

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Thirty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12 – 19 July 2024

SUMMARY RECORD

Opening of the meeting

Opening remarks of the Chair *No document*

The Chair of the Animals Committee (AC) opened the meeting and welcomed the Members of the Committee, Party Observers, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the meeting. The Chair noted how heavy the agenda was and voiced concern about the numerous tasks directed to the scientific committees and the Secretariat, several of which relate to non-CITES listed species.

Opening remarks of the Secretary-General *No document*

The Secretary-General gave an opening address, highlighting that the agenda of this 33rd meeting reflected the milestones achieved collectively during this intersessional period, including *inter alia* the new guidance on non-detriment findings. The Secretary-General noted an exponential growth of the workload of the Secretariat, but without the core financial and human resources needed to keep up with this growth. The Secretary-General urged Parties to be considerate of the amount of work requested from the Secretariat, especially when it relates to activities that may be outside of the Convention's core work.

Administrative and financial matters

1. Declaration of conflict of interest *No document*

The Secretariat informed the Committee that it had received standard disclosure forms for CITES declarations of interest from all Members and acting Members and that none had 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.

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) informed the Committee that the Department of Conservation of New Zealand has a conservation captive breeding programme for *Cyanoramphus malherbi* for release into the wild and as an employee of this Department he is involved in these activities, but it does not impact his impartiality relating to the items on the agenda.

The Animals 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.

2. Rules of Procedure AC33 Doc. 2

The AC Chair introduced the Rules of Procedure of the Committee in document AC33 Doc. 2, as amended at its 30th meeting (Geneva, July 2018) and indicated that these Rules of Procedure remain valid for this meeting.

The Animals Committee noted that its Rules of Procedure, as amended at its 30th meeting (Geneva, July 2018) and set out in the Annex to document AC33 Doc. 2, remain valid for this meeting.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

3. Agenda..... AC33 Doc. 3

The AC Chair introduced the agenda for this meeting, presented in document AC33 Doc. 3.

The Animals Committee adopted its agenda as set out in document AC33 Doc. 3.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

4. Working programme.....AC33 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat introduced the working programme as set out in document AC33 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1) and explained the revisions made to the working programme, including the deletion of the agenda item on the *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade*, from the agenda for the joint session of the Animals and Plants Committees.

Israel indicated that the agenda item on the *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade* should be considered by the joint session between the Animals and Plants Committees since the relevant Decisions are directed to both the Animals and Plants Committees, to which the Secretariat responded that the Plants Committee had considered this agenda item at its 26th meeting and nominated some of its Members to participate in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on this issue.

The Animals Committee adopted its working programme as set out in document AC33 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1).

5. Admission of observers..... AC33 Doc. 5

The Secretariat introduced the list of observer organizations that had requested to participate in the meeting, in accordance with Rule 4, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Animals Committee, as presented in document AC33 Doc. 5.

The Animals Committee noted the list of observer organizations that had been accepted to participate in the meeting as set out in document AC33 Doc. 5.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

Strategic matters

6. Animals Committee strategic planning for 2023-2025 (CoP19-CoP20)

6.1 Implementation of the work plan for 2023-2025..... AC33 Doc. 6.1

The Chair of the Animals Committee (AC Chair) presented an update on the progress made by the Animals Committee concerning the implementation of its 2023–2025 work plan with regard to Decisions directed to the Animals Committee by CoP19. The AC Chair informed the Committee that the recommendations adopted at this meeting would be reported to the Standing Committee and the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20).

The Animals Committee noted document AC33 Doc. 6.1.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

6.2 Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties..... *No document*

The AC Chair informed the Animals Committee (AC) about the inputs needed for the preparation of the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20).

Israel suggested that the report include an update on which AC Members would need to be replaced at CoP20, to which the AC Chair acquiesced.

The Animals Committee noted the oral update by its Chair.

7. CITES Strategic Vision*
[Resolution Conf. 18.3 and Decision 19.12] PC27 Doc. 7/AC33 Doc. 7

The Secretariat proposed to use, in addition to the indicator (Indicator 1.4.1) already agreed by SC77 to be submitted to CoP20 (see summary record [SC77 SR](#)), a disaggregate version of the Red List Index (RLI) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a possible indicator for objective 1.4 of the *CITES Strategic Vision*: “The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation status and needs of species.” After an explanation of what is the Red List Index, including its taxonomic coverage, the Secretariat presented the advantages and the drawbacks of using two different ways to disaggregate the RLI.

The PC representative for North America (Mr. Boles), Canada and Mexico considered indicator 1.4.1 as endorsed by the Standing Committee at its last meeting a good fit and that there were too many drawbacks to using the Red List Index at the present time. They suggested that the use of the Red List Index could be revisited in the future.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), China, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya and Humane Society International supported indicator 1.4.2 as amended by Nigeria [*The number and proportion of species identified as 1) threatened with extinction that are or may be affected by trade; or 2) not yet threatened with extinction but may become so if not regulated by CITES, on the basis of information in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and/or relevant sources, that are included in the CITES Appendices*]. Germany and Kenya however cautioned about using other relevant sources and Zimbabwe disagreed with the inclusion under 2), i.e. species not yet threatened with extinction but may become so if not regulated by CITES.

Germany, echoed by South Africa and the AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), suggested that the best way to choose between the different indicators would be to measure them based on the proposed data to be used and methodology.

Argentina supported using the Red List Index disaggregated by internationally traded species, but using CITES criteria to identify those that are internationally traded. The PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), speaking on behalf of Peru, highlighted the limitations of the Red List Index, especially due to the limited data on flora and highlighted the need to work on taxonomic reconciliation between IUCN and CITES. The AC representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki) suggested that the indicator should also cover those species that have not been assessed by IUCN.

Mexico underscored the need to focus on CITES-listed species for this indicator, noting that there are processes to look at non-CITES listed species, such as the one on marine ornamental fishes and on amphibians. They advised to avoid duplication with indicator 1.5.1 and noted that the Red List assessment process should incorporate data from CITES amendment proposals as part of their assessments.

IUCN informed the Committees that sharks will soon be added to the RLI and expressed their readiness to work with Secretariat.

The Animals and Plants Committees invited the Secretariat to consider the comments made on the possible additional indicators for objective 1.4 of the Strategic Vision in the preparation of its report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

8. Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade [Decision 19.16] AC33 Doc. 8

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Memorandum of Understanding between the CITES Secretariat and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) was signed on 1 March 2024 and that WOAH released *Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade* in May 2024. The Secretariat also informed the Committee of relevant Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the 14th meeting of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the draft global action plan on biodiversity and health and associated draft decisions discussed at the 26th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the update received from the United Nations Environment Programme on, *inter alia*, the activities of the One Health Quadripartite.

The nomenclature specialist (Mr. Van Dijk), as co-Chair of the intersessional working group on the *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade*, presented the outcomes of the work of the working group and proposed for consideration by the Animals Committee effective and practical solutions for reducing pathogen spillover risk in wildlife supply chains in paragraph 14 of the document and opportunities for practical collaboration under the direction of existing Resolutions, Decisions and agreements in paragraph 15.

The acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz), Canada, Malaysia, the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and TRAFFIC supported the recommendations in the document. The representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) proposed an edit to paragraph 15 b) of the document in order to allow for the review by other relevant authorities, besides the Scientific Authority, for the transport of live animals. The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora) and the Netherlands noted that Parties had different practices regarding veterinary measures, for some these happen before the issuance of a CITES permit, while for others veterinary measures are not a prerequisite for the issuance of a CITES permit.

The representative for Africa (Ms. Maha) agreed that paragraph 14 should be shared with the Standing Committee, but also called for the drafting of a resolution on One Health to propose long term measures to reduce zoonotic diseases. This call for a resolution was supported by Israel, Senegal, Born Free Foundation, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Fondation Franz Weber, Humane Society International, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pro Wildlife and Species Survival Network, as well as by Wildlife Conservation Society. Canada opined that it was premature to recommend the drafting of a resolution at this time.

Born Free Foundation, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Fondation Franz Weber, Humane Society International, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pro Wildlife and Species Survival Network, as well as Wildlife Conservation Society highlighted the importance and urgency of the work on the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade and called for the Animals Committee to be engaged on this issue and for Parties to strengthen collaboration between relevant authorities at a national level. The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) expressed its readiness to collaborate with CITES on this issue and requested that CMS be added to the list in paragraph 14 b) of the document.

The Animals Committee:

a) noted:

- i) the Memorandum of Understanding between the CITES Secretariat and WOAHA signed on 1 March 2024 and the *Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade* released by WOAHA in May 2024;
- ii) the update relating to the implementation of paragraph c) of Decision 19.15 on collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species; and
- iii) the update provided by the United Nations Environment Programme on relevant work carried out under the Quadripartite Collaboration for One Health or other relevant initiatives;

b) agreed to share the proposed effective and practical solutions for reducing pathogen spillover risk in wildlife supply chains and opportunities for practical collaboration as contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of document AC33 Doc. 8, with paragraphs 14 b) and 15 b) as amended below, with the Standing Committee through its intersessional working group;

14 b) *“Taking into consideration that not all Parties have detailed and robust Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for wildlife health surveillance, the Animals Committee may consider developing guidelines based on existing material from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNEP, World Health Organization (WHO) and WOAHA and on the international trade from World Customs Organization (WCO) and World Trade Organization (WTO) for Parties to use as a model in developing or improving their SoP for wildlife health surveillance.*

15 b) “consider undertaking a review of the existing approach by Parties relating to the transport of live animals to identify means to enhance/improve the process, including ~~the review of the~~ Management Authority seeking advice from the Scientific Authority and other relevant authorities on the review of a CITES permit application, the issuing of the CITES permit and the transport of live specimens to ensure collaboration at each step of the process for a rapid and safe transport of the specimen;”

c) agreed that Decision 19.16 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

9. Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international organizations* [Decision 19.20]..... No document

The Secretariat presented an update on the progress in the implementation of Decision 19.20 and outlined next steps in the development of a partnership strategy for the Parties, the Permanent Committees and the Secretariat to identify priorities for collaboration that specifically enhance the implementation of the Convention, as well as its effectiveness and efficiency, through strategic partnerships. The Secretariat indicated it would share the draft partnership strategy with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees who would then consult with the Members of the Committee to provide feedback on the draft prior to the document deadline for SC78.

Indonesia supported enhanced cooperation between Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and the way forward proposed by the Secretariat. The Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention highlighted the importance of cooperation with regional MEAs and provided an update on its work.

The Animals and Plants Committees noted the oral update presented by the Secretariat.

10. Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative [Decision 19.25]..... AC33 Doc. 10

The Secretariat identified two priority activities of the Programme of Work of the African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) that are relevant to CITES and more specifically the Animals Committee: the development of trade resource kits for lions and leopards based on the trade resource kit for cheetahs and the development of an African lion inventory and an African lion database. The Secretariat proposed new draft decisions to support these priority activities. Looking towards the future as part of its ongoing work with the Convention on Migratory Species, the Secretariat also proposed to include the species covered by the ACI [cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), lions (*Panthera leo*) and leopards (*Panthera pardus*)] in paragraph 1 b) of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*. The Secretariat noted that there may be a need to revise and update the Programme of Work for the ACI that will not be fully implemented by 2025 in order to reflect new Decisions adopted by CMS and CITES.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species informed the Committee that the first meeting of the African lion database working group established by the 2nd meeting of the ACI range States met on 25 June 2024 and agreed that the African Lion Database established by the IUCN Cat Specialist Group contains essential data and that further discussions were needed on how the database is managed and how range States can be involved in its governance and take ownership of the database.

Born Free Foundation, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Born Free Foundation, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, supported the recommendations in the document and urged the Committee to instruct the Secretariat to seek the resources necessary for the development of trade resources kits and to ensure the revised ACI Programme of Work can be completed within specified time frames.

The Animals Committee:

a) agreed to submit the following amendment to paragraph 1 b) of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*, for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee for onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting:

- b) *ensuring that CITES initiatives in respect of the following species or taxonomic groups complement, reinforce and, as far as possible, benefit from the regional collaboration already being undertaken or envisaged in the framework of CMS:*

[...]

- v) *cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus), lions (Panthera leo) and leopards (Panthera pardus);*
- b) agreed to submit the following draft decisions for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee for onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and

CITES-CMS AFRICAN CARNIVORE INITIATIVE

Directed to range States of African carnivores

- 18.59** *Relevant range States of African carnivores are urged to work through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative to implement CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.*

Directed to Parties

- 18.60 (Rev. CoP19)** *Parties are invited to recognize the importance of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative in implementing CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by the Initiative, and in seeking synergies as appropriate to implement complementary CMS resolutions and decisions.*

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

- 18.61** *Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support relevant African range States, through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, in their implementation of CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.*

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.24 (Rev. CoP20)** *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *subject to external resources, support the range States of the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative in preparing a revised ACI Programme of Work and in implementing relevant CITES Resolutions and Decisions that contribute to the ACI;*
- b) *inform the Animals Committee regarding the draft revised ACI Programme of Work and the activities and outputs of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI) that relate to the Committee's mandate and request advice from the Animals Committee, as appropriate; and*
- c) *report on the implementation of this Decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 19.25 (Rev. CoP20)** *The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on information that it provides regarding:*

- a) *the revised Programme of Work of the African Carnivore Initiative (ACI);*
and
- b) *the activities and outputs of the ACI that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.*

- c) agreed to submit the following draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RESOURCE KITS FOR
AFRICAN LIONS (*PANTHERA LEO*) AND LEOPARDS (*PANTHERA PARDUS*)

Directed to Parties

20.AA *Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *share trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) with the Secretariat; and*
- b) *request the Secretariat to make these trade resource kits available to the Parties on the CITES website.*

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB *The Secretariat shall subject to external funding,*

- a) *review the trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) shared by Parties;*
- b) *identify gaps and develop trade resource materials for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) based on the gaps identified and taking into consideration lessons learnt from the development of the CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit.*
- c) *share trade resource kits developed by Parties on the CITES website, as appropriate.*
- d) *inform the Animals Committee, as appropriate, regarding the development of trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*).*

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.CC *The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on aspects of the development of trade resource kits and other guidance materials that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.*

SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN
AFRICAN LION INVENTORY AND DATABASE

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with African lion range States

20.AA *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *subject to external funding, and in consultation with African lion range States, support the process as agreed by the ACI range States relating to the development of an inventory and of an African lion database (see Activities 11.2.1 and 11.4.1 in the [PoW of the ACI](#) and outcome 5.3 of the [outcomes of the ACI2 meeting](#)); and*
- b) *inform the Animals Committee regarding the development of an inventory and of an African lion database that relate to the Committee's mandate and seek its advice, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB *The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on aspects of the development of an African lion database that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.*

11. IPBES Report on the Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species *
[Resolution Conf. 18.4 and Decision 19.28]PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz), as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on the *IPBES Report on the Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*, introduced document PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11 and presented the list of scientific aspects in Chapter 3 and 4 of the [thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species](#) relevant to the CITES implementation contained in Annex 1 to document PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11. Annex 2 to document PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11 contained the CITES processes relating to the scientific aspects identified in Annex 1 and included Resolutions and Decisions relevant to each scientific aspect added through the intersessional working group process. The working group identified in paragraph 10 several aspects relating to drivers of sustainable use and knowledge gaps, challenges and research priorities to be considered by the Standing Committee and provided a detailed list in Annex 3 to the document. They further highlighted that this stream of work is a good example of a detailed process to consider the findings of an IPBES assessment and the linkages to and implications for the work of a specific Convention. Furthermore, it also provided an example of synergies between environmental agreements.

The PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), echoed by ProWildlife, supported the recommendations in the document.

Israel opined that an issue may be missing in the document, i.e. that legal trade is not systematically sustainable and can threaten some species. The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and the AC Chair, as co-Chairs of the working group, indicated that this element was taken into consideration in Annex 1.

Wildlife Conservation Society suggested that the following issues be added: the lack of information on the life history and stocks of marine fish species; the possible unsustainability of exotic pet trade; and the emergence of disease-causing pathogens through animal trade. The co-chairs indicated they these aspects were included in Annex 1 in terms of knowledge gaps, challenges and research priorities and reminded the Committee and observers that additional aspects could be elaborated in the Standing Committee's intersessional process since the outcomes of the joint AC/PC intersessional process will be provided to the Standing Committee.

Conservation Force proposed to add Resolution Conf. 8.3 on *Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife* in the table in Annex 3.

The IPBES Secretariat reflected on the main findings of the assessment including that CITES, overall, has been an important instrument for driving global coordination of regulations and enforcement regarding international trade in wild species; and that the development and implementation of non-detriment finding tools and methods in CITES also support more sustainable use. The IPBES Secretariat thanked the AC Chair who has been instrumental in sharing information relating to CITES processes with IPBES through active engagement and participation as an observer in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. The IPBES Secretariat also thanked the CITES Secretariat for their continued support and engagement with the different processes of IPBES and expressed its readiness to support the work of CITES.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) agreed to provide to the Standing Committee through its intersessional working group the results of the review of the scientific aspects of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species of IPBES as contained in Annex 1 and 2 to document PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11, as well as Annex 3 to document PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11 amended to include Resolution Conf. 8.3 on *Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife* in the table in Annex 3 in the section under "Drivers of sustainable use – Practices in CITES procedures and practices addressed in the Chapter that could address sustainable use" mapped against paragraph a) ; and
- c) agreed that Decision 19.28 has been implemented and can be deleted.

12. World Wildlife Trade report *[Decision 19.31]PC27 Doc. 11/AC33 Doc. 12

The Secretariat introduced document PC27 Doc. 11/AC33 Doc. 12 and summarized the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/019 of 8 September 2023 seeking feedback on the draft World Wildlife Trade Report and the potential utility and drawbacks of producing such a report on a regular basis. Parties

and organizations commented on both the potential utility and drawbacks of the Report as well as on the periodic preparation of such reports proposed in document CoP19 Doc.12.

The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), Israel, New Zealand, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland did not support the World Wildlife Trade Report in its current format but recognized its value in providing a global overview of legal trade in CITES species that could be useful as a communication tool linked to the *CITES Strategic Vision*. The United Kingdom, supported by the United Republic of Tanzania, suggested that it could be scaled back to the levels and patterns of legal trade (i.e. Chapter 2) with a more detailed analysis. Argentina and Zimbabwe indicated that they could be amenable to the option presented by the United Kingdom. New Zealand and the United Republic of Tanzania expressed concern about the analysis in the report, including the use of price data.

The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and New Zealand did not support the production of the Report every three years and indicated the need for a more dynamic alternative. The World Wide Fund for Nature suggested that a detailed report could be prepared for 2030, the last year of the *CITES Strategic Vision*.

The PC representative for North America (Mr. Boles), the AC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori), Argentina, India, Kenya and Wildlife Conservation Society estimated that the report drew too many human and financial resources and could constitute a reporting burden on Parties. The PC representative for North America (Mr. Boles) suggested that any additional resources could be allocated to strengthen the CITES Trade database, including the Trade View.

