

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 22 JUNE 2021

Adoption of the executive summaries AC31 Sum. 1 and Sum. 2

The Committee adopted executive summary AC31 Sum. 1 with the following amendment:

- under agenda item 28, delete the representative for North America as a member of the working group.

The Committee adopted executive summary AC31 Sum. 2 with the following amendments:

- under agenda item 23, add “to” after the word “agreed”: “agreed to the recommendations”;
- under agenda item 24, the correct Notification number should be 2020/035;
- under agenda item 31, add at the end the following phrase: “and to present this case to the technical workshop on marine ornamental fishes envisaged under Decision 18.296”; and
- under agenda item 14.3, correct the Latin name of the reticulated python to *Python reticulatus*.

Species specific matters

29. Leopards (*Panthera pardus*)

29.2 Quotas for leopard hunting trophies

[Decisions 18.167 and 18.168] AC31 Doc. 29.2 and Addendum

The Committee agreed to inform the Standing Committee that it considers the quotas for leopards for the Central African Republic and Botswana, as mentioned in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use*, to be set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

The Committee agreed to inform the Standing Committee that, for Ethiopia, it considers the proposed reduction of the quota for leopards in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) to 20 trophies to be set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

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

Based on document AC31 Com. 1 as amended by the regional representative for Europe (Ms. Zikova), the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee agreed to reconsider the issues of the potential use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of European eel (*A. anguilla*) from aquaculture production systems and the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels to the wild, when making recommendations on

the study on levels of trade and trade patterns, especially in live eels for aquaculture, that is currently being prepared in the implementation of Decision 18.199, paragraph d), which will be reviewed by the Animals Committee following the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- b) The Committee noted that the European eel could be a good case study for consideration at the planned workshop on non-detriment findings under Decision 18.132.
- c) The Committee agreed to submit the following four draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting:

Directed to range States of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*)

19.AA Range States of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) are encouraged to:

- a) submit any non-detriment finding studies on European eel they have undertaken to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website; explore the different approaches that might be taken for making non-detriment findings for European eels traded as fingerlings (FIG) compared with those traded as other live eels (LIV); collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding such studies and their outcome, especially where the Parties share catchments or water bodies; seek review and advice from the Animals Committee or other suitable body on any non-detriment findings for European eels, where appropriate;
- b) develop and/or implement adaptive European eel management plans at national or sub-national (or catchment) level, with defined and time-bound goals, and enhance collaboration within countries between authorities and other stakeholders with responsibilities for eel management, and between countries where water bodies or catchments are shared;
- c) share information on stock assessments, harvests, the results of monitoring and other relevant data with the Joint Working Group on Eels (WGEEL) of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission, the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas and the Central Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM), so that a full and complete picture of the state of the European eel stock can be established;
- d) develop measures or implement more effectively existing measures to improve the traceability of eels in trade (both live and dead);
- e) provide the Secretariat with information regarding any changes to measures they have in place to restrict the trade in live 'glass' or fingerling European eels;
- f) share with the Secretariat, where available, protocols and guidelines for reintroduction of seized live European eels to the wild; and
- g) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision or any updates to the information previously submitted in response to [Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018](#) on eels, to allow it to report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a notification within 90 days of the close of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, inviting range States of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) to submit to the Secretariat information on the implementation of Decision 19.AA or any updates to the information previously submitted in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels;
- b) prepare and submit a summary of the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels, including any updates provided under Decision 19.AA, with draft recommendations to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate, for their consideration; and
- c) submit the study prepared in the implementation of Decision 18.199, paragraph d), on levels of trade and trade patterns, especially in live eels for aquaculture, and sources of supply, identify any

disparities between these, and draft recommendations for the more effective future management of harvests and trade for consideration by the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.CC The Animals Committee shall:

- a) if requested, consider any reports submitted by Parties with respect to the making of non-detriment findings for trade in European eel and provide advice and guidance as needed; and
- b) consider the study referred to in paragraph c) of Decision 19.BB, the report produced by the Secretariat under paragraph b) of Decision 19.BB and make recommendations as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee and the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.DD The Standing Committee shall review any advice and recommendations coming from the Animals Committee concerning Decision 19.CC and make recommendations as appropriate.

