

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
MONDAY 31 MAY 2021

Opening of the meeting

Opening remarks of the Chair and the Secretary-General..... *No document*

The Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretary-General gave opening addresses for this first online meeting of the Animals Committee.

Administrative and financial matters

1. Confirmation of the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair..... *No document*

The Committee noted that, through intersessional decision-making, the Animals Committee had confirmed the election of its Chair (Mr. Mathias Lörtscher, representative for Europe) and Vice-Chair (Mr. Hugh Robertson, representative for Oceania).

2. Declaration of conflict of interest *No document*

The Committee noted that no Member declared a financial interest that he or she considers calls into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the agenda for the meeting.

3. Rules of Procedure..... AC31 Doc. 3

The Committee noted that its Rules of Procedure, as amended at its 30th meeting (Geneva, July 2018) and set out in the Annex to document AC31 Doc. 3, remain valid for this meeting.

4. Agenda

4.1 Adoption of the agenda..... AC31 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1)

The Committee adopted its agenda as set out in document AC31 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1).

4.2 Annotated agenda..... AC31 Doc. 4.2

The Committee noted the annotated agenda as set out in document AC31 Doc. 4.2.

5. Working programme AC31 Doc. 5

The Committee adopted its working programme as set out in document AC31 Doc. 5.

6. Admission of observers AC31 Doc. 6

The Committee noted the list of observer organizations that had been invited to participate in the meeting as set out in document AC31 Doc. 6.

Strategic matters

7. Animals Committee strategic planning for 2020-2022 (CoP18-CoP19)

7.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee AC31 Doc. 7.1

The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 7.1.

7.2 Animals Committee workplan AC31 Doc. 7.2

The Committee noted the 2020-2022 workplan, including the identified leads or co-leads among the members of the Animals Committee, as shown in Annexes 1 and 2 to document AC31 Doc. 7.2.

7.3 Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties *No document*

The Committee noted the oral update by the Chair of the Animals Committee.

Species specific matters

28. African lions (*Panthera leo*) [Decision 18.247] AC31 Doc. 28 and Addenda 1 and 2

The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 28 and its addenda 1 and 2.

The Committee recommended that the mandate in Decision 18.247, paragraphs a) and b), be extended beyond the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee established an in-session working group on African lions with the mandate to:

- a) agree on a process and way forward for implementing Decision 18.247, paragraph a); and
- b) draft recommendations for consideration by the Animals Committee later in this meeting.

The membership* was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Africa (Mr. Kasoma) (Chair), representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki), representative for Europe (Ms. Zikova);

Parties: **Austria**, Botswana, China, Ethiopia, Gabon, Japan, Lesotho, Namibia, Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zimbabwe; and

Observers: Convention on Migratory Species, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, CIC – International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, **Conservation Analytics**, Conservation Force, Dallas Safari Club, Humane Society International, International Association for Wildlife, Panthera, ProWildlife, Safari Club International Foundation, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, Zoological Society of London.

* The working group members indicated in bold were added on 1 June 2021 since they were not able to express an interest for technical reasons on 31 May 2021.

Maintenance of the Appendices

37. Report of the specialist on zoological nomenclature
[Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) and Decisions 17.312 (Rev. CoP18), 18.309 to 18.312] AC31 Doc.37 and Addendum

and

38. Listing of pangolins in the Appendices **[Decision 18.315]** AC31 Doc. 38 and Addendum

The Committee established an in-session working group on nomenclature with the mandate to:

- a) prepare draft decisions to replace Decision 17.312 (Rev. CoP18) on *Nomenclature of birds*, and Decisions 18.309 to 18.312;
- b) review the cases highlighted in yellow in column K (or H) in the Annex to the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 37 and assign them to either the green (recommended for adoption at CoP19) or red (not recommended for adoption at CoP19) categories;
- c) consider options to update the higher taxonomy of lizards and snakes;
- d) prepare recommendations requesting the working group of the Standing Committee on electronic systems and information technologies to explore how Management Authorities address nomenclature changes in their electronic permitting systems;
- e) consider the listing proposal on Order PHOLIDOTA (pangolins) in document AC31 Doc. 38; and
- f) report on its deliberations to the Animals Committee.

The membership* was decided as follows:

Members: specialist on zoological nomenclature (Chair), **acting representative for Asia (Mr. Diesmos)**, representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson);

Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, **Belgium**, China, **Gabon**, Germany, Japan, Mexico, **Sudan**, Switzerland, **Thailand**, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America; and

Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, **International Association for Wildlife**, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, **Wildlife Conservation Society**, World Parrot Trust.

Interpretation and implementation matters

Regulation of trade

18. Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'

18.1 Report of the Secretariat **[Decision 18.155]** AC31 Doc. 18.1 and Addenda 1 and 2

and

18.2 International trade in live African elephants AC31 Doc. 18.2

The Committee agreed to propose the draft decisions in paragraph 5 of addendum 1 to document AC31 Doc. 18.1 for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting.

* The working group members indicated in bold were added on 1 June 2021 since they were not able to express an interest for technical reasons on 31 May 2021.

The Committee established an in-session working group on appropriate and acceptable destinations with the mandate to:

- a) concerning Decision 18.153, consider the scientific aspects of the responses in paragraphs 7 to 9 of addendum 1, document AC31 Doc. 18.2 and Annex 3 to document AC31 Doc. 18.1, and draft recommendations for the Animals Committee's consideration as appropriate; and
- b) concerning Decision 18.155, review Annexes 1 and 2 to addendum 2 to document AC31 Doc. 18.1 and any updates provided to the meeting by the co-chairs of the working group, and draft recommendations as appropriate for the Animals Committee's consideration.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori), representatives for Europe (Mr. Lörtscher and Ms. Zikova) (co-Chairs);

Parties: Argentina, Botswana, Canada, China, France, Gabon, Japan, Namibia, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zimbabwe; and

Observers: International Union for Conservation of Nature; Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free Foundation, Conservation Analytics, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, European Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Fondation Franz Weber, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, International Elephant Foundation, International Association for Wildlife, International Fund for Animal Welfare, ProWildlife, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, and Zoological Society of London.

Species specific matters

20. West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.)
[Decisions 18.190 and 18.191] AC31 Doc. 20 and Addenda 1 and 2

The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 20 and its addenda 1 and 2 and agreed to consider that Decision 18.190 had been implemented. The Committee requested the Secretariat to inform the range States of West African vultures that improved non-detriment finding (NDF) guidance is expected to be developed and to share relevant NDF materials with the range States when available.

The Committee established an in-session working group on West African vultures with the mandate to:

- a) comment and review the draft recommendations in addendum 1;
- b) review the draft decisions in the Annex to addendum 2; and
- c) report its findings for consideration by the Animals Committee later in this meeting.

The membership* was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Africa (Mr. Mensah), representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki) (Chair), alternate representative for Africa (Ms. Maha),

Parties: **Benin**, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

* The working group members indicated in bold were added on 1 June 2021 since they were not able to express an interest for technical reasons on 31 May 2021.

Observers: Convention on Migratory Species, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature; Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society International, **Species Survival Network** and TRAFFIC.