support capacity building for those monitoring these activities.

The Convention for Migratory Species (CMS) provided an update on the listing of sharks and rays under the Convention, and informed that the third meeting of the signatories of sharks MoU will be held in Monaco on 10-14 December 2018.

FAO stated the need to develop a better understanding of shark non-fin commodities in domestic and international trade and welcomed support from other Parties and organizations in this regard.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 20 and established an in-session working group on sharks and rays with the following mandate:

In support of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17), the in-session working group shall:

- a) consider document AC30 Doc. 20 and examine the information provided by range States in Annex 1, the trade data contained in Annex 2, and any other relevant information;
- b) identify information pertinent to addressing the scientific and technical challenges for the implementation of the Convention for sharks, identified in Decisions 17.209 to 17.216 on *Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)*;
- c) identify any new challenges faced by Parties in the implementation of the Convention for sharks with a particular focus on the species included in the Appendices by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting;
- d) identify sections of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) that may require updating to reflect the recent focus on implementation of shark listings and capture any pertinent and recurring findings; and
- e) based on paragraphs a) to d) above, consider how the Animals Committee can fulfil its mandate given in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) to make recommendations on improving the conservation status of sharks at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, if necessary.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Calvar Agrelo) and of Oceania (Mr. Robertson);

Parties: Argentina, Australia, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, European Union, Germany, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Republic of Korea, Senegal, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: CMS, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, IUCN, SEAFDEC, Bloom Association, Born Free USA, Defenders of Wildlife, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, IFAW, Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, NRDC, Oceana Inc., Save our Seas Foundation, Species360, The Blue Resources Trust, The Pew Charitable Trusts, TRAFFIC, Vulcan/Paul G. Allen Philanthropies, Wildlife Conservation Society and Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson) introduced document AC30 Com. 8.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 8 with the following amendments:

- in recommendation 7, delete “and” in subparagraph vii), and “viii) report back to AC31”;
- in recommendation 15, insert “the Parties that have not done so to do so and” after “encourages”;
- recommendation 16 should read as follows: “The Animals Committee requests the Standing Committee to consider ~~look-alike issues for~~ implementation issues of CITES-listed hammerhead species and make recommendations, as appropriate, to CoP18.”

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); Canada, China, Japan, Senegal, Peru; the Convention for Migratory Species, the Food and Agriculture Organization; and Wildlife Conservation Society.

## 21. Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*)

### 21.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 21.1 and reported on the successful completion of the study on the impact of international trade on the Banggai cardinalfish, called for in Decision 17.262.

IUCN gave an overview of the study, as main author, noting that the report provided recommendations based on Indonesia’s previous report to AC29 that should aid Indonesia as they further develop and implement their Banggai cardinalfish National Plan of Action.

During the discussion of this item, an intervention was made by IUCN.

### 21.2 Indonesia's progress report

Indonesia introduced document AC30 Doc. 21.1 on the progress made, noting improvement in different areas of conservation and management measures following Decision 17.259, and based on the Banggai cardinalfish National Plan of Action.

Parties supported the progress made by Indonesia and noted that Indonesia will continue its work.

An NGO proposed an Appendix II listing or at the very least an Appendix-III listing which could give Indonesia international support for the implementation of its conservation strategies.

The Committee noted documents AC30 Doc. 21.1 and Doc. 21.2 and established an in-session working group on the Banggai cardinalfish with the following mandate:

Taking into account documents AC30 Doc. 21.1 and Doc. 21.2, the study contained in information document AC30 Inf. 16, as well as the discussion in plenary and any other pertinent information, the in-session working group shall:

- a) review the progress report submitted by Indonesia (AC30 Doc. 21.2);

- b) review the results of the study (AC30 Inf. 16), in particular any advice on suitable conservation and management measures it contains; and
- c) develop draft recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the AC representative of Asia (Mr. Mobaraki) and the alternate representative of Europe (Ms. Zikova);

Parties: Austria, China, Hungary, Indonesia and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: FAO, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Fondation Franz Weber, Ornamental Fish International, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, TRAFFIC and Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the AC representative of Asia (Mr. Mobaraki) introduced document AC30 Com.1.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 1 with the following amendments that were supported by the floor:

- In recommendation 3, include “the Animals Committee to invite” after “encourages” as follows: “The in-session working group on Banggai Cardinalfish encourages the Animals Committee to invite IUCN to update the Red List assessment of the species.”
- Changes to Decisions AA and CC as follows:

***Directed to Indonesia***

18.AA Indonesia ~~should~~ is encouraged to continue its conservation and management measures to ensure the sustainability of international trade in *Pterapogon kauderni*, and is invited to report progress on these measures, in particular on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the Animals Committee at its 30th meeting, to the Animals Committee at its 31th meeting.

