

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 13 – 17 July 2020

Strategic matters

Animals Committee strategic planning for 2019-2022 (CoP18-CoP19)

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Annex 1 to this document provides an overview of the currently valid Resolutions that require actions from, or contain references to, the Animals Committee.
3. Annex 2 lists all currently valid Decisions of the Conference of the Parties directed to the Animals Committee, or that may need consultation with, or assistance from the Committee.
4. The Animals Committee is invited to take these instructions into consideration in developing its working programme for 2019-2022 (see document AC31 Doc. 7.2).

RESOLUTIONS CONTAINING INSTRUCTIONS THAT ARE DIRECTED
OR RELEVANT TO THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

Resolution	Instruction
<p>Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) Use of coded- microchip implants for marking live animals in trade</p>	<p>2. DIRECTS b) the Animals Committee to monitor developments in microchip-implant technology and application techniques and to advise the Secretariat about such developments, for the information of the Parties.</p>
<p>Conf. 9.21 (Rev. CoP18) Interpretation and application of quotas for species included in Appendix I</p>	<p>2. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee to keep under regular review (every nine years or sooner if determined necessary) quotas for species included in Appendix I established by the Conference of the Parties. If new scientific or management data have emerged to indicate that the population of the species in the range State concerned can no longer sustain the agreed quota, consult with the range State in order to find a solution to any concerns raised including, if appropriate, making recommendations to amend the quota.</p>
<p>Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II</p>	<p>5. URGES Parties that are considering the submission of a proposal to amend the Appendices, in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, to consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee as early as possible in advance of submitting the proposal;</p> <p>9. RESOLVES that, to monitor the effectiveness of protection offered by the Convention, the status of species included in Appendices I and II should be regularly reviewed by the range States and proponents, in collaboration with the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, subject to the availability of funds;</p> <p>Annex 4: Precautionary measures</p> <p>B. The following review procedures shall apply when a species is transferred to Appendix II pursuant to paragraph A. 2. iii) above.</p> <p>1. Where the Plants Committee, the Animals Committee or a Party becomes aware of problems in compliance with the management measures and export quotas of another Party, the Secretariat shall be informed and, if the Secretariat fails to resolve the matter satisfactorily, it shall inform the Standing Committee which may, after consultation with the Party concerned, recommend to all Parties that they suspend trade with that Party in specimens of CITES-listed species, and/or request the Depository Government to prepare a proposal to transfer the population back to Appendix I.</p> <p>2. If, on review of a quota and its supporting management measures, the Animals or Plants Committee encounters any problems with compliance or potential detriment to a species, the relevant Committee shall request the Depository Government to prepare a proposal for appropriate remedial action.</p> <p>Annex 6: Format for proposals to amend the Appendices</p> <p>10. <u>Consultations</u> Provide details of the consultation undertaken to secure comments on the proposal from the range States of the species, either through direct contact or via the CITES Secretariat. Comments received from each country should be provided. Where comments were sought but not received in sufficient time to enable their inclusion in the supporting statement, this should be noted, as well as the date of the request. In cases of proposals to transfer Appendix-II species that are subject to the Review of Significant Trade to Appendix I, the proponent should consult the affected range State(s) and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee. The proponent should state the reasons to justify why the</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>amendment proposal was made. In cases of consultation with Parties via the CITES Secretariat, information from range States and non-range States should be separated.</p> <p>In the case of species that are also managed through other international agreements or intergovernmental bodies, provide details of the consultations undertaken to obtain the comments of those organizations or bodies, and indicate how those comments have been addressed in the supporting statement. Where comments were sought but not received in sufficient time to enable their inclusion in the supporting statement, this should be noted, as well as the date of the request.</p>
<p>Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III</p>	<p><i>Inclusion of species in Appendix III</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RECOMMENDS that, when considering the inclusion of a species in Appendix III, a Party: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c) inform the Management Authorities of other range States, the known major importing countries, the Secretariat and the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee that it is considering the inclusion of the species in Appendix III and seek their opinion on the potential effects of such inclusion; h) consult with the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee, to ensure that any proposed annotation that is part of a request to include a species in Appendix III (and any definitions developed that define terms in the annotation, as appropriate) is clear and unambiguous, and likely to be understood by enforcement personnel and user groups; 5. REQUESTS that, upon request by a Party, the Animals or Plants Committee assist Parties in reviewing the status of species in Appendix III, subject to available resources; 6. URGES Parties having included species in Appendix III to review periodically the status of these species, seek assistance of the Animals or Plants Committee in undertaking the review mentioned in paragraph 5 of this Resolution, if necessary, and taking into account these guidelines and any recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, to consider the necessity to maintain the species in Appendix III;
<p>Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) Transport of live specimens</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DIRECTS the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees to deal with matters related to the transport of live specimens; 2. RECOMMENDS that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> e) the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and IATA, regularly review, revise and approve amendments to the <i>CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants</i>; 3. DIRECTS the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) to participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA in order to amplify or update the <i>IATA Live Animals Regulations</i> and the <i>IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations</i> and the <i>CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants</i>; b) to examine new or additional references for transport of live specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; c) to examine developments related to the transport of live plant specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; and d) to examine when appropriate, any high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future;

Resolution	Instruction
<p>Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15) Universal tagging system for the identification of crocodylian skins</p>	<p>2. DIRECTS the Secretariat to report deficiencies of the system or specific instances of concern to the Animals Committee and the relevant Parties, as appropriate;</p>
<p>Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II</p>	<p><i>Regarding proposals to transfer populations from Appendix I to Appendix II for ranching</i></p> <p>2. RECOMMENDS that</p> <p>e) in order to be discussed at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, any proposal for amendment of the Appendices pursuant to this Resolution be received by the Secretariat at least 330 days before that meeting. In consultation with the Animals Committee, the Secretariat shall seek appropriate scientific and technical advice to verify that the criteria specified in paragraph 2 d) above have been met and to review the information and assurances in the proposal that are specified in paragraph b) above. If in the opinion of the Secretariat further information concerning the criteria is required, the Secretariat shall request information from the proposing Party within 150 days after receipt. Thereafter, the Secretariat shall communicate with the Parties in accordance with Article XV of the Convention;</p> <p><i>Regarding changes to the ranching programme described in the proposal to transfer a species from Appendix I to Appendix II</i></p> <p>3. RECOMMENDS that:</p> <p>b) any Party with an approved ranching proposal submit any changes to the information supplied in paragraph 2 c) above to the Secretariat. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals Committee, should determine whether the changes proposed substantially alter the original ranching programme, and undermine or jeopardize the conservation of the wild population. The Secretariat should advise the Party of its determination accordingly; and</p> <p>c) in cases where the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals Committee, concludes that changes to the ranching programme that are proposed in accordance with paragraph h) would result in substantial changes to management of the species, the proposed management be treated as a new proposal, requiring the submission of a proposal pursuant to this Resolution and to the requirements of Article XV of the Convention;</p>
<p>Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) Identification Manual</p>	<p>1. DIRECTS the Secretariat to:</p> <p>h) inform the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees on the progress made whenever appropriate;</p>
<p>Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'</p>	<p>1. AGREES that where the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' appears in an annotation to the listing of <i>Loxodonta africana</i> in Appendix II of the Convention with reference to the trade in live elephants¹ taken from the wild, this term shall be defined to mean in situ conservation programmes or secure areas in the wild, within the species' natural and historical range in Africa, except in exceptional circumstances where, in consultation with the Animals Committee, through its Chair with the support of the Secretariat, and in consultation with the IUCN elephant specialist group, it is considered that a transfer to <i>ex-situ</i> locations will provide demonstrable <i>in-situ</i> conservation benefits for African elephants, or in the case of temporary transfers in emergency situations;</p>

¹ Excluding elephants that were in *ex-situ* locations at the time of the adoption of this Resolution at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Resolution	Instruction
<p>Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) Use of annotations in Appendices I and II</p>	<p>1. AGREES that: h) annotations that include time limits or other references that may with time cease to apply should, on a regular basis, be considered for deletion or revision by the Standing Committee and as appropriate, by the Animals Committee or Plants Committee.</p> <p>7. URGES Parties submitting proposals that contain substantive annotations to consult with the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee, to ensure that the annotation is appropriate and can be readily implemented;</p> <p>8. DIRECTS: a) the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, to agree on interim definitions between meetings of the Conference of the Parties in cases where significant differences in the interpretation of terms in annotations exist among trading countries and are causing implementation difficulties, and then include these definitions in its report to the Conference of the Parties for adoption;</p>
<p>Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) Permits and certificates</p>	<p>XI. Regarding permits and certificates for coral specimens</p> <p>19. RECOMMENDS that: a) on permits and certificates issued to authorize trade in specimens of hard corals of the genera included in the most recent CITES list of <i>Coral taxa where identification to genus level is acceptable</i>², where the species cannot be readily determined, the specimens may be recorded at the genus level. This list is maintained by the Secretariat and may be amended with the concurrence of the Animals Committee;</p>
<p>Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) Conservation and management of sharks</p>	<p>13. DIRECTS the Animals Committee to periodically examine new information provided by range States on the implementation of the shark listings and other available relevant data and information;</p> <p>14. DIRECTS the Animals Committee to make species-specific recommendations, if necessary, on improving the conservation status of sharks and implementation of shark and ray listings;</p> <p>16. DIRECTS the Animals Committee and Standing Committee to report progress on shark and ray activities at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.</p>
<p>Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish³</p>	<p>4. DIRECTS the Secretariat, in cases where range States of shared wild stocks have agreed on export quotas in the previous year, to provide to the subsequent meeting of the Animals Committee a written report, based on information submitted by the range States concerned as requested in subparagraph 3 a) iv) above, including references to relevant documents, on its activities related to the conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish;</p> <p>5. DIRECTS the Animals Committee, in collaboration with the Secretariat, interested Parties, international organizations and relevant experts, to monitor progress on the relevant provisions of this Resolution and to inform the Standing Committee about new developments or problems as and when required;</p> <p>6. URGES range States to cooperate with the Animals Committee and the Secretariat with a view to implementing the provisions under subparagraph 3 a) and paragraph 5 above;</p> <p>7. CALLS UPON range States, importing countries and other experts and appropriate organizations, such as the IUCN/SSC Sturgeon Specialist Group, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Animals Committee, to continue to explore the development of a uniform DNA-based identification system for parts and derivatives and aquaculture stocks of Acipenseriformes species to assist in</p>

² At the time of entry into force of the present Resolution (12 June 2013), the most recent list had been published in Notification to the Parties No. 2012/047.

³ For the purposes of this Resolution, the term "shark" is taken to include all species of sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras, in alignment with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks).