China reminded Parties of Resolution Conf. 8.3 on *Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife* and of Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods* that recognize the benefits of trade, including for livelihoods. China underscored the importance for Parties to understand the significance of trade in CITES-listed species for the global economy and noted that any technical issues could be resolved and should not be used as an excuse. They supported the regular production of a World Wildlife Trade Report. This statement was supported by South Africa.

The Animals and Plants Committees noted document PC27 Doc. 11/ AC33 Doc. 12 and requested the Secretariat to consider the comments made in plenary in its report to the Standing Committee.

Capacity-building

13. Country-wide Review of Significant Trade* [Decision 19.47]..... PC27 Doc. 13/AC33 Doc. 13

The AC Chair, as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on *Countrywide Review of Significant Trade*, introduced document PC27 Doc. 13/AC33 Doc. 13 and noted the parallels between the work on country-wide Significant Trade Reviews, the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), the capacity-building framework (Decision 19.41) and the development of comprehensive new guidance on making Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs), which should serve as a useful new resource for those range States that are currently subject to the Review of Significant Trade (RST). The document concluded that since the development of an integrated capacity-building framework remains ongoing it is not yet possible to determine if this will sufficiently address the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar. The working group further concluded that a country struggling with RST may not be selected as a priority country for assistance within the CAP and that future work should support those Parties with re-occurring issues regarding NDFs for multiple species and who are not currently eligible for the CAP.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) supported the draft decisions in the document and indicated that the CAP only covers six countries, while many more countries are part of the RST process. They noted that the Solomon Islands were part of the CAP and of the RST process and was looking forward to seeing the outcome of the CAP on the RST process.

The PC representative for North America (Mr. Boles) proposed that the focus should be on those countries that are not in the CAP and proposed some edits to the draft decisions.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) noted the conclusions of the working group as outlined in paragraphs 19 to 21 of document PC27 Doc. 13 / AC33 Doc. 13; and

- b) agreed to propose replacing Decisions 19.47 and 19.48 with the following draft decisions for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to Parties subject to recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade

20.AA *Parties subject to recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade are encouraged to make use of the Guidance on the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) developed under Decision 19.132; and provide feedback on the use of this guidance to the Secretariat.*

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB *Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat shall provide targeted capacity-building support at a national level to Parties currently subject to recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade, including the application of the new NDF Guidance produced under Decision 19.132.*

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

20.CC *The Animals and Plants Committees shall, taking into account the progress made under the Compliance Assistance Programme and the development of a Capacity-Building Framework:*

- a) *review the results of the Evaluation of the country-wide Review of Significant Trade (RST) process report produced for AC30/PC24 and consider whether the RST process or a complementary new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties with recurring issues in making non-detriment findings for multiple species, who are not currently eligible for the Compliance Assistance Programme, as highlighted through the Review of Significant Trade Process and on the possible role of the Scientific Committees in facilitating this; and*
- b) *provide recommendations, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species or other existing resolutions, or the development of a new resolution; for consideration by the Standing Committee.*

Directed to the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat

20.DD *The Standing Committee shall review the report and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, and in consultation with the Secretariat, make recommendations for consideration at the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Compliance

14. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species
[Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)]

14.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade AC33 Doc. 14.1 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat updated the Animals Committee on the status of the Review of Significant Trade (RST) and provided an overview of all fauna cases (species/range State combinations) with an indication of their current status under the review process, and the reference documents that provide detailed information for each case. The Secretariat also provided an update on the implementation of Decisions 17.108 (Rev. CoP19) to 17.110 (Rev. CoP19) on the development of an RST Tracking and Management database that it is currently enhancing, in particular to make it easier to use the search filters and provide alerts to Parties in the RST process. The Secretariat further noted that a revised version of the document was produced to correct two cases from Indonesia concerning *Cuora amboinensis* and *Malayemys subtrijuga*, which were removed from the review after SC77 following the publication of annual quotas, including the relevant size restrictions proposed by the Standing Committee. These had been mistakenly included as ongoing cases in the original version.

The Animals Committee noted document AC33 Doc. 14.1 (Rev. 1).

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

14.2 Implementation of recommendations for species selected following CoP14, CoP15 and CoP17 AC33 Doc. 14.2

The Secretariat reported on six cases where actions were taken by Parties to implement recommendations made by the Animals and Standing Committees since the Secretariat last reported on implementation and recommended action to the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting (SC77; Geneva, November 2023) in document SC77 Doc. 35.3. The fauna species/country combinations reviewed in document AC33 Doc. 14.2 are: *Pandinus imperator*/Togo (this case is subject to a recommendation to suspend trade); *Chamaeleo gracilis*/Togo; *Notochelys platynota*/Indonesia; *Anguilla anguilla*/Algeria; and *Anguilla anguilla*/Tunisia. The Secretariat presented its determination of implementation of the recommendations directed to the Parties concerned and proposed draft recommendations based on new information provided by the Parties concerned.

The representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) supported the recommendations in the document.

Concerning *Pandinus imperator*/Togo and *Chamaeleo gracilis*/Togo, Togo informed the Committee that, as part of the Compliance Assistance Programme, it would also be working on the implementation of the RST recommendations. For both species/country combinations, Togo proposed to resume trade based on non-detriment findings it had submitted to the Secretariat. The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) raised concerns about the two NDFs submitted by Togo, indicating that the non-detriment findings carried out by Togo that informed the quotas for the two species was based on an old version of the simplified assessment template for NDFs. The template was updated at the NDF expert workshop in December 2023 and specific adjustments were made for reptiles that should be taken into consideration.

Concerning *Notochelys platynota*/Indonesia, Indonesia welcomed the removal of this species/country combination from the RST process and confirmed the export quota for 2024 of 250 wild specimens with a maximum straight carapace length of 15 centimetres. The representatives for Asia (Mr. Hamidy) and for Europe (Mr. Benyr) supported this removal and the nomenclature specialist (Mr. Van Dijk) supported the explicit inclusion of the maximum straight carapace when the quota is published.

Concerning the species country combinations for *Anguilla anguilla*, the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) supported the recommendations.

- a) Concerning *Notochelys platynota* from Indonesia, the Animals Committee agreed the removal of *Notochelys platynota* from Indonesia from the Review of Significant Trade. Any increase in the quota above 250 wild specimens with restriction on trade in live individuals with a maximum straight carapace length of 15 centimetres should be communicated to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee along with a non-detriment finding, including a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable offtake that make use of best available scientific information, for their agreement in advance of any additional trade taking place.
- b) Concerning *Anguilla anguilla* from Algeria, the Animals Committee:
 - i) agreed that recommendations d), g), h) and k) have been implemented;
 - ii) invited Algeria to liaise with the IUCN anguillid specialist group of the to assist in the development of an NDF; and
 - iii) invited Algeria to provide an update on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations i), j) and l) by 30 September 2024 at the latest for consideration before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.
- c) Concerning *Anguilla anguilla* from Tunisia, the Animals Committee:
 - i) agreed that recommendations d) to f) have been implemented;
 - ii) invited Tunisia to liaise with the IUCN anguillid specialist group to assist in the development of an NDF; and

- iii) invited Tunisia to provide an update on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations g) to l) by 30 September 2024 at the latest for consideration before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.
- d) For all remaining cases selected post CoP17, the Animals Committee invited range States that did not reply to consultations following SC77 to provide an update on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations by 30 September 2024 for consideration before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

14.3 Species selection following CoP19 AC33 Doc. 14.3 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat presented the responses from range States for the 21 animal species/country combinations selected for the Review of Significant Trade at AC32 [see Annex 1 to document AC33 Doc. 14.3 (Rev. 1)]. The document also contained a report compiled by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) about the biology, management and trade in the species selected at AC32 [see Annex 2 to document AC33 Doc. 14.3 (Rev. 1)] and provided preliminary categorizations of each species/country combination into one of the three categories outlined in paragraph 1) e) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18), namely: ‘action is needed’, ‘unknown status’ and ‘less concern’.

Israel suggested maintaining *Falco cherrug*/Jordan in the RST process because of allegations of illegal trade in that species, to which the AC Chair responded that such concerns would be addressed to the Standing Committee.

Concerning *Carcharhinus longimanus* and *Sphyrna lewini* from Kenya, Kenya questioned the categorization of these species/country combinations in the document, as well as the associated draft recommendations. Kenya announced that it will bring additional information on these combinations to the in-session working group. Ghana and Indonesia indicated they would do the same for the species/country combinations that involved their respective countries. Mexico drew the Committee’s attention to information document AC33 Inf. 19 and AC33 Inf. 21 that provided additional information for *Sphyrna lewini* and *Sphyrna mokarran* from Mexico.

Senegal announced that they would maintain a zero-export quota for *Carcharhinus longimanus*. Oman informed the Committee that it had stopped issuing permits for *Carcharhinus longimanus* and *Sphyrna lewini* for 6 months and that this suspension will be extended until the finalization of the non-detriment findings.

China suggested that, since they had a zero-export quota for *Sphyrna lewini* for all source codes and purpose codes, *Sphyrna lewini*/China should be of ‘less concern’.

Concerning *Falco cherrug*/Jordan, the Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to look into possible instances of illegal trade and report to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting.

The Animals Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on the Review of Significant Trade (agenda items 14.2 and 14.3) with the mandate to:

Concerning agenda item 14.2

- a) consider the species/country combinations *Pandinus imperator*/Togo and *Chamaeleo gracilis*/Togo and make recommendations as appropriate;

Concerning agenda item 14.3

For the species/country combinations selected following the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) at the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee, in accordance with paragraphs 1) g) and i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18):

- b) review the responses received from range States contained in Annex 1 to document AC33 Doc. 14.3 (Rev. 1), any additional information provided by range States and recommendations from the in-session working group on sharks and rays at AC33, the report in Annex 2 to document AC33 Doc. 14.3 (Rev. 1) , and if appropriate, revise the preliminary categorizations proposed by

- the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) for the species/range State concerned, providing a justification for such recategorization;
- c) formulate recommendations directed to the range States retained in the review process, using the principles outlined in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33;
 - d) formulate separate recommendations directed to the Standing Committee for problems identified in the course of the review that are not directly related to the implementation of Article IV paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a), following the principles outlined in Annex 3 of the Resolution; and
 - e) report its recommendations in relation to agenda items 14.2 and 14.3 to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and representative for North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz);

Members: representatives for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki and Mr. Hamidy), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora), representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, China, Ecuador, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Convention on Migratory Species, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); International Union for Conservation of Nature, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center; Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Bloom Association, Blue Resources Trust, Born Free USA, Bundesverband für fachgerechten Natur-, Tier- und Artenschutz e.V., Defenders of Wildlife, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Fauna and Flora International, German Society for Herpetology, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Fur Federation, ProWildlife, Save our Seas Foundation, Shark Conservation Fund, Society for Wildlife and Nature International, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, Sustainable Users Network, TRAFFIC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, World Wide Fund for Nature, Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia, Zoological Society of London; Florida International University.

The Animals Committee agreed that Manta Trust could be added to the in-session working group on the Review of Significant Trade and on sharks and rays.

The representative for North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) announced that the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) would chair the shark species/country combinations, while the representative for North America would chair the other species/country combinations in order to avoid any conflict of interest.

Later in the meeting, the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) introduced document AC33 Com. 7 and corrected the membership of the working group, as well as a correction in the long-term actions where the phrase starting with “certification” until the end of the sentence should be replaced by “non-detriment findings”.

Mexico requested that the following intervention be included in the summary record:

We are grateful to the Parties and organizations that recognized the work of our country proposing that Mexico should be changed from the category 'unknown status' to 'less concern', and also appreciate the content of the report of the Secretariat, which highlights that Mexico has a solid

framework for the management of the species, thus showing that the provisions of the Convention are being met.

Mexico has protocols that are public and are based on the best available science and on methodologies recognized by FAO. Moreover, apart from the Sustainable Export Volumes (Volúmenes de Exportación Sustentable, VES), we implement management measures that include document traceability, temporary closures, the delimitation of fishery refuges, the non-issuance of new fishing permits, the prohibition of shark finning and gear restrictions in certain areas and seasons, among others, which enable populations to recover.

Thanks to these measures, the Mexican populations are healthy, and the catches of both species in Mexico have remained stable in the last few decades, in contrast with those of other regions of the world. In this regard, we have doubts about the overall assessment made by the IUCN, given that the references cited do not seem to include specific information about the Mexican Pacific. They only provide general data, which has led to misinterpretations by several delegations.

Mexico has always been willing to respond to any questions and information requests from the Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC and the working group convened during this meeting. We even responded to a series of over 30 questions in less than 12 hours from Tuesday to Wednesday. This is a very difficult situation for any delegation, and particularly for a small delegation like ours.

As regards the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Mexico has fulfilled all the commitments of its tuna fishing fleet and, as reported, the data are available on the website. In fact, the latest ICCAT compliance report (2021-2023) states that no action is necessary from Mexico. It should be noted that the United States chairs the ICCAT Compliance Committee, which has pointed out that Senegal, Panama and the European Union have compliance actions required by ICCAT, along with another 35 countries, which do not include Mexico.

We consider that it is inappropriate and sets a bad precedent for CITES to verify compliance with another international body in violation of the procedures adopted by the Conference of the Parties, particularly Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18), which requires the making of Non-Detriment Findings, which we have submitted.

We have held formal consultations with our authorities in Mexico City, which, after much effort, have agreed that, as a constructive sign of our country's commitment to CITES and in good faith, Mexico propose to publish a Precautionary Quota based on a 50% reduction from the Sustainable Export Volumes (VES) published for 2024 applicable to both species and both coasts with immediate effect.

These annual values will be maintained until we improve the VES with projections associated with response scenarios and a dataset and measures that are more robust thanks to expert workshops that we will organize in collaboration with FAO and that we invite experts from the IUCN and the United States to participate in.

Mr. Chair and Members of the Animals Committee, please note that these measures will have a considerable impact on the local communities of our country, whose families depend on the harvest of these species. We are making a very difficult decision indeed.

Based on the publication of precautionary export quotas resulting from a 50% reduction of the 2024 values for both species and coasts, we request the Animals Committee to transfer Mexico to the category 'less concern' in both cases. Otherwise, we will consider that this is a punitive process, as it would not be fair to keep us in the category 'action is needed' despite our compliance with the provisions of CITES.

Our Management Authority has prepared the written request to the CITES Secretariat for the publication of these precautionary quotas and is in the process of signature before submission. We will be very grateful for your support of this constructive proposal for the benefit of our sharks and our people.

The representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki), Cameroon, Canada, China, Indonesia, Kenya, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, echoed by Conservation Force and the

Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, supported the proposed reclassification of these two species/country combinations as 'less concern'. South Africa noted that Mexico was considered as a leader in conducting non-detriment findings in shark species.

The representatives for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora), for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), Germany, Israel, the Maldives, the Netherlands, Portugal, Senegal and the United States of America, echoed by Wildlife Conservation Society, welcomed the conservative quota announced by Mexico but preferred keeping the two species/country combinations as 'action is needed'. They noted that, with its robust management system and the organization of the expert workshop, Mexico should be able to quickly comply with the long-term actions, with the rebuilding plan being the main missing element. The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) suggested that relevant experts from the United States of America that share the stocks with Mexico should participate in the expert workshop announced by Mexico, if possible.

Concerning *Sphyrna lewini*/Indonesia, Senegal, echoed by Germany, Israel and the United States of America, proposed to reclassify this species/country combination as 'action is needed', to which Indonesia responded that they had answered all concerns during the in-session working group and that the quota was set very low at only 3% of total global catch. Indonesia indicated that there had been no substantiated concern in the working group and there was no new information that would justify re-opening this issue in plenary. The representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy), China, Mexico, the Russian Federation and South Africa agreed with Indonesia about keeping the classification as 'less concern' since there was no new information that would justify a reclassification to 'action is needed'. As a way forward, the United States of America proposed that Indonesia report on its NDF at AC35, to which Indonesia acquiesced.

For *Siebenrockiella crassicolis*/Indonesia, Indonesia agreed to restrict the standard carapace length at 12cm at the suggestion of the nomenclature specialist (Mr. Van Dijk).

For *Python regius*/Ghana, Germany proposed to specify that the interim conservative annual export quota should concern source codes W and R. This was agreed.

For all long-term recommendations, Israel suggested to use a timeframe of 24 months instead of 36 months, to which the regional representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) noted that the timeframe was standardized but Parties could address these recommendations within a shorter timeframe, if feasible.

The Animals Committee noted that the Chair had agreed to add Shark Advocates International and Shark Conservation Fund and that the representative for North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) was unable to participate in and chair the in-session working group.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in document AC33 Com. 7 amended as follows:

Concerning agenda item 14.2:

- a) Concerning *Pandinus imperator* / Togo, the Animals Committee recommended the removal of the recommendation to suspend trade under the Review of Significant Trade and accepted an annual export quota of 20,000 specimens. Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.
- b) Concerning *Chamaeleo gracilis* / Togo, the Animals Committee recommended that Togo establish a reduced annual export quota of 500 specimens. Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.

Concerning agenda item 14.3:

- c) Concerning agenda item 14.3, and in accordance with paragraph 1) g) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18), for the 20 species/country combinations selected for review at the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32), noting that *Falco cherrug* from Jordan was removed following AC32, the Animals Committee agreed the following revisions:

Species	Country	Provisional categorisation in Annex 2	Revised categorisation	Justification for revised categorisation
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Kenya (KE)	Conditional upon annual publication of a zero export quota, Less concern	Action is needed	Kenya to establish an annual zero export quota.
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Yemen (YE)	Conditional upon annual publication of a zero export quota, Less concern	Action is needed	Yemen to establish an annual zero export quota.
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Mexico (MX)	Unknown	Action is needed	Concerns over harvest volume.
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Yemen (YE)	Conditional upon annual publication of a zero export quota, Less concern	Action is needed	Yemen to establish an annual zero export quota.
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Mexico (MX)	Unknown	Action is needed	Concerns over harvest volume.
<i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>	Uzbekistan (UZ)	Conditional upon annual publication of a zero export quota, Less concern	Action is needed	Uzbekistan to establish an annual zero export quota for W and R.

d) Taking into account the revisions of the preliminary categorisations, the Animals Committee recommended the categorization of the following species/country combinations as '**action is needed**' and that the recommendations directed to the relevant range States in Annex 1 to the present summary record be adopted:

- *Carcharhinus longimanus* / Kenya, Yemen
- *Mobula* spp. / Sri Lanka
- *Sphyrna lewini* / Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Yemen
- *Sphyrna mokarran* / Mexico
- *Kinixys homeana* / Ghana
- *Python regius* / Benin, Ghana, Togo
- *Testudo horsfieldii* / Uzbekistan

e) The Animals Committee recommended that the following species/country combinations are categorized as '**less concern**' and can be removed from the review:

- *Carcharhinus longimanus* / Oman, Senegal
- *Sphyrna lewini* / China, Indonesia, Oman
- *Siebenrockiella crassicollis* / Indonesia, noting that Indonesia agreed to restrict the standard carapace length to 12cm.

