

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Online, 31 May, 1, 4, 21 and 22 June 2021

Administrative and financial matters

Agenda

ANNOTATED AGENDA
(provisional)

Opening of the meeting

Opening remarks of the Chair *No document*

The Chair of the Animals Committee will open its thirty-first meeting.

Opening remarks of the Secretary-General..... *No document*

The Secretary-General will welcome the participants and provide an update on the Secretariat's activities.

Administrative and financial matters

1. Confirmation of the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair *No document*

The Animals Committee will be invited to note that, through intersessional decision-making, the Animals Committee confirmed the election of its Chair (Mr. Mathias Lörtscher, representative for Europe) and Vice-Chair (Mr. Hugh Robertson, representative for Oceania).

2. Declaration of conflict of interest *No document*

The Secretariat will invite the members of the Animals Committee to declare any conflict of interest.

3. Rules of Procedure..... AC31 Doc. 3

The Animals Committee will be invited to note that its Rules of Procedure, as amended at its 30th meeting (Geneva, July 2018) and set out in the Annex to document AC31 Doc. 3, remain valid for this meeting.

The Chair will draw the attention of the Animals Committee to information document AC31/PC25 Inf. 1 that provides guidance on the application of the Rules of Procedure of the Animals Committee in an online meeting.

4. Agenda

4.1 Adoption of the agenda AC31 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1)

The Animals Committee will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in document AC31 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1).

4.2 Annotated agenda..... AC31 Doc. 4.2

The Animals Committee will be invited to note the annotated agenda in the present document.

5. Working programme AC31 Doc. 5

The Animals Committee will be invited to adopt its working programme as set out in document AC31 Doc. 5.

6. Admission of observers AC31 Doc. 6

The Animals Committee will be invited to note the list of observer organizations that had been invited to participate in the meeting as set out in document AC31 Doc. 6.

Strategic matters

7. Animals Committee strategic planning for 2020-2022 (CoP18-CoP19)

7.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee..... AC31 Doc. 7.1

The document by the Secretariat presents two Annexes on Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee. Annex 1 provides an overview of the Resolutions in effect containing instructions that are directed or relevant to the Animals Committee. Annex 2 provides a list of all Decisions in effect directed to the Animals Committee that might require its inputs or assistance.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 7.1.

7.2 Animals Committee workplan..... AC31 Doc. 7.2

The document by the Chair of the Animals Committee presents a list of instructions directed to the Animals Committee, or that may require that it be consulted or informed, that can be found in the currently valid Resolutions (Annex 1) and Decisions (Annex 2) of the Conference of the Parties. The document also identifies a lead or co-leads among the members of the Animals Committee for each of the instructions.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of the 2020-2022 workplan, including the identified leads or co-leads as shown in Annexes 1 and 2 to the document.

7.3 Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties *No document*

The Chair will inform the Animals Committee on the inputs needed for the preparation of the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19).

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of the oral update.

8. CITES Strategic Vision* [Decision 18.25]..... AC31 Doc. 8/PC25 Doc. 9

The document by the Secretariat presents to the Animals and Plants Committees a mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision's objectives against valid CITES Resolutions and Decisions in Annex 1 to this document and a list of reporting requirements in Annex 2. The document also provides an overview of the process used and the results of the mapping exercise.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to review Annex 1 of the document and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee.

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

The document by the Secretariat provides updates on the implementation of Decision 18.28 and presents in its Annex a technical report on the criteria and methodology used for the *Rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal trade in, species and subspecies included in Appendix I*. The addendum by the Secretariat presents the results of the rapid assessment in the form of a list of 31 Appendix-I listed species that are proposed to be selected for further assessment.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to establish an in-session working group to:

- i) review the criteria and methodology used for the rapid assessment presented in information document AC31 Inf. 6/PC25 Inf. 8 and its Annexes 1 and 2, together with the additional criterion mentioned in paragraph 9 to this addendum;
- ii) consider the provisional list of selected priority species in paragraph 5 of this addendum; and
- iii) provide guidance to the Secretariat on its further implementation of Decision 18.28, as outlined in paragraphs 7 to 9 of document AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10 and this addendum;

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to request the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the leads on this item identified in the respective workplans of the Committees (AC31 Doc. 7.2 and PC25 Doc. 7.2) to work with the Secretariat to develop draft decisions aimed at continuing the activities on Appendix-I species outlined in Decisions 18.28 and 18.29.

The Animals and Plants Committees are expected to report the outcomes of this work to CoP19.

10. Capacity-building* [Decision 18.40]AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc.11 and
.....AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc. 11 Addendum

The document by the Secretariat provides an overview of the implementation of the Decisions on capacity-building and updates on the Master's course on *Management and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework*, the CITES website, the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), and the work of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on capacity-building, where the Animals and Plants Committees are represented by four members.