Resolution	Instruction
	the subsequent identification of the origin of specimens in trade and the development and application of methods for differentiating wild from aquaculture origin caviar in cases where DNA-based methods are not useful;
<p>Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</p>	<p>Regarding conduct of the Review of Significant Trade</p> <p>1. DIRECTS the Animals and Plants Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat and experts, and in consultation with range States, to review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade, to identify problems and solutions concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a), in accordance with the following procedure and as outlined in Annex 1 of this Resolution:</p> <p>Stage 1: Selection of species/country combinations to be reviewed</p> <p>a) the Secretariat shall, within 90 days after each meeting of the Conference of Parties, commence, or appoint consultants to commence, preparation of a summary from the CITES Trade Database of annual report statistics showing the recorded level of direct exports for Appendix-II species over the five most recent years, and an extended analysis of trade to inform the preliminary selection of species/country combinations, to be completed in sufficient time for the first regular meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee following that meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see Annex 2 of this Resolution);</p> <p>b) on the basis of recorded levels of direct exports and information available to the Animals or Plants Committee, the Secretariat, Parties or other relevant experts, a limited number of species/country combinations of greatest concern shall be included in Stage 2 of the review process by the Animals or Plants Committee at their first regular meeting following a meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and</p> <p>c) in exceptional cases, outside of steps 1 a) and b) above, and where new information provided to the Secretariat by a proponent indicates that rapid action may be needed concerning problems relating to the implementation of Article IV (for a species/country combination), the Secretariat:</p> <p>i) will verify that the proponent has provided a justification for the exceptional case, including supporting information;</p> <p>ii) may produce, or request a consultant produce a summary of trade from the CITES Trade Database in relation to the species/country combination concerned as necessary; and</p> <p>iii) will, as soon as possible, provide the justification and, if appropriate, a trade summary to the Animals or Plants Committee for their intersessional review and decision on whether or not to include the species/country combination in Stage 2 of the review process;</p> <p>Stage 2: Consultation with the range States and compilation of information</p> <p>d) the Secretariat shall:</p> <p>i) within 30 days after the meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee at which species/country combinations are selected, or within 30 days after the Committee has selected a species/country combination on an exceptional basis, notify selected range States that their species has been selected, providing an overview of the review process and an explanation for the selection. The Secretariat shall request range States to provide the scientific basis by which it is established that exports from their country are not detrimental to the survival of the species concerned and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention. In its letter, the Secretariat shall provide guidance to range States on how to respond, explain the consequences of not responding to the request, and inform the range States that the responses will be made available on the CITES website as part of the agenda for meetings of the Animals or Plants Committee. Range States shall be given 60 days to respond; and</p> <p>ii) compile, or appoint consultants to compile, a report about the biology and management of and trade in the species, including any relevant information provided by the range States, to be made available for the</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>next meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee. In doing so, the Secretariat (or consultants) shall actively engage with the range States and relevant experts in the compilation of the report;</p> <p>e) the report required under subparagraph 1 d) ii) shall include conclusions about the effects of international trade on the selected species/country combinations, the basis on which such conclusions are made and problems concerning the implementation of Article IV, and shall provisionally divide the selected species/country combinations into three categories:</p> <p>i) 'action is needed' shall include species/country combinations for which the available information suggests that the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), are not being implemented;</p> <p>ii) 'unknown status' shall include species/country combinations for which the Secretariat (or consultants) could not determine whether or not these provisions are being implemented; and</p> <p>iii) 'less concern' shall include species/country combinations for which the available information appears to indicate that these provisions are being met; and</p> <p>f) once the report is completed, the Secretariat shall draw the attention of the relevant range States to the report prepared under subparagraph d) ii) and invite them to provide any additional information for consideration at the second meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee following the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>Stage 3: Categorization and Recommendations by the Animals or Plants Committee</p> <p>g) the Animals or Plants Committee shall, at their second meeting following the Conference of the Parties, review the report of the Secretariat or the consultants, and the responses and additional information received from the range States concerned. For each selected species/country combination the Animals or Plants Committee shall recategorize species/country combinations of 'unknown status' as either 'action is needed' or 'less concern' and provide a justification for such recategorization. Additionally, if appropriate, the Animals and Plants Committee shall revise the preliminary categorization proposed for species/country combinations of those where 'action is needed' or those of 'less concern' and provide a justification for the revision;</p> <p>i) species/country combinations determined by the Animals or Plants Committee to be of less concern shall be removed from the review process and the Secretariat shall notify the range States accordingly within 30 days; in cases where the species/country combination is of less concern due to the establishment of a zero export quota, any change to this quota should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and the Chair of the relevant Committee along with a justification; and</p> <p>ii) species/country combinations determined by the Animals or Plants Committee to be those for which 'action is needed' shall be retained in the review process. The Animals or Plants Committee shall, in consultation with the Secretariat, formulate time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, and transparent recommendations directed to the range States retained in the review process, using the principles outlined in Annex 3 of this Resolution. The recommendations should aim to build the range State's long term capacity to implement Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention;</p> <p>h) the Secretariat shall, within 30 days of the meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee, transmit these recommendations to the range States concerned; and</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>i) the Animals or Plants Committee shall 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 this Resolution;</p> <p>Stage 4: Measures to be taken regarding the implementation of recommendations</p> <p>j) the Secretariat shall monitor progress against the recommendations, taking account of the different deadlines;</p> <p>k) once the range State has reported on the implementation of recommendations or the deadlines have passed, whichever is first and, following timely intersessional consultation with members of the Animals or Plants Committee through the Chairs, the Secretariat shall determine whether the recommendations referred to above have been implemented;</p> <p>i) where the recommendations have been met, the Secretariat shall, following consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, notify the range States concerned that the species/country combination was removed from the review process and include the rationale for its evaluation, noting where relevant, specific commitments made by the range States in question and, in the case where a species/country combination was removed from the review process on the basis of the establishment of an interim precautionary export quota (including a zero export quota) in the place of implementing the recommendations, any change to this quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and Chair of the relevant Committee along with a justification, for their agreement; or</p> <p>ii) when the recommendations are not deemed to have been met (and no new information is provided), the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the members of the Animals or Plants Committee through the Chairs, recommend to the Standing Committee appropriate action, which may include, as a last resort, a suspension of trade in the affected species with that State; or</p> <p>iii) where the recommendations are not deemed to have been met or have been partially met, and there is new information suggesting the recommendation may require updating, the Secretariat shall, in a timely fashion, request the members of the Animals or Plants Committee, through the Chairs, to prepare a revised recommendation, keeping in mind the principles that recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should promote capacity building. The Secretariat shall provide the revised recommendation to the range States within 30 days of its drafting;</p> <p>l) the Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on its evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations, including the rationale for its evaluation and, where relevant, specific commitments made by the range States in question, and a summary of the views expressed by the Animals or Plants Committees. The Secretariat shall additionally report on any further actions taken by the Animals or Plants Committee in the case of range States where new information has resulted in revised recommendations;</p> <p>m) for range States where recommendations are not deemed to have been met, the Standing Committee shall decide, at its next regular meeting or intersessionally as appropriate, on necessary action and make recommendations to the range State concerned, or to all Parties, keeping in mind that these recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should promote capacity building. In exceptional circumstances, where the range State under consideration provides new information on the implementation of the recommendations to the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee through the Secretariat, shall consult in a timely fashion with the members</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>of the Animals or Plants Committee through the Chair, prior to making a decision on necessary action;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> n) the Secretariat shall notify all Parties of any recommendations or actions taken by the Standing Committee; o) a recommendation to suspend trade in the affected species with the range State concerned should be withdrawn only when that range State demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the members of the Animals or Plants Committee, through the relevant Chair, compliance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a); and p) the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals or Plants Committee, shall review recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years, evaluate the reasons why this is the case in consultation with the range State, and, if appropriate, take measures to address the situation; <p>Regarding capacity building, monitoring, reporting, and evaluating the review process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. DIRECTS the Secretariat, for the purpose of monitoring and facilitating the implementation of this Resolution and the relevant paragraphs of Article IV: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to report at each meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee on the implementation by the range States concerned of the recommendations made by the Committee; and b) to maintain a database of species/country combinations that are included in the review process set out in this Resolution including a record of progress with the implementation of recommendations; 6. DIRECTS the Secretariat to include training on the Review of Significant Trade process as part of its capacity building activities related to the making of non-detriment findings; 7. DIRECTS the Animals or Plants Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, to undertake a regular review of the outcomes of the Review of Significant Trade by, for example, examining a sample of past species/country combinations to assess whether implementation of Article IV paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a) was improved. The Animals or Plants Committee should consider the results of this review and revise the Review of Significant Trade process as necessary. In doing so, feedback should be obtained from range States (including their Scientific Authorities) who have been through the review process;
<p>Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes</p>	<p>Annex 2: Procedure to be followed by the Secretariat before registering new operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. If any Party objects to the registration, the Secretariat shall refer the documentation to the Animals Committee to review the objection. The Animals Committee shall comment on the objection within 60 days. The Secretariat shall forward the comments made by the Animals Committee to the Parties concerned and allow a further 30 days for resolution of the identified problem(s).
<p>Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) Standard nomenclature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. RECOMMENDS that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) where there are domesticated forms of listed taxa, the Animals and Plants Committees recommend names for the wild and domestic forms; e) upon receiving proposals to amend the Appendices to the Convention, the Secretariat seek, where appropriate, the advice of the Animals and Plants Committees on the correct names to use for the species or other taxa in question; f) whenever a change in the name of a taxon included in the Appendices is proposed, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, determine whether this change would alter the scope of protection for fauna or flora under the Convention. In the case where the scope of a taxon is redefined, the Animals or Plants Committee shall evaluate whether acceptance of the taxonomic change would cause

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>additional species to be included in the Appendices or listed species to be deleted from the Appendices and, if that is the case, the Depositary Government should be requested to submit a proposal to amend the Appendices in accordance with the recommendation of the Animals or Plants Committee, so that the original intent of the listing is retained. Such proposals should be submitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees will be considered;</p> <p>g) if the Animals or Plants Committee proposes nomenclatural changes relating to taxa included in Appendix-III, they should advise the Secretariat whether these changes would also result in changes in distribution that would affect the determination of which countries would be required to issue certificates of origin;</p> <p>h) if there is conflict regarding the choice of taxonomic authority for taxa for which no standard references have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties, countries authorizing export of animals or plants (or parts or derivatives thereof) of such taxa inform the CITES Secretariat and prospective importing countries of their preferred published taxonomic authority. 'Taxonomic authority' means a recent published paper or monograph that reviews the nomenclature of the taxon being exported and that has been reviewed by professionals in the pertinent discipline. In cases where specimens of the taxon are exported from several countries and the exporting countries do not agree, or the exporting and importing countries do not agree, on the taxonomic authority, the Animals or Plants Committee should determine the most appropriate taxonomic authority, until a formal recommendation to the Conference of the Parties is made. The Animals or Plants Committee shall include this interim decision in its report to the Conference of the Parties, for adoption. The Secretariat shall notify the Parties about the interim decision;</p> <p>k) when the Animals or Plants Committee recommends a change in the name of a taxon to be used in the Appendices, it also provide an evaluation of the implications for the implementation of the Convention;</p> <p>3. RECOMMENDS the following procedure for updating current standard nomenclatural references and adoption of new ones:</p> <p>a) the process for updating current standard nomenclatural references and adoption of new ones shall be initiated directly by the Animals or Plants Committee on their own initiative or by the submission of a proposal to the Committees by:</p> <p>i) one or more Parties; or</p> <p>ii) the Secretariat, on its own initiative or in response to information it has received from the Parties; and</p> <p>b) proposed changes shall be based on recognized taxonomic publications. In the case where a proposed amendment to the nomenclatural status of a taxon is still under discussion, the new taxonomy should not be adopted;</p> <p>4. RESOLVES that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, may make orthographical changes in the lists of species included in the Appendices to the Convention, without consulting the Conference of the Parties, and shall inform the Parties of those changes;</p> <p>5. DIRECTS the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, and in the implementation of its memoranda of understanding or cooperation, or programmes of work with other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, to consider ways of harmonizing the taxonomy and nomenclature of species included in their respective provisions;</p> <p>7. RECOGNIZES the <i>Checklist of CITES species</i>, compiled by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 2005, and its updates, as an official digest of scientific names contained in the standard references, that fully reflects the taxonomy and nomenclature contained in the original species proposals, the recommendations of the Animals or Plants Committee and all accepted names</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>included in the standard references that have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties for species included in the Appendices;</p> <p>9. URGES Parties to assign to their Scientific Authorities the principal responsibility for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) interpretation of the listings; b) consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee as appropriate; c) identification of nomenclatural issues that may warrant further review by the appropriate CITES committee and preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices if appropriate; and d) supporting and cooperating in the development and maintenance of the checklists; <p>11. DIRECTS the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, to promote harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature used by biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements;</p>
<p>Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines</p>	<p>1. URGES the Parties to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) make use of the <i>Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity</i>, also taking into account scientific, trade and enforcement considerations determined by national circumstances, as well as the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees (see Annex 2) when adopting non-detriment-making processes and making CITES non-detriment findings;
<p>Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18) Conservation of and trade in great apes</p>	<p>2. DIRECTS the Secretariat to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> d) draw the attention of the Animals Committee to any scientific or technical issues related to international trade in great apes; <p>4. URGES the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee to work closely with GRASP, and to explore and implement other measures through which the Convention can contribute to the conservation of great apes and to the promotion of public awareness of the threat posed to great ape populations by illegal trade;</p>
<p>Conf. 13.11 (Rev. CoP18) Wild meat</p>	<p>8. DIRECTS the Secretariat to regularly review the implementation of this Resolution and draw the attention of the Standing Committee and Animals Committee to any issues concerning international trade in wild meat;</p>
<p>Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) CITES compliance procedures</p>	<p>Annex: Guide to CITES compliance procedures <i>The various bodies and their compliance-related tasks</i></p> <p>13. The Animals and Plants Committees, acting in accordance with instructions from and authority delegated by the Conference of the Parties, advise and assist the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties with regard to compliance matters, <i>inter alia</i>, by undertaking necessary reviews, consultations, assessments and reporting. These Committees are entrusted with specific tasks in the handling of matters related to the Review of Significant Trade.</p>
<p>Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II</p>	<p>1. AGREES that the Animals and Plants Committees shall conduct a periodic review of species listed in Appendix I and II, seeking information, participation and support from the range States. The regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees shall seek assistance from range States within their region to support the taxon reviews;</p> <p>2. FURTHER AGREES that the review will be conducted in accordance to the following process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) normally, after every second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a schedule for the periodic review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods. The list should be established at the first meetings of the Committees after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) that initiates the review period;

Resolution	Instruction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) the Animals and Plants Committees shall select a practical sub-subset of CITES-listed species of flora or fauna for analysis pursuant to the following methods and guidance; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the Secretariat shall, subject to availability of funding, undertake or appoint consultants to undertake the assessment outlined in the Annex and prepare the resulting outputs for consideration by the Scientific Committees at their first meeting after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that initiates the review period (Note: if no funding is available, the Secretariat shall inform the Parties and the Scientific Committees' Chairs); ii) the following taxa should not be considered for review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. species that were the subject of listing proposals at the previous three meetings of the Conference of the Parties (whether or not the proposals were adopted); B. species subject to ongoing reviews, under the Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)], or periodic reviews conducted within the last 10 years; or C. species subject to other reviews targeted by valid Decisions and Resolutions of the CoP; and D. species for which it is clear that there has been no change in the status, range or trade and for which there is no possibility to need to amend the Appendices; and iii) outputs resulting from the assessment conducted in accordance with the Annex to this Resolution shall contain the following information in summary tables that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. a summary of trade data since the initial inclusion of that taxon in the Appendices; B. current conservation status, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category of the species, if assessed; C. current listing in the CITES Appendices, criteria under which it was listed (if known), date of first listing; and D. the distribution of the species (range States); c) at the first meetings of the Committees after the meeting of the CoP that initiates the review period and based on the outputs prepared in subparagraph 2 b) above, the Animals and Plants Committees will identify the list of taxa to be considered for periodic review; d) the Secretariat shall send a copy of the proposed list of taxa to be reviewed to all Parties, and request range States of the taxa to comment within 60 days on whether they support a review of the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the reviews. The responses shall be relayed by the Secretariat to the Animals or Plants Committee. If no volunteer offers to undertake a review within two intersessional periods between CoPs, those taxa shall be deleted from the list of species to be reviewed; e) each review (ideally in the format of a proposal used to amend the Appendices) is to be submitted as a working document to the Animals or Plants Committee for review, clearly specifying the recommendation with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). The Secretariat shall notify the relevant range States of these working documents in advance of the meeting of the Committee; f) the Animals or Plants Committees may also evaluate reviews undertaken independently by Parties and submitted for their consideration; g) based on the information as per subparagraph 2 e) above, the Animals or Plants Committee is to make a recommendation on whether it would be appropriate to retain a taxon in the Appendix in which it is currently listed, transfer a taxon from one Appendix to another, or to delete a taxon from the Appendices;

