

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

Species specific matters

ADDENDUM TO QUEEN CONCH (*STROMBUS GIGAS*)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Since the publication of document AC31 Doc. 33 on 15 May 2020, funding has been secured from the Netherlands and the United States of America to support the implementation of Decisions 18.275 to 18.280 on queen conch, but the Secretariat is of the view that depending on progress made, part of the mandates articulated in these Decisions may need to be extended beyond the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19).

Implementation of Decision 18.278

3. As reported in paragraph 4 and 5 of document AC31 Doc. 33, the Secretariat has continued to collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES working group on queen conch (QCWG) and its Scientific, Statistical and Technical Advisory Sub-group (SSTAG) on the development of simplified NDF guidance. The next meeting of the QCWG is provisionally scheduled to take place in Puerto Rico in December 2021.
4. In paragraphs 7 to 9 of document AC31 Doc. 33, the Secretariat reported that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) had developed a project proposal entitled "*Seizing the trade and business potential of Blue BioTrade products for promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation of marine biodiversity in selected Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Countries*" that would support the main queen conch producing countries of OECS through UNCTAD's BlueBioTrade programme.
5. The Secretariat is pleased to announce that the project was officially launched on 7 October 2020 by UNCTAD, OECS and CITES. The 18-month initiative, funded by OECS with support from the European Union, aims to empower small-scale coastal producers from the main queen conch producing nations in the eastern Caribbean, while ensuring sustainability. The beneficiary countries in this first phase are Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
6. As part of this project, a *Regional stakeholder webinar on Blue BioTrade & BioTrade principles and criteria including CITES requirements* was held on 22-23 March 2021. Details of the stakeholder webinar can be found [here](#), including a presentation by the CITES Secretariat entitled "*CITES regulations and decisions applicable to trade of queen conch: Non-detriment findings (NDFs) and effective license/permits system*".
7. At the 5th Growth and Resilience Dialogue co-hosted by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), OECS, the World Bank Group and the University of the West Indies on 14-15 April 2021, the Secretariat gave a presentation on "*Queen conch as a CITES-listed species – the importance of Non-Detriment Findings and regulated trade in selected OECS countries*" as part of a master class on "OECS/ECCU ocean, seas and marine eco-system - Turning challenges into opportunities".

Revised recommendations

8. The Animals Committee is invited to note the information in document AC31 Doc. 33 and its addendum.