The addendum by the Secretariat presents an analysis of the information collected in support of the implementation of Decision 18.46, which includes information from other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their capacity-building efforts, the responses to the questionnaire in Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/027](#), and information on capacity-building needs by the Parties.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to consider the revised recommendations in paragraph 3 of the addendum and to recommend that the Standing Committee continues to reflect the views of the Animals and Plants Committees in its discussions through the participation of four representatives of the scientific committees in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group.

Cooperation with organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

11. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)* [Resolution Conf. 18.4] *No document*

The Chair of the Animals Committee will provide an update on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.4 on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* and draw attention to the *Review of the second order draft of the chapters and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers of the sustainable use of wild species assessment* and its review period of 16 April to 10 June 2021.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to take note of the oral report of the Chair of the Animals Committee.

12. Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative [Decision 18.58] AC31 Doc. 12

The document by the Secretariat provides updates on the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) and the development of a dedicated Programme of Work (POW) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The document also presents CMS/Resolution 13.4 on *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative* in Annex 2.

The Secretariat will provide an oral update on the outcomes of the discussion of the ACI POW by the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting, with reference to document SC73 Doc. 14 and to agenda

items 14.1, 28 and 29 of the present meeting for further details on the implementation of Resolutions and Decisions pertaining to ACI species.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 12 and the oral update of the Secretariat.

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

13. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species **[Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)]**

13.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade.....AC31 Doc. 13.1 and Addendum

The document by the Secretariat updates the Animals Committee on the status of the Review of Significant Trade (RST). An updated overview of all cases since the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC30) is set out in Annex 1 with notes on reviews that were completed since AC30. A summary of all range State/species combinations for fauna subject to a recommendation to suspend trade under RST or for which the review process is currently ongoing is included in Annex 2.

The document and its addendum provide an overview on the implementation of Decisions 17.108 (Rev. CoP18) to 17.110 (Rev. CoP18) on the development of an RST Tracking and Management database, a user-friendly guide to RST and a comprehensive training module on RST respectively. The RST Tracking Management database was finalized in October 2020 and will be made public when all the documents have been added to the database along with the guide and training module on RST.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 13.1 and its addendum.

13.2 Species selected following CoP15 and CoP16..... *No document*

The Chair of the Animals Committee will provide an oral update on the species selected following CoP15 and CoP16.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of the oral report of the Chair.

13.3 Species selection following CoP17..... *No document*

The Chair of the Animals Committee will provide an oral update on the species selected following CoP17.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of the oral report of the Chair.

13.4 Species selection following CoP18.....AC31 Doc. 13.4

The document by the Secretariat presents reports by the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in accordance with paragraph 1 a) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*. The reports provide a summary from the CITES Trade Database of annual report statistics available in Annex 1 and an extended analysis of trade to inform the preliminary selection of species/country combinations in Annex 2. Annexes 1 and Annex 2 were produced early in 2020, based on trade data for the period 2014-2018.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc 13.4 and further note that selection of new species/country combinations for review will be postponed until the first regular meeting of the Committee after CoP19.

13.5 Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews* AC31 Doc. 13.5/PC25 Doc. 15.6

The document by the Secretariat presents parallels between the work on country-wide Significant Trade Reviews, capacity-building (Decisions 18.38 to 18.46) and the Compliance Assistance Programme (Decisions 18.68 to 18.70).

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to request the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the leads on Decision 18.72 as per their respective workplans (AC31 Doc. 7.2 and PC25 Doc. 7.2) to work with the Secretariat to develop recommendations on country-wide Significant Trade Reviews and present the outcomes of this work to CoP19.

Regulation of trade

14. Non-detriment findings

14.1 Report of the Secretariat* [Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) and Decisions 18.132 and 18.133]..... AC31 Doc. 14.1/PC25 Doc.17 and Addendum

The document and its addendum by the Secretariat provide updates on the implementation of Decisions 18.132 to 18.134. The addendum presents the terms of references for a Technical Advisory Committee and draft decisions to extend the work beyond CoP19. The Annex to the addendum presents a summary of responses to consultations with the Animals and Plants Committees and with Parties, a synthesis of gaps and weaknesses, and workstreams to address these gaps.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to review the Secretariat's suggestions regarding priority gaps and weaknesses, and corresponding workstreams, as proposed in the Annex to the addendum; review the draft terms of reference of the Technical Advisory Committee; and consider the adoption of the draft decisions proposed in paragraph 9 of the addendum.