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

Based on document AC31 Com. 2, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee agreed to submit the *Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen of African elephant and/or southern white rhinoceros is suitably equipped to house and care for it*, as amended in Annex 2 to document AC31 Com. 2, to the Standing Committee for consideration and possible endorsement.
- b) The Committee agreed to submit the *Non-binding best practice guidance on how to determine whether "the trade would promote in situ conservation"*, as amended in Annex 1 to document AC31 Com. 2, to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting for further discussion and, if appropriate, modification and onward submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- c) The Committee further agreed to refer the following concerns to the Standing Committee for its advice and recommendations, as appropriate:
 - i) Namibia's interpretation of its exports of live African elephants to non-range States outlined in paragraph 7 of document AC31 Doc. 18.1, Addendum 1, and
 - ii) Zimbabwe's reservation submitted following the changes adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* and the export of live elephants occurring in 2019 as outlined in paragraph 9 of document AC31 Doc. 18.1, Addendum 1, while noting discrepancies between document AC31 Doc. 18.2 and the response provided by Zimbabwe in Annex 3 to document AC31 Doc. 18.1.

Species specific matters

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

Based on document AC31 Com. 3 as amended by the representative for North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz), the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee noted that the study entitled *Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities*, identified key issues where CITES and other actors can help with the conservation of marine turtles.
- b) The Committee reminded Parties to include marine turtle confiscation and seizure data in their annual illegal trade report.
- c) The Committee agreed to submit the following four draft decisions to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

Directed to the Parties

19.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) develop robust and standardized frameworks for determining sustainable use of marine turtles that are science-based, integrate a determination of suitable offtake levels, take into account the needs of traditional subsistence users, account for existing use in other States sharing the marine turtle(s) stocks, and account for national enforcement capacity taking into consideration the advice, resolutions, conservation and management measures of relevant bodies including competent fisheries authorities and experts, as appropriate;
- b) work with their fisheries communities to ensure that there is effective documentation at the national level of marine turtle fisheries by-catch and mortality that can inform conservation and management measures taking into consideration the advice, resolutions, conservation and management measures of relevant bodies including competent fisheries authorities and experts, as appropriate;
- c) where marine turtles hatchery establishments exist, develop science-based operational protocols for marine turtle hatchery establishments to ensure that they provide conservation value to marine turtle populations;
- d) share holistic regional marine turtle survival probability models and their output and other information to assess sustainability of current harvest and by-catch levels while taking into account other threats to the population across their range (number of turtles of different age classes taken from populations), limitations of source rookeries (number of turtles recruited per year), natural survival probabilities, and marine turtle biology taking into consideration the advice, resolutions, conservation and management measures of relevant bodies including competent fisheries authorities and experts, as appropriate;
- e) undertake as appropriate research that can support the development of protection and conservation measures for marine turtle foraging, nesting and migratory areas; and
- f) report on the implementation of paragraphs a) to f) to the Secretariat, for subsequent reporting to the Animals and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) based on analysis of the annual illegal trade reports, bring to the attention of the Animals and Standing Committee, as appropriate, any significant changes in the illegal trade of marine turtles;
- b) liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), its Indian Ocean and South-East Asia Marine Turtle Memorandum of

Understanding (IOSEA) on the conservation and management of marine turtles, as outlined in the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021-2025; and

- c) report on the implementation of paragraphs a) to f) of Decision 19.AA to the Animals and Standing Committees, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 19.CC The Animals Committee shall consider any reports from Decision 19.AA and 19.BB paragraph a) brought to its attention by the Secretariat, and make recommendations, as appropriate, including on the possible need for incorporation of the substantive content of Decision 19.AA and 19.BB and any other relevant measures into a new resolution on marine turtles which should also incorporate any relevant provisions of Resolution Conf 9.20 (Rev.) on *Guidelines for evaluating marine turtle ranching proposals submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)*.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.DD The Standing Committee shall consider any reports from Decision 19.AA and 19.BB paragraph a) brought to its attention by the Secretariat and any recommendations from the Animals Committee, and make recommendations, as appropriate.

