

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

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

Species specific matters

ADDENDUM TO CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS (AMPHIBIA SPP.)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Since the publication on the website of document AC31 Doc. 21 (15 May 2020), work to implement Decisions 18.194 to 18.196 has continued. The Secretariat has held further discussions with experts, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Amphibian Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), on the preparation of background documents in support of the interdisciplinary workshops called for in Decision 18.194. The Secretariat also discussed options for targeted data collection from some Parties (e.g. main exporters and importers identified in document CoP18 Doc. 62) and relevant stakeholders (e.g. those holding information on amphibian species in international trade, their conservation status and breeding biology).
3. The Secretariat secured limited external resources, but these would not allow it to conduct all the required preparatory research or organize the proposed workshops. Due to the tight timeframe between AC31 and CoP19, the existing travel and meeting restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lack of sufficient resources to fully prepare for and convene the workshops as envisaged in Decision 18.194, the Secretariat proposes to extend the Decisions beyond CoP19 as follows:

**19.AA Directed to the Secretariat**

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 rana viruses; and

- vi) examine current enforcement efforts to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade and identify additional actions needed; and
- b) explore modalities to implement this Decision in a cost-effective manner, including through the organization of online events; and
- c) report on the progress in the implementation of paragraph a) and b) above to the Animals Committee, including any relevant recommendations.

**19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee**

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider the report submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

**19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall consider any report submitted by the Animals Committee as per Decision 19.BB and develop recommendations for consideration of the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Revised recommendations

- 4. The Animals Committee is invited to:
  - a) note the information in document AC31 Doc. 21 and its Addendum; and
  - b) consider submitting the draft decisions in paragraph 3 above for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.