14.2 Publication of a management report for common water monitors (*Varanus salvator*) in peninsular Malaysia..... AC31 Doc. 14.2

The document by Malaysia presents a management report for common water monitors (*Varanus salvator*) in peninsular Malaysia. The report provides information on the biological attributes of *V. salvator*, population size and dynamics, and the monitoring and management systems used to ensure sustainable trade.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of the management report for common water monitors (*Varanus salvator*) in peninsular Malaysia; request the Secretariat to publish the report in the NDF section of the CITES website; and invite Parties and other relevant stakeholders to review the report and comment on the proposed quota of 120,000 skin/year and offer feedback to the Malaysian Scientific Authority.

14.3 Publication of a management report for reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*) in peninsular Malaysia AC31 Doc. 14.3

The document by Malaysia presents a management report for reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*) in peninsular Malaysia. The report provides information on the biological attributes of *M. reticulatus*, results of different monitoring methodologies, and an adaptive management plan to ensure sustainable trade.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of the management report for reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*); request the Secretariat to publish the report in the NDF section of the CITES website, and invite Parties and other relevant stakeholders to review the report and comment on the proposed quota of 121,000 skin/year and offer feedback to the Malaysian Scientific Authority.

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

The document by the Secretariat and its addendum by the co-chairs of the joint intersessional working group of the Animals and Plants Committees on identification materials and the Secretariat provides information on the implementation of Decision 17.161, paragraph c) and progress on Decision 18.135. The addendum also draws attention to new and additional species identification guides from Parties that have been added to the CITES Virtual College. The addendum presents to the Committees a new proposed draft resolution as set out in the Annex.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to consider the draft resolution in the Annex to the Addendum and instruct the Secretariat to forward it to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting for consideration and onward submission to CoP19. If no consensus is achieved on the final text of the draft

resolution, the Animals and Plants Committees will be asked to prepare a draft decision to continue this work beyond CoP19.

16. Identification and traceability of sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.) [Decision 16.137 (Rev. CoP18)].....AC31 Doc. 16 and Addendum

The document by the Secretariat presents the terms of reference for the study *Identification of species and hybrids, source and geographical origin of sturgeon and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.) specimens and products in trade*. The terms of reference for the study were revised by the Animals Committee by postal procedure and finalized in consultation with the Chair based on comments received from the members of the Animals Committee.

The addendum by the Secretariat contains the draft study called for in Decision 16.136 (Rev. CoP18).

The Animals Committee will be invited to review the study presented in the Annex to the addendum and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting.

17. Specimens produced through biotechnology* [Decision 18.148]AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc.20

The document by the Secretariat presents the study *Wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA* as set out in the Annex to document AC31 17/PC25 Doc. 20. Work on specimens produced through biotechnology is ongoing through an intersessional working group of the Standing Committee and will be brought to the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, when the work of the working group concludes.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc. 20 and to request the Chairs to provide inputs on behalf of the Animals and Plants Committees to discussions at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.

18. Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'

- 18.1 Report of the Secretariat [Decision 18.155]..... AC31 Doc. 18.1 and Addenda 1 and 2

The document and addendum 1 by the Secretariat provide updates on progress on the implementation of Decisions 18.152 and 18.154 and draw attention to the CITES webpage on '*appropriate and acceptable destinations*' and responses to Notification to the Parties [No. 2019/070](#) in Annex 2 to the document. Addendum 1 also presents draft decisions to extend the work of Decision 18.152 beyond CoP19. It provides information on the implementation of Decision 18.153, including an NDF received from Zimbabwe as Annex 3. Through intersessional decision-making, the Committee established an intersessional working group on definition of the term '*appropriate and acceptable destinations*'.

Addendum 2 by the co-chairs of the working group and the Secretariat updates the Animals Committee on the activities of the working group. The working group compiled a range of possible forms of benefits for *in situ* conservation but did not have enough time or sufficient responses from Parties to develop guidance on determining whether "the trade would promote *in situ* conservation".

The Animals Committee will be invited to establish an in-session working group on appropriate and Acceptable destinations with the mandate proposed in paragraph 13 a) of addendum 1, as follows:

Concerning Decision 18.153:

- i) consider the scientific aspects of responses in paragraphs 7 to 9 above and in Annex 3, and draft recommendations for the Animals Committee's consideration as appropriate;

Concerning Decision 18.155:

- ii) review Annexes 1 and 2 to addendum 2 to document AC31 Doc. 18.1 and any updates provided to the meeting by the co-chairs of the working group, and draft recommendations as appropriate for the Animals Committee's consideration.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider and agree on the recommendations by the in-session working group and the draft decision in paragraph 5 of addendum 1 for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting. The Standing Committee is to report to CoP19.

18.2 International trade in live African elephants.....AC31 Doc. 18.2

The document by Burkina Faso and Niger provides information on exports from four Parties involved in the trade in live African elephants since 2010, i.e. Zimbabwe, Namibia, Eswatini, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider the information presented in document AC31 Doc. 18.2 in the context of Decisions 18.153 and 18.155 and the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.20 on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* and take appropriate steps.