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

Based on document AC31 Com. 4, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decision 19.AA on *Nomenclature (Bird family and order names)* to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.AA The Animals Committee shall

- a) evaluate the implications of adopting the HBW/BI *Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World* as the new standard nomenclature reference for birds at the species, family and order levels, including the production of a listing of supplementary nomenclatural standard references that may be needed; and
 - b) develop a recommendation for decision at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- b) The Committee requested that the nomenclature specialist work with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee to draft decisions for CoP19 to take the work on time-specific versions of online databases forward, using corals and the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) database as a case study.
- c) The Committee agreed to submit for adoption at CoP19 the 180 nomenclatural updates presented in the 'recommended' worksheet in [Annex A](#) to document AC31 Com. 4.
 - d) The Committee noted the cases in the 'Undecided' and 'Rejected' worksheets for further evaluation after CoP19 under Decision 19.AA and as part of regular activities under Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*.

- e) The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the following draft decisions 19.BB to 19.DD.

Directed to the Secretariat:

19.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification seeking the perspectives of Parties and other stakeholders on the potential effects of recognizing African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) as a separate species to African savannah elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) for CITES purposes;
- b) develop a list of all current Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties that would be impacted by such a change of nomenclature;
- c) collate the responses to the Notification to the Parties and prepare a review of the potential impacts of recognising *L. cyclotis* as a separate species for CITES purposes, including the potential impacts on Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) prepare a report of its findings pursuant to a), b) and c) above and submit this report to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.CC The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the taxonomic-nomenclatural history of African elephant *Loxodonta africana* in CITES and the nomenclature that reflects accepted use in biology, at its 32nd meeting; and
- b) if appropriate, make a recommendation on adopting a new standard nomenclature reference for African elephants, for decision at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.DD The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the report submitted by the Secretariat under paragraph d) of Decision 19.BB; and
 - b) provide advice and any recommendations on the potential impacts of recognizing *L. cyclotis* as a separate species for CITES purposes, including the potential impacts on Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- f) The Committee requested its nomenclature specialist to continue to seek input and perspectives from reptile taxonomists and other sources, as part of regular activities under Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*.
- g) Concerning Annexes 1 and 2 to document AC31 Doc. 37, the Committee instructed its nomenclature specialist to prepare revised Checklists incorporating recent changes to the genera *Goniurosaurus* and *Tylototriton* and agreed to propose those for adoption at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- h) The Committee agreed to submit Annexes 3 and 4 to document AC31 Doc. 37 to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for adoption as supplementary checklists for species of fishes and invertebrates newly included in the Appendices at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- i) The Committee requested its Chair to propose to the Chair of the Standing Committee that the Standing Committee's working group on electronic systems and information technologies be asked to consider within its existing mandate, the recording of species nomenclature changes in electronic CITES permit systems.

- j) Through its Chair, the Committee agreed to seek the views of the Standing Committee on the matter of benefits and impacts of higher taxon listings in the Appendices, taking into account document AC31 Doc. 38 with its Annex and its addendum, as well as the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), Annex 3, as part of its work on *Guidance for publication of the Appendices*, or another process.

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

Based on document AC31 Com. 5 as amended by the representative for North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz), the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

The Committee agreed to submit to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the following draft decisions:

Decision directed to West African range States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo)

19.AA West African range States for *Gyps africanus* (Whitebacked vulture), *Gyps fulvus* (Griffon vulture), *Gyps rueppelli* (Rüppell's vulture), *Necrosyrtes monachus* (Hooded vulture), *Neophron percnopterus* (Egyptian vulture), *Torgos tracheliotos* (Lappet-faced vulture), and *Trigonoceps occipitalis* (White-headed vulture) are urged to:

- a) integrate illegal vulture trade considerations into their implementation of the *West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime (WASCWC)* and any decisions relating to *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa* adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting;
- b) ensure that national laws to protect vultures and control trade in vulture parts and derivatives are effectively implemented, and ensure that penalties for non-compliance are sufficient to deter illegal trade;
- c) ensure that any international trade in West African vultures is not allowed except in accordance with CITES requirements, and if international trade is found not to be in accordance with CITES requirements, consider implementing a zero export quota;
- d) follow Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings*, and, in cases where there is an interest in exporting globally threatened vulture species, consider submitting non-detriment findings for the export of vulture specimens to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website and review by the Animals Committee;
- e) identify any trade-related issues associated with the implementation of the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);
- f) work with relevant experts and organizations for implementing demand reduction strategies for vultures and their parts and derivatives including for belief-based use and consumption and, where appropriate, expand the implementation of strategies that have been successful;
- g) work with relevant organizations to initiate wide-scale public awareness campaigns at regional, national and local levels about the impacts of trade in these species, including the importance of vulture species to ecology and human health, the negative impacts of belief-based use of vulture body parts, and existing national and international legislation that protects vultures; and
- h) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision to assist it in reporting to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Decision directed to Parties, West African range States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

- 19.BB Parties, West African range States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged, subject to resources, to:
- a) collaborate in the conservation and restoration of West African vultures and support the implementation of the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to conserve African-Eurasian Vultures; and
 - b) gather and exchange scientific knowledge and expertise on West African vultures, with a particular focus on:
 - i) documenting the scale of vulture trade by surveying markets in and outside West Africa, and identifying inter-regional and international trade routes;
 - ii) characterizing links between poisoning and trade in vultures, and contributing to the African Wildlife Poison Database; and
 - iii) updating the conservation and population status information of West African vultures, and *Gyps africanus* (white-backed vultures), *Gyps rueppellii* (Rüppell's vultures) and *Torgos tracheliotus* (lappet-faced vultures) in particular.

Decision directed to the Secretariat

- 19.CC The Secretariat shall:
- a) cooperate with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) partner organizations, regional and subregional wildlife enforcement networks, and competent national authorities, where relevant and feasible, to consider vultures in the context of ICCWC's enforcement and capacity-building efforts in West Africa;
 - b) subject to external funding, support the production of identification materials focusing on parts and derivatives of vulture species for use by law enforcement officials;
 - c) liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to assist in the implementation of the trade-related aspects of the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan (MsAP) subject to external funding, and share information based on the work of the Animals Committee;
 - d) subject to external funding, support the implementation of capacity-building activities aimed at providing support to the West African range States in implementing the trade-related aspects of the Vulture MsAP;
 - e) in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, consider available trade data and conservation status information from the whole geographic range of the vulture species concerned for inclusion in its reporting to the Animals and Standing Committees; and
 - f) collect information from West African vulture range States on their implementation of Decision 19.AA, and report as appropriate this and other information on the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC a), b), c), d) and e) to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, at their first regular meetings following the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with conclusions and recommendations for their consideration.

Decision directed to the Animals Committee

- 19.DD The Animals Committee shall:
- a) encourage West African range States to undertake a Periodic Review of the vulture species referred to in Decision 19.AA pursuant to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*, taking note of the offer of the Vulture Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature to assist range States in such an effort;

- b) consider any reports or requests for advice submitted by Parties with respect to the making of non-detriment findings for trade in CITES-listed West African vulture species;
- c) consider the reports and recommendations of the Secretariat submitted in accordance with Decision 19.CC, paragraph e): and
- d) make recommendations as appropriate for consideration by range States, Parties, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.

Decision directed to the Standing Committee

19.EE The Standing Committee shall review the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.DD and make recommendations as appropriate to West African vulture range States, Parties and the Secretariat, and for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

Decision directed to Parties, donor organizations and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

19.FF Donor Parties and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide support for implementing Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC and ensuring the survival of West African vultures.