In accordance with paragraph 1 g) i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18), in cases where the species/country combination is categorized by the Animals Committee as of 'less concern' due to the establishment of a zero-export quota, any change to this quota should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, along with a justification.

General comments concerning agenda item 14.3

- f) Concerning *Sphyrna lewini* from Indonesia, the Animals Committee recommended that Indonesia conduct a Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) at the stock level within 5 years and invited Indonesia to provide this information as a progress report to the 35th meeting of the Animals Committee.
- g) Parties are invited to note that, in the context of RST, questions were raised regarding the issuance of legal acquisition findings for CITES Appendix II aquatic species that may be subject to other regulations including but not limited to regulations by Regional Fisheries Bodies or other international agreements.
- h) Parties are invited to note that, while setting a zero annual export quota is a valid action provided for in the Review of Significant Trade process as contained in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18), it will only be meaningful with concurrent obligations for implementation and enforcement.

15. Review of trade in specimens reported as produced in captivity [Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18)]

15.1 Overview and update on implementation of the review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity AC33 Doc. 15.1

The Secretariat presented a record of the status of the *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*. Details of the 44 cases of species/country combinations that have been selected for the review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity during the two iterations to-date are presented in tables in Annex 1. A table of the 25 current ongoing cases, arranged alphabetically by Party, is presented in Annex 2 to this document. The Secretariat reported on actions taken by Parties to implement recommendations made by the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee in order to ensure compliance with the obligations of Article IV, paragraph 4 and 5 of the Convention for the 4 cases selected at the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC29; Geneva, July 2017) and retained in the review of trade in animals specimens reported as produced in captivity and retained in the process at SC77. The Secretariat consulted the Animals Committee on its determination as to whether the recommendations have been implemented by the Party concerned.

Ecuador stressed the importance of establishing a Captive Breeding tracking and management database as proposed by the Secretariat in draft decision 20.AA in paragraph 26 of the document, to which Canada proposed an editorial amendment.

The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) proposed that an in-session working group consider the species/country combination *Varanus exanthematicus*/Ghana since they had questions about the scientific explanation for the 2023 export quotas of 3,000 wild (W) and 9,000 ranches (R) specimens.

The Animals Committee:

- a) Concerning *Centrochelys sulcata* / Benin,
 - i) agreed to retain *C. sulcata* from Benin in the review and maintain its current zero export quota for captive bred specimens (C) of *C. sulcata* until such time as it addresses the concerns of the Animals and Standing Committees; and
 - ii) encouraged Benin to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations to the Secretariat by 30 September 2024 so that the matter can be considered at the 78th meeting of the Standings Committee (SC78; Geneva, February 2025).
- b) Concerning *Centrochelys sulcata* / Mali,
 - i) agreed to retain *C. sulcata* from Mali in the review until such time as it addresses the concerns of the Animals and Standing Committees; and
 - ii) urged Mali to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations to the Secretariat by 30 September 2024 so that the matter can be considered at the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78; Geneva, February 2025).

- c) Concerning *Centrochelys sulcata* / Togo,
 - i) agreed to retaining *Centrochelys sulcata* from Togo in the review, until it provides evidence of legal acquisition of all breeding stock for all facilities, including information on source of animals used to augment the breeding stock; and
 - ii) encouraged Togo to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations to the Secretariat by 30 September 2024 so that the matter can be considered at the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78; Geneva, February 2025).
- d) noted that *Centrochelys sulcata* / Ghana was removed from the review following the publication of a maximum size limit of 15cm straight carapace length with its export quota on the CITES website.
- e) agreed to submit the following amended draft decision to the Standing Committee for consideration at its 78th meeting (SC78; Geneva, February 2025).

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to external funding and available Secretariat resources, the Secretariat shall develop, test and ~~establish~~ maintain a Captive Breeding tracking and management database as an essential tool for the effective implementation and transparency of the process under Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*.

15.2 Species selected following CoP19..... AC33 Doc. 15.2

The Secretariat presented the responses from Parties concerned for the 21 species-country combinations selected for review at AC32 (see Annex 2f to document AC33 Doc. 15.2) and the review of known information relating to the breeding biology and captive husbandry for the 17 species selected for review at AC32 (see Annex 3).

The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) proposed that the potential impacts of removal of founder stock from the wild should be considered as part of the review. This was supported by the representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) who also highlighted the need for NDFs and documentation for proof of origin of parental stock, including countries that are not part of the distribution range of the species, the nomenclature specialist (Mr. Van Dijk), Canada, the United States of America, Born Free Foundation, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society International, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Pro Wildlife, and Species Survival Network, as well as the German Society for Herpetology, Wildlife Conservation Society, and the World Wide Fund for Nature. Humane Society International provided some historical context about Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) that was designed to investigate fraudulent claims of captive-breeding.

Germany also supported the suggestion by the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and proposed an amendment to Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of trade in specimens reported as produced in captivity* to that effect. The proposed amendment would allow for this to be considered on a case-by-case basis at facility level.

Togo and Cambodia indicated that finding documentation for specimens that were acquired more than 30 years ago, for example for specimens of *Centrochelys sulcata*, could be very challenging. This was supported by the representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy) who responded to the question of the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora) about a timeframe for requesting an NDF for founder stock and noted that it would be difficult to establish a generic time frame and that it would need to be established species by species.

Israel suggested that the species/country combinations *Testudo kleinmannii*/Egypt and *Testudo kleinmannii*/Syrian Arab Republic should be kept in the review.

Born Free Foundation, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society International, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Pro Wildlife, Species Survival Network, expressed concerns about captive-breeding of *Macaca fascicularis*.

The Animals Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the following amendment to paragraph 2 h) of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of trade in specimens reported as produced in captivity*: (new text is underlined)

The Secretariat shall also commission, if requested by the Animals Committee, a short review of the species concerned, in consultation with relevant countries and specialists, to compile and summarise known information relating to the breeding biology and captive husbandry, as well as on the conservation status and threats to the species in the respective countries of origin of the founder stock to facilitate an assessment of any impacts, if relevant, of removal of founder stock from the wild.

The Animals Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on review of captive-breeding (agenda items 15.1 and 15.2) with the mandate to:

Concerning agenda item 15.1:

- a) consider the species/country combination *Varanus exanthematicus*/Ghana, and make recommendations as appropriate;

Concerning agenda item 15.2:

- b) review the responses from countries in Annex 2 to document AC33 Doc. 15.3, the information in Annex 3 to document AC33 Doc. 15.2 and any additional relevant information and determine if trade is in compliance with Article III and Article IV of the Convention, as well as Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5;
- c) in instances where this is not the case:
- i) identify concerns appropriately within the Committee's remit;
 - ii) in consultation with the Secretariat, formulate draft recommendations directed to the relevant country which are time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and aimed at ensuring long-term compliance which, where appropriate, aim to promote capacity-building and enhance the ability of the country to implement relevant provisions of the Convention; and
 - iii) prepare supporting information for the Standing Committee on these cases.
- d) identify any concerns that are more appropriately considered by the Standing Committee; and
- e) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Loertscher);

Members: representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora), representative of Europe (Mr. Benyr), nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Morocco, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Convention on Migratory Species, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Union for Conservation of Nature; ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free Foundation, Brazilian Association of breeders and Traders of Native and Exotic Animals, B Bundesverband für fachgerechten Natur-, Tier- und Artenschutz e.V., Center for

Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, European Pet Organisation, Fauna and Flora International, German Society for Herpetology, Humane Society International, International Fur Federation, National Association for Biomedical Research, Ornamental Fish International, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Pet Advocacy Network, ProWildlife, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, Society for Wildlife and Nature International, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Users Network, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Ranching South Africa NPC, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later in the meeting, the AC Chair introduced document AC33 Com. 5.

The United States of America, supported by Indonesia, proposed that the language be standardized throughout the document to refer to the removal of a species/country combination from the process (and not the release). The United States also proposed additional text for *Testudo horsfieldii* from Uzbekistan. Mexico corrected an error in the Spanish version of the document.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in document AC33 Com. 5 amended as follows:

***Varanus exanthematicus* from Ghana**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the review and invites Ghana to consider the comments made by Europe when developing an NDF (e.g. concerning the need for a complex NDF in future and the new thresholds developed for reptiles at the NDF workshop in Nairobi, harvest methodologies, how the release of juveniles contributes to the population, etc).

***Macaca fascicularis* from Indonesia**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the review.

***Macaca fascicularis* from Cambodia**

The Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination and requested Cambodia to provide clarifications about the high reproduction rates in writing to the Secretariat for review by the Animals Committee.

***Macaca fascicularis* from the Philippines**

The Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination and to ask the same questions again since the Philippines have not provided responses to the initial letter.

***Macaca fascicularis* from Viet Nam**

The Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination and requested Viet Nam to better clarify both the origin of the founder stock and the biological sustainability of the founder stock.

In addition, the Animals Committee agreed to raise concerns to the Standing Committee in relation to the inspection process and the source of the information used in the responses described in the response from Viet Nam.

***Chlamydotis macqueenii* from Kazakhstan**

The Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination. The Animals Committee requested Kazakhstan to provide the response to the Animals Committee for its consideration.

***Chlamydotis undulata* from Morocco**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the process. At the same time, the Animals Committee invited Morocco to provide more information on the release programme and its effect on wild population.

***Kinyongia boehmei* from Kenya**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the process.

***Gecko gecko* from Indonesia**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the process.

The Animals Committee encouraged Indonesia to review the use of source codes in this system of production.

***Ctenosaura quinquecarinata* from Nicaragua**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the process.

***Ctenosaura similis* from Nicaragua**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the process.

***Testudo graeca* from Jordan**

The Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination as no response was received and requested the Secretariat to ask the same questions again.

The Animals Committee agreed to refer this matter to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

***Testudo horsfieldii* from Uzbekistan**

The Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination and that Uzbekistan should:

- Provide information and details on source codes for different specimens and how individuals from different sources are differentiated
- Provide evidence on the ability to produce such high numbers of specimens
- Provide information on initial stock, subsequent introductions and annual production
- Provide more information on what measures Uzbekistan is taking to ensure that wild specimens cannot be laundered through captive-breeding facilities and exported as specimens reported as produced in captivity
- Provide information on whether they intend to move all trade to captive breeding in the future

***Testudo kleinmanni* from the Syrian Arab Republic**

Since no response was received, the Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination and ask the same questions again.

***Testudo kleinmanni* from Egypt**

The Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination and requested Egypt to, in the short term, request the Secretariat to publish a zero-quota for trade in *T. kleinmanni* for commercial purposes (all source codes). The Animals Committee further requested Egypt to provide information on

- a NDF for the creation of their founder stocks;
- the exact number of current facilities
- more comprehensive details on the keeping and breeding of the species bred to allow an assessment on the plausibility of the figures presented
- the methods for proper and reliable marking of individuals,

The Animals Committee agreed to inform the Standing Committee of the fact that none of the breeding facilities in Egypt have been registered in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15).

***Nectophrynoides asperginis* from the United States of America**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the process.

***Dendrobatus auratus* from Nicaragua**

The Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination, but to acknowledge the efforts made by Nicaragua to respond to the questions posed by the Animals Committee. The Animals Committee requested Nicaragua to provide an individual response to the questions concerning *D. auratus* and to provide more information, in particular on the acquisition of the founder stock and the mortality rates within the facilities.

***Oophaga pumilio* from Nicaragua**

The Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination and acknowledged the efforts made by Nicaragua to respond to the questions posed by the Animals Committee. The Animals Committee requested Nicaragua to provide an individual response to the questions concerning *O. pumilio* and to provide more information, in particular on the acquisition of the founder stock and the mortality rates within the facilities.

***Agalychnis callidryas* from Nicaragua**

The Animals Committee agreed to retain the species-country combination and acknowledged the efforts made by Nicaragua to respond to the questions posed by the Animals Committee. The Animals Committee requested Nicaragua to provide an individual response to the questions concerning *A. callidryas* and to provide more information, in particular on the acquisition of the founder stock and the mortality rates within the facilities.

***Cheilinus undulatus* from Indonesia**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the process.

***Hirudo medicinalis* from Azerbaijan**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the process.

***Batagur borneoensis* from the United States of America**

The Animals Committee agreed to remove the species-country combination from the process.

The Animals Committee noted that, in the Spanish version of document AC33 Com. 5, the first instance of *Agalychnis callidryas* de Nicaragua should refer to *Oophaga pumilio* de Nicaragua.

15.3 Review of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on Review of trade in specimens reported as produced in captivity [Decision 19.64]..... AC33 Doc. 15.3

The Secretariat presented a comparative analysis of the objectives and processes outlined in Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* and Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*, focusing on source codes R (ranch) and F (born in captivity); exceptional cases; short and long-term recommendations; timelines and deadlines; compliance and determination of whether recommendations are met; and differences in 'selection criteria'. The Secretariat proposed a minor amendment to paragraph 2 d) of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. COP19) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* to amend an incorrect reference to a paragraph in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18). The Secretariat concluded that there was no need to continue with the process of reviewing Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) and Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18).

The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) noted that there was potential for improvements of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19), but that those could wait considering the existing workload of the Animals Committee. The representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and the United States of America agreed with the conclusions of the Secretariat and noted that the two processes in the two resolutions were different. Germany also agreed and noted that the difference in selection criteria was logical since the scope of the two resolutions differ. As a consequence, no further streamlining was needed. Germany further informed the Committee that it was working on species specific factsheets for reptiles.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species suggested that the criteria for the selection of species for the review should consider whether or not a species is under Appendix I of CMS since take from the wild is not allowed for those species.

The Animals Committee:

- a) agreed to propose to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to amend paragraph 2 d) of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* as follows:
 - d) *Where the Animals Committee finds that a species/country combination raises concerns better dealt within the process of the Review of Significant Trade, it can introduce that combination into stage 2 of the process in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18), paragraph ~~1-d)-1.c)~~ as an exceptional case; and*
- b) agreed that Decisions 19.63 and 19.64 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20; and
- c) noted the comments made in plenary and invited the Secretariat to take those comments into consideration in its report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Regulation of trade

16. Non-detriment findings*
[Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) and Decision 19.133] PC27 Doc. 16/AC33 Doc. 16

The Secretariat provided an update on the publication of the preliminary CITES NDF guidance on the [CITES website](#) and indicated how the NDF guidance will be field tested. The Secretariat also proposed a way forward for a strategy and feedback mechanism from Parties and the wider CITES community to share experiences with using NDF guidance materials, and to review and update NDF materials as may be needed.

The PC representatives for Africa (Mr. Balama), Asia (Ms. Zeng), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) and North America (Mr. Boles), the AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), Japan and Wildlife Conservation Society welcomed the organization of the NDF workshop in December 2023 and the publication of the *NDF Guidance*. The in-person workshop was a success that allowed practical discussions between Parties and useful exchanges based on case studies. The PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) announced that Asia will organize NDF workshops in their region, while the PC representative for Africa (Mr. Balama) called for greater capacity-building.

The PC representative for North America supported the draft decisions on a feedback mechanism to review and update NDF Guidance materials in Annex 4 to the document, but not the draft decision on the interpretation of Article III, paragraph 3 a) on Appendix-I imports in Annex 3, noting that a separate decision on this issue was not necessary. This was seconded by the AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that proposed some edits to draft decision 20.AA in Annex 4 and the United States of America. The PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) and China originally supported retaining the draft decision on Appendix-I imports in Annex 3 but later agreed that such feedback would be gathered through the existing feedback mechanism proposed in Annex 4.

The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), echoed by Wildlife Conservation Society, suggested that as part of future work further elaboration of the role of the species in their ecosystem should be considered. Japan requested clarification relating to the inclusion of the “change in genetic structure or variability of the population” in section 6.1.2 of module 1 of the *NDF Guidance*. The AC Chair welcomed comments and encouraged participants to submit those comments as part of the proposed feedback mechanism. Japan further noted that the *NDF Guidance* is not legally binding, is flexible and can be adapted to national circumstances.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) noted the progress of the CITES NDF project and the publication of the preliminary CITES NDF guidance on the CITES website;
- b) agreed that Decisions 19.132 to 19.134 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

- d) agreed the draft decisions contained in Annex 4 to document PC27 Doc. 16/AC33 Doc. 16 on a strategy and feedback mechanism to review and update NDF guidance materials and amended by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA *The Secretariat shall*

- a) *publish a Notification to the Parties inviting them to share:*
 - ~~i) feedback, including examples, as appropriate, on the use of the CITES Non-detriment finding (NDF) guidance with the Secretariat, preferably through the regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees; and~~
 - ~~ii) examples with the Secretariat and / or regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees of how the NDF guidance has been used;~~
- b) *taking into consideration the information received through the Notification as well as the experience gained through the field-testing of the guidance, prepare recommendations for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees regarding:*
 - i) *possible amendments of the CITES NDF guidance, as appropriate; and*
 - ii) *possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings, to establish a regular mechanism for the Animals and Plants Committees to identify, review and agree updates to the CITES NDF guidance; and*
- c) *subject to external funding, prepare draft amendments to the NDF guidance based on advice received from the Animals and Plants Committees and submit the proposed amendments for consideration by the Committees.*

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

20.BB *The Animals and Plants Committees shall:*

- a) *consider the recommendations submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA;*
- b) *advise the Secretariat on amendments to the CITES NDF guidance, as appropriate; and*
- c) *if necessary and as appropriate, propose to the Conference of the Parties amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings to establish a regular mechanism for the Animals and Plants Committees to identify, review and agree updates to the CITES NDF guidance; and*
- d) *report to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

17. Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction [Decision 19.137] AC33 Doc. 17

The Secretariat presented the background information (see Annexes 1 and 2) and the outcomes (paragraph 16 and Annexes 3 and 4) of the technical workshop on *Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction* it organized from 25 to 26 April 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition to the recommendations in paragraph 16, Annex 3 contained observations made by certain Parties and observer organizations during the technical workshop. Annex 4 contained a compilation of the implementation challenges around taking of specimens from areas beyond national jurisdiction identified during the workshop.

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz), Japan, Senegal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America supported the recommendations in paragraph 16.

The representative for Oceania proposed to replace 'international scientific authorities' with 'international experts' in paragraph 16 c), which the United States and the United Kingdom did not support since that language came from Article IV, paragraph 7, of the Convention.

Argentina reminded the Committee that not all CITES Parties are part of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and they therefore have a limited mandate to the management of fleets and fishing activities and resources and are a limited regulatory regime. NDFs therefore cannot be carried out by RFMOs and should be made by CITES Parties. Argentina further recalled that it had not ratified the Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

The Animals Committee agreed to submit the recommendations in paragraph 16 of document AC33 Doc. 17 for consideration by the Standing Committee and noted the observations of the workshop in Annex 3 to document AC33 Doc. 17.