19. Captive-bred and ranched specimens

19.1 Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity [Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.102].....AC31 Doc. 19.1 and Addendum

The document by the Secretariat provides updates on the ongoing cases under Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*. An analysis of species for possible inclusion in the review following CoP18 is presented in Annex 1 to the document and the summary on species for possible inclusion in the review as information document AC31 Inf. 2. The addendum presents information on the implementation of Decision 17.102, including a capacity-building workshop, the development of a mobile and tablet application tool for determination of CITES source code and for inspection of captive-breeding facilities, and a proposal for a workshop to review the provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18).

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 19.1 and further note that selection of new species/country combinations for review will be postponed until the first regular meeting of the Committee after CoP19.

The Animals Committee will be invited to encourage Parties and observers to actively participate in the workshop on the review of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) to support the implementation of Decision 18.176.

19.2 Captive breeding Sri Lankan agamids [Decision 18.175].....AC31 Doc. 19.2

The document by the Secretariat presents the report "Captive-breeding of Sri Lankan agamids", as set out in the Annex to the document. The report provides information on the breeding biology of *Ceratophora stoddartii*, *C. aspera* and *Lyricephalus scutatus*, feasibility of breeding in captivity, and prevalence of specimens in zoos and evidence of commercial breeding.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of the document and the report, and further note that selection of new species/country combinations for review will be postponed until the first regular meeting of the Committee after CoP19. The Animals Committee will also be invited to consider renewing Decision 18.175 to allow for the species' selection to take place after CoP19.

19.3 Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source * [Decision 18.172]AC31 Doc. 19.3/PC25 Doc. 21

The document by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees provides an overview of work implemented under Decision 18.172 and the ongoing work by the intersessional working group of the Standing Committee under Decision 18.173.

Implementation of "Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source" is ongoing through an intersessional working group of the Standing Committee and will be brought to the attention of the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, when the work of the working group concludes.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 19.3/PC25 Doc. 21. The Animals and Plants Committees will also be invited to endorse the Chairs of the Committees to provide input on behalf of the Committees at SC74.

Species specific matters

20. West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.)
[Decisions 18.190 and 18.191] AC31 Doc. 20 and Addenda 1 and 2

The document by the Secretariat draws attention to the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) developed by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and a report by the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on the six vulture species referred to in Decision 18.188. Annex 2 presents a call for action to stop mass killing of vultures in Guinea-Bissau by the Vulture Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN/SSC). The responses to Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/034](#) are available as information document [AC31 Inf. 5](#).

Through intersessional decision-making, the Committee established an intersessional working group on West African Vultures (Accipitridae spp.). Addendum 1 by the co-chairs of that working group provides recommendations for consideration by the Committee. Addendum 2 by the Secretariat presents additional recommendations for the implementation of Decision 18.191.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 20 and its addenda 1 and 2 and consider whether Decision 18.190 has been implemented. The Animals Committee will be invited to consider the recommendations in addenda 1 and 2 for its implementation of Decision 18.191.

The Animals Committee is expected to make recommendations to range States of West African vultures and, as appropriate, the Standing Committee.

21. Conservation of amphibians (Amphibia spp.)
[Decision 18.192] AC31 Doc. 21 and Addendum

The document and its addendum by the Secretariat provide an overview of the progress on the implementation of Decision 18.194 on *Conservation of amphibians (Amphibia spp.)*, specifically on the preparation of background documents for a proposed interdisciplinary workshop. As Decisions 18.194 to 18.196 could not be fully implemented, the Secretariat proposes draft decisions to extend the work beyond CoP19.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider and agree to submit the draft decisions in paragraph 3) of the addendum for consideration of the Standing Committee at SC74 and onward submission to CoP19.

22. Eels (Anguilla spp.) [Decisions 18.197 to 18.200] AC31 Doc. 22 and Addendum

The document and its addendum by the Secretariat reports on the implementation of the Decisions on *Eels (Anguilla spp.)*. The addendum summarises the responses to the questionnaire in Annex 2 to Notification to the Parties [No. 2021/018](#). The responses included information on current management plans, monitoring programmes, stock assessments, and national/international traceability of anguillid eels. Parties also reported on NDFs for *Anguilla anguilla* and the restrictions in place for harvest and trade of glass eels.

