

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

Species specific matters

CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS (AMPHIBIA SPP.)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.194 to 18.196 on *Conservation of amphibians (Amphibia spp.)* as follows:

18.194 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 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.*

18.195 Directed to the Animals Committee

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.*

18.196 Directed to the Standing Committee

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.

3. Thanks to a contribution from the European Union, the Secretariat can start implementation of Decision 18.194 by facilitating the preparation of background documents and some targeted data collection that will be considered at the proposed workshop. The Secretariat draws to the attention of potential donors that additional funding will be required to conduct the workshop envisaged in Decision 18.194, paragraph a).
4. The Secretariat is in discussions with experts, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its Amphibian Specialist Group, on possible terms of reference for the preparation of the background documents, and on 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). In support of these activities, the Secretariat will issue a Notification to the Parties calling for relevant information to be included in the documents and considered at the proposed workshop.
5. Noting that Decision 18.194 directs the Secretariat to work in close consultation with the Animals Committee, the Committee may wish to establish an intersessional working group to work with the Secretariat on the implementation of Decisions 18.194 and 18.195.

Recommendation

6. The Animals Committee is invited to establish an intersessional working group on amphibians (Amphibia spp.) to:
 - a) assist the Secretariat in the development of the terms of reference for the background studies;
 - b) help identify those Parties and stakeholders that could be approached for targeted data collection and participation in the proposed workshop;
 - c) provide initial feedback on any report submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 18.194, including draft documents prepared ahead of the workshop and any final report of the workshop, if available; and
 - d) draft recommendations directed to the Standing Committee, for consideration of the Animals Committee at its 32nd meeting.