

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

TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES (TESTUDINES 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 18.286 to 18.291 on *Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)*, as shown in the Annex to this document. Decision 18.288, directed to the Secretariat, reads as follows:

**18.288 Directed to the Secretariat**

*The Secretariat shall, subject to available funding, contract consultants to develop, in collaboration with relevant Parties, experts and the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), a guide on categories of turtle parts and derivatives in trade, for national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement, to raise their awareness of the trade in these types of specimens, to enable initial recognition of such specimens, and to provide guidance on further identification resources and expertise that can be consulted.*

Furthermore, Decision 18.291, directed to the Animals Committee, reads as follows:

**18.291 Directed to the Animals Committee**

*The Animals Committee shall review the guide on categories of turtle parts and derivatives in trade, developed in accordance with Decision 18.288 and make recommendations for consideration by the Secretariat.*

3. Decision 18.288 is being implemented thanks to a contribution from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Strategic Programme of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC).
4. Concerning Decision 18.291, the guide on categories of turtle parts and derivatives in trade may become available prior to the next meeting of the Animals Committee in 2021. The Animals Committee may wish to establish an intersessional working group that could review the guide once available and draft recommendations for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 32nd meeting.

## Recommendations

5. In support of the implementation of Decision 18.291, the Animals Committee is invited to establish an intersessional working group on tortoises and freshwater turtles (*Testudines* spp.) to:
  - a) review the guide on categories of turtle parts and derivatives in trade, developed in accordance with Decision 18.288; and
  - b) draft recommendations directed to the Secretariat for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 32nd meeting.

Decisions on Tortoises and freshwater turtles (*Testudines* spp.)  
adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

**18.286 Directed to Madagascar**

Madagascar should:

- a) review its implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles*; and
- b) report to the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee on its implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18), including in its report, information on any seizures, arrests, prosecutions and convictions secured as a result of activities implemented to address illegal trade in tortoises from Madagascar.

**18.287 Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall review the report from Madagascar in accordance with Decision 18.286, and any recommendations from the Secretariat, and consider if any further measures need to be implemented by Madagascar to address illegal trade in tortoises as it affects the Party.

**18.288 Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall, subject to available funding, contract consultants to develop, in collaboration with relevant Parties, experts and the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), a guide on categories of turtle parts and derivatives in trade, for national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement, to raise their awareness of the trade in these types of specimens, to enable initial recognition of such specimens, and to provide guidance on further identification resources and expertise that can be consulted.

**18.289 Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall, to build upon the outcomes of the CITES Tortoise and Freshwater Turtles Task Force and support the initiation of targeted investigations and enforcement action, work with INTERPOL to put in place arrangements for the convening of an INTERPOL Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Management (RIACM) meeting.

**18.290 Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall report at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of Decisions 18.288 and 18.289.

**18.291 Directed to the Animals Committee**

The Animals Committee shall review the guide on categories of turtle parts and derivatives in trade, developed in accordance with Decision 18.288 and make recommendations for consideration by the Secretariat.