The Committee will be invited to establish an in-session working group on eels (*Anguilla spp.*) with the mandate to:

- i) review the information in paragraphs 9 to 12 of the addendum and the summary of responses to the questionnaire in Annex 2 to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018;
- ii) consider the potential use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of *A. anguilla* from aquaculture production systems;
- iii) consider the Secretariat's draft decisions in paragraph 17 of the addendum and identify other parts of Decisions 18.197 to 18.202 that may merit a renewal or extension; and

- iv) draft recommendations directed to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties for the Animals Committee to consider.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider the recommendations of the in-session working group and further consider endorsing the Chair of the Animals Committee, the co-leads of the agenda item and the Secretariat to report to CoP19.

23. Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae)
[Decision 17.192 (Rev. CoP18)]AC31 Doc. 23 and Addendum

The document by the Secretariat draws attention to the study *Global Report on the Biology, Fishery and Trade of Precious Corals* published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the sections “Summary” and “Suggestions for improving management conservation and trade” as set out in the Annex to document AC31 Doc. 22. Through intersessional decision-making, the Committee established an intersessional working group on precious corals (order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae).

The addendum by the co-chairs of the working group on precious corals updates the Committee on the activities of the working group and presents updated recommendations from document AC30 Com. 4 (Rev. By Sec.).

The Animals Committee is invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 23 and its addendum and consider endorsing the revised recommendations as set out in Annex 2 to the addendum.

The Animals Committee is expected to make recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting. The Standing Committee is to report to CoP19.

24. Marine turtles (Cheloniidae spp. and Dermochelyidae spp.)
[Decision 18.216]AC31 Doc. 24 and Addendum

The document by the Secretariat highlights the implementation of Decision 18.210, including the study *Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities*. The three main sections of the study are presented in Annex 3. The document presents a review and recommendations by one of the co-leads on marine turtles (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae) in Annex 2.

The addendum provides a summary of the scientific information in the responses to Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/035](#) and presents draft amendments to the recommendations set out in Annex 2 of the document to incorporate the changes in meeting schedules.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 24 and its addendum and endorse the revised recommendations in Annex 1 to the addendum.

The Animals Committee is expected to make recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting. The Standing Committee is to report to CoP19.

25. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) [Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18); Decisions 18.223 and 18.225]AC31 Doc. 25 and Addendum

The document by the Secretariat present an analysis of CITES trade data on sharks and rays and provides information on reports, identification materials and publications that may be relevant for the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*. The compilation of responses to Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/016](#) is presented in Annex 2 to the document and a summary of the responses is provided in information document [AC31 Inf. 9 \(Rev. 1\)](#). The addendum provides updates on the analysis of CITES trade data and information that have become available since document AC31 Doc. 25 was published.

The Committee will be invited to establish an in-session working group on sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) with a mandate to:

- i) consider document AC31 Doc. 25 and its addendum and examine the responses from Parties in Annex 2 and the summary in information document AC31 Inf. 9, the non-detriment findings made available on the CITES sharks webpage, and any other relevant information;

- ii) identify Decisions on sharks and rays (Decisions 18.218 to 18.225) that may merit a renewal or extension; and
- iii) draft recommendations directed to the Conference of the Parties for the Animals Committee to consider.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider and agree to propose the draft decisions and recommendations by the in-session working group for consideration at CoP19. The Committee will also be asked to agree on a process concerning the joint reporting with the Standing Committee to CoP19, as per Decision 18.225, for example by asking the Chair of the Animals Committee and the lead on sharks and rays as per its workplan to contribute to this reporting on behalf of the Animals Committee..

26. Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.) [Decision 18.232].....AC31 Doc. 26 and Addendum

The document and its addendum by the Secretariat inform the Animals Committee of progress on the implementation of Decision 18.229, including the publication of responses to Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/015](#) as the Annex to the document and details of a study being undertaken by Project Seahorse that incorporates the provisions in Decision 18.229, paragraph c) i). The addendum also presents draft decisions that renew activities for which work is either ongoing or could not yet be completed.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider the draft decisions in paragraph 6 of the addendum and to present them to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting and onward submission to CoP19.

27. Pangolins (*Manis* spp.) [Decision 18.243].....AC31 Doc. 27 and Addendum

The document and its addendum by the Secretariat provide an update on the progress of Decision 18.239 on the development of conversion parameters for all pangolin species and Decision 18.240 paragraph c) on the preparation of a report on pangolin conservation status, legal and illegal trade, stocks and stockpile management, and enforcement issues. As the work on Decision 18.239 will not be available for review by the Animals Committee until after CoP19, the Secretariat presents a draft decision to extend the mandate of the Committee beyond CoP19.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider the draft decision in paragraph 3 of the addendum and present it to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting for its consideration and onward submission to CoP19.

28. African lions (*Panthera leo*) [Decision 18.247]..... AC31 Doc. 28 and Addenda 1 and 2

The document by the Secretariat provides updates on the implementation of Decision 18.244 and 18.246, including *Guidelines for the conservation of lions in Africa* and progress on studies being undertaken in fulfilment of Decision 18.246. Through intersessional decision-making, the Committee established an intersessional working group on African lions (*Panthera leo*).

