

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

Interpretation and implementation matters

Regulation of trade

Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.152 to 18.156 on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'*, which are presented in Annex 1 to this document.

Implementation of Decisions 18.152 and 18.154

3. Pursuant to Decision 18.152, paragraph a), the Secretariat is in the process of creating a dedicated webpage on the CITES website on guidance for suitably housing and caring for living specimens of CITES-listed species. The webpage will feature 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](#), as well as 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.
4. Pursuant to Decision 18.152, paragraph b), the Secretariat issued [Notification to the Parties No. 2019/070](#) on 29 November 2019, inviting Parties to use the non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it. The Secretariat also invited Parties to submit any examples of the type of relevant material outlined in paragraph a) of Decision 18.152, for inclusion on the CITES webpage. At the time of writing, Switzerland was the only Party to respond to the Notification. Responses were also received from Animal Advocacy and Protection and San Diego Zoo Global. These responses are presented in Annex 2 to the document in the format and language in which they were received. An addendum to the present document will be issued with any additional responses received prior to this meeting.
5. Pursuant to Decision 18.152, paragraph c), the Secretariat wrote on 30 March 2020 to a number of Parties and organizations that had previously participated in the Animals Committee working group on the definition of the term "appropriate and acceptable destinations", inviting them to submit any relevant information or material available for inclusion on the webpage to be created under paragraph a) of Decision 18.152. At the time of writing, responses had been received from China, the European Union and Zimbabwe. Responses were also received from the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), the African Rhino Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) and the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). A joint submission was also received from Fondation Franz Weber, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and Humane Society International. All responses are presented in Annex 2 to the present document in the format and language in which they were

received. An addendum to the present document will be issued with any additional responses received prior to this 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*. At the time of writing, the Secretariat had not received responses. An addendum to the present document will be issued should any responses be received prior to this meeting.

Implementation of Decision 18.155

7. To facilitate the implementation of Decision 18.155, the Secretariat proposes the establishment of an intersessional working group of the Animals Committee. Draft terms of reference for such a working group are presented in paragraph 9.

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18)

8. In the context of the changes to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on *definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* adopted at CoP18, the Secretariat was approached in February 2020 by the Management Authority of an importing Party seeking advice in line with paragraph 1 of the Resolution. The Secretariat made the information provided by the Party available to the members of the Animals Committee and the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group and asked them to provide their advice on whether this transfer is an 'exceptional circumstance' and if so, to determine the *in situ* conservation benefits of the transaction. The responses to the consultation from the Animals Committee and the African Elephant Specialist Group were made available to the Management Authority of the importing Party for its consideration.

Recommendations

9. The Animals Committee is invited to establish an intersessional working group on appropriate and acceptable destinations to:
 - 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;
 - c) review the responses to the Notification to the Parties that will be published within 30 days following the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC73) in accordance with paragraph d) of Decision 18.152 and prepare draft recommendations for consideration at the next meeting of the Standing Committee; and
 - d) report on the outcomes of their work at the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee.

Decisions on *Definition of the term "appropriate and acceptable destinations"*
adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18)

18.152 Directed to the Secretariat

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.

18.153 Directed to the Secretariat

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.

18.154 Directed to Parties

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).

18.155 Directed to the Animals Committee

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.

18.156 Directed to the Standing Committee

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.