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

Based on document AC31 Com. 6, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee invited the Secretariat to convey the comments and suggestions on the *Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa* generated by the Animals Committee's intersessional working group on lions to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and to make the comments and suggestions available in an information document.
- b) The Committee requested the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in collaboration with the CITES and CMS Secretariats, and in consultation with African lion range States, to develop the next version of the *Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa* in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI), taking into consideration the comments and suggestions referred to in paragraph a) and recent scientific literature pertinent to the conservation of African lion.
- c) The Committee encouraged the ACI range States to consider the revised *Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa* referred to in paragraph b) at their next meeting, which is envisaged for 2022.
- d) The Committee encouraged the African lion range States to share experiences and best practice recommendations in using and implementing the *Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa* at their ACI range States' meetings and through the Joint CMS/CITES/IUCN web portal on African lions.
- e) The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of Parties:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA The Secretariat shall inform the Animals Committee regarding the activities and outputs of the African Carnivore Initiative (ACI) that relate to the Committee's mandate and request advice from the Animals Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.BB The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on information that it provides regarding the activities and outputs of the ACI that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate as follows.

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

Based on document AC31 Com. 7 as amended by the representatives of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) and Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee invited the Standing Committee to review the results of the Secretariat's study on the apparent mismatch between trade in shark products, especially regarding introduction from the sea, if available, in fulfilment of Decision 18.221, paragraph a), at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.
- b) The Committee invited the organizers of the workshop on non-detriment findings (NDF) to consider including a focus on sharks within the marine or aquatic species work stream to support the making of NDFs, in particular for data-poor, multi-species, shared and migratory stocks, small-scale artisanal, introduction from the sea and non-target (bycatch), recognising that sharks and rays are good examples of the challenges faced by Parties when preparing NDFs in these situations.
- c) The Committee invited the Standing Committee to consider the inclusion of a new three letter code form (FFN) for registering trade in wet (fresh, chilled, frozen) fins of sharks in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports*.
- d) The Committee recommended that available national conversion factors used when estimating live catch weight by species, fishery, and product form be collated for more accurate reporting of shark and ray trade data by Parties.
- e) The Committee invited the Secretariat to encourage the regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) representatives to attend future meetings of the Animals Committee, in light of the recommendation from the meeting of the joint tuna RFMO (tRFMO) by-catch working group on sharks in December 2019 to improve communication and cooperation between CITES and tRFMOs to provide guidance and advice for the CITES-listed species caught within the jurisdiction of each tRFMO.
- f) The Committee noted that the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in February 2021, adopted the recommendation that FAO will continue cooperating with CITES and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), including in the provision of scientific and technical advice on proposals and issues relating to the listing and implementation of such listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species.
- g) The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to continue close collaboration with FAO and undertake joint activities according to the Memorandum of Understanding between CITES and FAO signed in 2006.
- h) The Committee noted the benefits of close collaboration with FAO, and other relevant organizations and experts including TRAFFIC and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Shark Specialist Group (SSG) to assist the Secretariat in the study called for in Decision 18.221 paragraph a), and if necessary, Decision 19. DD, to understand trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays.
- i) The Committee noted that a compilation of the shark AC31 in-session working group contributions is available as information document AC31 Inf. 24.
- j) The Committee further agreed to submit the following eight draft decisions to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

Decision directed to Parties

19.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide brief information (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat, in particular on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade, and respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC;
- b) in accordance with their national legislation, provide a brief report (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat about the assessment of

- stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained before the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable;
- c) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC and, share available national conversion factors used when estimating live catch weight by species, fishery, and product form for more accurate reporting of shark and ray trade data by Parties and indicate whether and how these are used in the development of their non-detriment findings;
 - d) inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transhipped, to verify presence of CITES-listed species and verify the presence of a valid CITES permit or certificate as required under the Convention or to obtain satisfactory proof of its existence;
 - e) continue to support the implementation of the Convention for sharks, including by providing funding for the implementation of Decisions 19.BB, 19.DD and 19.EE, and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat; and
 - f) actively collaborate to combat illegal trafficking in sharks and ray products by developing mechanisms for coordination between source, transit, and destination countries.

Decisions directed to Secretariat

19.BB Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties upon request.

