

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

SONGBIRD TRADE AND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (PASSERIFORMES)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.256 to 18.259 on *Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes)* as follows:

18.256 Directed to the Secretariat

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.*

18.257 Directed to the Animals Committee

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.

18.258 Directed to the Standing Committee

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.

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

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.

3. The Secretariat has initiated discussions with technical experts to develop draft terms of reference for the study referred to in Decision 18.256, paragraph a), and the preparation of background documents outlined in paragraph b), for consideration at the technical workshop proposed in paragraph c) of the same Decision.
4. The Secretariat is working to identify donors that might be interested in contributing to the implementation of these Decisions. However, the necessary funding has not yet been secured. As indicated in [Notification to the Parties No. 2020/032](#), it is estimated that implementation of Decision 18.256 would cost USD 50,000 for the study, and USD 100,000 for the technical workshop. In this regard, donor Parties and stakeholders are invited to contribute the requisite financial support.
5. Concerning Decision 18.257, document [CoP18 Doc. 79](#) describes the threats facing approximately 6,000 species of songbirds (more than 98% of which are not CITES-listed) and acknowledges that the songbird trade is poorly documented outside of the CITES-listed species and that the conservation status of many species is not known.
6. The Secretariat notes that Species360 and the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) are currently leading a review of songbirds that could make a valuable contribution to the proposed study and workshop referred to in Decision 18.256. Under the Species Knowledge Index Initiative¹, they will collate available information concerning songbird species that are:
 - a) listed on CITES,
 - b) included in the Appendices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS),
 - c) assessed under the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN),
 - d) considered vulnerable to climate change by the IUCN Climate Change Specialist Group,
 - e) listed by the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE),
 - f) considered distinct in evolutionary terms, as assessed by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), and/or
 - g) have *ex situ* populations in Species360's zoos and aquariums.

Available trade information on songbirds will be collated, as well as any information concerning species biological data available in open data repositories such as survival, fertility, abundance, and the availability of genomes. Species360 and SDU will make their findings available as an information document for the present meeting.

7. Given the lack of external funding, it is unlikely that the Secretariat will be able to implement Decision 18.256 in time for the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee. If funding is received in the future, document CoP18 Doc. 79 could be reviewed at the next Animals Committee with the results of the study and workshop, together with recommendations of the Secretariat.

Recommendations

8. The Animals Committee is invited to take note of this document.

¹ <https://conservation.species360.org/programs/species-knowledge-index/>