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>h) the Animals or Plants Committee shall draft its recommendation with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). The Committee shall report its conclusions to the Conference of the Parties, and the Secretariat shall inform the range State(s) for the species reviewed of the conclusion of the Committee; and</p> <p>i) in the event that the Committee recommends a change in the CITES listing status for the species reviewed:</p> <p>i) the Secretariat shall invite the range State(s) of the species reviewed to submit a proposal to the next Conference of the Parties; and</p> <p>ii) if no range State expresses a willingness to submit the proposal, the Secretariat may request the Depository Government to submit it as specified in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) and to include the comments of the range States in the supporting statement, if so requested by the Animals or Plants Committee;</p> <p>3. RECOMMENDS the Animals and Plants Committees should share their experience, especially during joint meetings, regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of taxa included in the Appendices (including financing of reviews, processes, format and outputs);</p> <p>4. ENCOURAGES the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties to facilitate periodic reviews by:</p> <p>a) collaborating with university graduate students, including those from the CITES Master's Programme at the International University of Andalusia;</p> <p>b) collaborating with other non-Party reviewers including species experts such as IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Groups;</p> <p>c) using readily available information on species' conservation status from organizations (e.g. IUCN, BirdLife, etc.) and Parties;</p> <p>d) seeking financial support for reviews, including from importing countries, as appropriate; and</p> <p>e) increasing communication between the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and suggest coordination with Parties when animal and plant species' ranges overlap;</p> <p>5. DIRECTS the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees to keep the Standing Committee informed about the conduct of periodic reviews, noting that Standing Committee approval is not required to initiate the process;</p>
<p>Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) Non-detriment findings</p>	<p>3. DIRECTS the Secretariat:</p> <p>a) to maintain a prominent section for non-detriment findings on the CITES website and to update it regularly with information from the Animals and Plants Committees, Parties and other sources;</p> <p>b) to implement a user-friendly mechanism on the CITES website that would allow Parties to easily submit relevant information to be considered for inclusion in the website;</p> <p>c) to ensure that this information is accessible in the appropriate sections of the CITES Virtual College; and</p> <p>d) to assist in identifying possible funding sources to help Parties implementing capacity-building activities related to the making of non-detriment findings</p>
<p>Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</p>	<p>2. DIRECTS the Animals and Standing Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat, relevant experts and in consultation with Parties, to review biological, trade and other relevant information regarding animal species subject to significant levels of trade using source codes C, D, F or R, to identify problems associated with the implementation of the Convention and to develop solutions in accordance with the following procedure.</p> <p>Stage 1 – Identification of species-country combinations for review</p> <p>a) The Secretariat shall produce a summary from the CITES Trade Database of annual report statistics of species traded, derived from the five most recent years, under source codes C, D, F or R and will undertake, or</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>appoint consultants to undertake, an analysis of such data to identify species-country combinations for review using the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) significant increases in trade in specimens declared as captive-produced (source codes C, D, F and R); ii) trade in significant numbers of specimens declared as produced in captivity; iii) shifts and fluctuations between different captive-production source codes; iv) inconsistencies between source codes reported by exporting and importing Parties for specimens declared as produced in captivity; v) apparent incorrect application of captive production codes such as: 'A' for animal species or 'D' for Appendix-I species that have not been registered in compliance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes</i>; and vi) trade from non-range States of specimens declared as produced in captivity with no evidence of lawful acquisition of parental breeding stock (i.e. no recorded imports); <p>b) The Secretariat shall also compile any other relevant information made available to it with respect to concerns about captive production, including any cases identified from the Review of Significant Trade under Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</i>, referred to it by Parties or available in relevant reports, including the global conservation status by species published in the IUCN Red List of threatened species or noted as not evaluated;</p> <p>c) The Secretariat shall provide the outcome of the analyses in subparagraph 2 a) and a compilation of information from subparagraph 2 b) to the first regular meeting of the Animals Committee following a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Animals Committee may select a limited number of species-country combinations for review, taking into account the biology of the species, for which it should draft general or specific questions and a brief explanation of the selection, to be addressed by the Secretariat to the Parties concerned in accordance with Stage 2, subparagraph 2 e). The Animals Committee will determine for which species the short reviews provided for in Stage 2, subparagraph 2 f) are required; urgent enforcement matters identified at this stage should be referred to the Secretariat and the country concerned and subsequently reported to the Standing Committee;</p> <p>d) 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. CoP18), paragraph 1 d) as an exceptional case; and</p> <p>e) In exceptional cases, outside steps in subparagraphs 2 a)-c) above, and where new information provided to the Secretariat indicates that urgent action may be needed concerning problems relating to the implementation of provisions under the Convention for captive production of specimens, the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) shall verify that the proponent has provided a justification for the exceptional case, including supporting information; ii) shall produce a summary and analysis of trade from the CITES Trade Database in relation to the species-country combination; and iii) provide the information from i) and ii) above, as soon as possible to the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate, for their intersessional review and decision on whether to include the species-country combination in the next stage of the review process.

Stage 2 – Consultation with countries and compilation of information

- f) The Secretariat shall, within 30 days after the relevant meeting of the Animals Committee, notify the country or countries concerned that species produced in captivity in their country have been selected for review, and provide them with an overview of the review process and an explanation for the selection provided by the Animals Committee. The Secretariat shall ask the country or countries to provide information, within 60 days, in response to general or specific questions, developed by the Animals Committee, to determine if the correct source codes have been used, under the applicable Resolutions, for specimens claimed to be produced in captivity; and
- g) The Secretariat shall also commission, if requested by the Animals Committee, a short review of the species concerned, in consultation with relevant countries and specialists, to compile and summarise known information relating to the breeding biology and captive husbandry and any impacts, if relevant, of removal of founder stock from the wild.

Stage 3 – Review and recommendation by the Animals and Standing Committee

- h) The Animals Committee shall, at their second meeting following a regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, review the responses from countries, any review commissioned by the Secretariat 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. If trade is in compliance, the species-country combination will be excluded from the review and the Secretariat will inform the country or countries of this outcome within 60 days;
- i) Where a species-country combination is retained within the review and the Animals Committee identifies concerns appropriately within its remit, the Animals Committee shall, 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. The Secretariat shall transmit these draft recommendations and supporting information, from the Animals Committee to the next meeting of the Standing Committee for their review, revision if necessary, and endorsement;
- j) Where a species-country combination is retained within the review and the Animals Committee identifies concerns that are more appropriately considered by the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall refer the issue to the next meeting of the Standing Committee, including any observations from the Animals Committee;
- k) The Standing Committee shall review the draft recommendations and supporting information from the Animals Committee and prepare any required recommendations for the country or the countries concerned;
- l) Recommends that the Standing Committee, when making recommendations to the country or countries under paragraph 2 k) of the present Resolution in relation to the use of source codes C, D, F or R, avoid duplication with other compliance processes; and
- m) The Secretariat shall, within 30 days of the meeting of the Standing Committee in subparagraphs 2 h) and j), transmit the combined recommendations of the Standing and Animals Committees to the country or countries concerned and also provide the country or countries with relevant guidance, such as on the correct application of source codes, and means by which their capacity to deal with captive production issues might be enhanced.

Stage 4: Measures to be taken regarding the implementation of recommendations

- n) The Secretariat shall monitor progress against the recommendations, taking account of the different deadlines, and, following timely intersessional consultation with the members of the Standing and Animals

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>Committees through their Chairs, determine whether the recommendations referred to above have been implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) where the recommendations have been met, the Secretariat shall, following consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, notify the Parties that the species-country combination was removed from the review process; or ii) when the recommendations are not deemed to have been met, the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the members of the Standing and Animals Committees through their Chairs, recommend to the Standing Committee appropriate action, which may include, as a last resort, a recommendation to suspend trade in the affected species with that State; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o) The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on its evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations, including the rationale for its evaluation, and a summary of the views expressed by the Animals Committee; p) For countries where recommendations are not deemed to have been met, the Standing Committee shall decide on appropriate actions and make recommendations to the country or countries concerned, keeping in mind that these recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should, if appropriate, promote capacity building. In exceptional circumstances, where the country under consideration provides new information on the implementation of the recommendations to the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee shall consult intersessionally with the Animals Committee through the Chair prior to making a decision on appropriate action; q) The Secretariat shall notify the Parties of any recommendations or actions taken by the Standing Committee; r) Any recommendation by the Standing Committee to suspend trade in the affected species with the country concerned should be withdrawn only when that country demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee, through the Secretariat, in consultation, where appropriate, with the members of the Animals Committee through their Chair, compliance with the provisions of the Convention with respect to the captive production of specimens; and s) The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, shall, where appropriate, review recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years, consult with the relevant country, evaluate the reasons why this is the case, and, if appropriate, take measures to address the situation. <p>Regarding capacity building, monitoring, reporting, and evaluating the review process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. DIRECTS the Secretariat, for the purpose of monitoring and facilitating the implementation of this Resolution and the relevant provisions of the Convention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To report to the Standing Committee on the implementation, by the countries concerned, of the recommendations made by the Standing and Animals Committees; and b) To maintain a record of species-country combinations that are included in the review process set out in this Resolution, including a record of progress with implementation of recommendations; 4. DIRECTS the Secretariat to include training on this review process of specimens produced through captive production as part of its capacity-building activities related to the implementation of the Convention; and 5. DIRECTS the Standing and Animals Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat, to periodically evaluate the outcomes of this Review by, for example, examining a sample of past species-country combinations to assess whether the desired result was achieved. Based on these evaluations, the Standing and Animals Committees should propose revisions to the review

Resolution	Instruction
	process as necessary. In these periodic evaluations, feedback should be sought from countries that have been through the review process.
Conf. 17.12 Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes	3. URGES Parties and the Secretariat to use the general NDF guidance contained in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) and any further guidance recommended by the Animals and Standing Committees in capacity-building workshops and relevant training materials;
Conf. 18.1 Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2020-2022	<p>26. FURTHER DECIDES that the standard participation charge for all observer organizations other than the United Nations and its specialized agencies at meetings of the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees shall be set at a minimum of USD 100 for each observer participant (except as otherwise decided by the Secretariat as required and following consultation with the Finance and Budget Subcommittee);</p> <p>27. AFFIRMS that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) all meetings of the Conference of the Parties and all regular meetings of the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee should be held in the Host country of the Secretariat unless a candidate host country pays the difference in costs between its proposed venue and the Host country; and b) candidate host country is to sign the Host Country Agreement no later than six months after the decision is made by the Conference of the Parties or 60 days after the decision is made by the Committees to hold the meeting outside the host country of the Secretariat; and c) no more than two regular meetings each of the Standing Committee, and the Animals and Plants Committees should be convened between regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties; <p>28. DIRECTS the Secretariat to make provision for the payment, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of members, including attendance at the relevant committee meetings, and other expenses of the Chairs of the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, other than members from developed countries;</p> <p>30. REQUESTS the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to make provisions for all the costs the Secretariat incurs, including costs associated with the hiring of temporary staff and consultants, when seeking funds for the implementation of externally funded projects; b) to seek the most cost effective translation and interpretation services; c) in consultation with proponent Parties, when necessary, to advise the Conference of the Parties on proposals with budgetary implications, including staff costs; and d) in consultation with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, to assign scientific consultants and define terms of reference for specific science-based projects. Such a process should be implemented in a fashion that would not have a negative impact on the budget, but rather effectively utilize the scientific expertise of the Parties which is available to the Secretariat via the Chairs of the technical committees;
Conf.18.2 Establishment of Committees	<p>3. ESTABLISHES the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee as its scientific advisory bodies, which shall report to the Conference of the Parties at its meetings and, if so requested, to the Standing Committee between meetings of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with their Terms of Reference as found in Annex 2 of this Resolution;</p> <p>Regarding regional sessions at meetings of the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>7. AGREES that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) regional sessions should be held at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties; such sessions should have an official character and should have an agenda; b) the Chair of each regional session should be the representative of a regional Member of the Standing Committee;

- c) each region has specific tasks to fulfil, as follows:
 - i) selection, as appropriate, of Parties as Members and alternate Members of the Standing Committee, and experts as Members and alternate Members of the Animals and Plants Committees;
 - ii) the regions with more than one Member on a committee should review at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties the way the representation should be exercised; and
 - iii) other tasks depending to a large extent on the agenda of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Regarding conflict of Interest in committees where the membership consists of individuals

8. AGREES that a “conflict of interest” refers to any current financial interest which could significantly impair an individual’s impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a Member of a committee. A candidate’s employment by itself does not automatically constitute a conflict of interest. For committees where individuals are elected as Members, such as the Animals Committee and Plants Committee, the following procedures apply:
- a) Parties proposing candidates as Members or alternate Members are to request that, together with their names and *curricula vitae*, each candidate provides a Declaration of Interest which should be circulated to the Parties of the region concerned before the meeting of the Conference by the Parties at which the Members will be elected. In that declaration in the standard disclosure form agreed by the Standing Committee, the candidate should disclose any current financial interest that might call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a Member or alternate Member of the committee;
 - b) Following an election, the declaration of interest and the *curriculum vitae* of each Member and alternate Member shall be made available by the Secretariat to the Chair and the Members of the committee concerned, and to the Chair of the Standing Committee; and
 - c) Each Member and acting Member shall, at the beginning of each meeting of the committee using the standard disclosure form agreed by the Standing Committee, declare whether they have any financial interests that he or she considers call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the agenda for that meeting of the committee. A conflict of interest may also be identified by any credible source and brought to the attention of the Chair of the committee through the Secretariat. If a Member has such a financial interest, he or she may take part in discussions but not in the decision-making regarding the agenda item in question. If the Member is the subject of the potential conflict of interest, he or she shall not chair the meeting or sub-meeting for the agenda item in question;

Annex 2 – Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees of the Conference of the Parties

Purpose

1. As the scientific advisory committees of the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees play an important role in providing scientific and technical expertise and advice for the implementation of a broad range of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. This is evidenced in the adoption of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on the *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*, Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on the *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species* and Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*, for example. Further, Parties have recognized the importance of making available the best technical and scientific advice regarding CITES-listed species from different sources, origins and production systems, as well as the importance of assisting Parties in making non-detriment findings, and supporting their Scientific Authorities in accordance with Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings*. Parties have additionally recognized that nomenclature used in the Appendices or for proposals for listing new species in the Appendices will be most useful to the Parties if standardized through adoption of standard

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>nomenclatural references, which also facilitates identification and tracking of specimens of CITES-listed species in trade and harmonises cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements.</p> <p>Functions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Animals and Plants Committee shall, in accordance with instructions from and authority delegated by the Conference of the Parties in its resolutions and decisions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide scientific advice and guidance to the Conference of the Parties, the other committees, the Secretariat and Parties on matters relevant to international trade in animal and plant species included in the Appendices; b) undertake the tasks which are directed to them by the Conference of the Parties through relevant resolutions or decisions including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species, subject to significant levels of trade in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species</i>; ii) conduct periodic reviews of species included in Appendix I and II in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Periodic Reviews of species included in Appendix I and II</i>; iii) identify and address nomenclatural issues in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Standard nomenclature</i>; and iv) for the Animals Committee review biological, trade and other relevant information regarding animal species subject to significant levels of trade using source codes C, D, F or R in accordance with Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i>; c) upon request by Parties or the Secretariat, provide advice on the making of non-detriment findings in the context of Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Non-detriment findings</i>, and on the management of quotas in the context of Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Management of nationally established export quotas</i>; d) provide scientific advice on identification issues, and on training and other capacity-building materials, tools and guides to promote their accuracy and availability; e) upon request by Parties, provide advice related to scientific, technical and nomenclatural aspects of proposals to amend the Appendices; f) upon request by Parties, provide technical, scientific and nomenclatural advice to Parties concerning the management of trade in specimens of CITES-listed species from different sources, origins and production systems, including captive breeding and artificial propagation; g) draft resolutions or decisions on scientific matters related to animals or plants, for consideration by the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, with a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding; h) perform any other functions that may be entrusted to them by the Conference of the Parties or the Standing Committee; and i) report to the Conference of the Parties and, if so requested, to the Standing Committee, on the activities they have carried out or supervised between meetings of the Conference. 3. In giving instructions to the Animals and Plants Committees, the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee agree to pay due attention to whether the nature of the work is within their mandate as set out in paragraph 2, and whether the committees have the resources, time and expertise to undertake such work. 4. When making requests in the context of paragraph 2 c), e) and f) above, Parties should be mindful of the limited resources of the committees.