19.CC The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
 - i) provide concise (with 200 word executive summary, if the report exceeds four pages) new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular:
 - A. the making of non-detriment findings;
 - B. the making of legal acquisition findings;
 - C. the identification and monitoring of CITES-listed shark-products in trade, in source, transit, and consumer Parties; and
 - D. recording stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; and
 - ii) share with the Secretariat their NDFs and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, to post in the sharks and rays web portal;
 - iii) highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade data (e.g. which units are used in reporting trade) for the CITES Trade Database;
- b) provide information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010, sorted by species and, if possible, by product;
- c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above;
- d) disseminate new or existing guidance identified by the Standing Committee on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives pursuant to Decision 19.GG, paragraph b); and

- e) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.
- 19.DD The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, and in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts:
- a) conduct a study to investigate the apparent mismatch between the trade in products of CITES-listed sharks recorded in the CITES Trade Database and what would be expected against the information available on catches of listed species; and
 - b) bring the results of the study in paragraph a) and any proposed solutions to resolve this issue in the future to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.
- 19.EE The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to:
- a) verify that information about Parties' shark management measures is correctly reflected in the shark measures database developed by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/>) and if not, support FAO in correcting the information;
 - b) compile clear imagery of wet and dried unprocessed shark fins (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of iSharkFin software developed by FAO;
 - c) conduct a study analysing the trade in non-fin shark products of CITES-listed species, including the level of species mixing in trade products and recommendations on how to address any implementation challenges arising from the mixing that may be identified; and
 - d) bring the results of activities in paragraphs a) to c) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Decision directed to the Animals Committee

- 19.FF The Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organisations and experts, shall:
- a) continue to develop guidance to support the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for CITES-listed shark species, in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (by-catch) situations, and for shared and migratory stocks, and introduction from the sea; and
 - b) report the outcomes of its work under this Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.GG The Standing Committee shall consider:
- a) developing guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings*;
 - b) developing new guidance or identifying existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II; and
 - c) report its findings under this Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision directed to the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee

- 19.HH The Animals Committee and Standing Committee shall analyse and review the results of any of the activities under Decisions 19.AA and 19.GG and with the support of the Secretariat, prepare a joint report for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of these Decisions.

The Committee requested its Chair and the Chair of the working group on sharks and rays to contribute to the joint report on sharks and rays with the Standing Committee to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

33. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) [Decision 18.276]..... AC31 Doc. 33 and Addendum

The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 33 and its addendum.

36. Marine ornamental fishes [Decision 18.297]..... AC31 Doc. 36 and Addendum

The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 36 and its addendum and agreed to submit the following draft decisions for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting:

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.

21. Conservation of amphibians (*Amphibia* spp.) [Decision 18.192] AC31 Doc. 21 and Addendum

The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 21 and its addendum and agreed to submit the following draft decisions as amended by Wildlife Conservation Society for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to availability of external resources and in close consultation with the Animals Committee:

- a) conduct one or more interdisciplinary workshops for CITES Authorities and other relevant authorities and stakeholders about amphibian species in international trade, including but not limited to the following objectives:
 - i) identify amphibian species that are in international trade and evaluate whether certain species or groups should be recommended for possible listing in the Appendices;
 - ii) share existing national legislation relevant to the trade in amphibians;
 - iii) evaluate whether current levels of trade are compatible with the conservation of these species in the wild;
 - iv) compile further data on harvesting levels of amphibians subject to high volumes of international trade;
 - v) explore the emerging threat of diseases from traded amphibians, including amphibian chytrid fungus and rana viruses; and

- vi) examine current enforcement efforts to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade and identify additional actions needed; and
- b) explore modalities to implement this Decision in a cost-effective manner, including through the organization of online events; and
- c) report on the progress in the implementation of paragraph a) and b) above to the Animals Committee, including any relevant recommendations.

19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider the report submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider any report submitted by the Animals Committee as per Decision 19.BB and develop recommendations for consideration of the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

32. Saiga antelope (Saiga spp.) [Decision 18.272]..... AC31 Doc. 32 and Addendum

The Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 32 and its addendum and agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 18.270 to 18.274 to the Standing Committee for onward submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as follows:

18.270 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to range States of saiga antelope (Saiga spp.) (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives

- a) The range States of the saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.) and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives, as identified by the Secretariat on the basis of CITES trade data, should fully implement the measures directed to them in the *Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2016-2020* [~~MTIWP (2016-2020)~~] and for 2021-2025 [MTIWP (2021-2025)], developed in support of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.)* and its *Saiga Action Plan*; and
- b) Consistent with the measures directed to Saiga range States in *MTIWP (2021-2025)* ~~the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2016-2020~~ [~~MTIWP (2016-2020)~~], the range States of the saiga antelope are encouraged to establish internal market controls for saiga parts, including registration of stockpiles, labelling of parts and products, and registration of manufacturers and traders, and report such information to the CITES Secretariat.

