

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  
TUESDAY 1 JUNE 2021

**Species specific matters**

23. Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae)  
**[Decision 17.192 (Rev. CoP18)]** .....AC31 Doc. 23 and Addendum

The Committee noted the information provided in document AC31 Doc. 23 and its addendum and agreed the recommendations in Annex 2 to this addendum. The Committee noted that the work directed to the Secretariat in the recommendations under B 2 d) could be implemented by an external entity depending on the workload of the Secretariat.

The Committee encouraged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider the information presented in paragraph 6 of the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 23 in the production of any future reports. The Committee agreed that Decision 17.192 (Rev. CoP18) has been fully implemented.

22. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.) [Decisions 18.197 to 18.200] .....AC31 Doc. 22 and Addendum

The Committee established an in-session working group on eels (*Anguilla* spp.) with the mandate to:

- a) initiate a discussion to consider the potential use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of *A. anguilla* from aquaculture production systems and make recommendations to the Animals Committee as appropriate;
- b) consider the Secretariat's draft decisions in paragraph 17 of the addendum and identify other parts of Decisions 18.197 to 18.202 that may merit a renewal or extension;
- c) review available information relating to the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels (*Anguilla Anguilla*) to the wild and, if appropriate, provide advice on suitable protocols taking into account existing guidance and practices; and
- d) as appropriate, draft recommendations directed to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties for the Animals Committee to consider.

The membership was decided as follows:

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

Parties: Algeria, Canada, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

Observers: Convention on Migratory Species, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Global Guardian Trust, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Zoological Society of London.

25. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) [Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18); Decisions 18.223 and 18.225] .....AC31 Doc. 25 and Addendum

The Committee established an in-session working group on sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) with a mandate to:

- a) taking into consideration the following:
  - i) the CITES trade data analysis in document AC31 Doc. 25 and its addendum;
  - ii) the responses from Parties to Notification No. 2020/016 and its summary presented in information document AC31 Inf. 9 to questions A (new information on shark and ray conservation and management activities), B (the making of non-detriment findings), and D (the identification of CITES-listed shark-products in trade);
  - iii) the non-detriment findings (NDF) provided by Parties to the Notification; and
  - iv) new information on sharks and rays presented in document AC31 Doc. 25 and its addendum as well as any other relevant information;
- b) identify Decisions on sharks and rays (Decisions 18.218 to 18.225) that may merit revisions or renewal to extend the work beyond CoP19; and
- c) draft recommendations to integrate the development of NDF guidance, in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, migratory/shared regional stocks, and non-target (bycatch) situations for CITES-listed shark species, with the NDF workshop envisaged under Decisions 18.132 paragraph c) ii).

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori), representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) (Chair);

Parties: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

Observers: Convention on Migratory Species, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Bloom Association, Blue Resources Trust, Born Free USA, Conservation Analytics, Defenders of Wildlife, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Florida International University, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Japan NUS Co. Ltd., Natural Resources Defense Council, OCEANA Inc., Save Our Seas Foundation, Sea Shepherd Legal, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, Zoological Society of London.

35. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.) [Decision 18.291] .....AC31 Doc. 35 and Addendum

The Committee requested the Secretariat to finalize the *Identification guide to tortoises and freshwater turtles: Parts, products and derivatives in trade*, taking into consideration comments made during discussions at the present session on the use of scales and photos, and make it available for use by Parties, including possibly as an online version.

16. Identification and traceability of sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.) [Decision 16.137 (Rev. CoP18)].....AC31 Doc. 16 and Addendum

The Committee endorsed the study on *Identification of species and hybrids, source and geographical origin of sturgeon and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.) specimens and products in trade* in the Annex to addendum of document AC31 Doc. 16 with the following changes: under 5.1 “Suggested adjustment of current labelling in Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17)”, points i) and ii) should read as follows:

- i) That marking should be ~~more~~ standardized and particular specifications for the design of labels are given [as already noted in Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17)];
- ii) That labels are ~~centrally~~ produced by companies authorized by the national CITES Management Authority.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to make the study available to the intersessional working group of the Standing Committee on labelling system for trade in caviar. The Committee further requested the Secretariat to publish a Notification that asks Parties to reach out to laboratories within their country and inform the Secretariat about capacities to conduct forensic analysis such as “fatty acid profiling” and “stable isotope analysis”, as well as to collect information on readiness to analyse samples and then publish this list on the secure part of the CITES webpage.

24. Marine turtles (Cheloniidae spp. and Dermochelyidae spp.) [Decision 18.216] .....AC31 Doc. 24 and Addendum

The Committee established an in-session working group on marine turtles with a mandate to:

- a) consider the review of the marine turtle study and draft recommendations by the co-lead of the agenda item presented in Annex 1 to the addendum of document AC31 Doc. 24, and any scientific information in the responses from Parties to Notification No. 2020/015 in Annex 2 to the addendum; and
- b) revise the draft recommendations in Annex 1 to the addendum of document AC31 Doc. 24.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representatives for Asia [Mr. Diesmos (co-Chair) and Mr. Mobaraki], representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori) (co-Chair), representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: Argentina, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, France, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Peru, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

Observers: Convention on Migratory Species, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Fauna & Flora International, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, Sea Shepherd Legal, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

26. Seahorses (Hippocampus spp.) [Decision 18.232].....AC31 Doc. 26 and Addendum

The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 26 and its addendum and agreed to submit the draft decisions in paragraph 7 of the addendum of document AC31 Doc. 26 to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting for its consideration and submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

31. Banggai cardinalfish (Pterapogon kauderni) [Decision 18.265].....AC31 Doc. 31 (Rev. 1)

The Committee acknowledged and noted document AC31 Doc. 31 (Rev. 1). The Committee appreciated Indonesia’s efforts which, as explained in this report, have resulted in many positive outcomes of Banggai cardinalfish protection, conservation and management that promote its sustainable use. As Banggai cardinalfish is not listed under the Appendices, efforts on its conservation and management are regulated under Indonesian national laws. The Committee acknowledged the current status of Banggai cardinalfish as a non-CITES-listed species and, referring to significant progress achieved by Indonesia explained in

document AC31 Doc. 31 (Rev. 1), encouraged Indonesia to continue its work to promote the conservation, management and sustainable trade in Banggai cardinalfish.

14. Non-detriment findings

- 14.2 Publication of a management report for common water monitors  
(*Varanus salvator*) in peninsular Malaysia ..... AC31 Doc. 14.2

and

- 14.3 Publication of a management report for reticulated pythons  
(*Malayopython reticulatus*) in peninsular Malaysia ..... AC31 Doc. 14.3

The Committee noted documents AC31 Doc. 14.2 and AC31 Doc. 14.3 and encouraged Malaysia to submit these management reports at the upcoming international expert workshop on non-detriment findings (NDF) as case studies.

29. Leopards (*Panthera pardus*)

- 29.1 Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) in Africa [Decision 18.255] ..... AC31 Doc. 29.1

The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 29.1 and agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the following draft decisions:

**19.XX Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall share with the Animals Committee the *Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa* by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for its review.

**19.YY Directed to the Animals Committee**

The Animals Committee shall review *the Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa* by IUCN, and make recommendations, as appropriate, concerning the aspects of it that relate to the implementation of CITES.

- 29.2 Quotas for leopard hunting trophies  
[Decisions 18.167 and 18.168] ..... AC31 Doc. 29.2 and Addendum

The Committee adjourned consideration of this agenda item at its next session.