18. Guidance on non-detriment findings for trade in leopard (*Panthera pardus*) hunting trophies [Decision 18.168 (Rev. CoP19)] AC33 Doc. 18

The Secretariat informed the Committee that it had organized an online meeting on 20 and 21 June 2024 for Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) to exchange information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining that such quotas are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. On 29 June 2024, the Secretariat posted an addendum following the 20 June 2024 online workshop. Parties in attendance at the online meeting agreed that further guidance on making NDFs for leopards was not needed. Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) agreed that existing information (guidelines / protocols / training material) could be consolidated by the range States and shared with Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies with the aim to standardize processes and protocols, if feasible. An in-person workshop to discuss the aforementioned consolidated information and to do an NDF training course would facilitate information exchange, provide an opportunity to discuss potential standardization of processes, where feasible, and address some capacity-building needs.

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) reflected on the concern expressed during CoP19 that the quotas seem to be high, but welcomed the progress made by the range States. The representative for Oceania suggested that the in-person workshop called for in paragraph 7 c) of the addendum should be incorporated in the draft decisions and be opened to Parties that are range States but that do not have quotas established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19).

The United States of America disagreed with the proposed deletion of Decisions 18.166 and 18.168 (Rev. CoP19) because they considered that this work is of ongoing nature and that further NDF guidance was needed. The United States further noted that the CITES NDF Guidance as described in document PC27 Doc.15 / AC33 Doc. 16 had yet to be field tested and therefore it was unclear how guidance on non-detrimental findings for trade in leopard could be complete. The United States supported the revisions to Decision 18.169 (Rev. CoP19). This was echoed by Senegal, the World Wide Fund for Nature and ProWildlife, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Centre for Biological Diversity, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Fondation Franz Weber, Humane Society International, Panthera and Species Survival Network, that expressed their concern about the unfavourable conservation status of leopard populations.

Botswana welcomed the June 2024 workshop that allowed for a good exchange of ideas and information. Botswana announced it is undertaking a national leopard survey that will end in the first quarter of 2025 and the results will be shared with the Animals Committee. It furthermore drew the Committee's attention to information document AC33 Inf. 22 that contains Botswana's approved leopard management plan. Botswana supported the deletion of Decisions 18.166 and 18.168 (Rev. CoP19) and the recommendations in paragraph 10 of the addendum. The United Republic of Tanzania, as the range State with the highest population of leopards and also the highest quota, agreed with the deletion of Decisions 18.166 and 18.168 (Rev. CoP19), noting that no additional guidance was necessary since range States are already preparing NDFs. It noted that more capacity-building to help range States produce the population data necessary for NDFs would be welcome.

Conservation Force noted that guidance already existed and that they had provided funding with Dallas Safari Club to that end. Conservation Force and Wildlife Ranching South Africa NPC noted that range States

had robust monitoring systems, surveys and management plans and therefore are able to prepare robust NDFs.

The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and Canada noted that the use of guidance depends on the range States: there would be no use in producing additional guidance if the range States indicate that they have no use for it.

The Animals Committee:

- a) noted the observations and recommendations made by Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) that participated in the online workshop;
- b) agreed that Decisions 18.166 and 18.168 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) agreed to submit the revisions to Decision 18.169 (Rev. CoP19) and the new draft decision for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, amended as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

18.169 (Rev. CoP2019) *The Secretariat shall, subject to external resources and as part of the African Carnivore Initiative:*

- a) *encourage and support all Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) to exchange information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining that such quotas are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and*
- b) *support ~~in cooperation with range States, upon request, and relevant experts, to consolidate existing information relating to the management and monitoring of leopard and hunting quotas develop guidance that can assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings for trade in leopard hunting trophies in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19), facilitate the sharing e of the information with relevant Parties, preferably through an in-person workshop, draft guidance and bring any aspects relevant to the mandate of with the Animals Committee to its attention. for its review, make such guidance available on the CITES website, and encourage its use by relevant Parties.~~*

Directed to Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19)

20.AA *Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) to consolidate existing information relating to the management and monitoring of leopard and hunting quotas that assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings for trade in leopard hunting trophies in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) and to share this with leopard range States through the African Carnivore Initiative.*

19. Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species

19.1 Report of the intersessional working group*

[Resolution Conf. 19.4 and Decision 19.142] PC27 Doc. 17/AC33 Doc. 19.1 (Rev. 1)

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on *Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species*, presented an overview of all references to identification materials found in Resolutions and Decisions and drew the attention to an [Identification materials database](#) on the CITES website. The document presented a set of observations

in paragraph 11 and, *inter alia*, indicated that the scope and volume of materials presented a significant challenge to implement the mandate and a more focused approach is needed. The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) apologized for the lack of progress and underscored the importance of this work as a priority in the future. They proposed some amendments to the draft decisions in the document to incorporate the ongoing work led by China on the identification of on Appendix I animals as described in document AC33 Doc. 19.2

19.2 Identification Manual of animals listed in CITES Appendix I AC33 Doc. 19.2

The PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), speaking on behalf of China as the focal point of the *Expert Contact Group on the Identification Manual of Animals Listed in CITES Appendix I*, introduced document AC33 Doc. 19.2 and provided an update on the development of an Identification Manual of Animals Listed in CITES Appendix I (AIA-ID). The document presented the results of a gap analysis based on the inventory of ID materials available on the CITES Checklist and Species+ and the CITES listings of Appendix-I animals downloaded in September 2023. The document also outlined the ambition of a new "Identification manual of animals listed in CITES Appendix I" in paragraphs 15 to 18 with a focus on exploring innovative ways (including Artificial Intelligence) to provide sustainable access, integration, analysis and update mechanisms for relevant data and resources.

The PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), Germany and the United States of America (with some additional edits to draft decision 20.DD) supported the draft decisions in document PC27 Doc. 17/AC33 Doc. 19.1 (Rev. 1) as amended by the AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and supported the future establishment of two separate working groups on identification materials for plants and animals. The United States of America also noted concern that identification materials are not getting the priority deserved, especially as Parties have never deliberated on whether identification materials should be included as links into the Checklist of CITES Species. Germany drew the Committees' attention to information document AC33 Inf. 15: "Morphological identification guide to the Asian newt genera *Echinotriton*, *Laotriton*, *Paramesotriton* and *Tylototriton*."

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, speaking also on behalf of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria and the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia, welcomed the opportunity to mobilize zoos and aquariums to support this work, an opportunity also welcome by the PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) on behalf of Peru.

The Animals and Plants Committees agreed to propose to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that Decision 19.142 to 19.144 be replaced by the following draft decisions as amended in plenary:

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting Parties to:

- a) share information with the Secretariat relating to the materials used to identify specimens of CITES Appendix-II-listed species and Appendix-I-listed plants and any challenges experienced in accessing or using existing materials, including gaps in information;
- b) identify specific species in trade for which identification materials need to be developed and indicate if such materials are needed to cover parts and derivatives, as well as whole specimens; and
- c) share the information with the intersessional working groups on Identification materials to inform the selection of identification materials to be reviewed and the prioritization of new material to be developed.
- ~~b) continue collecting information on identification materials and share it through the CITES website and the CITES Virtual College; and~~
- ~~e) report on the progress and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.~~

Directed to the Animals ~~and Plants~~ Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat

20.BB The Animals ~~and Plants~~ Committees shall

- a) establish a ~~joint~~ working group on identification materials and undertake the following working group tasks, in consultation with the Secretariat:
 - i) review the information provided by Parties in response to the Notification to the Parties issued by the Secretariat referred to in Decision 20.AA ~~review selected identification materials and assess the need for their revision and improvement, taking into account the materials that are being developed or have already been developed by Parties and materials requested in Decisions or Resolutions; as well as the gap analysis for identification materials for Appendix I listed animal species presented in document AC33 Doc. 19.2 and its Annexes;~~
 - ii) prepare a proposed selection of identification materials to be reviewed and new material to be prioritized for development;
 - iii) review progress made with the initiative by China on the development of identification materials for Appendix-I listed animal species and provide input, as appropriate;
 - iv) consider ways to improve the applicability, accuracy and availability of identification materials on CITES-listed animal species; and
 - v) report on the progress with these activities at the meeting(s) of the Animals ~~and Plants~~ Committees.
- b) consider the report of the working group on identification material and make recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties relating to identification materials to be updated or developed.

Directed to the Plants Committee

20.CC The Plants Committee shall:

- a) establish a working group on identification materials and undertake the following working group tasks, in consultation with the Secretariat:
 - i) review the information provided by Parties in response to the Notification to the Parties issued by the Secretariat referred to in Decision 20.AA;
 - ii) prepare a proposed selection of identification materials to be reviewed and new material to be prioritized for development;
 - iii) consider ways to improve the applicability, accuracy and availability of identification materials on CITES-listed plant species; and
 - iv) report on the progress with these activities at the meeting(s) of the Plants Committee.
- b) consider the report of the working group on identification material and make recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties relating to identification materials to be updated or developed.

Directed to Parties

20.DD Parties are encouraged to

- a) support the efforts of the working group on identification materials by providing to the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance materials for specimens of CITES Appendix-II-listed species that used by Parties and particularly by enforcement and inspection officers, and information on any challenges experienced or gaps in the available

materials; to facilitate the review and development of materials to assist Parties in identification of specimens of CITES-listed species implementation of the Convention; and

b) participate, as appropriate, in the initiative by China on the development of identification materials for Appendix-I listed animal species; and

c) establish collaboration and communication between key experts/specialists at a national and regional level to assist the Committees in implementing Decisions 20.BB ii) and iv); 20 CC ii) and iii).

Directed to Parties

20.EE Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance to Parties to implement the recommendations made by the Animals and Plants Committees as appropriate.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) noted the progress made by the Expert Contact Group on the Identification Manual of Animals Listed in CITES Appendix I; and
- b) invited more Parties, especially French speaking countries and stakeholders, including zoos and aquariums to contribute to the initiative, as well as to make more ID materials available to experts through the Online library and the image database.

20. Transport of live specimens* [Decision 19.158] PC27 Doc. 19/AC33 Doc. 20

The Secretariat informed the Committees of the organization of an online workshop on transport of live specimens that took place on 21 March 2024. The aim of the workshop was to share best practices in transporting live animals and plants. The workshop focused on regulatory compliance; container requirements; contingency procedures at entry points; confiscation; handling of dead or injured specimens; temporary holding of wildlife before and/or after transport; high welfare detentions and biosecurity; and transports of flora. With regard to the accessibility of the IATA Live Animal Regulations (LAR) and IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations (PCR), the Secretariat provided an initial forecast to the International Air Transport Association regarding the number of accesses required by developing country Parties in order to initiate the negotiation on the discounted rate. The Secretariat noted that the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums should have been included in paragraph 4 of the document.

The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) stressed that compliance with CITES should not be limited by costly access to IATA Guidelines. This workstream is therefore not completed until this issue has been resolved with IATA. They supported the renewal of Decision 19.159.

Brazil and the United States of America highlighted the importance of this work and welcomed the results of the workshop. Brazil called for the collaboration of Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the repatriation of live animals to their country of origin.

Born Free Foundation, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA, Humane Society International, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, ProWildlife, Species Survival Network and Whale and Dolphin Conservation, urged that the IATA Live Animal Regulations should apply to any transport of CITES-listed live animals by air, including non-IATA carriers and that the welfare of transported live animals be prioritized to mitigate the risk of morbidity and mortality, and pathogen emergence and spillover.

The Animals Committee and the Plants Committee:

- a) noted document PC27 Doc. 19/ AC33 Doc. 20 and the comments made on the floor;
- b) agreed that Decision 19.158 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) requested the Secretariat to make the information available from the workshop available on the Secretariat's website

21. Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade..... AC33 Doc. 21

The Chair of the Animals Committee presented issues identified with Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) on *Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade*. These included reference to the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Groups review on the application of coded micro-chips that is not available anymore and an ISO standard (ISO 14223) for which several security measures have not been developed yet. In order to continue the work to update Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP17) taking into consideration changes in technologies and standards and the potential need to conduct an overall review of all Resolutions dealing with the issues of marking, draft decisions to undertake these reviews were proposed.

The representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki) and Germany supported the recommendations in the document suggested that this work should go beyond the use of coded-microchip implants and look at all kinds of markings. Bundesverband für fachgerechten Natur-, Tier- und Artenschutz e.V. commented that in Germany, microchips are not allowed for animals with less than 200 grams of body weight and 500 grams for turtles and tortoises and that photo identification should be valid for some species. Additionally, a combination of different marking systems like photo-ID for young animals and coded microchip implants for (pre)mature individuals in specimen-specific datasets might be useful to prevent fraudulent usage of coded microchips. The German Society for Herpetology agreed with the earlier speakers and proposed an edit to draft decision 20.AA to ensure that relevant experts be consulted. This was supported by the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr).

The European Pet Organisation, speaking on behalf of Ornamental Fish International, the Sustainable Users Network and the Pet Advocacy Network, supported the need for a review and, where necessary, amendment of the CITES resolutions related to the marking of live specimens. They inquired about a study commissioned by Germany on the suitability of transponders for different types of animals, to which Germany responded that work had not yet started.

The Animals Committee agreed to propose the following draft decisions to the Standing Committee for consideration at its 78th meeting:

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA *The Secretariat shall,*

- a) *prepare an overview of all currently valid Resolutions dealing with the issue of marking; and*
- b) *in collaboration with the ISO Secretariat and relevant experts, develop guidance on the various issues in relation to marking as outlined in Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) and document AC33 Doc. 21.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB *The Animals Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the overview and draft guidance developed by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA and determine whether Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev CoP17) and other relevant Resolutions should be amended or if a new Resolution or other technical guidance on marking techniques and standards is required, and*
- b) *submit its recommendations, including possible amendments to existing Resolutions or a new draft resolution to the Standing Committee for its consideration.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the overview and draft guidance developed by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA and the recommendations from the Animals Committee under Decision 20.BB; and*
- b) *submit the results of this work along with its own recommendations for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting (CoP21).*

22. Specimens produced through biotechnology* [Decision 19.162]..... No document

The Secretariat, on behalf of Cuba, Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on specimens produced through biotechnology, provided an oral update on the implementation of Decisions 19.161 to 19.163. Cuba acknowledged the delay in fulfilling the mandate of the working group but confirmed that it will remain in contact with the members of the working group to continue the work. With respect to Decision 19.163, the Secretariat had not secured the necessary funding (estimated USD 80,000) to organize a meeting to facilitate the discussions mentioned in Decision 19.161. Cuba will propose to the working group the organization of an online meeting to continue its work and report the results to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Animals and Plants Committees noted the oral update by the Secretariat, on behalf of Cuba, Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on specimens produced through biotechnology.

23. Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' [Decision 19.165]..... AC33 Doc. 23

The Secretariat summarized the responses and feedback received on the Parties' experience with using the [Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it](#), 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](#) and the [Non-binding best practice guidance on how to determine whether "the trade would promote in situ conservation"](#). Only two responses had been received from the following Parties: New Zealand and Zimbabwe. The Secretariat noted that the low number of responses may be due to the limited period of time for Parties to have tested the guidance material since it was made available. It was noted from the trade database that there has been very little trade in live African elephants or southern white rhinoceros since CoP19. Paragraphs 13 to 21 outlined possible improvements and further clarifications as suggested by the two Parties. The Secretariat considered that no amendments to the guidance are required at this point in time.

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), echoed by Australia, Germany, Israel, Kenya, New Zealand, Senegal and the United States of America, considered it was premature to propose for deletion Decisions 19.164 and 19.165 since not enough responses had been received. They proposed the renewal of the Decisions.

The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) asked whether the involvement of the Animals Committee was necessary when such limited trade seems to happen. The United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe that had made a reservation to the amendment to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* supported the proposed deletion of the Decisions, noting that it was unlikely that any further information would be collected. Zimbabwe indicated that the guidance will never be perfect and that, as a Party that had in fact used the guidance, it had been useful.

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), Australia and Germany raised several questions that may not be accurately covered in the guidance. Does 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' requirements apply to transit countries for quarantine purposes? Shouldn't the guidance also encourage the importing Parties to ask for support, views and advice from the Management and Scientific Authorities of exporting Parties? Does the guidance also apply to re-exports, especially in cases where both exporter and importer are non-range States? Does the footnote in paragraph 1 of the Resolution also apply to paragraph 2?

Animal Welfare Institute, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Humane Society International, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, ProWildlife and Species Survival Network, also supported the renewal of the Decisions and called for more work on taxon specific guidance that should focus, as already mentioned by Senegal, on how to ensure that conservation benefits actually happen following the trade and how facilities meet the standards throughout the life of the animals.

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, speaking also on behalf of the Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, the Zoological Society of London and the Wildlife Conservation Society, agreed with the conclusions in paragraph 21 of the document that no amendments were necessary at this time.

The Animals Committee requested its Chair to include in its report to the Standing Committee the matters raised by the representative of Oceania, Australia and Germany relating to transit / re-exports, the need for consultation with the Management and Scientific Authorities of exporting countries and on the possible need for clarification of the footnote in paragraph 1 in relation to provisions in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Resolution Conf.11.20 (Rev. CoP18).

The Animals Committee agreed to propose to the Standing Committee the renewal of Decisions 19.164 to 19.166 for onward submission to the Conference of the Parties.

24. Trade in stony corals (Scleractinia spp.)..... AC33 Doc. 24

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora) thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document on behalf of the co-chairs of the working group on *Trade in stony corals* and proposed the establishment of an in-session working group since the working group has not been able to analyse the detailed responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/081 (see Annex 3 to document AC33 Doc. 24) in order to implement its mandate.

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the European Pet Organisation and Ornamental Fish International supported the establishment of an in-session working group.

The European Pet Organisation and Ornamental Fish International supported amending Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Trade in stony corals*. Australia supported the edits to the reporting guidelines and proposed further edits to Annex 2 to document AC33 Doc. 24. The United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre cautioned against some of the proposed edits to the reporting guidelines since this would have an impact on other trade term codes and the codes used in previous reports.

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) informed the Committee that it would communicate to the in-session working group a submission from Pro Vision Reef that was not able to attend the present meeting but was a member of the intersessional working group.

The Animals Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on trade in stony corals with the mandate to, taking into consideration the comments made in plenary,

- a) consider the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) and sections 3 and 6 a) of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and section 4 a) of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports*;
- b) provide advice on the conversion factors used to analyse trade in corals for the Review of Significant Trade process; and
- c) report its recommendations to the Committee

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora)

Parties: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zimbabwe;

IGOs and NGOs: Cartagena Convention, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Centre for Biological Diversity, European Pet Organisation, Fondation Franz Weber, Ornamental Fish International, Pet Advocacy Network, Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia

Later in the meeting, the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora) introduced document AC33 Com. 1. In the Annex to the draft resolution, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland proposed to keep the definition of coral rock and to consistently use “coral skeleton fragments” throughout the resolution. This was supported by the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and

New Zealand, Australia, Portugal, the United States of America and the European Pet Organisation agreed that further work was needed, especially on reporting units, enforcement and identification issues.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in document AC33 Com. 1 amended as follows:

The Animals Committee agreed to submit for the consideration of the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting the following:

- i) amendments to Resolution Conf 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Trade in stony corals* as set out in Annex 2 to the present summary record and as amended by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- ii) amendments to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report* amended as follows:

In section 3 “**Regarding stony corals**” of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, add a final paragraph as follows:

Live corals should be reported as ‘LIV’ with the unit ‘number of specimens’. Coral rock (as live rock) and dead corals should be reported using the trade term code ‘COR’ with the unit kilograms (kg). Coral rock (as substrate) should be reported as ‘COR’ with the unit ‘number of specimens’.

