

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 MARINE ORNAMENTAL FISHES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Since the publication on the website of document AC31 Doc. 36 (on 9 June 2020), work to implement Decisions 18.296 to 18.1298 has advanced. However, because the COVID-19 measures prevented travel or meetings and caused delays, the Secretariat is of the view that part of the mandates articulated in these Decisions may need to be extended beyond CoP19.
3. The Animals Committee agreed via an intersessional decision-making process that the scope of the work on marine ornamental fishes envisaged in Decisions 18.296 to 18.298 should cover “international trade in non-CITES listed live coral reef fishes (including small sharks and rays)”. This decision was communicated in Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/057](#) of 22 September 2020.

Implementation of Decision 18.296

4. The Secretariat has contracted the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to lead on the implementation of Decision 18.296, thanks to external funding received from the European Union, Switzerland and the United States of America.
5. UNEP-WCMC developed a questionnaire to gather information on non-CITES listed live marine ornamental fish, which was made available through Notification to the Parties No. 2021/030 of 30 March 2021. The questionnaire seeks to collect information on the following:
 - a) the levels of international trade in non-CITES live marine ornamental fish;
 - b) the biology and conservation status of the main non-CITES listed marine ornamental fish that are traded internationally as live specimens; and
 - c) the national/regional (and/or local) fisheries management of non-CITES listed live marine ornamental fish in international trade.
6. UNEP-WCMC informed the Secretariat that, at the time of writing this addendum (April 2021), 37 submissions had been received in response to the questionnaire from national CITES authorities, universities, research institutes, and (public and private) zoos and aquaria. Several interested stakeholders had requested an extension of the deadline for submitting information. It was agreed that, due to the level of interest expressed and the comprehensive nature of the questionnaire, the deadline for responding would be extended by six weeks to 15 June 2021. Extensive stakeholder mapping is also being carried out to ensure that the implementation of Decision 18.296 will be as comprehensive and inclusive as possible.

7. The Secretariat considers that the workshop documents called for in Decision 18.296, paragraph c), can be completed prior to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19). However, in light of the ongoing meeting and travel restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not clear when the technical workshop envisaged under Decision 18.296, paragraph a), could take place, and the Animals Committee would not have the opportunity to review its outcomes or formulate recommendations prior to CoP19. Consequently, the Secretariat proposes the following draft decisions to extend relevant parts of the mandates on marine ornamental fishes beyond CoP19:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *convene a technical workshop to consider the conservation priorities and management needs related to the trade in non-CITES listed marine ornamental fishes worldwide, with a particular focus on data from importing and exporting countries;*
- b) *invite the Animals Committee, representatives from range States, exporting, and importing countries, fishery stakeholders, industry representatives and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in this workshop; and*
- c) *submit findings and recommendations of this workshop to the Animals Committee.*

19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall consider the results of the workshop referred to in Decision 19.AA and make recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Revised recommendations

8. The Animals Committee is invited to:
- a) note the information in document AC31 Doc. 36 and its addendum; and
 - b) consider submitting the draft decisions in paragraph 7 above for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.