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

18.CC The Animals Committee shall, at its 31st meeting, review the progress report submitted by Indonesia as referred to under Decision 18.AA, and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC alternate representative of Europe (Ms. Zikova), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam); Canada, the European Union, Indonesia; and Franz Weber Foundation.

**22. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)**

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 22, noting that no funding had been identified until shortly before the meeting to advance implementation of any of the queen conch related Decisions 17.285 to 17.290, but that FAO had recently secured funding to host a Queen conch workshop in November 2018 that will also benefit implementation of these Decisions.

Committee members and Parties discussed information available, and sought clarification by the Secretariat on particular aspects of Honduras’ response.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 22 and noted the progress that Honduras made in implementing its commitments regarding the management of and trade in Queen conch and considered that Honduras has fulfilled the commitments made at the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee.

The Committee noted that there are no such things as “scientific” quotas, and that all export quotas for wild specimens of Appendix II species (as is the case of *Strombus gigas*) are to be supported by a non-detriment

finding formulated by the Scientific Authority of the exporting range State, and based on the best technical and scientific information available, regardless of the purpose of the transaction (whether scientific “S”, commercial “T”, medical “M”, educational “E”, or any other code recognized by CITES).

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC alternate representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Lemus), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam); France and the United States of America.

23. Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*)

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 23, noting that the trade database showed very little trade in *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*. The Secretariat further explained that Ukraine had in the meantime informed the Secretariat that the specimens concerned in paragraph 9 of the document were not of the subspecies *ponticus*, but re-exports from specimens originating from Japan.

CMS provided an update on the progress made by the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS). Parties and IGOs supported the decision to maintain a zero quota. A Committee member voiced a concern on the response of Ukraine regarding a pending decision on an export of two individuals. IGO and NGOs agreed to seek advice on genetic studies of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins. Consensus was reached to continue the collaboration of the CITES Secretariat with ACCOBAMS.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 23 and agreed to submit the following draft decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (CoP18):

***Directed to the Secretariat***

The Secretariat shall continue its collaboration with the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) for effective conservation of CITES-listed species of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea, in the context of, and in accordance with Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and Synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC alternate representative of Asia (Mr. Diesmos), the AC acting member for Europe (Mr. Nemtzov); Argentina, Mexico, the United States of America; the Convention on Migratory Species (on behalf of ACCOBAMS); and Humane Society International (on behalf of Species Survival Network, Born Free, ProWildlife, International Fund for Animal Welfare and Animal Welfare Institute).

24. African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*)

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 24.

No further interventions were made during the discussion of this item.

25. African lion (*Panthera leo*)

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 25, noting that it had been produced in close collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The Secretariat also noted that, thanks to the support of the European Union, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium, there was the possibility to develop an African lion framework (where focus can be brought also to leopard, wild dog and cheetahs) and to hold an African carnivore meeting prior to CoP18 where CITES, CMS and range States could review progress for reporting to CoP18.

TRAFFIC summarized the results of the study on trade in lion specimens and provided an update to be found in information document AC30 Inf. 15 with final results of field research, including market surveys and interviews conducted in Viet Nam and Lao People's Democratic Republic, and additional information of stakeholders.

CMS added some remarks on the African carnivore meeting, to be held in Bonn, Germany, on 2-5 November 2018. The United Arab Emirates pointed out an error made on page 47 of the TRAFFIC report where it is stated that “most live tigers were exported by the United Arab Emirates with 43 specimens followed by

Thailand and Viet Nam". However, there were only 21 specimens (from 2006-2016) not 43. A Party asked for more information regarding the sustainability of the trade documented in the finalized report, and an NGO highlighted the importance of not overregulating quotas.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 25 and established an in-session working group on the African lion with the following mandate:

Pursuant to Decision 17.242, the in-session working group shall, based on document AC30 Doc. 25 and the revised report in information document AC30 Inf. 15, undertake the following:

- a) consider the Secretariat's progress report, as well as any further updates provided by the Secretariat, on its implementation of Decision 17.241;
- b) consider the draft study on trade in African lions, *Panthera leo*, in the annex to document AC30 Doc. 25, and any updates provided;
- c) draft recommendations, as appropriate, for the Animals Committee to submit to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and the African lion range States; and
- d) advise on the suggestions by the Secretariat in paragraph 29 of the document regarding reporting on the African lion to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) and the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah);

Parties: Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Namibia, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Annamiticus, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Conservation Force, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Humane Society International, IFAW, International Professional Hunters Association, Safari Club International Foundation, FACE, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Animal Protection, WAZA, World Wildlife Fund, Zoological Society of London and Zoological Society of San Diego.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) introduced document AC30 Com. 9.

NGOs noted that more information is emerging all the time and more information can be found in information document AC30 Inf. 24.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 9 with the following amendments:

- include Belgium, Hungary and India as members of the in-session working group;
- in recommendation c), paragraphs i) and ii), replace "poaching" by "illegal killing" twice; and
- recommendation c), paragraph iii), should read as follows:

"iii) in order to improve traceability Parties that are importing lion specimens from South Africa are encouraged to use the information generated by South Africa's ~~DNA Barcoding For Barcode of~~ Wildlife Project that South Africa developed for priority CITES species including lions and including ~~individual barcoding~~ DNA analyses of lions bred in captivity and exported as ~~trophies or~~ skeletons."

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming); Belgium, Hungary, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America; Born Free (on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, Annamiticus, Born Free, Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Investigation Agency, Humane Society International, ProWildlife, Species Survival Network, and World Animal Protection) and Conservation Force.

26. Great apes (Hominidae spp.)

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 26, noting that at its 69th meeting, the Standing Committee agreed that as the study on great apes referred to in Decision 17.232 was in large part scientific in nature, it would greatly benefit from input from the Animals Committee and requested that it be submitted to this meeting for consideration.

The Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) presented the draft of a joint GRASP-IUCN report on the status of great apes, included in the Annex to document AC30 Doc. 26, and invited feedback from the Animals Committee.

A Party and some NGOs underlined the importance for the Standing Committee to evaluate the threats to great apes.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 26 and established an in-session working group on great apes with the following mandate:

The in-session working group shall review the report in the Annex of document AC30 Doc. 26 and provide comments, feedback and recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Animals Committee and subsequent communication to the Secretariat, for it to bring to the attention of the authors before they finalize the report and submit it to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah) and the alternate representative of North America (Ms. Caceres);

Parties: Indonesia, Spain, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), IUCN, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Humane Society International, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Impact, WAZA and Legal Atlas.

Later in the meeting, the AC alternate representative of North America (Ms. Caceres) introduced document AC30 Com. 2

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 2 with the following amendments:

- inclusion of Hungary as a member of the in-session working group, and replacement of Environmental Investigation Agency UK by Environmental Investigation Agency US as members of the working group.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France; Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP); Environmental Investigation Agency (USA), Wildlife Impact (on behalf of ProWildlife, World Wildlife Fund, Born Free, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, Wildlife Conservation Society and Center for Biological Diversity), and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

27. Snakes (Serpentes spp.)

27.1 Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 27.1, noting the important support of the United States, the European Union and Indonesia for making the workshop on sustainable use of and trade in snakes in Indonesia happening, as well as thanking IUCN for the capacity building work and collaboration throughout.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 27.1 and the activities conducted by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 17.284.

No further interventions were made during the discussion of this item.

## 27.2 Information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 27.2, noting that Indonesia had already submitted the required information at the last Standing Committee (SC69) in the context of implementation of Decision 17.278, which overlaps with instructions of Decision 17.276. The Secretariat also noted that information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras and Togo on their implementation of Decision 17.276 was missing.

There was consensus not to report back to the Standing Committee, but rather to pay attention to the country/species combinations involved when launching the next cycle of the Review of Significant Trade process after CoP18.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 27.2 and the information provided by Indonesia.

The Committee requested the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to pay particular attention to *Boa constrictor imperator* from Honduras, *Python regius* from Benin, and *Calabaria reinhardtii* from Benin, Ghana and Togo when performing after the next Conference of the Parties its initial analysis of trade data in the context of the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species, and the review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity.

The Committee expressed its concern with processes that are parallel to the process of the Review of Significant Trade (RST), without the RST structure.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam); and Austria.