In section 6a) of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, and section 4 a) of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report*, update the explanations of ‘live’ and ‘corals (raw)’ in the terminology table:

Description	Trade term code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
Live	LIV	no.	kg	live animals and plants, excluding live fingerling fish – see FIG. <u>NB: live stony corals should be recorded as ‘number of specimens’; all coral rock (live rock and substrate) should be reported as ‘COR’.</u>
coral (raw)	COR	no. <u>kg (for live rock and dead corals); no. (for substrate)</u>	kg	raw or unworked coral and coral rock (also live rock and substrate) [as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15)]. Coral rock (live rock and substrate) should be recorded as ‘Scleractinia spp.’ NB: the trade should be recorded by number of pieces only if the coral specimens are transported in water. <u>Live rock (transported moist-in-boxes) and dead corals should be reported in kg; coral substrate should be reported as number of pieces (since these are transported in water as the substrate to which non-CITES corals are attached).</u>

The Animals Committee, in its submission to the Standing Committee, noted that, should the amendments to Resolution Conf 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Trade in stony corals* to include the word “skeleton” before fragments to read “coral skeleton fragments” in the Annex to the Resolution be accepted, this would require consequential amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives*, in the sixth preambular paragraph and in paragraph 3 a).

The Animals Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting:

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.177 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals Committee shall:*

- ~~a) taking into account document CoP19 Doc. 46 and its Annex, provide advice on possible amendments to Resolution Conf 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Trade in stony corals, in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts, and report with recommendations to the Standing Committee;~~
- a) *taking into account the progress made at AC33, make further recommendations, as necessary, to revise the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report, to ensure that they provide sufficient clarity on the use of appropriate terms and units for trade in stony corals; and*
- b) *consider the information in the Annex to document AC33 Doc.24 and in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts, provide advice on the conversion factors used to analyse trade in corals for the CITES Review of Significant Trade process and report to the 21st^{20th} meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.178 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall:*

- ~~a) review any proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Trade in stony corals from the Animals Committee; and~~
- ~~b) review any recommendations from the Animals Committee with regard to Decision 19.177 (Rev. CoP20), paragraph a), and make its own recommendations, as appropriate.~~

Exemptions and special trade provisions

25. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source*
[Decision 19.180]..... PC27 Doc. 21/AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1)

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz), as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on the *Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source*, presented the results of its intersessional work to support the Standing Committee's intersessional working group by identifying the conservation risks associated with non-wild trade, any accompanying mitigating actions and the assumptions on which those mitigating actions are based. The co-chair of the working group indicated that, in general, the consensus of the working group leaned towards a potentially lower conservation risk for the wild populations associated with trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source when robust systems and practices are in place, but with some caution against generalizing this across all species and circumstances. While there are successful examples of reduced conservation risks, challenges such as legal origin of parental stock, potential laundering, stock supplementation, inadequate regulatory frameworks, and varying impacts depending on the species and local conditions, make it necessary to evaluate each case individually.

There can be benefits to trading in non-wild specimens, such as reduced pressure on wild populations and support for species' recovery, function as reservoir or for species reintroduction, but the actual impacts vary widely depending on the specific circumstances and management practices. Enhancing conservation benefits and incentives for the species in their natural habitat from *ex-situ* captive breeding and artificial propagation were highlighted, especially in countries outside of the species' natural distribution range. Also, more parity in the treatment of animals and plants is needed.

The document presented the consolidated summaries of the responses to the questions shared with the working group and through Notification to the Parties No. 2024/021 in Annex 1 and the scientific aspects/advice to be considered by the Standing Committee intersessional working group in Annex 2.

India announced that it had stricter domestic measures following the amendment of its Wildlife Protection Act that prohibits the removal of wildlife from protected areas. They also pointed out that Annex 2 was not

presented as a set of recommendations, to which Canada, as co-Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on the issue, explained that the scientific advice in this Annex would then feed into the work of the Standing Committee intersessional working group.

China and India noted that trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source within a robust regulatory system could reduce pressure on wild populations and that comments from observer organizations indicating that captive-breeding could undermine conservation may not be substantiated.

Ornamental Fish International, also on behalf of the European Pet Organisation, agreed with the recommendations and called for future work on the marking requirements for small animals and on legal acquisition findings for parental stocks of captive-breeding operations.

Whale and Dolphin Conservation, echoed by Born Free Foundation, also agreed with the recommendations and proposed that species-specific consideration be taken into account when non-wild trade is examined, especially for cetaceans that are known not to breed well in captivity.

Having considered the information provided in document PC27 Doc. 21/AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1) and its Annexes, the Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) agreed to provide the scientific advice contained in Annex 2 to document PC27 Doc. 21/ AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1) to the Standing Committee through its intersessional working group on the *Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source*; and
- b) agreed that Decision 19.180 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

26. Implementation of paragraph 5 j) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes..... AC33 Doc. 26

The Secretariat identified seven conservation strategies mentioned by Parties in their answer to question 15 of the sample application form in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*: “Describe the strategies used or activities conducted by the breeding operation to contribute to the conservation of wild population(s) of the species.” The main conservation strategy used is “Reduction of the pressure on wild populations”, followed by “Financial contribution to a conservation fund” and “Potential reintroduction into the wild”, in particular for the families Crocodylidae and Pangasidae. The Secretariat also reflected on existing guidance that may be relevant to the discussion.

The representatives for Asia (Mr. Hamidy) and for Europe (Mr. Benyr) considered that the information provided by the Secretariat provided enough guidance for Parties to implement paragraph 5 j) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15). Germany, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Bundesverband für fachgerechten Natur-, Tier- und Artenschutz e.V. and German Society for Herpetology echoed this assessment, noting that the judgment is highly case-specific so it would be extremely challenging to draft guidance that would apply to all scenarios. Germany proposed an edit to paragraph 5 j) to allow for a role for the Scientific Authority.

The acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz) welcomed the compilation of this information as a good starting point for discussion that should be transmitted to the Standing Committee. Mexico noted that none of the seven strategies established a direct link to the conservation of wild populations and regretted that there is not enough information to know whether the strategies outlined have indeed been implemented and even more important, if they are measurable and if there are suitable indicators to do so. The United Kingdom recalled that this is a register of facilities trading for commercial purposes and therefore conservation benefits are ancillary.

Brazil called for more guidance catered to the need of the species. The Species Survival Network expressed concerns about captive-breeding of Psittacidae, noting that there had been no evaluation of how breeders help contribute alleviate pressure on wild populations.

The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to note the comments and the general support for the recommendation in paragraph 33 a) of document AC33 Doc. 26. The Animals Committee further noted support for the following draft amendment to paragraph 5 j) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on

Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes to be submitted to the Standing Committee for its consideration:

- j) the Management Authority, in collaboration with the Scientific Authority, shall satisfy itself that the captive-breeding operation will make a continuing meaningful contribution according to the conservation needs of the species concerned;

27. Conservation aspects of captive-breeding of Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)..... AC33 Doc. 27

The Secretariat proposed that the five steps to evaluate the appropriateness of *ex situ* management as part of a comprehensive species conservation strategy as outlined by the IUCN SSC [Guidelines on the use of ex situ management for species conservation](#) provides sufficient guidance that could assist Parties in evaluating the conservation aspects of tiger captive breeding facilities as called for by the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting.

The representatives for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki) and for Europe (Mr. Benyr), China, India, the United States of America, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, speaking also on behalf of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia, as well as Wildlife Conservation Society, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Humane Society International, Panthera, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC and the World Wide Fund for Nature, agreed that the IUCN guidelines provide guidance to Parties on how to evaluate the conservation aspects of tiger captive breeding facilities since they are useful, consistent and widely accepted.

The United States of America drew the Committee's attention to the *IUCN Guidelines for determining when and how ex situ management should be used in species conservation (2016)* available on the CITES website (on the *Appropriate and acceptable destinations* webpage) and underscored the need to connect the conservation aspects back to the species in the wild.

The representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki) and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, speaking also on behalf of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia, noted that additional species-specific guidance for tigers would be welcome. Wildlife Conservation Society, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Humane Society International, Panthera, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC and the World Wide Fund for Nature, also considered the IUCN guidelines as just a starting point that would not be enough for tigers.

The Animals Committee agreed that the IUCN SSC [Guidelines on the use of ex situ management for species conservation](#) provide guidance to Parties on how to evaluate the conservation aspects of tiger captive breeding facilities, noting the mention of additional guidelines in the discussion in plenary.

Species conservation and trade

28. Assessment of Appendix-I listed species*

28.1 Report of the Secretariat [Decision 19.184]..... PC27 Doc. 23.1/AC33 Doc. 28.1

The Secretariat presented the results of the detailed assessments on the 10 species listed in paragraph 15 of document CoP19 Doc. 11. The Secretariat shared the detailed assessments (available as an Annex to document PC27 Doc. 23.1/AC33 Doc. 28.1) and a questionnaire requesting further information with the range States or territories of the species concerned. For each species, the Secretariat drafted recommendations, which were expanded on by the range States. The full list of recommendations can be found in each detailed assessment in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 23.1/AC33 Doc. 28.1. The recommendations included species specific actions, but the recurring themes included the following: a) demand reduction for illegal specimens; b) combatting illegal wildlife trade; and c) further research on biology of the species to inform conservation actions. The Secretariat highlighted the need to clarify the overall aim and the added value of the process given the overlap between this process with existing processes and activities outlined in CITES Resolutions, such as the Periodic Review and the Review of trade in animals reported as produced in captivity.

28.2 Report of the intersessional working group

[Decision 19.185] PC27 Doc. 23.2/AC33 Doc. 28.2

The AC representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy), as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on the *Assessment of Appendix-I listed species*, presented the outcomes of their intersessional work and reflected on the methodology and the criteria for carrying out an assessment of species listed in Appendix I. In paragraph 11, the document identified elements that would require further consideration, particularly in terms of whether and how certain criteria should be incorporated into the rapid assessment.

Before opening the floor, the AC Chair briefly reflected on the process noted that CITES already had numerous processes and mechanisms that could be used to address any concerns that may arise with respect to international trade in Appendix-I listed species, including the Periodic Review and that it was not clear what Parties would like to achieve through this process. The AC Chair therefore requested the members of the Scientific Committees to provide guidance on the way forward with this process. This assessment was shared by the AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), Canada, Germany, India, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria.

Mexico pointed out that the methodology proposed by Mexico was not implemented properly and that the ten species selected for analysis were not extreme examples as per the methodology used by Mexico but rather intermediate choices. Mexico uses its methodology successfully to identify species to be assessed for possible listing, transferred between Appendices or that require specific actions at the national level. Mexico is of the view that standardized actions could have been proposed for species grouped in specific quadrants and overall could be a useful tool for Parties. Since the lack of satisfactory results was due to the inadequate application of the methodology in the selection of the species, Mexico suggested to repeat the evaluations with species that better represent the quadrants.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) suggested that some of the 10 species assessed could be considered as part of the Periodic Review. Germany, the United Kingdom and the World Wide Fund for Nature noted that the main threats that had been identified in the assessment were often outside of CITES mandate, such as habitat loss. Further work could be done on demand reduction, illegal trade and further research on the biology of the species, but the efforts would probably not be proportionate with the consideration benefits. India provided an update on three fauna species in paragraph 6 of document PC27 Doc. 23.1/AC33 Doc. 28.1 and opined that resolutions such as Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II* and Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* were sufficient to address any issues that may arise.

The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) explained that, in relation paragraph 10 b) of document PC27 Doc. 23.2/AC33 Doc. 28.2, EAZA does not track the laundering of animals.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) agreed that Decisions 19.184 and 19.185 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- b) noted the results of the detailed assessments conducted on 10 species and encouraged Parties concerned to note the recommendations in these assessments; and
- c) invited Mexico to make its methodology available through a Notification to the Parties for use by interested Parties.

29. Identifying information on species at risk of extinction

affected by international trade* [Decision 19.187] PC27 Doc. 24/AC33 Doc. 29

The AC Chair, as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on *Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade*, presented the general observations (paragraph 8) and draft recommendations (paragraph 9) of the intersessional working group. In paragraph 8, several members of the working group observed that, according to the Convention, Parties may propose amendments to Appendices I and II and therefore it is Parties who decide whether to select and propose species for inclusion into the Appendices of CITES. Most members considered that Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on

Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II provides good guidance for the preparation of listing proposals, but that capacity to identify species that may warrant CITES listing and capacity to draft listing proposals may still be lacking among Parties. The working group felt that the Scientific Committees should not proactively play a major role in assessing information concerning species at risk of extinction that might merit consideration under CITES. In paragraph 9, the working group proposed eight recommendations for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees.

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) invited the Secretariat to add a non-public section to the CITES webpage for non-CITES listed species so that Parties can include more sensitive information in that section and proposed edits to the draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 19.2 contained in paragraph 9 h). The edits to the draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 19.2 proposed by the AC representative for North America were not agreed by the Committees.

New Zealand agreed with the recommendations of the document but expressed concerns that documents of variable quality may be uploaded on the CITES website and thus constitute a reputational risk for CITES, even if a disclaimer is included. Checking and uploading documents on non-CITES listed species could represent a significant workload for the Secretariat. New Zealand preferred a more targeted approach focused on capacity-building. Conservation Force shared the overall concerns expressed by New Zealand. The World Wide Fund for Nature shared the concern about the quality of the documents to be uploaded on the portal. The AC Chair, echoed by Canada, indicated it would be the responsibility of the Party uploading the document to check if it had been peer-reviewed and those documents should come with a disclaimer. The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and TRAFFIC suggested using the IPBES four-box model for the qualitative communication of confidence in order to check the quality of the documents. Germany also agreed with the recommendations of the document and suggested that the portal include a search function by scientific name.

Israel proposed that the Secretariat maintain on the CITES website a list of species threatened by international trade and not included in the Appendices based on the methodology development by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and France argued against such an inclusion as it would pre-empt a decision by the Conference of the Parties. The AC Chair indicated that the working group had considered this issue and had decided not to limit itself to one methodology. A Party that is of the view that the information may be of use to Parties is of course welcome to share a list prepared by UNEP-WCMC with the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and Humane Society International asked whether copyright issues could limit the sharing of information on the portal, to which the AC Chair answered that it will bring this issue to the attention of the Standing Committee.

IWMC-World Conservation Trust cautioned against adding to the workload of the Secretariat by inviting the Secretariat to undertake tasks associated with non-CITES listed species.

The Animals and Plants Committees agreed to submit the recommendations in paragraph 9 of document PC27 Doc. 24/AC33 Doc. 29 as amended below for consideration by the Standing Committee through its intersessional working group on *Species at risk of extinction*.

- a) The pertinent section of the virtual college to be updated by the Secretariat and guidance material in relation to the preparation of listing proposals expanded.
- b) Subject to external funding, the Secretariat to reserve a dedicated restricted section (portal) on the CITES website to make material in relation to analysis and studies on species not yet listed in the Appendices which might merit such an inclusion available to Parties. The Secretariat should be invited to maintain and update the material with information of who provided the information and when it was updated. The Secretariat should furthermore be invited to assess the feasibility of providing a mechanism for Parties to upload material directly on the CITES website. This information portal should acknowledge that the content and quality of the uploaded information is the responsibility of the Parties that shared the information and that it remains the Parties' responsibility to do their own due diligence in evaluating the information provided.
- c) Material to be included on the CITES website should be submitted by Parties, by non-Party observers through Parties, and by UN and its specialized agencies through either a Party or the Secretariat and although there is a preference for peer-reviewed materials or publications, analysis established under

processes within CITES¹ (such as reports produced through the implementation of decisions adopted by the CoP: Asian Snakes, Amphibians, Marine ornamental fishes, Songbirds etc.), government reports or reports from other official bodies, information from non-peer reviewed sources, such as trade data, population studies and scientific publications can also be submitted along with a disclaimer indicating that the information has not been peer-reviewed and identifying the degree of reliability and accuracy of the information. Parties are encouraged to consider the IPBES four-box model for the qualitative communication of confidence to evaluate the reliability and accuracy of the information provided.

- d) Any Party needing information or support with the preparation of a CITES listing proposal may request the Secretariat to issue a notification on its behalf to request information and support with the preparation of a CITES listing proposal on a particular taxon.
- e) Noting that there are several methodologies that are used for identifying and / or selecting species at risk of extinction that might merit consideration to be included in the CITES Appendices, any methodology submitted to the Secretariat by a Party, a non-Party observer through a Party, or by the UN and its specialized agencies through either a Party or the Secretariat, will be made available for Parties to consider through the dedicated portal on the CITES website.
- f) The Scientific Committees should, upon request by Parties, provide advice related to scientific, technical and nomenclatural aspects of proposals to amend the Appendices as provided for in the current ToR of the Scientific Committees (see Annex II, 2 e) of Resolution Conf. 18.2 on the *Establishment of Committees*. Parties could also approach the regional representatives for their region to assist in searching for information. Parties that are considering the submission of a proposal to amend the Appendices, in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, are urged in paragraph 5 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* to consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee as early as possible in advance of submitting the proposal.
- g) Further ways to provide capacity and support to Parties to identify species warranting CITES listing and to develop listing proposals could be explored by the Standing Committee working group to ensure Parties receive the support they need without significantly impacting the workload of the Scientific Committees.
- h) As for a possible mechanism under Resolution Conf.19.2 on *Capacity building*, the following amendment to Resolution Conf. 19.2 was proposed: Include a new subparagraph (d) under paragraph 2 Resolution Conf. 19.2 as follows (new text underlined)

2. INVITES Parties to:

- d) upload to and update the CITES website, either directly or through the Secretariat, with relevant studies, analyses, other sources and methods to identify species that are or may be affected by international trade, are at risk of extinction and are either not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation.

The Animals and Plants Committees agreed that Decision 19.187 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

30. Aquatic species listed in the Appendices [Decision 19.190] AC33 Doc. 30

The Secretariat presented the background information and the outcomes of the technical workshop on *Aquatic species listed in the CITES Appendices* that took place from 23 to 24 April 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition to the recommendations in paragraph 10 of document AC33 Doc. 30, paragraph 12 reflected the observations made by certain Parties and observer organizations during the workshop. Annex 2 contained the collation of work done on the interpretation of the criteria that has been considered by CoP as it relates to the application of criteria Annex 2a criterion B referred to in paragraph 10 d). The representative for Oceania proposed a draft decision directing the Secretariat to include guidance on the footnote as part of its capacity-building work. This was not supported as a draft decision.