Membership

5. The membership of the Animals and Plants Committee shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties and consist of:
 - a) one person selected by each of the major geographic regions consisting of North America and Oceania based on candidates nominated by Parties from these regions;
 - b) two persons selected by each of the major geographic regions consisting of Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, and Europe based on candidates nominated by Parties from these regions; and
 - c) a specialist on zoological nomenclature (Animals Committee) and a specialist on botanical nomenclature (Plants Committee) selected by their respective Committees based on candidates nominated by Parties, and who are *ex-officio* and non-voting.
6. One person shall also be selected and elected as an alternate Member for each of the Members listed in paragraph 5 above to serve as an acting Member at meetings only in the absence of the Member for whom he/she is the alternate.
7. The membership of the Committees shall be reviewed at every regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The terms of office of the Members shall commence at the close of the regular meeting at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second regular meeting thereafter.
8. A Chair and a Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Committee from amongst the regional Members and shall normally serve until the close of the second regular meeting after being elected. In the absence of the Chair at a meeting, the Vice-Chair shall be acting as the Chair.
9. The Chair should be replaced in his/her role of regional Member by his/her alternate. In the absence at a meeting of the alternate in question, the Chair shall serve also as regional Member for his/her region on an ad hoc basis.
10. Regarding nomination of candidates, the following guidelines should be implemented:
 - a) Parties proposing candidates as Members or alternate Members should confirm, at the time of nomination, that the candidate will be supported and that they will obtain the necessary means to undertake their activities;
 - b) the names of the proposed candidates, and their *curricula vitae*, should be officially submitted to the Secretariat at least 120 days before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the representatives will be elected. These candidatures should be communicated to all the Parties of the region concerned as soon as possible thereafter by the Secretariat. In case of the nomenclature specialists, the names and their *curricula vitae* of the proposed candidates shall be circulated to the relevant committee;
 - c) ideally the candidates should be associated with a Scientific Authority, have adequate knowledge of CITES and receive sufficient institutional support to carry out their duties. This information should also be included in the *curricula vitae*; and
 - d) proposed candidates should be persons; a Party should not be accepted as a proposed candidate even if it plans to identify a person at a later time.
11. Regarding the timing of replacement of regional Members and alternate Members, the procedure should be the same as that described above for the Standing Committee and:
 - a) as alternate Members are alternates of specified Members, they should be elected at the same time as the Members;
 - b) if a region wishes to re-elect a Member or alternate Member, there is nothing to prevent it from doing so; and
 - c) in the event that no nominations have been received before the deadline the incumbent shall remain, if so willing and able, as a representative until a replacement is elected.
12. In the event of a vacancy arising amongst the Members or alternate Members of a committee between regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the following procedure shall apply:

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>a) the Secretariat shall notify the vacancy to the committee concerned, the Chair of the Standing Committee and the regional Member(s) of the Standing Committee from the region concerned (which may be all regions in the case of a nomenclature specialist);</p> <p>b) the Secretariat shall immediately issue a Notification to the Parties calling for nominations from Parties in the region or regions concerned for a person to fill the vacancy on an interim basis;</p> <p>c) the Secretariat shall provide the names and <i>curricula vitae</i> of the candidates received to the Chair of the Standing Committee and to the Standing Committee's Regional Member(s) from the region concerned or, in the case of a vacancy for a nomenclature specialist, to the committee concerned. They will decide on the person to fill the vacancy on an interim basis until the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>d) until a decision is reached in the case of a vacancy of a Member, the provisions of paragraph 6 above apply; and</p> <p>e) At the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with paragraph 5 of the present Annex. Nothing shall prevent the person appointed on an interim basis from being later proposed to fill the position.</p> <p>Duties of the Members of the Animals and Plants Committees</p> <p>13. The duties of the Members elected to the Animals and Plants Committees and their alternates are as follows:</p> <p>a) each Member should, to the best of his/her abilities, act as impartially as possible and endeavour to base his/her judgements and opinions upon an objective, scientific assessment of the available evidence;</p> <p>b) each Member should collaborate with his/her alternate regarding the work to be done between the meetings of the committee;</p> <p>c) each Member should maintain regular communication with the Parties in his/her region;</p> <p>d) when a region has more than one representative, the representatives should also agree which Parties each represents. Contact should also be established with non-Parties in the region;</p> <p>e) each Member should increase the awareness of the role and function of the committee, its mandate and the issues of concern to his/her region through mechanisms such as participation in seminars or in related meetings organized by the Secretariat and by other organizations at regional or sub-regional level;</p> <p>f) before the meetings of the committee, the Members should inform and consult the Parties in their regions about the agenda and in particular on matters specifically relevant to the countries of the region;</p> <p>g) the Members should submit a written report, covering the preceding period, to each meeting of the committee;</p> <p>h) the Members should inform the Parties in their regions of the results of each meeting of the committee in particular on matters specifically relevant to the countries of the region;</p> <p>i) the Members must inform the alternates well in advance if they will not attend a forthcoming committee meeting; and</p> <p>j) the Members should provide to their successors all relevant information on the activities in the region.</p> <p>14. The zoological and botanical nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees shall coordinate, monitor and analyse the input needed from specialists in fulfilling their responsibilities as assigned by the Parties.</p> <p>Meeting Procedures</p> <p>15. When back-to-back meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees include a joint session, the duration of the separate committee meetings should be four days, but when not back-to-back, the length of each meeting should be five days, unless the Chair and the Secretariat consider that a shorter meeting may be sufficient.</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>Financial Support</p> <p>16. The Conference of the Parties determines the budget of the Secretariat, including the financial resources provided to support meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees and associated eligible travel expenses. Each Member from a developing country and the nomenclature specialists are eligible to seek payment of travel expenses to attend each regular meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee.</p> <p>17. Parties and regions are urged to utilize or develop long-term sustainable funding mechanisms to support their representatives in the Committees, including the nomenclature specialists.</p>
<p>Conf. 18.3 CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030</p>	<p>The <i>CITES Strategic Vision</i> provides a framework for the future development of the CITES Resolutions and Decisions and provides guidance on goals and objectives to be achieved. The Conference of the Parties, through its Resolutions and Decisions, will determine actions to be taken by Parties, the Committees or the Secretariat, as appropriate. The Strategic Vision also serves the Parties as a tool for the prioritization of activities, and decisions on how best to fund them, in light of the need for the efficient and transparent use of resources.</p>
<p>Conf. 18.4 Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</p>	<p>3. Instructs the Standing Committee, working with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure that there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES, as well as a contributor to IPBES; b) ensure that communication between CITES and IPBES is effective; c) promote the needs of national Scientific and Management Authorities in the work of IPBES to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings, and related trade resolutions and decisions; d) ensure that CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines; and e) ensure that any inputs are conveyed to IPBES, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee; <p>5. INSTRUCTS the Animals and Plants Committees, through their Chairs, to assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of this Resolution and, to participate, when relevant and subject to external resources, as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and thereby reinforce linkages between the MEP and the CITES scientific committees; and</p> <p>6. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of this Resolution; b) track the intersessional and regular work of IPBES bodies and, as appropriate and subject to external funding, participate as an observer in the governing body of IPBES and thereby reinforce linkages between that body and the governing bodies of CITES; and c) seek external funding to support attendance at IPBES meetings by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat.
<p>Conf. 18.6 Designation and role of Management Authorities</p>	<p>8. FURTHER REMINDS Parties that the specific reporting commitments implemented by their Management Authorities include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) coordinating the preparation of an annual illegal trade report and submitting this report to the Secretariat by 31 October each year covering actions in the preceding year, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>National reports</i> and with the <i>Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report</i>, and

Resolution	Instruction
	b) reporting, where appropriate, on specific issues concerning the implementation of the Convention as requested by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee, the Plants Committee or the Secretariat in accordance with relevant Resolutions, Decisions and Notifications to the Parties;

DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE
OR THAT MAY REQUIRE ITS INPUTS OR ASSISTANCE

Strategic matters

CITES Strategic Vision

Directed to Parties

18.23 Parties' Management Authorities are encouraged to communicate with their national Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) focal points to seek to ensure CITES aims are reflected in the outcomes of their domestic processes to develop contributions to the post-2020 biodiversity framework anticipated to be adopted by the Parties to the CBD in 2020.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.24 The Secretariat shall:

- a) undertake a comparative analysis in order to illustrate the linkages between the adopted *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030* and the goals within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, once adopted, the post-2020 biodiversity framework, and present their analysis to the Standing Committee for their information; and
- b) review the objectives of *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030* against the current CITES Resolutions and Decisions and identify to the Animals and Plants Committee as appropriate, and to the Standing Committee those objectives (if any) where the current CITES policies as found in the Resolutions and Decisions do not appear to address activities in support of achieving that objective of the CITES Strategic Vision.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.25 The Animals and Plants Committees shall consider the review prepared by the Secretariat under Decision 18.24, paragraph b) and provide their recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.26 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) in consultation with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and taking into account the information provided by Parties via the Report on Implementation as well as the comparative analysis prepared by the Secretariat under Decision 18.24, paragraph a), make recommendations on new or revised indicators of progress to be included in the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030*, for consideration by the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- b) review the information provided by the Secretariat in Decision 18.24, as well as the views of the Animals and Plants Committees, and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Appendix-I listed species

Directed to the Secretariat

18.28 Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) contract consultants, as appropriate, to undertake the following:

- i) conduct a rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal trade in, species included in Appendix I;
 - ii) in consultation with range States, produce detailed assessments on the conservation status, threats, relevance of trade, ongoing *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation strategies or recovery plans and funding/resources available or required for the species concerned and selected; and
 - iii) produce a report identifying and prioritizing those Appendix-I species that could potentially benefit from future action under CITES; and
- b) produce a report with its recommendations to the Animals and Plants Committees for consideration at their 32nd and 26th meetings, respectively.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.29 The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 18.28, paragraph b), and formulate recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the range States and consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Capacity-building

Directed to Parties

18.39 Parties are invited to:

- a) provide information to the Secretariat regarding capacity-building materials and efforts that could be shared among Parties;
- b) utilize the CITES Virtual College to support capacity-building activities and provide the Secretariat with inputs and financial support to update and improve its services, including translation of the contents into national languages;
- c) use the CITES implementation reports, as well as direct expression of interest, to inform the Secretariat about their capacity needs;
- d) support the capacity-building efforts of other Parties by providing scholarships for in-person training or training opportunities, and by translating materials into non-working languages of the Convention; and
- e) share ideas, experiences, and information related to the development of a capacity building framework in response to the Notification to Parties issued by the Secretariat under Decision 18.46, paragraph a).

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.40 The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report of the Secretariat called for in Decision 18.46, paragraph c), and provide input and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.41 The Standing Committee shall establish a working group on capacity-building to advise the Standing Committee on the actions outlined in Decisions 18.42 and 18.43 for the development of an integrated capacity-building framework to improve implementation of the Convention. The working group shall include, but not be limited to, participation of: members of the Standing Committee, the Animals and Plants Committees, the Budget and Finance SubCommittee, and the Secretariat. The working group shall also include a balanced representation of Parties from each region, as well as Parties that are donors and Parties that are recipients of capacity support.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.42 The Standing Committee shall provide guidance to the Secretariat to refine and consolidate the areas of capacity-building efforts, taking into account the discussions on the Compliance Assistance Programme and Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews, as well as the discussion on the development of an integrated capacity building framework outlined in Decision 18.41.*

* *The Secretariat believes that the intention was to refer to Decision 18.41 and not 18.43.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.43 The Standing Committee shall undertake the following:

- a) review Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical cooperation* with the view to incorporating capacity-building needs;
- b) consider the inputs and recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees pursuant to Decision 18.40; and
- c) make recommendations, including a possible new or revised draft resolution as well as models, tools and guiding documents on capacity building, as appropriate, based on the outcome of the work in Decision 18.46 as well as documents CoP18 Doc. 21.2 and Doc. 21.3, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.44 The Secretariat shall:

- a) collect information on capacity-building materials and efforts from Parties and others, and make them available to Parties through the CITES website;
- b) subject to the availability of external funding, undertake the revision and enhancement of the CITES website and of the CITES Virtual College, including selected online courses, to update the content and to improve their effectiveness in providing access to capacity-building resources to Parties;
- c) subject to the availability of external funding, provide compliance-related and other general capacity-building support to Parties;
- d) inform the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees when needs arise for their review or inputs on capacity-building materials; and
- e) subject to the availability of external funding, further cooperate with institutions and organizations to provide Parties with joint capacity-building assistance of relevance to CITES, and provide scholarships for in-person training or training opportunities, and translate materials into non-working languages of the Convention, for example through: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) (including each of its partners), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International University of Andalusia (UNIA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Directed to the Secretariat

18.45 In carrying out capacity-building activities, the Secretariat shall pay particular attention to the needs of Parties identified through compliance procedures, recently acceded Parties, developing country Parties, and Small Island Developing States

Directed to the Secretariat

18.46 The Secretariat shall:

- a) based on document CoP18 Doc. 21.3 Annex 5 and in consultation with the Standing Committee, develop a questionnaire and issue a Notification to Parties transmitting the questionnaire to gather input to inform the development of an integrated capacity-building framework;
- b) liaise with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements to collect information regarding how their capacity-building efforts are targeted, accomplished, and tracked;
- c) prepare a report summarizing the outcomes of its implementation of Decision 18.46, paragraphs a) and b), the outcomes of the needs assessment working group summarized in document SC66 Doc. 20.2 (Rev.1), and the information on capacity-building needs provided by Parties through their implementation reports, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees; and
- d) subject to the availability of external funding and in consultation with the Standing Committee, Animals and Plants Committees, and the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee, organize a workshop that would facilitate the Standing Committee's tasks set out in Decisions 18.42 and 18.43.

Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative

Directed to the Secretariat

18.56 The Secretariat shall:

- a) include the African Carnivores Initiative in its proposals for the new CMS-CITES joint work programme for the period 2021-2025, to be developed in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*;
- b) subject to the availability of external resources, and in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat and, as appropriate, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):
 - i) develop a dedicated Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI), taking into consideration the outcomes of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, and the First Meeting of Range States for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative; and submit the draft Programme of Work to the Standing Committee for its review and appropriate revision: and
 - ii) support range States of African carnivores in implementing relevant CITES Resolutions and Decisions through the ACI;
- c) report, as appropriate, on the implementation of this Decision to the Animals Committee and to the Standing Committee; and
- d) report on the implementation of this Decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.57 The Standing Committee shall review the draft Programme of Work submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 18.56, paragraph b) i) and make appropriate recommendations or revisions and consider any reports of the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 18.56, and formulate guidance and recommendations, as appropriate, to range States and the Secretariat.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.58 The Animals Committee shall consider any report of the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 18.56, and formulate guidance and recommendations, as appropriate, to range States and the Secretariat.

Directed to range States of African carnivores

- 18.59 Relevant range States of African carnivores are urged to work through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative to implement CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations

- 18.60 Parties are invited to recognize the importance of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative in implementing CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by the Initiative, and in seeking synergies as appropriate to implement complementary CMS resolutions and decisions.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations

- 18.61 Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support relevant African range States, through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, in their implementation of CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.

Interpretation and implementation matters
--

Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews

Directed to the Secretariat

- 18.71 The Secretariat shall:
- a) consider the 'Outlook and recommendations' regarding country-wide significant trade reviews, as articulated in the Annex to document AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3, and the resources required to undertake such reviews, and provide advice as to whether the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar can be integrated into other existing CITES mechanisms or programme activities, including capacity-building activities the proposed Compliance Assistance Programme, or whether a new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties at a national level;
 - b) determine how Parties might qualify or apply for support under a 'country wide review' under existing mechanisms or any new mechanism; and
 - c) prepare a report on its findings and recommendations, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees at their 32nd and 26th meetings respectively, and subsequently for the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 18.72 The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report by the Secretariat and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.73 The Standing Committee shall review the report and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees at its 74th meeting, and in consultation with the Secretariat, make recommendations for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which may include proposals for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* or other existing resolutions, or a new resolution

Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa

Directed to Parties of West and Central Africa

- 18.88 Parties of West and Central Africa should:
- a) draw upon the information and recommendations provided in the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34 and the recommendations

in Annex 2 of document CoP18 Doc. 34, to strengthen CITES implementation and address wildlife crime; and

- b) identify priority actions that could benefit from support and present these to the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC), donors and the development community, in order to seek support to implement them.

Directed to Parties of West and Central Africa

- 18.89 Parties in West and Central Africa identified as affected by illegal trade in wildlife within the region should engage in regional and bilateral activities to share information on their national legislative and regulatory measures to address such illegal trade, exchange experiences and best practices, and identify opportunities for regional and cross-border cooperation and joint actions, including where appropriate the formulation of national or regional action plans as anticipated by paragraph 14 a) ii) and 10 f) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, taking into consideration the provisions of paragraph 15 q) of the same Resolution.

Directed to Parties importing CITES specimens from West and Central Africa

- 18.90 Parties importing CITES specimens from West and Central Africa are encouraged to assist their counterparts in West and Central Africa, by implementing measures that will address wildlife crime and support legal trade that is limited to sustainable levels, in particular by:
- a) supporting efforts to determine and ensure sustainable levels of trade through scientific studies that can facilitate the making of robust non-detriment findings;
 - b) closely scrutinizing consignments of CITES-listed species imported from West and Central Africa and accompanying CITES documents to ensure that illegal species are not laundered into legal trade; and
 - c) as a priority, raise any concerns about imports with the exporting State, or with the Animals Committee, Plants Committee, Standing Committee, or the Secretariat.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations

- 18.91 Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance to Parties in West and Central Africa and mobilize resources to address the matters identified in the *West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report* available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and any further recommendations made by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.92 The Standing Committee shall:
- a) consider the report from the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.93, paragraph d) and progress made by Parties in West and Central Africa in strengthening CITES implementation and make further recommendations as appropriate; and
 - b) consider any report from the Plants Committee, in response to the recommendation agreed at its 70th meeting, concerning the inclusion of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from all range States in the Review of Significant Trade and make recommendations as required.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 18.93 The Secretariat shall:
- a) draw to the attention of relevant United Nations agencies, the African Union, the Commission of Central African Forests, the Global Environmental Facility, and development agencies, the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34 and the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, and the guidelines in

information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and encourage these to be taken into consideration in the development of work programmes or activities initiated by these entities in the two subregions;

- b) subject to external funding, work with its partners in the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) to support Parties in West and Central Africa in addressing illegal trade in wildlife, including addressing the matters identified in the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and any further recommendations made by the Standing Committee;
- c) subject to the availability of external funds and upon request from Parties, undertake general and targeted capacity-building activities to strengthen the effective implementation of CITES in the two subregions, taking into consideration the contents of information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3;
- d) report, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee on the results of the activities conducted in accordance with Decision 18.93 paragraphs a) to c); and
- e) the Secretariat shall give priority to the guidelines agreed by West African parties as contained in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3 in the course of the implementation of its capacity-building work.

Non-detriment findings

Directed to the Secretariat

18.132 The Secretariat shall:

- a) inventory and review the materials and guidance for the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) that are available to the Parties, and identify any apparent gaps or needs (e.g regarding taxonomic or geographical coverage, form or format, comprehensiveness, accessibility, languages, updates, practicality, etc.), including guidance for making NDFs for trade in specimens from different sources (W, R and F), and NDFs for taxa prioritized/called for in Decisions or Resolutions;
- b) identify, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties, and based on the analysis, priorities for additional or improved NDF guidance materials, and for addressing apparent gaps or needs;
- c) subject to external funding, address the agreed priorities in capacity-building by:
 - i) undertaking targeted research in support of the development of new or updated NDF guidance materials in collaboration with relevant experts, Parties and organizations; and
 - 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;
- d) present the results of the work to the Animals and Plants Committees for their review, and make suggestions on how best to use the outputs to assist Scientific Authorities in the making of NDFs; and
- e) make available to Parties on the CITES website the NDF guidance materials resulting from the implementation of the present Decision.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.133 The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) review the Secretariat's gap analysis of NDF materials and guidance, and assist in identifying priorities for additional or improved NDF guidance materials, and for addressing apparent gaps or needs;
- b) participate as appropriate in the interdisciplinary expert workshops on NDFs where draft guidance materials are to be reviewed, advanced or completed;
- c) assist the Secretariat in preparing the 2nd international expert workshop on non-detriment findings as a follow up from Cancun 2008, based on the progress made since then;
- d) review and make recommendations concerning the outcomes of the interdisciplinary expert workshops on NDFs; the final draft guidance materials on NDFs; the use of these outputs in support of the making of NDFs by Scientific Authorities; and their publication on the CITES website; and
- e) report on these activities at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties

18.134 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide financial support for the implementation of Decision 18.132, including the 2nd international expert workshop on non-detriment findings;
- b) provide any help and information regarding methodologies, tools, scientific information, expertise and any other resources used to formulate NDFs in order to contribute to such a workshop, the results of which should be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 19th meeting; and
- c) make use of the guidance materials on NDFs resulting from the implementation of Decisions 18.132 and 18.133, and report experiences and findings to the Animals and Plants Committees.

Identification materials

Directed to the Secretariat

18.135 The Secretariat shall:

- a) continue collecting information on identification materials and share it through the CITES Website and the CITES Virtual College; and
- b) subject to the availability of external funding, and with input from the joint working group called for under Decision 18.137, revise and redesign the CITES Virtual College in order to make the identification materials available in a more user-friendly manner.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.136 The Secretariat shall undertake a review of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*. It shall:

- a) collect and compile information on the current state of species identification activities and needs, and assess their relevance for the review of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16);
- b) consider whether Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) would best be revised or replaced with a new resolution on *Identification of specimens of CITES-listed species*, and prepare a draft text of the revised or new resolution;
- c) propose a revised resolution in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and the Standing Committee; and

- d) report on the progress and make recommendations at the meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees, and the meeting of the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.137 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 provide inputs to the Secretariat based on the outcomes of the following working group tasks, in consultation with the Secretariat:

- a) review selected identification materials, including material compiled as per Decision 18.136 paragraph a), 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 or Resolutions;
- b) review Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*, taking into account the review outlined in Decision 18.137 paragraphs a) and c), to promote accuracy and availability of identification materials;
- c) consider ways 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.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.138 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) provide inputs on the draft resolution text prepared by the Secretariat and revised by the Animals and Plants Committees, to ensure that the needs for identification materials expressed by Parties and authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement are taken into account; and
- b) submit the revised draft resolution to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to Parties

18.139 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.

Identification and traceability of sturgeons and paddlefish (*Acipenseriformes spp.*)

Directed to the Secretariat

16.136 (Rev. CoP18)

The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding and in consultation with the Animals Committee, organize a study to:
 - i) provide an overview of molecular, DNA-based and other forensic methods that could assist in identifying the species and populations of *Acipenseriformes* specimens in trade, determining the origin or age of specimens, and differentiating wild from captive-bred or aquacultured specimens;
 - ii) review relevant developments in this area, including the availability and reliability of uniform identification systems;
 - iii) evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the different methods (including practicality, costs, time-efficiency, reliability, technical requirements, etc.); and

- iv) formulate relevant guidance for CITES Parties, enforcement agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders;
- b) ensure consultation with Parties that authorize trade in specimens of sturgeons and paddlefish, appropriate experts, institutions and organizations, and the private sector in the conduct of the study;
- c) make the results of the study available to the Animals Committee for its consideration; and
- d) disseminate the recommendations formulated by the Standing Committee pursuant to Decision 16.138 (Rev. CoP18) in a Notification to the Parties.

Directed to the Animals Committee

16.137 (Rev. CoP18)

The Animals Committee shall assist the Secretariat in determining the specifications for the study referred to in Decision 16.136 (Rev. CoP18) and monitoring its conduct. It shall review the report of the study and make recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.138 (Rev. CoP18)

The Standing Committee shall review the study undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.136 (Rev. CoP18) and the recommendations that the Animals Committee formulated in compliance with Decision 16.137 (Rev. CoP18), and make its own recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to Parties concerned or for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Specimens produced through biotechnology

Directed to Parties

18.147 Parties are invited to provide information to the Secretariat regarding:

- a) cases where they have issued, or received requests to issue, CITES permits and certificates for specimens produced through biotechnology;
- b) other situations when they have applied the interpretation of Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives* to fauna and flora products produced through biotechnology; and
- c) technological developments and applications taking place, particularly in their jurisdiction, that may result in the manufacture of specimens produced through biotechnology that may have impact on the interpretation and implementation of the Convention.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.148 The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) review the complete study on “Wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA”, monitor the most recent scientific and technological advancements and applications that may lead to the synthetic production of specimens of CITES-listed species, and make recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee, including appropriate revisions to existing resolutions; and
- b) provide any relevant scientific advice and guidance on matters relevant to international trade in specimens produced through biotechnology and communicate it to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.149 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) discuss whether and how to apply the term “readily recognizable part or derivative” to trade in products of biotechnology, which might potentially affect international trade in CITES-listed specimens in a way that would threaten their survival, including enforcement of CITES provisions;
- b) communicate to the Animals and Plants Committees any matters that may require scientific advice and guidance, as appropriate; and
- c) make recommendations for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including appropriate revisions to existing resolutions or the development of a new resolution on trade in specimens produced from biotechnology.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.150 The Secretariat shall:

- a) present the study on “Wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA”, along with the Secretariat’s findings and recommendations, to the Animals and Plants Committees;
- b) collate information received from Parties in relation to Decision 18.147, as well as any other information received from Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and other entities related to the issue of specimens produced through biotechnology;
- c) communicate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other relevant organizations as appropriate, to keep abreast of the discussions taking place on other fora on issues that may be relevant to specimens produced through biotechnology; and
- d) share the information collated under paragraphs b) and c) and report progress on the implementation of this Decision to the Animals and Plants Committees, and the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Definition of ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations’

Directed to the Secretariat

18.152 The Secretariat shall:

- a) create and maintain a dedicated webpage on the CITES website to make available the non-binding guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 and to compile reference materials, published references, best practice examples, examples of Parties’ appropriate and acceptable destination findings and suitably equipped to house and care for living specimens’ findings, and other relevant information;
- b) issue a notification within 90 days of the close of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties containing the non-binding guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 on the provisions of paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on *Definition of the term ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations’* for living specimens of Appendix-II species subject to an annotation referring to ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations’, as well as Article III paragraphs 3 (b) and 5 (b) for living Appendix-I specimens; and inviting Parties to submit relevant material for the CITES webpage created under paragraph a);
- c) source additional relevant information for inclusion on the dedicated webpage created under paragraph a); and
- d) issue a notification within 30 days of the close of the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee inviting Parties to provide feedback on experience with using the guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 as well as the information provided on the CITES webpage created under

paragraph a) and report this to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee for their consideration and recommendations, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.153 The Secretariat shall consult with Parties whose elephants are listed in Appendix II and who have exported wild caught elephants to a non-elephant range State since CoP11 on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.20 on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'*, in particular considering the role and responsibility of the State of export in Article IV and Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings*, and provide the information received to the Animals Committee, for its consideration.

Directed to Parties

18.154 Parties are:

- a) invited to use the non-binding guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 when considering whether the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it; and
- b) encouraged to submit relevant information for the webpage created under Decision 18.152, paragraph a).

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.155 The Animals Committee shall:

- a) prepare non-binding best practice guidance on how to determine whether “the trade would promote *in situ* conservation”, in line with the provisions of paragraph 2 b) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18), in consultation with the Secretariat;
- b) building on the existing non-binding guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1, prepare more detailed species-specific guidance for living specimens of African elephants and southern white rhinoceros, in consultation with relevant experts (including species and zoological facility experts) and the Secretariat;
- c) make the guidance and any recommendations available for consideration and endorsement by the Standing Committee; and
- d) review the report from the Secretariat on feedback from Parties called for in Decision 18.152 paragraph d) and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.156 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report of the Animals Committee, regarding the non-binding guidance developed under Decision 18.155 paragraphs a) and b), and the guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 and make recommendations, as appropriate, including possible revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) and any other relevant Resolution, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- b) review the report from the Secretariat and any comments and recommendations coming from the Animals Committee on feedback from Parties called for in Decision 18.152 paragraph d) and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Quotas for leopard (*Panthera pardus*) hunting trophies

Directed to Parties with quotas established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16)

18.165 Parties which have quotas established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use*, and which did not yet provide relevant information to the Animals Committee (Botswana, the Central African Republic and Ethiopia), are requested to review these quotas and consider whether these quotas are still set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, and to share the outcomes of the review and the basis for the determination that the quota is not detrimental, with the Animals Committee at its 31st meeting.