## 28. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 28, which provided additional guidance on techniques to survey and monitor wild populations of tortoises and freshwater turtles, and suggestions on how to estimate the size and density of a population, references and criteria that could be useful to assess the risk of over-exploitation, and criteria to indicate possible changes in abundance, in the absence of quantitative data on populations. The Secretariat highlighted that the development of generic guidance on size and age restrictions for tortoises and freshwater turtles was extremely difficult, if not impossible, and that if applied, size- and/or age-restrictions should be species-specific.

Interventions encouraged Parties to provide more funding for further studies and guidance, and highlighted the need to make this information available on the website.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 28 and considered Decision 17.293 as fulfilled.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk); Austria, the United States of America; and Wildlife Conservation Society.

## 29. Periodic Review of the Appendices

### 29.1 Overview of species under Periodic Review

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 29.1 on the status of the animal species that have been selected for periodic review.

Australia reported on the six species it reviewed under the process. The Committee agreed with the proposed transfer of the species from Appendix I to Appendix II, with particular attention for the reasoning behind these amendments.

Mexico offered to collaborate on the periodic review of four species that had previously been selected by the Committee and hoped to present progress at the next Animals Committee meeting.

Parties stressed the importance of a database that is kept up to date with links to documents describing the status of conservation, and which can help conservation organizations interested in participating in the periodic review process.

A Committee member highlighted the importance of recommendations being based on science, and noted that if a periodic review of birdwing butterflies were to be decided, a volunteer for the review was identified from the UK (Swallowtail and Birdwing Butterfly Trust).

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 29.1 and noted the offer by the Swallowtail and Birdwing Butterfly Trust to review birdwing butterflies should they be selected in the Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II.

During the discussion of this item, an intervention was made by Australia.

## 29.2 Species review

29.2.1 *Dasyornis broadbenti litoralis* – Report of Australia

29.2.2 *Dasyornis longirostris* – Report of Australia

29.2.3 *Leporillus conditor* – Report of Australia

29.2.4 *Pseudomys fieldi* – Report of Australia

29.2.5 *Xeromys mioides* – Report of Australia

29.2.6 *Zyzomys pedunculatus* – Report of Australia

The Committee determined that, in accordance with subparagraphs 2 g) and h) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), the six species reviewed by Australia meet the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) for transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II as outlined in documents AC30 Doc. 29.2.1 to 29.2.6. The Committee asked the Secretariat to invite Australia to submit these proposals to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); and Mexico.

## 30. Proposals for possible consideration at CoP18

### 30.1 Draft proposal for the inclusion of the subgenus *Holothuria* (*Microthele*) in Appendix II

The European Union introduced document AC30 Doc. 30.1.

Committee members, observer parties and NGOs thanked the European Union. Committee members as well as Parties underlined the importance of providing the European Union with further information from range States regarding the science and population status of the species and international trade. FAO volunteered to review the information from Parties.

Other Parties suggested updating of the trade data and making it available for future examination, and the need of better understanding the impact of international trade.

An NGO reminded that a recent study was available with additional trade information, while another underlined concerns about levels of exploitation of sea cucumber resources.

A Party did not support the submission of the proposal to CoP18, noting the outdated scientific and trade data presented in the document, which should substantially improve to satisfy CITES listing criteria. It believed that the sea cucumber species proposed for listing were not among those most traded. The Party was of the view that conservation of and trade in sea cucumbers should not be discussed in the meeting, not being CITES-listed species, and that the focus should be on the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*.

Mexico expressed its interest in organizing a workshop for sea cucumber experts from the region of the Americas. The workshop would focus on the internationally traded sea cucumbers in order to better understand the conservation status, and best practices for their use, management and sustainable trade, and identify ways to ensure that fishing communities could continue benefiting from trade while

ensuring long term conservation. Parties and observers that were interested in the workshop were invited to contact Mexico to consider ways and means to organize it.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 30.1 and encouraged those Parties and organisations that had any comments or useful information to send it directly to the proponents.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); Australia, China, the European Union, France, Japan, Indonesia, Mexico, the Russian Federation; Food and Agriculture Organization; Humane Society International and Wildlife Conservation Society.

### 31. Appendix-III listings

A co-chair of the intersessional working group, the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), thanked all the participants in the working group for the hard work, and summarized the findings. Additionally, she expressed the wish of sending the report to the Standing Committee's working group, with record of the plenary discussions, for further consideration by the Standing Committee. This suggestion was broadly supported.