¹ The co-chairs noted that these CITES processes refer to processes implemented based on decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

The acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz), the representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), Japan, the Netherlands, Panama, Senegal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed a successful workshop. The acting representative for North America, the representative for Oceania, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom agreed that the footnote provided sufficient clarity and flexibility and that there was no need for further guidance.

Senegal, echoed by Panama, continued to express concern about the interpretation of the footnote but noted that the participants in the workshop had agreed not to reopen the issue. They invited the Secretariat to include document CoP15 Doc. 63 in the summary in Annex 2.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in paragraph 10 a) through c) of document AC33 Doc. 30 as follows:

- a) The Animals Committee noted the background document prepared by the Secretariat *Variability of life history parameters and productivity in elasmobranchs and other commercially exploited aquatic species*.
- b) The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to consider including information on the application of footnote 2 to commercially exploited aquatic species when developing general capacity-building materials on Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*.
- c) The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to provide a collation of the work done on the interpretation of the criteria that has been considered by the CoP as it relates to application of criteria Annex 2a criterion B to the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and make it available on the CITES website.

The Animals Committee agreed that Decisions 19.189 and 19.190 have been implemented.

Terrestrial species

31. West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.) [Decision 19.195]..... AC33 Doc. 31

The Secretariat presented an update on the implementation of Decisions 19.192 to 19.194, including information relating to the [midterm implementation review](#) (MTIR) of the CMS Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP). The Secretariat noted that the number of trade transactions are declining over time and none of the three range States that submitted annual illegal trade reports reported seizures involving specimens of these vulture species. The Secretariat therefore proposed that more focused decisions may assist Parties, West African range States, the Secretariat and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to make progress in addressing the threats posed to vultures in West Africa linked to CITES implementation.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species noted that trade still occurred in CMS Appendix-I species and called for the implementation of the Action Plan. Humane Society International suggested that work focus on the broad effect of CITES and CMS measures across the range.

The Animals Committee agreed to submit the following revised decisions to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee for submission to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 20th meeting.

Text proposed to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~ and proposed new text is underlined.

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)

19.192 (Rev. CoP20) *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 Trionoceps 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;~~

- ~~ba)~~ 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;
- eb) 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;
- ec) 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;
- ed) ~~prioritize implementation of the~~ ~~identify any trade-related issues associated with the implementation of the~~ West Africa Vulture Conservation Action Plan, the regional implementation plan of the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);
- fe) 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;
- gf) 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
- hg) ~~provide information report to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision well in advance of the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee to assist it in its reporting to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.~~

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

19.193 (Rev. CoP20) 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 West Africa Vulture Conservation Action Plan, the regional implementation plan of the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), taking into consideration the findings of the Midterm implementation review of the MsAP; 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; and*
- c) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision well in advance of the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee to assist it in its reporting to the Committees.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.194 (Rev. CoP20) 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;~~
- ~~ba) 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 Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029 subject to external funding, and share information based on the work of the Animals Committee;~~
- ~~db) subject to external funding and upon request from Parties, liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) to 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 West Africa Vulture Conservation Action Plan 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~~
- ~~fc) collect information from West African vulture range States on their implementation of Decision 19.192 (Rev. CoP20), and report as appropriate this and other information on the implementation of Decisions 19.192 (Rev. CoP20) to 19.194 (Rev. CoP20), paragraphs a), b), c), d) and e) to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, at their first regular meetings following the 49²⁰th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with conclusions and recommendations for their consideration.~~

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.195 (Rev. CoP20) The Animals Committee shall:

- ~~a) encourage West African range States to undertake a Periodic Review of the vulture species referred to in Decision 19.192 pursuant to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) 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;~~

- ~~ea) 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;~~
- ~~eb) consider the reports and recommendations of the Secretariat submitted in accordance with Decision 19.194 (Rev. CoP20), paragraph e); and~~
- ~~ec) make recommendations as appropriate for consideration by range States, Parties, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.~~

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.196 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall review the implementation of Decisions 19.192 (Rev. CoP20) to 19.195 (Rev. CoP20) 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 21st~~0th~~ meeting.*

32. Conservation of amphibians (Amphibia spp.) [Decision 19.198]..... AC33 Doc. 32

The Secretariat presented the background information and the outcomes of the *Online workshops on conservation of amphibians (Amphibia spp.)* that took place from 27 to 28 November 2023 and from 30 November to 1 December 2023 to consider the conservation of amphibian taxa involved in international trade. The Secretariat also presented a [revised Species Prioritization Matrix](#), in the form of an Excel workbook contained in the Annex to document AC33 Doc. 32. The workshops proposed that Parties be invited to implement biosecurity measures to avoid the spread of pathogens and examined current enforcement efforts to deter and detect illegal and unreported trade and identify additional actions needed. Noting the variety in units of measure used to record amphibian specimens in trade, the workshops concluded that there is a need to compile information on conversion factors between number and live weight of traded amphibians. In paragraph 25, concerning trade terms, issues were noted in two types of trade in particular: (i) high volume trade for food, where products in trade may be referred to as legs (LEG), meat (MEA) or live animals (LIV), and (ii) trade in scientific specimens is described either as specimen (SPE), body (BOD) or live animals (LIV).

The United States of America, echoed by the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Panama, Portugal, supported the recommendations in the document, with an edit by the United States to add the issue of biosecurity protocols to draft decision 20.AA that was supported by Togo. China raised concerns about draft decision 20.AA that invites Parties to collect information and to report to the Secretariat on both CITES and non-CITES listed species. They highlighted that a Party may not have the legal requirements enabling them to provide such information and that this increased the reporting burden of Parties for non-CITES listed species. This concern was echoed by Canada, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand and IWMC-World Conservation Trust.

As a compromise solution, the United States proposed that the collection of information should place a particular emphasis on CITES-listed species and the work directed to the Secretariat in draft decision 20.BB be focused on CITES-listed species. This compromise solution was broadly supported. Canada indicated that it would be important for the Conference of the Parties to consider all the draft decisions proposed for adoption and, at its 20th meeting, prioritize work on CITES-listed species based on the limited resources of the Committees and the Secretariat.

The representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki), echoed by Costa Rica, Portugal and ProWildlife, suggested that the consideration of the potential invasiveness of amphibians be added as a conclusion of the workshops, while the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori) and Costa Rica underscored the need for capacity-building and awareness-raising for demand reduction for amphibians.

The United States of America and Germany considered that the current reporting guidelines were adequate, did not need to be amended and thus did not support the recommendation in paragraph 34 b).

The German Society for Herpetology informed that it had prepared four volumes of practice guidelines for the captive-breeding of amphibians that it would be happy to provide to Parties.

ProWildlife, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Centre for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Fondation Franz Weber, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network and Wildlife Conservation Society, emphasized the need to look at trade in non-CITES listed species, such as the trade in frog legs into the European Union. TRAFFIC and the International Union for Conservation of Nature called for the submission of proposals to include priority amphibian species threatened by international trade to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Animals Committee noted the concerns raised about the potential invasiveness of some amphibian species in trade and the need for demand reduction strategies in relation to illegal trade in amphibians.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations contained in paragraph 29 of document AC33 Doc. 32 as amended by the Secretariat in paragraph 32 and shown below:

The Animals Committee:

- a) encouraged Parties to share non-detriment findings for CITES-listed amphibian species for inclusion on the CITES website;
- b) invited Parties to implement biosecurity recommendations to avoid spread of pathogens, such as:
 - i) diagnostic testing upon import/export ;
 - ii) maintaining closed system amphibian breeding operations;
 - iii) packing animals in lower densities to reduce pathogen transmission;
 - iv) disinfection of shipping materials to prevent spreading infectious material through water (to be treated before disposal), cartons, containers and substrates;
- c) encouraged Parties developing a possible listing proposal under Resolution Conf 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) to take note of Resolution Conf 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on Standard nomenclature and to contact the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee in the early drafting stage to confirm the appropriate use of CITES-adopted amphibian nomenclature in the proposal;
- d) invited Parties to consider Appendix-III listings for species that meet the criteria set out in Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III, and in consultation with other range States, as a possible way of generating more awareness of, and data on, trade in nationally protected species;
- e) encouraged Parties to record trade in amphibians to the level of individual species involved in a shipment; and
- f) encouraged Parties to indicate the life stage or size of animals being traded as part of the trade data, if feasible, to help strengthen traceability and confidence that the animals in trade are generally coming from the sources described.

The Animals Committee noted that, in the context of the discussions on Decision 19.186 to 19.188 on *Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade* ([PC27 Doc. 24 / AC33 Doc. 29](#)), the Animals and Plants Committees agreed during their joint session to submit to the Standing Committee recommendations relating to, among others, making analyses and studies on species available to Parties through the CITES website, updates to the pertinent section of the Virtual College and expansion of the guidance material for the preparation of listing proposals.

The Animals Committee agreed to include any identification materials for amphibians, particularly those for use by customs and law enforcement officers, in view of the sensitivity of amphibians to being handled and the way in which they are packaged, in the mandate of the proposed Animals Committee working group on identification materials, should it be established after CoP20.

The Animals Committee agreed to propose the following draft decisions to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20):

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are invited to:

- a) collect information on the priority species identified in the [revised species prioritization matrix](#) for amphibians, with a particular emphasis on CITES-listed species, concerning:
 - i) national legislation protecting those species, including legislation covering the protection of amphibian habitats;
 - ii) current levels of trade;
 - iii) harvesting levels of amphibians subject to high volumes of international trade; and
 - iv) captive breeding; and
- b) provide the information to the Secretariat, as appropriate; and
- c) implement biosecurity protocols, including those identified in paragraph 29 b) of document AC33 Doc. 32.

Directed to the Secretariat, in close consultation with the Animals Committee and relevant experts

20.BB Taking into account document AC33 Doc. 32, the Secretariat shall, subject to availability of external funding, and in close consultation with the Animals Committee and relevant experts,

- a) update [the revised species prioritization matrix](#) with information on CITES-listed species from Parties under Decision 20.AA and make this information available to Parties;
- b) develop a table of conversion factors for CITES-listed amphibian specimens in trade;
- c) identify existing identification materials for amphibians, particularly those for use by customs and law enforcement officers, in view of the sensitivity of amphibians to being handled and the way in which they are packaged; and
- d) report its findings, with draft recommendations to the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.CC The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider the report submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 20.BB; and
- b) make recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Animals Committee agreed that Decisions 19.197 and 19.198 can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

The Animals Committee agreed that the Chair of the Animals Committee include in the report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee the recommendations agreed by the Animals Committee pursuant to Decision 19.199.

The Animals Committee noted that the German Society for Herpetology was developing materials that could support the implementation of the Convention for amphibians.

33. Tortoises in Madagascar (*Astrochelys radiata*, *A. yniphora*, *Pyxis arachnoides* and *P. planicauda*) [Decision 19.126] AC33 Doc. 33

In Madagascar's absence, the AC Chair summarized the document by Madagascar that reported on initiatives that have already been initiated and on existing plans for the conservation of Madagascar's endemic tortoises and freshwater turtles.

The United States of America, echoed by the nomenclature specialist (Mr. Van Dijk) and the German Society for Herpetology, acknowledged the considerable work done by Madagascar but noted that the global plan of action dated back to 2011. Additional information on implementation would be welcome at the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee. They suggested that Madagascar report to SC78 on enforcement issues.

The Animals Committee invited Madagascar to report on any progress on the implementation of their conservation strategies and of Decision 19.125, paragraph b), to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting.

34. Outcomes of the CITES Big Cats Task Force: consultation on a resolution on big cats (Felidae spp.) AC33 Doc. 34

The Secretariat summarized in paragraphs 8 to 10 of document AC33 Doc. 34 the perspectives expressed by Brazil, the European Union and its Member States, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on a possible resolution on all big cats in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/130. The Secretariat noted that only a limited number of responses were received and that there was a lack of responses from range States. Nevertheless, the responses received showed that perspectives on the merits of a resolution on all big cats remain divided. The Secretariat outlined the merits and drawbacks of a possible resolution on all big cats.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori) and Brazil reiterated their region's position against a resolution on all big cats and noted that separate work was ongoing for jaguars that should be excluded from a big cats resolution. This was echoed by the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Environmental Investigation Agency UK, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Born Free Foundation, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, Fauna & Flora International, Fondation Franz Weber, Humane Society International, Panthera, ProWildlife, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature and Zoological Society of London. The United Kingdom acknowledged the value of the outcomes of the Big Cats Task Force that should be published in an easily accessible place.

India provided an update on its conservation activities involving big cat species and informed the meeting that it initiated a wild-to-wild inter-continental transfer or re-introduction of cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) in collaboration with Namibia and South Africa and invited Parties and observers to partner with them within the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) covering seven big cat species (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma) with the aim of promoting conservation of these species in the wild in all range States. They opined that Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) could be revised to apply to all big cats. Conservation Force welcomed the IBCA and expressed its readiness to contact India about the initiative. It furthermore highlighted that for most of the species retaliatory killing is the main threat and this is outside the remit of CITES.

The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to take into consideration the comments made during the discussion in the preparation of its report to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting, noting that there was no support for a new resolution on all big cats and limited support for a revision to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*.

35. Pangolins (Manis spp.) [Decision 19.200] AC33 Doc. 35

The Secretariat summarized the information submitted by Parties concerning the development and implementation of *in situ* pangolin management and conservation programmes (see Annex 1 to document AC33 Doc. 35) and presented an updated report on conversion parameters for pangolins in Annex 2 to document AC33 Doc. 35. The International Union for Conservation of Nature informed the Committee that data collection was still ongoing in order to fill the gaps in conversion parameters.

Kenya, as a range State for three pangolins species, reported that it published a pangolin action plan in June 2024 and is now implementing this plan. They expressed support for draft decision 20.AA, noting that they had provided access to pangolin scales, but further materials were needed. Kenya proposed a new draft decision 20.CC that was supported by the United States of America.

Cameroon, Malaysia, and the United States of America supported the recommendations. The United States drew the Committee's attention to information document AC33 Inf. 23, where the U.S. makes several commitments to pangolin conservation. India advocated for the adoption of a precautionary approach to the conversion parameters and announced the successful breeding of pangolins.

The Animals Committee:

- a) agreed that the conversion parameters presented in the table below for *M. gigantea*, *M. javanica*, *M. pentadactyla*, *M. tetradactyla* and *M. tricuspis* can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for law enforcement and court purposes

Table 1. Scale mass estimates as conversion parameters for the eight species of pangolin, based on contributed data.

Species	Mean \pm SD (95% CIs) (g)	Range (g)	Median (g)
Giant pangolin <i>M. gigantea</i>	3853.01 \pm 617.22 (3815.12-3980.89)	2030 - 5448	3876.5
Temminck's pangolin <i>M. temminckii</i>	2020.1 \pm 935.72 (1582.17-2458.03)	342.25 - 3911	1928.88
Indian pangolin <i>M. crassicaudata</i>	1299.95 \pm 623.64 (923.08-1676.81)	56.25 - 2099.66	1096.89
Chinese pangolin <i>M. pentadactyla</i>	592.98 \pm 217.63* (518.22-667.73)	129.47 - 1121.07*	573.47*
Sunda pangolin <i>M. javanica</i>	367.54 \pm 161.48 (338.24-396.24)	27.19 - 824.54*	357.75
Philippine pangolin <i>M. culionensis</i>	368.28 \pm 79.84 (331.93-404.62)	275 - 553	341
Black-bellied pangolin <i>M. tetradactyla</i>	322.68 \pm 27.82 (320.97-324.38)	118 - 379	324
White-bellied pangolin <i>M. tricuspis</i>	184.02 \pm 50.61 (165.45-202.58)	115.5 - 322.06	184.31

*This estimate was first reported in Zhou *et al.* (2012).

- b) agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Standing Committee for its consideration and onward submission to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20):

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, work with the Species Survival Commission Pangolin Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other relevant experts and in collaboration with the pangolin range States to further develop conversion parameters for all pangolin species, in particular M. culionensis, M. crassicaudata and M. temminckii, taking into account document AC33 Doc. 35. These conversion parameters should enable the reliable determination of the number of animals associated with any quantity of pangolin scales seized, that can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for court purposes.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB *The Animals Committee shall:*

- a) *review the conversion parameters for all pangolin species, developed in accordance with the provisions of Decision 20.AA, 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 Parties and the Standing Committee.*

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

20.CC *Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support pangolin range States with resources, both financial and technical expertise, to implement in-situ pangolin conservation and management programmes develop in response to Decision 18.238.*

- c) invited Parties to use the following identification materials to support the identification of seized pangolin specimens at species level:
 - https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/17352/eng_identification_sea_e.pdf and
 - <https://www.usaidrdw.org//pangolin-guide/>
- d) agreed to prioritize pangolins in the mandate of the proposed Animals Committee working group on identification materials, should it be established after CoP20; and
- e) agreed that Decision 18.239 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

36. African lions (*Panthera leo*) [Decision 19.206] AC33 Doc. 36

The Secretariat presented an update on the implementation of Decision 19.206 on African lions (*Panthera leo*). The Secretariat informed the Committee that the *Guidelines for the conservation of lions in Africa* will be updated based on a process agreed by the range States at the 2nd meeting of the African Carnivore Initiative. The Secretariat consulted the range States and initiated the comparative study on African lion population trends and conservation and management practices. Based on the timeline for the study, the report will be available for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee and the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat developed draft guidance on the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for African lions in collaboration with IUCN and in close consultation with range States.

Born Free Foundation, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Humane Society International and Species Survival Network, supported the recommendations in the document and called for the drafting of a resolution on African lions to continue work on this species. Conservation Force did not support the call for a draft resolution, but welcomed progress on the comparative study and expressed an interest in contributing to the study, to which the AC Chair indicated that the process would work mainly with range States, but other relevant organizations will be engaged in the process, as appropriate.