Addendum 1 by the Secretariat provide further updates on these matters and discusses the implementation of Decision 18.247 by the Animals Committee. Addendum 2 by the co-chairs of the working group on African lions provides some first elements of reflection and clarifies that the working group did not have enough time to fully implement its mandate.

The Committee will be invited to take note of the working group report in addendum 2. The Committee will also be invited to establish an in-session working group on African lions with the mandate to agree on a process and way forward for the implementation of Decision 18.247, paragraph a).

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider the recommendations drafted by the in-session working group and to request the Secretariat to convey the Animals Committee's recommendations to CoP19 under the Secretariat's reporting on the implementation of Decision 18.244 and 18.246.

29. Leopards (*Panthera pardus*)

29.1 Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) in Africa [Decision 18.255].....AC31 Doc. 29.1

The document by the Secretariat outlines progress on the implementation of Decision 18.254, including the review of the *Roadmap for the conservation of the leopard in Africa* and presents recommendations

by one of the Animals Committee co-leads for leopards (*Panthera pardus*), as set out in the Annex to the document.

The Animals Committee will be invited to conclude its review of the *Roadmap for the conservation of the leopard in Africa* by considering the recommendations set out in the Annex to the document and request the Secretariat to convey them to the range States, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and others.

29.2 Quotas for leopard hunting trophies
[Decisions 18.167 and 18.168]AC31 Doc. 29.2 and Addendum

The document and its addendum by the Secretariat present information from Botswana, Ethiopia and the Central African Republic in Annexes 1 to 3, respectively, as part of a review of their leopard hunting quotas as contained in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use* in order to consider whether they are set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider the information provided by the leopard range States and, if necessary, make any recommendations to the range States and the Standing Committee.

30. Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes)
[Decision 18.257]AC31 Doc. 30 and Addendum

The document and its addendum by the Secretariat note that Decision 18.256 could not be implemented due to lack of external funding, but draws attention to two reviews, which are available as information documents [AC31 Inf. 11](#) and [AC31 Inf. 12](#), that will be relevant to songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes) and can inform the basis of the study and technical workshop envisaged under Decision 18.256.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider proposing the renewal of decisions on songbirds at CoP19. If the current lack of funding persists, or in the event that funding becomes available to conduct the study and hold the technical workshop, the Animals Committee will be invited to request that the Secretariat propose amended decisions to CoP19 that reflect any progress made.

31. Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) **[Decision 18.265]**AC31 Doc. 31 (Rev. 1)

The document by Indonesia is a progress report on its implementation of Decision 18.263 on the conservation and management measures taken to ensure the sustainability of international trade in *Pterapogon kauderni*. The document provides an update on activities since the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC30) including population surveys, the establishment of a marine protected area, the development of *BCF survey and monitoring guidelines* and *Rehabilitation guidelines*, and the establishment of a harvest quota.

The Animals Committee will be invited to review the progress report and consider endorsing the recommendations in paragraph 7 of the document. The Animals Committee is to report to CoP19.

32. Saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.) **[Decision 18.272]**AC31 Doc. 32 and Addendum

The document and its addendum by the Secretariat note that no external resources were secured to support the implementation of Decision 18.271, but that the Convention on Migratory Species has undertaken work that contributes to its implementation, including updated information on the conservation status of saiga as reported by range States, a study on the sustainable use of saiga antelopes, and the 4th meeting of the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga* spp.), to be hosted online by the Russian Federation.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 32 and its addendum and consider making recommendations, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting.

33. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) **[Decision 18.276]**AC31 Doc. 33 and Addendum

The document and its addendum by the Secretariat provide information on the implementation of Decisions 18.276 and 18.278 on queen conch of relevance to the Committee, including the ongoing

development of NDF guidance for trade in queen conch by the working group on queen conch (QCWG). The addendum provides information on a project with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) that would support the main queen conch producing countries of OECS through UNCTAD's BlueBioTrade programme.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 33 and its addendum.

34. Titicaca water frog (*Telmatobius culeus*) [Decision 18.284]AC31 Doc. 34 and Addendum

The document and its addendum by the Secretariat summarize responses by Peru, a range State of *T. culeus*, New Zealand, and the IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group to Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/012](#) issued in accordance with Decision 18.284. The responses included information on two on-going *in situ* projects by the United Nations Development Programme that are of relevance to the Decision, involving studies on the biology of the species. Peru also reports on an illegal trade record, demand reduction strategies, awareness-raising activities, and international cooperation mechanisms.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 34 and its addendum. The Animals Committee may wish to encourage Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia to continue their collaboration for implementing the Binational Action Plan for the conservation of Titicaca water frog.

35. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (*Testudines spp.*) [Decision 18.291]AC31 Doc. 35 and Addendum

The document by the Secretariat presents work implemented under Decision 18.288 to develop, in collaboration with relevant Parties, experts and the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), a guide on categories of turtle parts and derivatives in trade.

The Animals Committee will be invited to establish an in-session working group with the mandate in paragraph 5 a) of the addendum to review the *Identification guide to tortoises and freshwater turtles: Parts, products and derivatives in trade* and prepare recommendations.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider the recommendations of the working group and make recommendations to enable the finalization of the guide and request the Secretariat to make the guide available for use by the Parties, as soon as it is finalized.

36. Marine ornamental fishes [Decision 18.297]AC31 Doc. 36 and Addendum

The document by the Secretariat describes four thematic studies that are proposed based on the five topics specified in paragraph c) of Decision 18.296. The addendum recalls that the scope of the work on marine ornamental fishes was agreed via an intersessional decision-making process to cover "international trade in non-CITES listed live coral reef fishes (including small sharks and rays)". The addendum provides updates on the progress of the studies and draws attention to Notification to the Parties [No. 2021/030](#), which included a questionnaire to gather information on non-CITES listed live marine ornamental fish. The addendum proposes draft decisions to extend part of the mandate on marine ornamental fishes beyond CoP19.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider the draft decisions in paragraph 7 in the addendum and to present these to CoP19.

Maintenance of the Appendices

37. Report of the specialist on zoological nomenclature [Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) and Decisions 17.312 (Rev. CoP18), 18.309 to 18.312]AC31 Doc.37 and Addendum

The document by the specialist on zoological nomenclature of the Animals Committee with contributions from the Secretariat provides an overview of the implementation of Decisions on nomenclature for fauna. The document also provides details of progress on ongoing activities under Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard Nomenclature*. The addendum provides updates from the intersessional working group on zoological nomenclature that was formed through intersessional decision-making.

The Chair of the working group will be invited to update the Animals Committee on the working group's activities.

The Animals Committee will be invited to consider the recommendations in paragraphs 14 to 18 of the addendum and make recommendations as appropriate for consideration at CoP19.

38. Listing of pangolins in the Appendices [Decision 18.315]AC31 Doc. 38 and Addendum

The document by the specialist on zoological nomenclature of the Animals Committee, with assistance from the Secretariat, presents a draft listing proposal for consideration at CoP19 as a way forward for the implementation of Decision 18.315 on *Nomenclature of pangolins (Manidae spp.)*. Due to the postponement of the Animals Committee meeting in 2020, an intersessional working group on zoological nomenclature was established through intersessional decision-making, which included in its mandate the consideration of Decision 18.315 and document AC31 Doc. 38.

As set out in the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 38, the working group discussed options for clarifying the pangolin listing in the Appendices but were not able to reach consensus on a way forward.

The Chair of the working group will be invited to update the Animals Committee on any progress.

The Animals Committee will be invited to review the information in paragraphs 7 to 9 of the addendum and consider any update provided by the nomenclature specialist, if available, and make recommendations on a way forward, as appropriate.

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

The document by the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, with assistance from the Secretariat, presents an outline of the scope of the problem with regard to nomenclatural changes to species listed in Appendix III. The addendum summarises input from the members of the working group on zoological nomenclature in paragraph 7 and notes that the work on preparing revisions to the Annex to document AC31 Doc. 39/PC25 Doc. 33 is continuing in paragraph 8.

The nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committees will be invited to provide an oral update on any progress.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to take note of the information contained in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the addendum. The Animals and Plants Committees will also be invited to consider the update provided by the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

40. Annotations* [Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18)]AC31 Doc. 40/PC25 Doc. 35

The document by Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee working group on annotations, provides an overview of activities of that working group and identifies challenges pertaining to the implementation and interpretation of annotations. The work on annotations has continued, and progress was presented at the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee as outlined in document SC73 Doc. 25.

The Chair of the Standing Committee's working group on annotations will be invited to provide an oral update on any progress.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 39/PC25 Doc. 33 and any oral update provided.

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

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

The document by the Secretariat present an overview of the animal and plant species in the periodic review process during the period CoP17-CoP19. The document provides a record of animal species selected for review by the Animals Committee between CoP13-CoP15 in Annex 1A, CoP15-CoP17 in Annex 1B, CoP16-CoP18 in Annex 1C, CoP17-CoP19 in Annex 1D and a summary of all cases as of April 2020 in Annex 1E; and a record of plant species selected for review by the Plants Committee between CoP13-CoP15 in Annex 2A, CoP15-CoP17 in Annex 2B, CoP17-CoP19 in Annex 2C and a summary of all cases as of April 2020 in Annex 2D.