Directed to Parties with quotas established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16)

18.166 All Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) are encouraged to exchange information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining that such quotas are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.167 The Animals Committee shall consider the information submitted by the relevant range States under Decision 18.165 and any other relevant information, and, if necessary, make any recommendations to these range States and to the Standing Committee relating to the review.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.168 The Animals Committee shall review any information submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 18.169 and make recommendations to the Secretariat and leopard range States, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.169 The Secretariat shall, subject to external resources:

- a) support the reviews to be undertaken by range States referred to in Decision 18.165, upon request by a range State;
- b) encourage and support all Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) to exchange information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining that such quotas are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and
- c) in cooperation with range States and relevant experts, develop guidance that can assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings for trade in leopard hunting trophies in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16), share the draft guidance with the Animals Committee for its review, make such guidance available on the CITES website, and encourage its use by relevant Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.170 The Standing Committee should consider any recommendations of the Animals Committee made in accordance with Decision 18.167, and make its own recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.172 The Animals Committee, at its 31st meeting (AC31), and the Plants Committee, at its 25th meeting (PC25), shall consider the Secretariat's update of the review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source in Annex 7 of document SC70 Doc. 31.1 and Parties' comments and recommendations in document SC70 Doc. 31.1 Annex 8, identify the key scientific issues and challenges in the application of the Convention to non-wild specimens, and provide their

recommendations to address these issues and challenges to the Standing Committee in time for its 73rd meeting (SC73).

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.173 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider at SC73 the Secretariat's update of the review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source in Annex 7 of document SC70 Doc. 31.1 and Parties' comments and recommendations in document SC70 Doc. 31.1 Annex 8; the underlying CITES policy assumptions that may have contributed to the uneven application of Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5; the Secretariat's recommendations in the Annexes to SC70 Doc. 31.1; and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees under Decision 18.172; and
- b) review the key issues and challenges in the application of the Convention to non-wild specimens and make appropriate recommendations, including amendments to existing Resolutions or development of a new Resolution or Decisions, to address these issues and challenges for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Captive-breeding of spiny-tailed lizards

Directed to the Secretariat

18.174 The Secretariat shall prepare a report to the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee on possible species-country combinations of *Ceratophora stoddartii*, *Ceratophora aspera* and *Lyriocephalus scutatus* for review under Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.175 The Animals Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat and consider whether to select species-country combinations of *Ceratophora stoddartii*, *Ceratophora aspera* and *Lyriocephalus scutatus* for review under Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*.

Review of the provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18)

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.176 With the assistance of the Secretariat and in the light of its experiences with its implementation, the Animals Committee shall review the provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* and make any recommendations for improvements to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.177 With the assistance of the Secretariat, taking account of any report from the Animals Committee and in the light of its experiences with its implementation, the Standing Committee shall review the provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) and make any recommendations for improvements to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Species specific matters

West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

18.190 The Secretariat shall liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to assist in the implementation of the trade-related aspects of the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan, subject to the availability of resources, including sharing information based on the work of the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.187 The Secretariat is encouraged to include vultures as a case study for the possible Non-Detriment Findings workshop.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.188 The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting the following information concerning trade in and conservation of Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), whiteheaded vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*), hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), whitebacked vulture (*Gyps africanus*), Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*) and lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*) in West Africa:

- a) biological data on West African vultures, including population size, breeding productivity, distribution, and trends across the range of the species;
- b) available information about harvest and levels of legal and illegal trade of vultures and their parts;
- c) information on threats to these species, in particular belief-based use and sentinel poisoning, and other trade-related threats;
- d) information on enforcement actions taken, including seizures, forensic analysis of seized specimens, arrests, prosecutions and judgments relating to illegal trade in vultures as well as disposal of seized specimens; and
- e) new developments regarding management, education and awareness-raising measures concerning vultures.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.189 The Secretariat shall compile responses from the Parties and provide these responses to the Animals Committee's working group to inform its work.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.190 The Animals Committee shall establish a working group to address key gaps in knowledge as it relates to the biological and trade issues highlighted in the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan (Vulture MsAP), with particular attention for the six species mentioned in Decision 18.188 and the West African region, and including but not limited to trade in vulture parts of belief-based use (Objective 4), sentinel poisoning by poachers (Objective 5), crosscutting actions that contribute to addressing knowledge gaps (Objective 11), and contribute to effective implementation of the Vulture MsAP (Objective 12). The working group shall:

- a) review the information submitted under the Notification;
- b) conduct a detailed assessment on the scale and impact of legal and illegal trade in live birds, eggs, and vulture body parts across the range of the Vulture MsAP; and
- c) provide findings and recommendations to the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.191 The Animals Committee shall provide guidance to range States on how to factor in all known threats to the species when making non-detriment findings for these species, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.192 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the recommendations from the Animals Committee, as appropriate, and information relating to illegal trade in vulture body parts for traditional/belief-based use, and adopt recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Parties concerned; and
- b) in consultation with the Secretariat, report on the implementation of Decisions 18.186 to 18.191 to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Conservation of amphibians (Amphibia spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

18.194 The Secretariat shall, subject to availability of external resources, and in close consultation with the Animals Committee:

- a) conduct one or more interdisciplinary workshops for CITES Authorities and other relevant authorities and stakeholders about amphibian species in international trade, including but not limited to the following objectives:
 - i) identify amphibian species that are in international trade and evaluate whether certain species or groups should be recommended for possible listing in the Appendices;
 - ii) share existing national legislation relevant to the trade in amphibians;
 - iii) evaluate whether current levels of trade are compatible with the conservation of these species in the wild;
 - iv) compile further data on harvesting levels of amphibians subject to high volumes of international trade;
 - v) explore the emerging threat of diseases to traded amphibians, including amphibian chytrid fungus and ranaviruses; and
 - vi) examine current enforcement efforts to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade and identify additional actions needed; and
- b) report on the progress in the implementation of paragraph a) above to the Animals Committee, including any relevant recommendations.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.195 The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider the report submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 18.194; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.196 The Standing Committee shall consider any report submitted by the Animals Committee as per Decision 18.195 and develop recommendations for consideration of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Eels (*Anguilla* spp.)

Directed to range States of European eels (Anguilla anguilla)

18.197 Range States of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) are encouraged to:

- a) submit any non-detriment finding studies on European eel they have undertaken to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website; explore the different approaches that might be taken for making non-detriment findings for European eels traded as fingerlings (FIG) compared with those traded as other live eels (LIV); collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding such studies and their outcome, especially where the Parties share catchments or water bodies; seek review and advice from the Animals Committee or other suitable body on any non-detriment findings for European eels where appropriate;
- b) develop and/or implement adaptive European eel management plans at national or sub-national (or catchment) level, with defined and time-bound goals, and enhance collaboration within countries between authorities and other stakeholders with responsibilities for eel management, and between countries where water bodies or catchments are shared;
- c) share information on stock assessments, harvests, the results of monitoring and other relevant data with the Joint Working Group on Eels (WGEEL) of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission, the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas and the Central Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM), so that a full and complete picture of the state of the European eel stock can be established;
- d) develop measures or implement more effectively existing measures to improve the traceability of eels in trade (both live and dead);
- e) provide the Secretariat with information regarding any changes to measures they have in place to restrict the trade in live 'glass' or fingerling European eels; and
- f) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision to allow it to report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to range States of non-CITES Anguilla spp. in international trade (particularly A. rostrata, A. japonica, A. marmorata and A. bicolor)

18.198 Range States of non-CITES *Anguilla* spp. in international trade are encouraged to:

- a) where appropriate, implement conservation and management measures, such as adaptive eel management plans, enhanced collaboration within countries, between authorities and other stakeholders with responsibilities for eel management, and related legislation to ensure the sustainability of harvests and international trade in *Anguilla* spp. and make these widely available;
- b) collaborate and cooperate with other range States on shared stocks of *Anguilla* spp. to develop shared objectives for these stocks and their management, improve the understanding of the biology of the species, conduct joint programmes of work and share knowledge and experience;
- 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 live stages would be favourable;
- d) improve traceability of *Anguilla* spp. in trade (both live and dead); and
- e) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision to allow it report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.199 The Secretariat shall:

- a) prepare and submit a summary report on the implementation of Decisions 18.197 and 18.198 with draft recommendations to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate, for their consideration;
- b) collate available information on the biology of *Anguilla anguilla* in collaboration with experts, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Anguillid Specialist Group, with a view to determining whether the glass eel (fingerling) life stage can be considered to have a “low probability of surviving to adulthood”, and report its findings to the Animals Committee;
- c) invite Parties, through a Notification, to submit information regarding current levels of, or emerging trends in, trade in specimens of *Anguilla* spp;
- d) subject to the availability of resources, commission a study to consider levels of trade and trade patterns, especially in live eels for aquaculture, and sources of supply, identify any disparities between these and make recommendations for the more effective future management of harvests and trade; and
- e) prepare and submit a summary of the responses to the Notification and the study referred to in paragraph c) of this Decision, if available, with draft recommendations to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee as appropriate for their consideration.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.200 The Animals Committee shall:

- a) if requested, consider any reports submitted by Parties with respect to the making of non-detriment findings for trade in European eel and provide advice and guidance as needed;
- b) review the report from the Secretariat on the biology of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) prepared under Decision 18.199 paragraph b) and consider the potential use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of *A. anguilla* from aquaculture production systems, and provide advice and make recommendations to the Parties and the Standing Committee as appropriate;
- c) review available information relating to the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) to the wild and, if appropriate, provide advice on suitable protocols taking into account existing guidance and practices, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) consider the progress reports provided by Parties and the report by the Secretariat with respect to Decisions 18.197, 18.198 and 18.199 and make any recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.201 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report prepared by the Secretariat and any other available information relating to illegal trade in European eel, including the case study by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on European eel trafficking as part of the 2nd World Wildlife Crime Report, and make recommendations as appropriate;
- b) review any advice and recommendations coming from the Animals Committee concerning Decision 18.200 paragraph b) and make recommendations as appropriate; and
- c) with the assistance of the Secretariat, engage with the World Customs Organization to examine the feasibility of harmonizing customs codes relevant to trade in all *Anguilla* species and report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to donor Parties and other relevant organizations

18.202 Donor Parties and other relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and others, are invited and encouraged to provide support to, and build capacity for, *Anguilla* range States for the purpose of implementing Decisions 18.197 and 18.198.

Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae)

Directed to the Animals Committee

17.192 (Rev. CoP18)

The Animals Committee is requested to:

- a) analyse the outcomes of the precious coral survey and the FAO study and prepare recommendations, as appropriate, on actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable harvest and use of all precious corals in international trade; and
- b) report these recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting.

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.193 (Rev. CoP18)

The Standing Committee is requested to consider the information and recommendations of the Animals Committee, made in accordance with Decision 17.192 (Rev. CoP18), and make its own recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties or for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Marine turtles (*Cheloniidae* spp. and *Dermochelyidae* spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

18.210 The Secretariat shall, subject to available resources:

- a) convey to Parties the findings of the study presented in information document CoP18 Inf. 18 on the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles with a view to inform targeted conservation and management efforts;
- b) refer the study contained in information document CoP18 Inf. 18 to the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting and the Animals Committee at its 31st meeting for consideration;
- c) support Parties, upon request, with the CITES-relevant aspects of the development, implementation and/or update of management and action plans for the conservation of marine turtles;
- d) assist Parties, upon request, with the identification of inconsistencies, overlaps and gaps in national legislation and regulations relating to the implementation of CITES for marine turtles; and
- e) convey to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) the findings of the study presented in information document CoP18 Inf. 18 to inform efforts, including by Regional Fisheries Bodies, addressing marine turtle bycatch and illegal take, and promote collaboration, as appropriate.
- f) issue a Notification requesting that Parties provide information on implementation of Decisions 18.210 to 18.214 for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting; and
- g) report on the implementation of Decisions 18.210 to 18.215, and on any technical and financial mechanisms and opportunities that can be provided through CITES to assist Parties in marine turtle conservation, to the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committees as appropriate, and to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to Parties

18.211 Parties are urged to:

- a) review the findings of the study presented in information document CoP18 Inf. 18 and use these to inform targeted conservation and management efforts;
- b) fully implement the provisions of CITES that are relevant to the seven species of marine turtles listed on Appendix I;
- c) develop and/or update management and action plans for the conservation of marine turtles inclusive of the recommendations in information document CoP18 Inf. 18;
- d) use CITES fora, including the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, to raise and discuss challenges relating to illegal trade in marine turtles;
- e) collect in a standardized manner, including at different governance levels, illegal wildlife trade data, that can be used for monitoring trade in CITES-listed marine turtles; and submit comprehensive and accurate information on illegal trade in marine turtles in their annual illegal trade reports to the Secretariat;
- f) improve monitoring, detection and law enforcement activities related to marine turtles in coastal areas and at transaction points (e.g. in the marketplace, online, maritime areas, and at air- and seaports);
- g) collect samples of marine turtles for DNA analysis, including from seized specimens, to determine species involved and populations of origin and provide these to forensic and other research institutions capable of reliably determining the origin or age of the samples in support of, for example, research, investigations and prosecutions;
- h) improve intra- and interregional cooperation, collaboration and exchange of actionable intelligence regarding illegal take of and trade in marine turtles;
- i) ascertain key trade routes, methods, volumes, and trade 'hot-spots' using available technologies, and enforce national and international regulations or other mechanisms that apply to marine turtles take and trade;
- j) improve accountability for the practices undertaken by all vessels and improve the monitoring and control related to CITES-listed marine turtles at landing sites;
- k) support fisheries management authorities in implementing turtle mitigation and safe handling practices;
- l) coordinate efforts at the regional level, involving Parties and bodies with relevant mandates, to identify and address trade, use and other threats, such as fisheries' interactions with marine turtles (particularly bycatch), with a view to supporting multilateral environmental agreements; and
- m) respond to the Notification issued by the Secretariat per Decision 18.210, paragraph f) on the implementation of Decisions 18.210 to 18.214.