The Animals Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting and onward submission to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

19.205 (Rev. CoP20) *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and, as appropriate, taking into consideration the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa ~~in information document CoP18 Inf. 10:~~*

- a) *support the implementation of activities in joint African lion conservation plans and strategies that relate to trade in African lion specimens and the implementation of CITES and as needed, the review of such plans and strategies;*
- b) *jointly with the CMS Secretariat, undertake a comparative study of African lion population trends and conservation and management practices, such as lion hunting, within and between countries, including the role, if any, of international trade;*
- c) *support capacity-building in African lion conservation and management including where appropriate, in the making of non-detriment findings by range States according to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings and the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.9 on Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II, taking into consideration the available guidance on the making of non-detriment findings; and*
- d) *~~assist in maintaining a joint CITES-CMS web portal on African lions, that also allows for the posting and sharing of information and guidance on the conservation and management of African lions;~~*

- ed) share any relevant update of the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa that relate to the Committee's mandate with the Animals Committee for its review; and*
- f d) report on the implementation of the present Decision to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee and to the Conference of the Parties at its 21st~~0th~~ meeting.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.206 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals Committee shall:*

- a) review any relevant update of the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa that relate to the Committee's mandate and that has been brought to the Committee's attention by the Secretariat;*
- b) review the information reported by the Secretariat under Decision 19.205 (Rev. CoP20) and submit recommendations to the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and African lion range States, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.207 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) review any reports received from the Secretariat and the Animals Committee under Decisions 19.205 (Rev. CoP20) and 19.206 (Rev. CoP20) and;*
- b) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, the Animals Committee, the Secretariat and/or African lion range States to improve the implementation of the Convention for African lions, as appropriate.*

Directed to Parties

19.208 *Parties, including range States and consumer countries of African lion, as relevant, are encouraged to:*

- a) increase enforcement efforts to detect illegal, unreported or misreported trade in specimens of African lion and other big cats;*
- b) use, where appropriate, South Africa's Barcode of Wildlife Project to help identify lion specimens in trade and, when importing lion specimens from South Africa, collaborate where necessary with relevant authorities in South Africa to improve the traceability of such specimens;*
- c) provide details on the observed and/or removed lion body parts in trade when collecting and communicating data on illegal killing and illegal trade in lions to CITES in their annual reports; and*
- d) cooperate on lion conservation, including by sharing information on lion populations, illegal killing and illegal trade.*

Directed to Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities

19.209 (Rev. CoP20) *All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support African lion range States and the Secretariat in their efforts to conserve and restore African lions across their range, taking into consideration the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa, the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and the outcomes of the CITES Big Cat Task Force meeting, and the implementation of Decision 19.205 (Rev. CoP20) and 19.208.*

Directed to the Secretariat

~~19.210~~ ~~The Secretariat shall:~~

- ~~a) share relevant information generated through the implementation of Decision 19.208 with the CITES Big Cats Task Force, the Standing Committee, or both, as appropriate; and~~
- ~~b) report on the implementation of the previous Decision 18.246 to the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee.~~

37. Jaguars (*Panthera onca*) [Decisions 19.110 and 19.111]..... AC33 Doc. 37

The Secretariat presented the terms of reference of a consultancy estimated at a cost of USD 30,000 that will be tasked to carry out a situational analysis and prepare terms of reference for the creation of a modular system for monitoring illegal killing of jaguars, illegal trade in their parts and derivatives and other aspects related to conservation; the creation of an intergovernmental platform as specified in paragraph 21 of document SC77 Doc. 43, including the option of a joint CITES-CMS jaguar initiative; and the development of a proposal of a draft joint CITES-CMS working.

The acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz) expressed concern about a possible overlap between the joint CITES-CMS jaguar initiative and the CITES-CMS programme of work and therefore proposed amendments to the terms of reference. The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori), Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Ecuador disagreed with the amendments proposed by the North American region since the terms of reference in the document accurately reflected the agreement the range States had reached at a meeting in Cuiabá, Brazil in September 2023. Mexico and the United States of America, as range States of the jaguar, supported the amendments of the North American region. Defenders of Wildlife, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Fondation Franz Weber, Humane Society International, Panthera, ProWildlife, Species Survival Network, Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature supported the position of the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean and noted that the work should focus on demand reduction and cooperation with consumer countries.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species also proposed some amendments to the terms of reference in order to conduct online consultations with jaguar range States and the CITES and CMS Secretariats to agree: i) whether the working programme is additional to the CITES-CMS joint programme of work or whether it constitutes the joint programme of work; and ii) whether the intergovernmental platform will have its own programme of work or whether the CITES-CMS joint programme of work should be the programme of work of the intergovernmental platform. Mexico asked what the difference between a joint initiative and a joint programme of work was and recalled that some jaguar range States were not Party to CMS and focus on CITES priorities. The Secretariat indicated that the initiative and the joint programme of work will be similar to the African Carnivore Initiative that also has a programme of work agreed by the range States to be implemented within a specific timeframe.

Conservation Force commended the range States on launching such an important initiative and called for more work to be done on biological data surveys and on cooperation with landowners, especially cattle owners, since retaliatory killing is one of the main threats for jaguars. The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora) also stressed the importance of population survey data, to which Costa Rica responded that a lot of scientific information was being gathered and that illegal trade in jaguar was considered a consequence of the killing of jaguars and not necessarily the cause for the killing of jaguars.

The Animals Committee noted the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of SC77 recommendations on jaguars and invited the Secretariat to consider the comments made in plenary as it finalizes the draft terms of reference in the Annex to document AC33 Doc. 37, noting that most range States expressed support for the terms of reference as contained in the Annex and emphasizing the need for consultation to avoid duplication of work.

38. Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) in Africa [Decision 19.212] AC33 Doc. 38

The Secretariat informed the Committee that, although the *Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa* had not yet been updated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in consultation with the range States, IUCN provided information on the proposed process to update the *Roadmap*. The Secretariat therefore suggested that Decisions 19.211 and 19.212 be renewed to provide an opportunity to the Animals Committee to review the *Roadmap* during the next intersessional period.

The Animals Committee agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 19.211 and 19.212 to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

39. Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes spp.) [Decision 18.257 (Rev. CoP19)] AC33 Doc. 39

The Secretariat presented the background information, including a preliminary study on *A Global Assessment of Songbirds in Trade* and the outcomes of the technical workshop on the management and conservation of songbird taxa in international trade that took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 11 to 14 December 2023. The report included in Annex 3 to document AC33 Doc. 39 a priority list of 204 species (162 songbird species where there is evidence of significant trade in wild-caught individuals and 42 species that are already listed in CITES Appendix I or II) that may require further attention. Paragraphs 15 to 23 of document AC33 Doc. 39 contained 30 recommendations on, *inter alia*, CITES implementation; capacity-building; captive-breeding and marking; demand; the role of indigenous peoples and local communities; data recording and management; harvest methodologies and mortality rates; disease management; and the possible inclusion of songbird species in the CITES Appendices.

The acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz), the representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), Malaysia and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria welcomed the successful workshop and supported the recommendations in the document, calling on Parties to consider the species lists in the document in their preparation for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy), echoed by Malaysia, highlighted the importance of different marking techniques for songbirds.

Humane Society International, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Fondation Franz Weber, ProWildlife, Species Survival Network, World Parrot Trust, Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature, noted that the massive trade in songbirds had been overlooked by the Convention and that new listings were probably needed to regulate that international trade.

Bundesverband für fachgerechten Natur-, Tier- und Artenschutz e.V. proposed to share with interested Parties additional information on the *ex situ* breeding of songbirds in Western Europe, while IWMC-World Conservation Trust cautioned against allocating too much time and resources on mainly non-CITES listed species.

The Animals Committee:

- a) noted the preliminary study and the workshop report;
- b) noted the observations from the workshop, as presented in Annex 2 to document AC33 Doc. 39;
- c) agreed to support the recommendations in paragraphs 15 to 23, taking into account the comment in paragraph 25;
- d) agreed to prioritize songbirds in the mandate of an Animals Committee working group on identification materials, should one be established after CoP20;
- e) agreed to consider how the handling of birds impacts their well-being in the context of the review of Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP15) on the *Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade*, noting that there are other methods for marking such birds; and

- f) agreed that Decisions 18.256 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.257 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

Aquatics species

40. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.) [Decision 19.220] AC33 Doc. 40

The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), as co-Chair of the intersessional working group on eels (*Anguilla* spp.), presented an update on the implementation of the mandate of the working group. The working group analysed the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 and Notification to the Parties No. 2023/062 and concluded that there are important gaps in knowledge for certain countries and that Decisions aimed at filling these gaps would be helpful. They also noted that these Parties could still provide information, without the need for a specific Decision. In paragraph 11, the document outlined relevant Resolutions and information and presented the conclusions of the working group on the potential use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of European eel (*A. anguilla*) from aquaculture production systems. In paragraph 13, concerning the potential development of a specific resolution on European eels or a Resolution on the genus *Anguilla* spp, the working group concluded that regardless of whether or not a future CoP decides to list additional *Anguilla* species, the remit of the Resolution should cover the entire genus, as it is not possible to separate the problems associated with the implementation of the listing of *Anguilla anguilla* from wider issues. Paragraph 14 of the document contained a list of topics (with some associated comments) that might be considered for inclusion in a potential Resolution on eels.

The representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) supported the recommendations in the document, in particular in paragraph 11 t). They recalled that Parties should prepare non-detriment for specimens sourced from ranching operations. They would welcome additional information from Cuba on harvest of glass eels.

Japan generally supported the recommendations in paragraphs 16 a), b) and c) of the document but noted that paragraph 14 needed further refinement, to which the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) agreed.

Germany, echoed by France, considered that source code 'R' could not be used for *Anguilla anguilla* from aquaculture production systems and recalled the advice of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea that there should be zero catches for *Anguilla anguilla* in all habitats in 2024. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland opined that the use of source code 'R' can be appropriate but should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The United Kingdom noted for the record that paragraph 11 u iii) should read: "The theoretical usefulness of source code R for trade in eels is diminished by the practical challenge of distinguishing adult specimens harvested from the wild or on-grown, thus providing an opportunity for laundering. However, distinguishing the source of specimens is not a challenge that is specific to eels."

China informed the Committee that it was preparing information on eels and will send it to the Secretariat.

The World Wide Fund for Nature suggested that, when looking at the applicability of source code 'R', one should be looking at the mortality between the time of hatching and the arrival of juvenile in European estuaries that would be highest. The International Union for Conservation of Nature, speaking also on behalf of TRAFFIC, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Zoological Society of London, noted that paragraph 12 of the document on the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels to the wild overlapped with a similar issue in the document on seahorses and that guidance would be needed.

The Animals Committee:

- a) requested that China, Cuba, Egypt and Türkiye submit detailed information on trade in eels for consideration at the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee, and invited the Standing Committee to propose a specific draft decision directed to those Parties that do not respond, seeking this information;
- b) noted the information in paragraph 11 of document AC33 Doc. 40 concerning the potential use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of European eel (*A. anguilla*) from aquaculture production systems;
- c) agreed to propose the following draft decision to renew the unfinished task to discuss the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized live European eels into the wild to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.AA The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels to the wild; and
- b) make recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee or the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- d) agreed to convey the contents of paragraphs 13 and 14 to the Standing Committee for its consideration, through its intersessional working group on eels, noting the need for refinement.

41. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

[Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 19.225]..... AC33 Doc. 41

The Secretariat presented information submitted by Parties related to the conservation and management of sharks in Annex 2 to document AC33 Doc. 41 and information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010 sorted by species and by product in Annex 3. The Secretariat presented an update on capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings, on its engagements with relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Arrangements (RFMO/As) and on its collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In document AC33 Doc. 41, the Secretariat also reported on the study conducted in collaboration with TRAFFIC on 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 building on the study entitled: "Missing sharks: A country review of catch, trade and management recommendations for CITES-listed shark species". TRAFFIC, as implementing partner for the study on the apparent mismatch between reported and expected trade in shark species, also reflected on some of the findings of the study available in Annex 5 to document AC33 Doc. 41. The Secretariat presented draft recommendations for consideration of the Animals Committee in paragraph 15 of the document based on the studies.

In paragraphs 22 to 28, the Secretariat presented three possible options to include shark catch locations in reporting: 1) ocean basins – to include all the oceans recognized by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and their defined limits (the Indian Ocean, North Pacific, South Pacific, North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Arctic Ocean and the Southern Ocean); 2) Convention areas of certain tuna RFMOs; or 3) the 19 FAO Major Fishing Areas. The Secretariat considered that Option 1, which provides seven divisions of the high seas, is the best option since it would add a minimal burden on the Parties to include in their reporting, but still provide additional information on the location of the catch.

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) noted that CITES was entering new waters with the inclusion of shark species in the Review of Significant Trade process and that Parties should consider the catching of sharks in areas beyond national jurisdiction, as was already proposed during the workshop on *Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction*. Echoing this suggestion, the Netherlands suggested that the in-session working group on sharks should discuss deep water sharks.

The representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) supported the recommendations in paragraph 15 of the document but noted that recommendation 15 f) was unclear. They also supported the establishment of an in-session working group to draft recommendations on key priorities with actions that would support Parties.

The representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and Japan supported option 1 with 7 ocean basin divisions for reporting on sharks, noting that this was the most practical option that kept the reporting burden to a minimum. Australia that supported the other recommendations in the document raised procedural and operational concerns about including the catch location in annual reports and proposed that it should be considered by the Standing Committee since this would lead to an amendment to the permit format and the reporting system that would come at great financial cost.

Argentina announced it would make available to CITESLex an update to its national legislation on Chondrichthyes. Ecuador indicated that the mismatch study in Annex 5 had used the wrong data and had

not taken into account Ecuador's reporting to the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation. Panama informed the Committee that it had issued a negative NDF for one species of shark and a positive one for another but that it will maintain a zero quota for sharks and rays until they are able to monitor their populations.

Wildlife Conservation Society proposed that paragraphs 10 and 11 of document AC33 Doc. 14.3 (Rev. 1) be included as part of the mandate of the in-session working group. On the same issue, the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) proposed that the in-session working group on sharks and rays answer three questions that would then help the RST in-session working group when it considers sharks.

The Animals Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on sharks and rays with the mandate to:

- a) consider the issues raised in paragraphs 10 and 11 of document AC33 Doc. 14.3 (Rev. 1) concerning shark species that were selected for Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade (RST) and make recommendations concerning the treatment of multiple stocks for the same species and single stocks being harvested by multiple harvesting nations for sharks;
- b) consider the following questions raised by the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) in plenary:
 - i) based on best available information, is it feasible to request a stock based NDF for the shark species in RST? If the answer is 'yes' for some species, which ones?
 - ii) formulate feasible and practical recommendations on making NDFs that could be included as RST recommendations; and
 - iii) formulate recommendations for Parties that are fishing in shared stocks to help them coordinate sustainable offtake levels;
- c) consider document AC33 Doc. 41 (Rev. 1), including the scientific elements in its Annexes, and any other relevant information, and
 - i) review the responses to the Notification to the Parties in Annex 2 and the information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010 presented in Annex 3;
 - ii) review the study and its recommendations conducted under Decision 19.223, paragraph c), as shown in paragraph 15, noting that Japan proposed that paragraph 15 b) should read "invite Parties to adopt traceability systems along the supply chains of CITES-listed sharks and rays species for international trade...";
 - iii) review the Secretariat's suggestions for adding ocean basins to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission for CITES annual reports* shown in paragraphs 22-28; and
 - iv) draft recommendations and decisions to be submitted to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee for its consideration; and
- d) consider the information presented in information document AC33. Inf. 20 and make species-specific recommendations, if necessary, on improving the conservation status of deep water sharks;
- e) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson);

Members: representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki);

Parties: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, European Union, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Panama,

Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Cartagena Convention, Convention on Migratory Species, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); International Union for Conservation of Nature, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center; Bloom Association, Blue Resources Trust, Defenders of Wildlife, European Bureau for Conservation and Development, Fondation Franz Weber, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Fur Federation, Save our Seas Foundation, Shark Conservation Fund, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia, Zoological Society of London; Florida International University.

The Animals Committee agreed that Manta Trust could be added to the in-session working group on the Review of Significant Trade and on sharks and rays.

Later in the meeting, the representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) introduced document AC33 Com. 6. The AC Chair noted that a draft decision directed to the Animals Committee was omitted in document AC33 Com. 6 and proposed the addition of draft decision 20.DD directed to the Animals Committee with a consequential re-numbering of the draft decision directed to the Standing Committee as 20.EE.

The Netherlands proposed new wording for paragraph 15 in document AC33 Com. 6 as follows: “invite Parties to consider a rebuilding plan for depleted stocks through fisheries and conservation management measures to ensure that any offtake does not adversely affect the abundance and structure of the stock and the role of the species in the ecosystem.” This new wording was supported by the representatives for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), Ecuador and Portugal.

Canada, India and Mexico noted that the wording in paragraph 11 was unclear and rather complicated and inquired about the purpose of this recommendation as it is premature to revise Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*. The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), echoed by the Maldives and Wildlife Conservation Society, indicated that the purpose of the recommendation was to examine how the Review of Significant Trade process could be adapted for shark species with, for example, the consideration of stocks with species/country/stock combinations. The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora), Israel, Panama and Senegal stressed the importance of paragraph 11. Mexico and the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Center proposed some edits to clarify the intent of the paragraph that were supported.

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center informed the Committee of its work to support countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations with shark identification and non-detriment findings.

The Animals Committee noted that the Chair had agreed to add Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ireland, Shark Advocates International, Shark Conservation Fund and Queensland Sea Cucumber Association.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in document AC33 Com. 6 amended as follows:

Treatment of multiple stock for the same species

1. Taking into account the recommendations in document AC33 Doc. 17, NDFs should ideally be made at a stock level – e.g., a single NDF covering the stock as a discrete unit irrespective of whether catch / harvest is taking place in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) or in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).
2. Taking into account the recommendations in document AC33 Doc. 17, distinct stocks / distinct populations, if defined, should require separate NDFs or a single NDF clearly describing findings for each distinct stock / population.
3. The information in module 5 of CITES NDF Guidance on making NDFs for aquatic species should be taken into account.

Single stock being harvested by multiple Parties

4. CITES Authorities should work with their fisheries authorities and consider working closely with Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and neighbouring Parties, as appropriate, especially those that have NDFs, in sharing/obtaining data to make NDFs in order to avoid duplication of effort.
5. NDFs should consider all sources of mortality within the stock, taking into account the precautionary approach.
6. Adaptive management, including time-bound NDFs (no more than 5 years), should be used so that signals of stock change (whether from offtake from other Parties or other threats) can be taken into account and responded to.

Feasibility of requesting a stock based NDF

7. Yes for all species in RST.

Recommendations on elements for inclusion in NDFs

8. Develop NDFs for species where catch for export occurs, which could, *inter alia*, include the following elements taking into account the CITES NDF guidance, as well as other existing guidance, tools and resources:
 - a) consideration for each stock as a separate management unit for conservation and harvest purposes;
 - b) adaptive management, with a review period of no more than 5 years, to take into consideration signals from the stock; and
 - c) a precautionary approach, where a cautionary offtake is initially considered, and revised with further information.
9. Encourage Parties in RST to consult with fisheries agencies as responsible bodies for management of these stocks to develop an NDF.

Recommendations for Party harvesting from shared stock

10. Take into account the recommendations in document AC33 Doc. 17:
 - a) encourage Parties to collaborate regionally, including with CITES Parties not Party to RFMOs, to share information, including information to understand stock status and trends, stock assessments, NDFs, quotas, and capacity-building initiatives; and
 - b) invite Parties to consider using stock assessment data from RFBs, including RFMOs, in addition to national information and other relevant sources of information, as appropriate, in informing the making of NDFs for specimens taken from ABNJ.

Other recommendations

11. invite the Chair of the Animals Committee to propose in its report to the Conference of the Parties a draft decision inviting the Secretariat to consider the feasibility of adapting the existing RST process for sharks and rays that selects high priority species in international trade in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*, then determines which stocks are affected, and includes range and fishing States with significant trade in the relevant stocks of concern.
12. invite the Secretariat to continue building relationships with RFBs, including RFMOs.
13. invite the Secretariat to explore options to make the shark eNDF tool available on the sharks and rays portal to facilitate wider use.