The Committees requested the AC/PC intersessional working group on Appendix III to transmit its report, as presented in document AC30 Doc. 31/PC24 Doc. 26, to the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on Appendix III after having integrated comments made during the plenary meeting.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); Canada, the Republic of Korea; the German Society for Herpetology and Species360.

### 32. Report of the specialist on zoological nomenclature

The nomenclature specialist (Mr. Van Dijk) introduced document AC30 Doc. 32. He expressed his gratitude to the European Commission and the CITES Secretariat for the monetary support, and UNEP-WCMC for preparing the report found in Annex 2.

Committee members voiced concerns about the different names for subspecies and species that could pose a challenge in the issuance of permits.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 32 and established an in-session working group on nomenclature with the following mandate:

The in-session working group shall review document AC30 Doc. 32 and its Annexes, and the proposals made therein, and make recommendations for the consideration of the Animals Committee to consider.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk);

Parties: Argentina, Australia, China, India, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, DGHT, Humane Society International, ProWildlife, Safari Club International, Safari Club International Foundation, Species 360 and The European Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation (FACE).

Later in the meeting, the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk) introduced document AC30 Com. 3.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC30 Com. 3 with the following amendment:

- include the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson) as a member of the working group; and
- any occurrence of the term “working group” in the recommendations should be replaced by “the Animals Committee”.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Asia (Mr. Mobaraki), the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); China, India; and Humane Society International.

### 33. Annotations

Canada, as Chair of the intersessional working group on annotations, introduced document AC30 Doc. 33/PC24 Doc. 29.

Committee members raised concern about the proposed deletion of the words “life plants” in annotation #16.

The United States noted that the Animals Committee should consider whether it wished any fauna annotations to be included in a revised mandate for the intersessional period between CoP18 and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the Plants Committee should seek for additional issues to be included in a mandate for the intersessional working group.

Canada noted variability in the annotations in the Appendices, and that such inconsistency made annotations more difficult to interpret and enforce. Canada suggested a more standardized way of annotating listings.

It was discussed whether quotas should be included in the Appendices through annotations. There was agreement for the working group to focus mostly on plant annotations, with some exceptions.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 33/PC24 Doc. 29 and provided feedback on the future mandate of the Standing Committee’s intersessional working group on annotations.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk); Canada, the United States of America; Humane Society International, the League of American Orchestras (on behalf of the International Association of Violin and Bow makers, the Confederation of European Music Industries, International Wood Product Association, Fender Musical Instrument Corp., the French Musical Instrument Organization, Forest Based Solutions, Taylor Guitars, Paul Reed Smith Guitars, Limited Partnership) and World Conservation Trust.

### 34. Regional reports

#### 34.1 Africa

The Committee noted the report in document AC30 Doc. 34.1.

#### 34.2 Asia

The Committee noted the report in document AC30 Doc. 34.2 (Rev. 1).

#### 34.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean

The Committee noted the report in document AC30 Doc. 34.3.

#### 34.4 Europe

The Committee noted the report in document AC30 Doc. 34.4.

#### 34.5 North America

The Committee noted the report in document AC30 Doc. 34.5.

#### 34.6 Oceania

In the discussion of this item on page 2, paragraph 3 of document AC30 Doc. 34.6, should state “rodents” instead of “marsupials”

The Committee noted the report in document AC30 Doc. 34.6.

During the discussion of these items, an intervention was made by the United Republic of Tanzania.

35. Any other business

The Committee thanked the Secretariat for creating a link on its website that enabled all documents for the meeting to be downloaded in one operation.

The AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam) noted the existence of a letter on a trade issue involving *Cercopithecus dryas* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo that could be identified as an exceptional case under the Review of Significant Trade to be further reviewed by CITES. The Secretariat stated that it would look into the issues raised by that letter and, if warranted, include this issue as part of the Article XIII process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam) and the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson).

36. Time and venue of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee

The Committee noted that the Secretariat had provisionally booked a venue to hold back-to-back meetings of the Animals and Plants Committee (their 31st and 25th meeting respectively) from 6 to 16 January 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland.

37. Closing remarks

The Chair thanked the Committee members, and in particular Party observers, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, the interpreters, the security guards and the Secretariat, and closed the meeting.