

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



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

Interpretation and implementation matters

Regulation of trade

Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'

ADDENDUM TO REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In document AC31 Doc. 18.1 (published on 12 June 2020), the Secretariat informed the Animals Committee on the implementation of Decisions 18.152 to 18.156 on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'*. Its Annex 2 contained the responses to Notification to the Parties No.2019/070.
3. Since then, further advances have been made in the implementation of Decisions 18.152, 18.153 and 18.155, which are reported in this addendum.

Implementation of Decision 18.152

4. Concerning paragraph a) of Decision 18.152, the Secretariat has created a dedicated webpage on the CITES website on *Appropriate and acceptable destinations*. This webpage contains the "non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it", contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1, and a range of 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, as supplied by Parties and organizations in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2019/070. Parties and relevant organizations are invited to continue submitting additional material to the Secretariat for inclusion on this webpage.
5. Concerning paragraph d) of Decision 18.152, the Secretariat is to issue a Notification within 30 days after the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee inviting Parties to provide feedback on experiences with the guidance in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 and to report back on responses to the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee for their consideration and recommendations, as appropriate. The next meeting of the Standing Committee is expected to take place prior to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19). However, the next regular meeting of the Animals Committee is to take place after CoP19. It is also unclear how much experience Parties may have acquired with the guidance in view of the impact that COVID-19 restrictions had on international trade transactions. It is therefore proposed to undertake these activities after CoP19, allowing Parties to gain additional experience with the guidance, and to draft revised decisions to the Secretariat, and the Animals and Standing Committee accordingly as follows:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification within 90 days of the close of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, inviting feedback on experience with using the guidance contained in Notification to the Parties No. 2019/070 on *Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it*, as well as the information provided on the CITES webpage “Appropriate and acceptable destinations”, and
- b) report on this feedback to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee for their consideration and recommendations, as appropriate.

19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall review the report from the Secretariat on feedback from Parties called for in Decision 19.AA and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review the report from the Secretariat and any comments and recommendations coming from the Animals Committee on feedback from Parties called for in Decision 19.AA and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

Implementation of Decision 18.153

6. Pursuant to Decision 18.153, on 17 April 2020, the Secretariat wrote to Parties with African elephant populations included in Appendix II who have exported wild-caught African elephants to a non-African elephant range State since CoP11, and requested these Parties to submit information to the Secretariat on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.20, in particular considering the role and responsibility of the State of export in Article IV of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings*. Responses were received from Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
7. Namibia confirmed that Resolution Conf. 11.20 had not been considered because all exports of live African elephants from Namibia to non-range States were undertaken under the provisions of Article III and not Article IV. Namibia further stated in its response that there have been “no exports of live wild-caught elephants to non-elephant range States other than those which took place between 2000 and 2018”. Namibia stated that “Resolution Conf. 16.7 was also taken into consideration during these transactions whereby assessments were conducted prior to the exports, to ensure that export does not pose any detrimental effect to the survival of the species in the wild”.
8. South Africa responded that it has norms and standards for the management of elephants that restrict African elephant exports to range States only and for conservation purposes.
9. Zimbabwe recalled that it had entered a reservation with respect to the update of the references to the Resolutions mentioned in Annotation 2 relating to the populations of its African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), and further reserved its right not to be bound by Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on *Definition of the term ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations’*. Zimbabwe reported that prior to entering this reservation, the export of live African elephants to China started in 2012, and subsequent exports occurred in 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019. In total, 115 African elephants had been exported to China since 2012. All African elephants had been captured in Hwange National Park. Zimbabwe stated that “the purpose of the exports was to generate revenue for conservation without any detriment to the source population where the range area is experiencing carrying capacity issues”. Zimbabwe provided details of the procedures followed when exporting live African elephants. The detailed response from Zimbabwe, which includes a copy of its Non-Detriment Finding (NDF), is presented in the language and format in which they were received in Annex 3 for consideration by the Animals Committee.

Implementation of Decision 18.155

10. Following the postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee meeting, scheduled to take place from 13-17 July 2020, the Committee took a number of intersessional decisions (see Notification No. 2020/057 of 22 September 2020), including the establishment of an intersessional working group on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'*, with the following mandate:
 - a) prepare draft 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; and
 - c) report on the outcomes of their work at the next meeting of the Animals Committee.
11. The membership of the working group was decided as follows: the Animals Committee Chair (Mr. Lörtscher – Co-chair), the representative for Europe (Ms. Zíková – Co-chair); the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori), the alternate representative for Asia (Ms. Terada), the alternate representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Ramirez Carvajal), the alternate representative for Oceania (Ms. McIntyre) and the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. Van Dijk); Argentina, Australia, Botswana, China, European Union, Georgia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zimbabwe; and Observers: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), IUCN Species Survival Commission African Elephant Specialist Group, Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Born Free Foundation, Born Free USA, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Conservation Analytics, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), Fondation Franz Weber, Four Paws International, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International (HSI), International Elephant Foundation, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), IWMC-World Conservation Trust, ProWildlife, Safari Club International, Sahara Conservation Fund, South African Taxidermy and Tannery Association, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), Zoological Society of London and Zoological Society of San Diego.
12. The group worked by electronic means and the results of their deliberations and recommendations can be found in Addendum 2 to document AC31 Doc. 18.1.

Revised recommendations

13. The Animals Committee is invited to:
 - a) establish an in-session working group on *Appropriate and acceptable destinations* with the mandate to:

concerning Decision 18.153:

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

concerning Decision 18.155:

 - ii) review Annexes 1 and 2 to Addendum 2 to document AC31 Doc. 18.1 and any updates provided to the meeting by the co-chairs of the working group, and draft recommendations as appropriate for the Animals Committee's consideration;
 - b) in compliance with paragraph c) of Decision 18.155, agree on recommendations to be submitted to the Standing Committee for its consideration; and
 - c) with regards to paragraph d) of Decision 18.155, agree to propose the Decisions in paragraph 5 to the Standing Committee at its next meeting.