18.271 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to the availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall:

- ~~a) assist the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in organizing the fourth meeting of the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (Saiga spp.), expected to be held in the Russian Federation in 2020;~~
- ~~b) in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, provide inputs as needed in developing a Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2021-2025~~

~~[MTIWP (2021-2025)], developed in support of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga* spp.) and its Saiga Action Plan;~~

- c) review, in consultation with the CMS Secretariat, the conservation of and trade in saiga antelope, *Saiga* spp., based on available data on legal and illegal trade, materials and outcomes of the fourth meeting of saiga MoU signatories, and stakeholder consultations, and report any consequent findings and recommendations to the Animals Committee, and to the Standing Committee in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)* and the joint CMS-CITES work programme;
- d) consult saiga range States and major trading and consumer States concerning their management of stockpiles of saiga specimens; review processes and practices; and provide assistance in ensuring effective stockpile management and monitoring, including the development of inventories and strengthening stockpile security; and
- e) report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee on the implementation of this Decision, as appropriate.

18.272 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall, as appropriate, consider any findings and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.271 (Rev. CoP19), and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.

18.273 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, as appropriate, consider any findings and recommendations submitted by the Animals Committee and the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.271 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.272 (Rev. CoP19), and make recommendations as necessary.

18.274 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to saiga antelope range States, Parties, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders

Saiga antelope range States, Parties, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders are encouraged to collaborate in the conservation and restoration of the saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.), and to support the implementation of ~~MTIWP (2016-2020)~~ and MTIWP (2021-2025).

27. Pangolins (*Manis* spp.) **[Decision 18.243]**..... AC31 Doc. 27 and Addendum

The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decision as amended by the representative for North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting and onward submission to CoP19.

19.AA Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the conversion parameters for all pangolin species, developed in accordance with the provisions of Decision 18.239, to enable the reliable determination of the number of animals associated with any quantity of pangolin scales seized, and that can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for law enforcement and court purposes; and
- b) make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.

The Committee recommended that the Secretariat consult with and receive input from the Chair of the Animals Committee on the report entitled “Implementation of CITES Decision 18.240 (c) on Pangolins (*Manis* spp.)” before they submit it to the Standing Committee for consideration at its 74th meeting.

The Committee agreed that it should undertake a review of the report at its first meeting following CoP19.

30. Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes)
Decision 18.257 AC31 Doc. 30 and Addendum

The Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the renewal of Decisions 18.256 to 18.259 on *Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes)* as follows:

18.256 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to available funds, the Secretariat shall:

- a) within 12 months of the conclusion of the ~~48th~~ 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, commission a preliminary study on the scale and scope of international songbird trade to consider the management and conservation priorities of songbird taxa involved in such trade;
- b) consult with appropriate technical experts in the preparation of documents on the conservation, trade, management, enforcement and regulatory priorities of the songbird taxa identified;
- c) convene a technical workshop to consider the findings of the study and the reports referred to in paragraph b);
- d) invite the members of the Animals and Standing Committees, representatives from range, exporting, transit and consumer States, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the workshop; and
- e) make the results of the study and workshop, together with recommendations, available to the Animals Committee for its consideration.

18.257 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall review document CoP18 Doc. 79 and the results of the study and workshop on trade in songbirds, with the recommendations of the Secretariat, as per Decision 18.256 (Rev. CoP19), and make its own recommendations to the Standing Committee or ~~49th~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

18.258 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations by the Animals Committee and make its own recommendations to the ~~49th~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

18.259 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to Parties, nongovernmental organizations, commercial traders, and donors

Parties and non-Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, commercial traders and donors are encouraged to provide funding to the Secretariat for the implementation of these Decisions.