Directed to Parties that are marine turtle range States

18.212 Parties that are marine turtle range States are urged to:

- a) develop, and where such legislation already exists, conduct a thorough review of legislation that protects marine turtles, taking account of its effectiveness in enforcement and management including direct and incidental harvest, and standardization or alignment with other national and sub-national legislation, neighbouring states, as well as international regulations and commitments;
- b) where domestic harvest of specimens of marine turtles, including eggs, is legal, ensure any domestic harvest quotas are established based on robust science-based methods and the

principles of sustainability, including accounting for existing quota or no-take quotas in other States' that share marine turtle stock(s), taking into account national enforcement capacity;

- c) respond to the Notification issued by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 18.210 paragraph f) on the implementation of Decisions 18.210 to 18.215.

Directed to Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and other entities

18.213 Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are invited to provide financial or technical assistance for, *inter alia*:

- a) training and capacity building of relevant authorities at the national and regional level, including on the implementation and enforcement of national and international regulations that apply to marine turtles, and on identification, monitoring, reporting and wildlife enforcement capability;
- b) build community and political awareness on the conservation status of marine turtles and on the importance of promoting the conservation of the species through compliance with CITES at the national level;
- c) research into the socioeconomics associated with the legal and illegal harvest and use of specimens of marine turtles, including eggs, including assessments of the sustainability of alternative livelihood options for communities depending on marine turtles and the motivations for their use;
- d) research that establishes a baseline for the status and distribution of marine turtles in the different countries/regions; and
- e) research into the scale and impact that national (and its international) artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial fisheries, including illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, have on marine turtle populations and their linkage to illegal trade.

Directed to the Secretariat, Parties and other organizations

18.214 Parties, the Secretariat and relevant multilateral agreements such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), its Indian Ocean and South-East Asia Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA), the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), and the Ramsar Convention and the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) are encouraged to communicate and collaborate with each other on the management and sustainable use of marine turtles to ensure the compatibility of activities, optimize resources, promote research, and enhance synergies concerning the conservation of marine turtles.

Directed to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)

18.215 The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) is encouraged to, as appropriate, use data on illegal trade in marine turtles submitted under Decision 18.211, paragraph e) to the Secretariat in Parties' annual illegal trade reports in its activities.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.216 The Animals Committee is asked to:

- a) review, at its 31st meeting, the study contained in information document CoP18 Inf. 18 and any additional information received by the Secretariat in response to the Notification issued under Decision 18.210, paragraph f); and
- b) submit recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.217 The Standing Committee is asked to:

- a) review, at its 73rd meeting, the study contained in information document CoP18 Inf. 18 and any additional information received by the Secretariat in response to the Notification issued under Decision 18.210, paragraph f), and the recommendations of the Animals Committee; and
- b) submit its recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

Directed to Parties

18.218 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide information to the Secretariat in support of the study called for in Decision 18.221 paragraph a), in particular on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade, and in response to the Notification called for in Decision 18.220;
- b) in accordance with their national legislation, provide a report to the Secretariat about the assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained before the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable;
- c) inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transhipped, to verify presence of CITES-listed species and verify the presence of a valid CITES permit or certificate as required under the Convention or to obtain satisfactory proof of its existence; and
- d) continue to support the implementation of the Convention for sharks, including by providing funding for the implementation of Decisions 18.219, 18.221 and 18.222, and considering seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.219 Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties upon request.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.220 The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
 - i) provide concise summaries of new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular:
 - A. the making of non-detriment findings;
 - B. the making of legal acquisition findings;
 - C. the identification of CITES-listed shark-products in trade; and
 - D. recording stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; and
 - ii) highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade for the CITES Trade Database;

- b) provide information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2000, sorted by species and, if possible, by product;
- c) disseminate existing guidance identified, or newly developed, guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives pursuant to Decision 18.224, paragraph b) by the Standing Committee; and
- d) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.221 The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, and in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts:

- a) conduct a study to investigate the apparent mismatch between the trade in products of CITES-listed sharks recorded in the CITES Trade Database and what would be expected against the information available on catches of listed species; and
- b) bring the results of the study in paragraph a) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.222 The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to:

- a) verify that information about Parties' shark management measures are correctly reflected in the shark measures database developed by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/>) and, if not, support FAO in correcting the information;
- b) compile clear imagery of wet and dried unprocessed shark fins (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of iSharkFin software developed by FAO;
- c) conduct a study analysing the trade in non-fin shark products of CITES-listed species, including the level of species mixing in trade products and recommendations on how to address any implementation challenges arising from the mixing that may be identified; and
- d) bring the results of activities in paragraphs a) to c) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.223 The Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organisations and experts, shall:

- a) continue to develop guidance to support the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs), in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (bycatch) situations, for CITES-listed shark species; and
- b) report the outcomes of its work under Decision 18.223, paragraph a) to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.224 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings*;

- b) develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II; and
- c) report its findings under Decision 18.224, paragraphs a) and b) to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee

18.225 The Animals Committee and Standing Committee shall analyse and review the results of any of the activities under Decisions 18.221 and 18.222 brought to their attention by the Secretariat, and with the support of the Secretariat prepare a joint report for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of these Decisions.

Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

18.228 The Secretariat shall include available materials to support CITES implementation for seahorses (non-detriment findings guidance, identification materials, etc.) on the CITES website.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.229 The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties inviting them to inform the Secretariat of any national management measures that regulate or restrict international trade in seahorses, and on how they are implementing and enforcing such measures for seahorses;
- b) compile the responses received to the Notification issued as per paragraph a) of the present Decision and communicate them to CITES Authorities through a Notification to the Parties and through its website; and
- c) subject to external funding:
 - i) commission a study on trade in *Hippocampus* spp., including applicable regulations, to understand shifts in international trade patterns since the inclusion of seahorses in Appendix II and the Review of Significant Trade of *Hippocampus* spp., as well as the implementation challenges and possible solutions; and
 - ii) organize an expert workshop to discuss the implementation and enforcement of CITES for trade in *Hippocampus* spp., including the recommendations and outcomes from the Review of Significant Trade process, and propose practical steps to address implementation and enforcement challenges; and
- d) report on the implementation of paragraphs a) through c) of the present Decision to the Animals and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to Parties

18.230 To support the effective implementation of Appendix II of CITES for seahorses, Parties are invited to:

- a) inform the Secretariat of any national management measures that regulate or restrict international trade in seahorses; and how they are implementing and enforcing such measures for seahorses;
- b) share copies of their non-detriment findings with the Secretariat for posting on the CITES website to assist other CITES Parties; and
- c) inform seahorse traders within their jurisdiction of any quotas, including any zero quotas, and any trade suspensions for seahorses to further facilitate compliance and enforcement by all participants in the trade.

Directed to Parties

18.231 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) use existing tools for effective CITES implementation and enforcement that are relevant to seahorses;
- b) where quotas, trade suspensions, or both are in place, develop monitoring programmes for seahorses in their national waters to understand effectiveness of these actions and any other relevant implementation and enforcement actions for seahorse conservation and management; and
- c) share the design and initial results of these programmes with the Secretariat to report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.232 The Animals Committee shall analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 18.229 and other relevant information available to the Animals Committee and develop recommendations as appropriate to ensure sustainable and legal trade in seahorses.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.233 The Standing Committee shall analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 18.229 and develop recommendations as appropriate to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement for trade in seahorses.

Pangolins (*Manis* spp.)

Directed to all pangolin range States

18.238 All pangolin range States that have not yet done so, are encouraged to take urgent steps to develop and implement *in situ* pangolin management and conservation programmes, which includes population assessments, as anticipated in paragraph 7 of Resolution Conf. 17.10 on *Conservation of and trade in pangolins*, and report on the implementation of this Decision to the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.239 The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, work with the Species Survival Commission Pangolin Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other relevant experts and in collaboration with the pangolin range States to develop conversion parameters for all pangolin species, that will enable the reliable determination of the number of animals associated with any quantity of pangolin scales seized, that can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for court purposes.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.240 The Secretariat shall:

- a) report on the implementation of Decisions 18.238 and 18.239, to the Animals Committee, as appropriate;
- b) bring any tools or materials brought to its attention in accordance with Decision 18.242, to the attention of the Animals Committee or the Standing Committee, as appropriate, together with any recommendations it may have, and taking into account any subsequent recommendations from the Animals Committee or the Standing Committee, make such tools or materials available to the Parties;
- c) subject to external funding, work with relevant experts and the pangolin range States to prepare a report for review by the Animals Committee and Standing Committee on:
 - i) the national conservation status of pangolin species,

- ii) legal and illegal trade in pangolins,
- iii) stocks of specimens of pangolins and stockpile management, and
- iv) enforcement issues.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.241 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report and any recommendations of the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.240 paragraphs b) and c), and any recommendations of the Animals Committee in accordance with Decision 18.243.
- b) make recommendations to the Parties or the Secretariat as appropriate; and
- c) report the results of its work together with any recommendations it may have, to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and nongovernmental organizations

18.242 Parties, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and nongovernmental organizations that develop tools or materials that could assist Parties in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.10, are invited to bring such tools or materials to the attention of the Secretariat.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.243 The Animals Committee shall review any information brought to its attention by the Secretariat in accordance with Decisions 18.238, 18.239, 18.240 and 18.242, and make recommendations as appropriate to the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.

African lions (*Panthera leo*) and the CITES Big Cats Task Force

Directed to the Secretariat

18.244 Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and, as appropriate, taking into consideration the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa*:

- a) support the implementation of activities in joint African lion conservation plans and strategies that relate to trade in African lion specimens and the implementation of CITES and, as needed, the review of such plans and strategies;
- b) jointly with the CMS Secretariat undertake a comparative study of African lion population trends and conservation and management practices, such as lion hunting, within and between countries, including the role, if any, of international trade;
- c) support capacity-building in African lion conservation and management including where appropriate, in the making of non-detriment findings by range States according to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* and the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.9 on *Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II*;
- d) assist in maintaining a joint CITES-CMS webportal on African lions, that also allows for the posting and sharing of information and guidance on the conservation and management of African lions;
- e) share the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* and any relevant update with the Animals Committee for its review, as appropriate; and

- f) report on the implementation of the present Decision to the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee and the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.245 The Secretariat shall:

- a) draft, terms of reference and a *modus operandi* for the CITES Big Cat Task Force prior to convening its first meeting and submit it to the 73rd Standing Committee for review and adoption, and

subject to external resources:

- b) establish and convene, in consultation with the Standing Committee, a CITES Big Cats Task Force (Task Force), focusing on big cat species from Africa, Asia and Latin America, and consisting of representatives from Parties most affected by the illegal trade in big cats, the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime partner organizations, other Parties and organizations, as appropriate, and experts who the Secretariat determines may contribute to the Task Force;
- c) provide support to the Task Force allowing it, *inter alia*, to:
 - i) discuss enforcement and implementation issues related to the illegal trade in specimens of big cats;
 - ii) as deemed appropriate, exchange intelligence and other information on the illegal trade in big cats; and
 - iii) develop strategies and make recommendations to improve international cooperation regarding the enforcement of CITES concerning illegal trade in specimens of big cats; and
- d) report the findings and recommendations of the Task Force to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee for its consideration, and for making its own recommendations as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.246 The Secretariat shall, subject to external resources:

- a) conduct further research and analysis on the legal and illegal trade in lions and other big cats to better understand trends, linkages between trade in different species, and the commodities in trade which contain, or claim to contain, such specimens;
- b) assess whether the trade in lion specimens reported under purpose code "H" follows the guidance in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates*, paragraph 3 h), and whether additional reporting specificities or descriptions are needed;
- c) develop guidance materials for the identification of lion and other big cat specimens in trade in consultation with relevant experts;
- d) develop and support, in consultation with relevant experts, the use of appropriate forensic-type techniques for identifying lions and other big cat species in trade;
- e) share relevant information generated through the implementation of this Decision with the CITES Big Cats Task Force; and
- f) report on the implementation of the present Decision to the 32nd meeting of the Animals and the 74th meeting of the Standing Committees as appropriate, and to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.247 The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* and any relevant update, as appropriate;
- b) review the information reported by the Secretariat under Decisions 18.244 and 18.246, and submit recommendations to the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and African lion range States, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.248 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review and adopt the draft terms of reference, membership and modus operandi for the CITES Big Cat Task Force submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 18.245, paragraphs a) and b) prior to convening the first meeting of the Task Force;
- b) consider at its 74th meeting the reports submitted by the Animals Committee and the Secretariat, as per Decisions 18.244 to 18.247, and make recommendations to the Animals Committee, the Secretariat and African lion range States, as appropriate;
- c) recommend further actions to be taken, including the possible need for the development of a draft resolution, on the conservation of the African lion taking into consideration Decisions 18.244, 18.245 and 18.247; and
- d) report on the implementation of Decision 18.248, and formulate recommendations as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to Parties

18.249 Parties, including range States and consumer countries of African lion, as relevant, are encouraged to:

- a) increase enforcement efforts to detect illegal, unreported or misreported trade in specimens of African lion and other big cats;
- b) use, where appropriate, South Africa's Barcode of Wildlife Project to help identify lion specimens in trade and, when importing lion specimens from South Africa, collaborate where necessary with relevant authorities in South Africa to improve the traceability of such specimens;
- c) provide details on the observed and/or removed lion body parts in trade when collecting and communicating data on illegal killing and illegal trade in lions to CITES in their annual reports; and
- d) cooperate on lion conservation, including by sharing information on lion populations, illegal killing and illegal trade.

Directed to Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, nongovernmental organizations, donors and other entities

18.250 All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support African lion range States and the Secretariat in their efforts to conserve and restore African lions across their range, taking into consideration the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa*; and in implementing Decisions 18.244 to 18.246, and 18.249.

Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) in Africa

Directed to the Secretariat

18.254 The Secretariat shall share with the Animals Committee the Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for its review.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.255 The Animals Committee shall review the *Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa* by IUCN, and make recommendations, as appropriate, concerning the aspects of it that relate to the implementation of CITES.

Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes)

Directed to the Secretariat

18.256 Subject to available funds, the Secretariat shall:

- a) within 12 months of the conclusion of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, commission a preliminary study on the scale and scope of international songbird trade to consider the management and conservation priorities of songbird taxa involved in such trade;
- b) consult with appropriate technical experts in the preparation of documents on the conservation, trade, management, enforcement and regulatory priorities of the songbird taxa identified;
- c) convene a technical workshop to consider the findings of the study and the reports referred to in paragraph b);
- d) invite the members of the Animals and Standing Committees, representatives from range, exporting, transit and consumer States, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the workshop; and
- e) make the results of the study and workshop, together with recommendations, available to the Animals Committee for its consideration.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.257 The Animals Committee shall review document CoP18 Doc. 79 and the results of the study and workshop on trade in songbirds, with the recommendations of the Secretariat, as per Decision 18.256, and make its own recommendations to the Standing Committee or 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.258 The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations by the Animals Committee and make its own recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties, nongovernmental organizations, commercial traders, and donors

18.259 Parties and non-Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, commercial traders and donors are encouraged to provide funding to the Secretariat for the implementation of these Decisions.

Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*)

Directed to Indonesia

18.263 Indonesia is encouraged to continue its conservation and management measures to ensure the sustainability of international trade in *Pterapogon kauderni*, and submit a progress report on these measures, including on the implementation of recommendations made by the Animals Committee in document AC30 Com.1 (Rev. by Sec.), to the Secretariat for onward transmittal to the Animals Committee, with its own recommendations, as appropriate.

Directed to Parties

18.264 Parties are encouraged to consider supporting Indonesia in implementing Decision 18.263.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.265 The Animals Committee shall review the report submitted by Indonesia as referred to under Decision 18.263 and make recommendations during its 31st meeting (AC31).

Saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*)

Directed to range States of saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*) (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives

- 18.270 a) The range States of the saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*) and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives, as identified by the Secretariat on the basis of CITES trade data, should fully implement the measures directed to them in the *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2016-2020* [MTIWP (2016-2020)] and for 2021-2025 [MTIWP (2021-2025)], developed in support of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.)* and its Saiga Action Plan; and
- b) Consistent with the measures directed to Saiga range States in the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2016-2020 [MTIWP (2016-2020)], the range States of the saiga antelope are encouraged to establish internal market controls for saiga parts, including registration of stockpiles, labelling of parts and products, and registration of manufacturers and traders, and report such information to the CITES Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.271 Subject to the availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) assist the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in organizing the fourth meeting of the signatories of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.)*, expected to be held in the Russian Federation in 2020;
- b) in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, provide inputs as needed in developing a *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2021-2025* [MTIWP (2021-2025)], developed in support of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.)* and its Saiga Action Plan;
- c) review, in consultation with the CMS Secretariat, the conservation of and trade in saiga antelope, *Saiga spp.*, based on available data on legal and illegal trade, materials and outcomes of the fourth meeting of saiga MoU signatories, and stakeholder consultations, and report any consequent findings and recommendations to the Animals Committee, and to the Standing Committee in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)* and the joint CMS-CITES work programme;
- d) consult saiga range States and major trading and consumer States concerning their management of stockpiles of saiga specimens; review processes and practices; and provide assistance in ensuring effective stockpile management and monitoring, including the development of inventories and strengthening stockpile security; and
- e) report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee on the implementation of this Decision, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.272 The Animals Committee shall, as appropriate, consider any findings and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.271, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.273 The Standing Committee shall, as appropriate, consider any findings and recommendations submitted by the Animals Committee and the Secretariat in accordance with Decisions 18.271 and 18.272, and make recommendations as necessary.

Directed to saiga antelope range States, Parties, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders

18.274 Saiga antelope range States, Parties, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders are encouraged to collaborate in the conservation and restoration of the saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.), and to support the implementation of MTIWP (2016-2020) and MTIWP (2021-2025).

Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

Directed to the range States of *Strombus gigas*

18.275 The range States of *Strombus gigas* are encouraged to:

- a) collaborate to implement the *Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan*, and develop national Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plans, as appropriate;
- b) continue to collect data on weight of *S. gigas* by processing grade in order to update and improve the regional conversion factors, and establish or update national conversion factors, taking into account the spatial variability and characteristics of the species;
- c) collaborate in developing and implementing joint research programmes at the subregional or regional level to support the making of non-detriment findings that take into account all fishing mortality, promote relevant research and capacity-building activities through regional fisheries management entities and mobilize financial resources for data collection;
- d) promote and collaborate in developing and implementing public education and awareness programmes regarding the conservation and sustainable use of *S. gigas*;
- e) continue to collaborate in exploring ways to enhance the traceability of specimens of *S. gigas* in international trade, including, but not limited to, catch certificates, labelling systems and the application of genetic techniques, and consider sharing relevant experiences with the Secretariat, Parties and the Standing Committee, as appropriate, in the context of discussions on traceability systems for trade in CITES-listed species;
- f) collaborate on combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity;
- g) make available to the Standing Committee, through the Secretariat, information concerning illegal trade in queen conch, including surveillance and enforcement activities, as appropriate; and
- h) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of paragraphs a) to f) of this Decision to allow it to report at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with Decision 18.280, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.276 If requested by range States of *S. gigas* or the working group on queen conch composed of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC), the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and CITES, the Animals Committee shall provide advice regarding the making of non-detriment findings for trade, and on any other technical matters.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.277 On the basis of reporting by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 18.275, paragraphs e) and g), the Standing Committee shall review traceability, especially for meat, and enforcement issues concerning international trade in queen conch and make recommendations as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.278 The Secretariat shall continue to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES working group on queen conch, WECAFC and other relevant international organizations, and, subject to external funding:

- a) provide assistance to range States of *S. gigas* in order to enhance the capacity of their CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, fisheries authorities and other stakeholders to implement the Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan and national management plans and make scientifically robust non-detriment findings; and
- b) provide assistance to range States of *S. gigas* on relevant enforcement issues and report new developments in this regard to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.279 The Secretariat shall monitor the development of traceability systems for queen conch and report relevant developments to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.280 The Secretariat shall collate the information provided in accordance with Decision 18.275, paragraph h), and report on the progress in the implementation of these Decisions at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Titicaca water frog (*Telmatobius culeus*)

Directed to the range States of the Titicaca water frog (*Telmatobius culeus*)

18.281 Range States are encouraged to collaborate and:

- a) conduct studies aiming to:
 - i) estimate population size of the Titicaca water frog; and,
 - ii) identify and monitor all international illegal trade of specimens of Titicaca water frog;
- b) strengthen international cooperation mechanisms for the conservation of the Titicaca water frog, and combat its illegal trade;
- c) develop and implement additional demand reduction strategies;
- d) continue to raise awareness on the importance of the conservation of the Titicaca water frog, its ecological role, cultural value, and threats, particularly the illegal trade; and
- e) report on implementation of paragraphs a) through d) above to the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.282 The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting relevant information as per Decision 18.281, paragraph a), and compile responses and provide them to the range States.

Directed to Parties and others

18.283 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide financial and technical assistance to support the implementation of Decision 18.281; and,
- b) provide relevant information as requested in the Notification mentioned in Decision 18.282 with a view to complement Decision 18.281, paragraphs a) through d).

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.284 The Animals Committee shall consider any report submitted by Parties as per Decision 18.281, paragraph e) and develop recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee or the Conference of Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.285 The Standing Committee shall consider any report submitted by the Animals Committee as per Decision 18.284 and report to the Conference of Parties, as appropriate.

Tortoises and freshwater turtles (*Testudines spp.*)

Directed to Madagascar

18.286 Madagascar should:

- a) review its implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles*; and
- b) report to the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee on its implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18), including in its report, information on any seizures, arrests, prosecutions and convictions secured as a result of activities implemented to address illegal trade in tortoises from Madagascar.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.287 The Standing Committee shall review the report from Madagascar in accordance with Decision 18.286, and any recommendations from the Secretariat, and consider if any further measures need to be implemented by Madagascar to address illegal trade in tortoises as it affects the Party.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.288 The Secretariat shall, subject to available funding, contract consultants 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, for national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement, to raise their awareness of the trade in these types of specimens, to enable initial recognition of such specimens, and to provide guidance on further identification resources and expertise that can be consulted.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.289 The Secretariat shall, to build upon the outcomes of the CITES Tortoise and Freshwater Turtles Task Force and support the initiation of targeted investigations and enforcement action, work with INTERPOL to put in place arrangements for the convening of an INTERPOL Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Management (RIACM) meeting.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.290 The Secretariat shall report at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of Decisions 18.288 and 18.289.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.291 The Animals Committee shall review the guide on categories of turtle parts and derivatives in trade, developed in accordance with Decision 18.288 and make recommendations for consideration by the Secretariat.

Great whales

Directed to the Animals Committee

14.81 No periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the moratorium by the International Whaling Commission is in place

Marine ornamental fishes

Directed to the Secretariat

18.296 The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:

- a) convene a technical workshop to consider the conservation priorities and management needs related to the trade in non-CITES listed marine ornamental fishes worldwide with a particular focus on data from importing and exporting countries;
- b) invite the Animals Committee, representatives from range States, exporting, and importing countries, fishery stakeholder, industry representatives and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in this workshop;
- c) contract appropriate technical experts to prepare workshop documents on marine ornamental fishes' biology; conservation status; trade and management; applicable trade regulations; and enforcement, and invite workshop participants to [submit the] contribute relevant information and expertise to the workshop; and
- d) submit findings and recommendations of this workshop to the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.297 The Animals Committee shall consider the results of this workshop and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties, organizations and donors

18.298 Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private businesses, and other donors are encouraged to provide funding to the Secretariat for implementing Decision 18.296.

Amendment and maintenance of the Appendices

Use of time-specific versions of online databases as standard nomenclature references

Directed to the Secretariat

18.309 The Secretariat shall:

- a) continue to engage copyright-holders of relevant online-databases that might serve as standard nomenclature references and explore the possible use of time-specific versions for CITES services; for example, relevant databases include but are not limited to WoRMS, Fish Base, ESCHMEYER & FRICKE's *Catalog of Fishes*, *Amphibian Species of the World*, and *Corals of the World* as standard references; and
- b) report the results of its consultations to the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.310 The Animals Committee shall:

- a) evaluate the results of the Secretariat's consultation; and
- b) develop recommendations on the use of time-specific online-databases as standard nomenclature references for decision by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Nomenclature and identification of corals

Directed to the Secretariat

18.311 The Secretariat shall:

- a) seek, if possible, a time-specific version of the WoRMS database; and
- b) report on progress to the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.312 The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider the report of the Secretariat and proceed towards recommending for adoption of a standard nomenclature reference for CITES-listed corals;
- b) update its list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level is acceptable, but which should be identified to species level where feasible, once a new standard nomenclature reference for CITES-listed coral species has been identified and provide the updated list to the Secretariat for dissemination; and
- c) report with recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.313 The Animals and Plants Committees shall, taking into consideration the current guidance in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*, paragraph 2 g), evaluate how nomenclature changes affect Appendix-III listings and propose further guidance and recommendations as necessary, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting that address how such nomenclature changes are to be handled.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.314 The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, shall at its 73rd meeting take into account the guidance and recommendations from the Animals and Plants Committees and make recommendations to address nomenclature changes that affect an Appendix-III listing, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) or Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III*, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Nomenclature of Manidae spp.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.315 The Animals Committee shall examine the taxonomy and nomenclature of pangolins (Manidae spp.) and will propose a way forward to clarify a listing of pangolins on the Appendices.

Nomenclature (Bird family and order names)

Directed to the Animals Committee

17.312 (Rev. CoP18)

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) evaluate the results of the analysis [of the implications of adopting a new standard nomenclature reference for birds at the family and order level]; and
- b) develop a recommendation for decision at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annotations

Directed to the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee

16.162 (Rev. CoP18)

The Standing Committee shall re-establish the working group on annotations, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees, recognizing that the Animals and Plants Committees are an important source of expertise and advice to Parties on such scientific and technical issues. The group shall include, but not be limited to, members from the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee, observer Parties, CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, enforcement authorities, including customs, and industry representatives. The Standing Committee shall particularly endeavour to ensure balanced representation of importing and exporting Parties. The terms of reference for the working group shall be:

- a) in close collaboration with ongoing efforts in the Plants Committee, to continue reviewing the appropriateness and practical challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations to the Appendices, including but not limited to those on the tree species, of the agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi* and orchids, and to identify options to streamline these annotations taking into account the guidance provided by Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*;
- b) to develop or refine definitions of terms used in current annotations as appropriate, including but not limited to the terms “musical instruments” and “transformed wood”, and submit them for adoption by the Conference of the Parties and subsequent inclusion in the Interpretation section of the Appendices;
- c) to conduct any work related to annotations directed to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee; and
- d) to prepare reports on progress made in addressing the issues tasked to it and submit them for consideration at the 73rd and 74th meetings of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.316 The Standing Committee shall, in collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees, determine requirements for development and adoption by the Conference of the Parties of:

- a) a mechanism for undertaking a periodic review of existing annotations; and
- b) a mechanism for the *a priori* review of annotations proposed for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, to support consistent implementation of the guidance on annotations provided in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18).

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.317 The Standing Committee shall explore the feasibility of, and the requirements for developing an information system for the purpose of processing trade data associated with transactions in specimens of CITES-listed tree species authorized under the provisions of the Convention.

Directed to Parties

18.318 Parties are invited to consult with relevant stakeholders and provide to the Secretariat information regarding the mechanisms proposed in Decision 18.316; the definitions proposed in paragraph b) of Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18) and the practical challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations to the Appendices, including but not limited to those on the rosewood-tree species, agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi* and orchids proposed in paragraph a) of Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18), and provide examples of practical solutions identified when handling those challenges.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.319 The Standing Committee shall, in consideration of work under Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18) and the report submitted by the Secretariat required under Decision 18.320, if appropriate, make recommendations for submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.320 The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting input pursuant to Decision 18.318 and provide a summary of the responses received from Parties, and provide recommendations regarding the mechanisms and the information system proposed in Decision 18.316, the definitions to be developed under paragraph b) of Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18) and the challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations to the Appendices to the Standing Committee.

Guidance for the publication of the Appendices

Directed to the Secretariat

18.331 Based on its experience, in consideration of the issues raised in document CoP18 Doc. 103, its discussions with Parties (especially those that amend legislation after each Conference of the Parties), and the recommendations of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on this subject, the Secretariat shall:

- a) in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, develop guidance for improved clarity and predictability in the presentation of the Appendices;
- b) distribute the draft guidance by Notification to seek comments from Parties, and consider and incorporate comments as appropriate into a revised draft; and
- c) submit the draft guidance for consideration by the Standing Committee, incorporate comments from the Standing Committee into the guidance, and publish the guidance on the CITES website.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.332 The Standing Committee shall review the draft guidance and provide comments and recommendations to the Secretariat for finalization of the document.