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 41.1/PC24 Doc. 39.1.

41.2 Periodic review of *Cynomys mexicanum*..... AC31 Doc. 41.2

The document by Mexico provides a periodic review of *C. mexicanum*, the Mexican prairie dog, which has been included in Appendix I since 1975. The document outlines the biology, status, trade, and management of the species and notes that only two international transactions have been recorded since listing and that international trade does not pose a threat to the survival of the species. The document recommends the transfer of *C. mexicanum* from Appendix I to Appendix II in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article II of the text of the Convention and precautionary measures A1 and A2 listed in Annex 4 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*.

The Animals Committee will be invited to provide comments on this review.

41.3 Periodic review of *Terrapene coahuila*..... AC31 Doc. 41.3

The document by Mexico provides a periodic review of *T. coahuila*, the Coahuila box turtle, which has been included in Appendix I since 1975. The document outlines the biology, status, trade, and management of the species and notes an estimated wild population of less than 1,800 individuals resulting from a population decline of more than 90% over 40 years. The document recommends that *T. coahuila* remain in Appendix I in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), Annex 1: A (i, iii, v), B (i, ii, iii, iv), C (i, ii).

The Animals Committee will be invited to provide comments on this review.

41.4 Periodic review of *Aphopelma pallidum*..... AC31 Doc. 41.4

The document by Mexico provides a periodic review on *A. pallidum*, the Mexican gray tarantula, which has been included in Appendix II since 1995, when the entire genus *Brachypelma* (which was then considered to include the species) was included. The document notes that given the similarity of the species with *Brachypelma albiceps* and *A. hentzi*, the recommendation is to maintain *A. pallidum* in Appendix II in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), Annex 2b, Criterion A.

The Animals Committee will be invited to provide comments on this review.

41.5 Periodic review of *Branta canadensis leucopareria*..... AC31 Doc. 41.5

The document by the United States of America provides a periodic review of *B. canadensis leucopareria*, the Aleutian Canada goose, which was included in Appendix I in 1975. The document notes a migratory population of over 160,000 individuals after near extinction in the 1960s. The document notes no known risk to the subspecies from international trade and recommends the transfer of *B. canadensis leucopareria* from Appendix I to Appendix II in accordance with the precautionary measures in Annex 4 of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

The Animals Committee will be invited to provide comments on this review.

41.6 Periodic review of *Phoebastria albatrus* AC31 Doc. 41.6

The document by the United States of America provides a periodic review of *P. albatrus*, the short-tailed albatross, which has been included in Appendix I since 1975. The document notes a population size of 5,856 individuals and a breeding population of 1,928 individuals. The document notes no known risk to the subspecies from international trade and recommends the transfer of *P. albatrus* from Appendix I to Appendix II in accordance with provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), Annex 1.

The Animals Committee will be invited to provide comments on this review.

42. Guidance for the publication of the Appendices*
[Decision 18.331]AC31 Doc. 42/PC25 Doc. 40

The document by the Secretariat presents draft guidance for the publication of the Appendices as of May 2020, but the work on this guidance has continued and an updated guidance is presented in document SC73 Doc. 26 (Rev. 1).

The Animals and Plants Committees will be invited to take note of document AC31 Doc. 42/PC25 Doc. 40.

Regional matters

43. Regional reports

43.1 AfricaAC31 Doc. 43.1

43.2 AsiaAC31 Doc. 43.2

43.3 Central and South America and the CaribbeanAC31 Doc. 43.3

43.4 Europe *No document*

43.5 North AmericaAC31 Doc. 43.5

43.6 OceaniaAC31 Doc. 43.6

The Members of the Animals Committees from the six major geographical regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Central and South America and the Caribbean, and Oceania) were invited to submit a regional report on activities undertaken in the region since the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Animals Committee will be invited to take note of each of the regional reports.

Concluding items

44. Any other business *No document*

The Animals Committee will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose subjects for discussion under this item are invited to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.

45. Time and venue of the 32nd meeting of the Animal Committee *No document*

The Secretariat will inform the Animals Committee on plans for time and venue of the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee that will take place after CoP19.

46. Closing remarks *No document*

The Chair will close the meeting.

A consolidated executive summary for the two plenary sessions and the joint session will be posted during the two week-break and adopted at the final session of the Committee. The decisions taken at AC31 will come into effect as soon as the consolidated executive summary has been endorsed by the Committee. The summary record will be prepared based on paragraph 2 of Rule 19 and include further details on the discussions at the meeting. Any comments or views expressed in the chat of the meeting will not be included in the summary record unless such comments have been read into the record. The list of participants will be finalized by the Secretariat after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the CITES website.