14. invite Parties, especially those with shared stocks, and observer organizations to provide support to Parties selected for “action is needed” under RST.
15. invite Parties to consider a rebuilding plan for depleted stocks through fisheries and conservation management measures to ensure that any offtake does not adversely affect the abundance and structure of the stock and the role of the species in the ecosystem.
16. invite CITES Authorities to work with fisheries authorities to ensure that reporting of CITES-listed species to CITES and RFBs is at the species level and uses consistent units, as appropriate.
17. invite the Secretariat to liaise with FAO and RFBs to bring to their attention the study under Decision 19.233 paragraph c) and the need to harmonize data reporting to the extent possible, as appropriate.
18. strongly encourage Parties to report all shark and ray trade in weight and not in number of specimens as indicated in the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports.
19. invite Parties to adopt traceability systems along the supply chains of CITES-listed species for international trade, noting the definition of traceability², which has been agreed by the Parties to CITES and further guidance.
20. subject to external funding, invite the Secretariat to follow-up on mismatches (differences in transactions reported by exporter/importer countries under the same permit; weights; species; etc.) in the CITES Trade Database and correct the mismatch, where possible.
21. subject to external funding, invite the Secretariat to follow-up with countries that appear to not be reporting exports of sharks and rays (i.e., trade only reported by importing countries) to determine the reason for underreporting and provide necessary support to encourage reporting.
22. invite the Secretariat to examine the trade in source code “C” specimens of shark and rays that are unlikely to be captive-bred based on the biology of the specimens.
23. invite the Secretariat to propose clear guidance on the reporting of specimens taken from ABNJ in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission for CITES annual reports* to the Standing Committee.
24. remind Parties of the obligation to submit annual reports to the CITES Secretariat, which includes introduction from the sea and export of sharks and rays and to report at the species level.
25. note that Decision 19.223 paragraph c) has been implemented.
26. invite the Secretariat to propose option 1 (ocean basins) and option 3 (FAO Major Fishing Areas) to the Standing Committee for consideration, including the question as to whether such reporting should apply to the EEZ in addition to ABNJ, taking into account potential implementation challenges.
27. consider the following draft decisions for submission to the Standing Committee for onward submission to the Conference of Parties.

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, 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, including new or updated national plans of action for sharks, that prohibit commercial take or trade;

² *The working definition of CITES traceability is: traceability is the ability to access information on specimens and events in a CITES species supply chain. This information should be carried, on a case-by-case basis, from as close to the point of harvest as practicable and needed to the point at which the information facilitates the verification of legal acquisition and non-detriment findings and helps prevent laundering of illegal products*

- b) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 20.BB including sharing any non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, and any other scientific information on sharks and rays;
- c) seek external funding for a dedicated marine species officer and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat;

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
 - i) in accordance with Resolution Conf 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, 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 NDFs;
 - B. the identification of CITES-listed shark-products in trade;
 - C. the monitoring of export data of CITES-listed shark, parts and derivatives, and any suitable remedial measures applied to limit the export of specimens in order to maintain each species throughout its range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem;
 - D. capacity-building needs; and
 - ii) share with the Secretariat their non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, and any other scientific information on sharks and rays, to post in the sharks and rays web portal;
- 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 at the shipment level;
- c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above;
- d) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall

- a) continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties, especially developing countries and small island developing states, upon request;
- b) liaise with relevant Regional Fishery Bodies (RFB) including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Arrangements (RFMO/As) to identify opportunities for capacity-building with the same organizations, possibly in the form of attending meetings (where the RFB permits such attendance) or by directly liaising with the Secretariat of the organization to provide this information to its membership and/or the provision of training;
- c) collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to 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;
- d) seek to collaborate with Parties and organizations to establish a repository to hold imagery under a Creative Commons license of wet and dried unprocessed shark, parts and derivatives (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level

taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of automated species identification development through a range of novel technologies; and

- e) bring the results of activities in this present Decision to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.DD The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the information collated by the Secretariat under Decision 20.BB and the results of activities described under Decision 20. CC; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.EE The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the comments and recommendations provided by the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat under Decisions 20.CC and 20.DD; and
- b) prepare a report with any necessary recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention for sharks and rays for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

28. note that the Animals Committee has identified gulper sharks (*Centrophoridae* spp.) as species of concern since 2004 and that there has been continuing decline in population of these species.

29. invite the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties inviting Parties and organizations to submit information on the catches, use and trade of gulper sharks and their products, and conservation measures for the species that could potentially assist a Party:

- a) in developing actions they can take for the conservation and management of gulper sharks;
- b) in developing actions that could be brought to the attention of relevant RFBs; and
- c) in assessing the need for preparing a proposal to include the gulper sharks in the Appendices.

30. invite the Secretariat to issue a second Notification to the Parties to distribute to Parties the submissions it receives on gulper sharks.

42. Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.)

42.1 Report of the Secretariat [Decision 19.229] AC33 Doc. 42.1

The Secretariat summarized key aspects contained in Parties' responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/027 regarding *Request for information on the development of national or regional action plans to improve CITES implementation for seahorses (Hippocampus spp.)*. Based on the responses, some Parties have taken significant steps that align with Decision 19.229. Where not yet done, source, transit and consumer Parties affected by illegal and/or unsustainable international trade in seahorses were encouraged to pursue similar activities, drawing upon the knowledge and experiences gained by other Parties. Among the challenges highlighted by Parties were substantial data gaps regarding seahorse populations and trade dynamics, as well as limited financial, technical, and human resources to implement conservation and enforcement measures.

Mexico drew the Committee's attention to information document AC33 Inf. 4 and wished to correct the number of recorded seized dried seahorses in paragraph 18 of the document. Australia, the United States of America and the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish & Seadragon Specialist Group agreed with the renewal of Decision 19.229.

The Animals Committee noted document AC33 Doc. 42.1 and the information provided by Parties in their responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/027. The Animals Committee noted that, as requested by Mexico, paragraph 18 of document AC33 Doc. 42.1 should indicate that the number of recorded seized dried seahorse specimens is 4,946 (and not 5,975).

The Animals Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the renewal of Decision 19.229.

42.2 Report of the intersessional working group [Decision 19.231]..... AC33 Doc. 42.2

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori), as Chair of the intersessional working group on *seahorses* (*Hippocampus spp.*), presented the outcomes of its work and proposed recommendations for consideration by the Animals Committee. In paragraph 7, the working group identified tools and training materials to help Parties implement the Appendix-II listing for live seahorses, which need to be developed in collaboration with species experts, subject to available resources. In paragraph 8, the working group proposed 15 recommendations directed to Parties and in paragraph 9, two recommendations directed to importing Parties. In paragraph 10, the working group proposed 5 recommendations directed to the Secretariat and, in paragraph 11, two recommendations directed to the Animals Committee. Paragraph 12 contained a list of nine issues to be referred to the Standing Committee.

Brazil supported the recommendations in the document and highlighted the critical importance of a traceability system for captive-bred specimens.

Japan proposed some edits to paragraph 12 c) of the document which were not supported by the representatives for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori) and Europe (Mr. Benyr), nor by Argentina or Portugal even though they acknowledged that the language of the recommendation in paragraph 12 c) could be improved. They noted that the aim of that recommendation was to limit the use of certain destructive fishing gear and fishing practices whether the harvest and associated trade are legal or illegal.

The World Wide Fund for Nature suggested that simply noting paragraphs 7 to 11 would not be enough and these should be transformed in recommendations, to which the representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and the United States of America proposed that this be done in an in-session working group.

The Animals Committee agreed to refer the recommendations in paragraph 12 of document AC33 Doc. 42.2 to the Standing Committee for further consideration.

The Animals Committee noted the suggestion to consider the costs and benefits of releasing live animals to the wild for all relevant aquatic taxa.

The Animals Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on seahorses with the mandate to:

- a) consider the recommendations in paragraphs 7 to 11 and make its own recommendations or draft decisions, as appropriate; and
- b) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori);

Parties: Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, Netherlands, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Union for Conservation of Nature, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center; European Bureau for Conservation and Development, European Pet Organisation, Global Guardian Trust, World Wide Fund for Nature, Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori) introduced document AC33 Com. 4.

Mexico enquired whether the issue of conversion factors had been discussed in the working group, and if it would be possible to report dried seahorses in pieces instead of weight, to which the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori) answered that the issue of conversion factors had not been discussed. He noted that the recommendation was to report live individuals in numbers, and dried seahorses in kilos, due to the high volumes in trade.

The United States of America proposed a new draft decision 20.CC inviting Parties to implement the recommendations of the Animals Committee. This was supported by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The Animals Committee noted that Australia was unable to participate in the in-session working group.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in document AC33 Com. 4 amended as follows:

The Animals Committee requested the Secretariat to publish a Notification inviting Parties, in collaboration with species experts and/or relevant stakeholders, such as the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group, to develop the following guidance and submit it to the Secretariat for publication on the CITES website:

- a) guidance on tracking extraction of wild broodstock for culture operations, and its implications for wild populations, whether source code F or C. This can be derived from existing guidance developed for Viet Nam (Project Seahorse 2015);
- b) guidance on how to distinguish between seahorses that are wild source, source code F and source code C, using recommendations from a previous CITES workshop as a starting point (Bruckner et al. 2005);
- c) identification guides for live trade and dried seahorses in multiple languages. These can be based on existing identification tools for seahorses (Project Seahorse 2021);
- d) guidance on the risks and benefits of aquaculture and releases to wild populations of seahorses. Guidance within CITES Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species* under Option 2 of Annex 1 provides a good starting point for such an effort;
- e) guidance on monitoring cryptic (small-sized, low-density and camouflaged) species like seahorses; and
- f) guidance on common metrics for monitoring seahorses that all Parties could use, using information document CoP17 Inf. 65 as a starting point.

To support Parties to implement the Convention in relation to seahorses, the Animals Committee requested the Secretariat to publish a Notification inviting Parties to consider the following actions/activities:

- a) use existing tools as appropriate for effective CITES implementation and enforcement that are relevant to seahorses, including, but not limited to, the tools available on the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon website (www.iucn-seahorse.org/cites-toolkit);
- b) inventory and assess seahorse aquaculture operations to determine their production capabilities, degree of reliance on wild populations, and any environmental concerns;
- c) ensure that any release of tank-bred seahorses only occurs in accordance with the best available scientific information to minimize negative impacts on wild populations and their habitat, including, but not limited to, guidelines established by the IUCN (<https://iucn-cts.org/policy-guidelines/conservation-translocation-guidelines/>) and never release alien species;

- d) raise awareness of seahorse trade and its role in conservation of the species with all stakeholders: fishers, traders, consumers, policy makers, enforcement agencies, judiciaries etc., subject to available resources;
- e) explore novel techniques for detecting seahorses in trade, such as eDNA or detector dogs;
- f) develop monitoring programmes, such as fisheries monitoring programmes for fisheries that catch seahorses (including bycatch), to understand effectiveness of trade rules and any other relevant implementation and enforcement actions for seahorse conservation and management. These monitoring programmes can consider the following, *inter alia*:
 - i) adding seahorses to existing fisheries monitoring programmes for fisheries that catch seahorses (including bycatch), making specific records for seahorses instead of including them under generic categories such as “trash fish”, “miscellaneous fish” or “fish NES”;
 - ii) collaborating with external partners and information sources (e.g. academia, non-governmental organizations, industry, dive groups, citizen scientists) in monitoring seahorse populations and distributions;
 - iii) finding ways to analyse existing monitoring data and to disseminate their findings, perhaps through collaborations with external partners; and
 - iv) accessing up-to-date trade research in collaboration with species experts, on which to base adaptive management plans in support of CITES implementation; and
- g) share the design and initial results of these monitoring programmes to assist other CITES Parties.

The Animals Committee:

- a) reminded Parties that strict enforcement of existing laws can benefit the conservation of seahorses (e.g., capture bans, trawling bans in specific areas, Marine Protected Areas);
- b) reminded importing Parties of the provisions under “Regarding exercising due diligence” of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement* and remind Parties to:
 - i) request information on non-detriment findings (NDFs) and legal acquisitions findings (LAFs) when there are concerns about the validity of export permits; and
 - ii) verify species identification on import. Identification can be done on a subset of individuals if a shipment is sufficiently large to preclude identification of all individuals;
- c) invited Parties to take note of the IUCN Resolution WWC-2020-Res-095 on seahorses and of the offer of support of the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group; and
- d) agreed to refer to the Standing Committee the proposed update to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports* so that dried seahorses are reported in weight.
- e) agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties:

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall create and publicize a webpage on seahorses on the CITES website as a repository for a wide range of materials to support CITES implementation for seahorses, including monitoring plans in support of adaptive management and any guidance developed by Parties and relevant stakeholders.*

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

20.BB *Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic sector, industry and other stakeholders are invited to provide any relevant information*

to support CITES implementation for seahorses to be included by the Secretariat on the CITES seahorse webpage, as appropriate.

Directed to Parties

20.CC Parties are encouraged to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of AC33 Com. 4, in particular that in paragraph f) that invites Parties to develop monitoring programmes, such as fisheries monitoring programmes for fisheries that catch seahorses (including bycatch), to understand effectiveness of trade rules and any other relevant implementation and enforcement actions for the conservation and management of seahorses.

43. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) [Decision 19.235]..... AC33 Doc. 43

The Secretariat presented an update on meetings of the CITES Working Group on Queen Conch; the queen conch NDF project and the queen conch genetics project.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora), the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and the acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz) all supported the renewal of the Decisions.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Gongora) called for funding for the implementation of this important work. Mr. Gongora noted that the United States had included the queen conch in its Endangered Species Act and that regional fisheries needed to be ready to implement this new regulation, to which the United States responded that it initiated a cooperative process that includes working with the range States through Regional Fisheries Management Organizations as well as bilateral engagements with range States to discuss the potential implications associated with the implementation of this Act, including the applicable measures and time frames.

The Animals Committee noted document AC33 Doc. 43 and agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 19.233 to 19.236 on *Queen conch* (*Strombus gigas*) to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

44. Marine ornamental fishes [Decision 19.238] AC33 Doc. 44 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat presented the [background information](#) and the outcomes of the workshop on marine ornamental fishes that took place from 7 to 10 May 2024 in Brisbane, Australia. In paragraph 14, the workshop proposed 21 recommendations for consideration by the Animals Committee. These recommendations pertained to the outcomes of the workshop; the recording of international trade; data accessibility; Appendix-III listings; IATA and IUCN Guidelines; mentoring arrangements; the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities; conservation and management plans for marine ornamental fishes; best practices; an ecosystem approach; future IUCN Red List Assessments; CITES NDF Guidance; future research topics; information-sharing; FAO's existing global fishery and aquaculture statistics databases; and the use of the nomenclature in Eschmeyer's Catalogue of Fishes.

The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), the acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz), Australia, Indonesia, Israel, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America welcomed the successful workshop and supported the recommendations contained in the document. The acting representative for North America proposed some edits to the draft decisions, directing Parties to submit information relating to methods or analytical tools to prioritize marine ornamental fishes to the Secretariat that would then report any developments to the Animals Committee. The United Kingdom proposed additional edits to the draft decisions. Israel proposed two new draft decisions directed to Parties urging them to implement the recommendations in paragraph 14 and to review the catalogue of marine ornamental fish species in international trade and identify species for possible listing in the Appendices. Australia, Indonesia and the United Kingdom asked to see those new draft decisions in writing.

The European Pet Organisation, speaking also on behalf of Ornamental Fish International, Pet Advocacy Network and the Sustainable Users Network, considered that more work was needed to assess marine ornamental fish species and adopt appropriate management measures. Fondation Franz Weber, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Humane Society International, ProWildlife and Species Survival Network, underscored the urgent need to monitor trade in marine ornamental fishes in all parts of the world with a monitoring system at species level.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations asked whether Parties were considering additional listings when the implementation of the CITES provisions for many commercially exploited aquatic species listed in Appendix II present challenges to some Parties due to lack of resourcing to support implementation.

IWMC-World Conservation Trust queried whether the Animals Committee and the Secretariat had the necessary resources to undertake such extensive work on mainly non-CITES listed species.

The Animals Committee:

- a) noted the observations from the international technical workshop on marine ornamental fishes presented in Annex 3 to document AC33 Doc. 44 (Rev. 2);
- b) agreed to the recommendations in paragraph 14 of document AC33 Doc. 44 (Rev. 2);
- c) requested the Secretariat to prepare an in-session document presenting the edits proposed by the acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz), Israel and the United Kingdom for Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the draft decisions in paragraph 16 d) of document AC33 Doc. 44 (Rev. 2); and
- d) agreed that Decisions 19.237 and 19.238 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

Later in the meeting, the Secretariat introduced document AC33 Com. 8.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland withdrew its proposed edits, supported the edits of the North American region and suggested that the word “invited” be used instead of “urged” in draft decisions 20.DD and 20.EE. Japan also proposed some edits to draft decision 20.EE and the acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteritz) corrected the acronym PSA to read Productivity Susceptibility Analysis. Canada, Indonesia, Israel, Japan and Mexico supported the draft decisions as amended.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in document AC33 Com. 8 amended as follows:

Directed to the Parties

20.AA *Parties are encouraged to inform the Secretariat of the development of any methods or analytical tools to support prioritisation of marine ornamental fishes (e.g. Productivity Susceptibility Analysis or other vulnerability analyses, FishBase) which may warrant further research or other considerations, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB *The Secretariat shall report any developments from Decision 20.AA to the Animals Committee, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.CC *The Animals Committee shall review any developments brought to its attention by the Secretariat under Decision 20.BB, including the need for further work, and make recommendations to the Parties, the Standing Committee or Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Parties

20.DD *Parties are invited, where possible, to implement the recommendations in paragraph 14 of document AC33 Doc. 44 (Rev 2), especially sub-paragraph f) on recording international trade data in marine ornamental fishes at the species level, and sub-paragraph u) on making use of FAO’s existing global fishery and aquaculture statistics databases to capture harvest and aquaculture data on marine ornamental fishes.*

20.EE *Parties are invited to review the catalogue of marine ornamental fish species in international trade identified by the workshop and presented in Annex 4 of document AC33 Doc. 44 (Rev. 2), and identify species of high priority, which may warrant further research or other considerations as appropriate.*

Appendices of the Convention

45. Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)]

45.1 Overview of species under Review* PC27 Doc. 33.1/AC33 Doc. 45.1 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat presented an overview of the animal and plant species in the periodic review process since CoP13. Annex 1A contained the record of animal species selected for review between CoP13 and CoP15; Annex 1B the record of animal species selected for review between CoP15 and CoP17; Annex 1C the record of animal species selected for review between CoP16 and CoP18; Annex 1D the record of animal species selected for review between CoP17 and CoP19; and Annex 1E a summary of all cases of animal species that remain ongoing, as of May 2024. The Secretariat proposed the deletion of a number of species from the Periodic review pursuant to paragraph 3 d) of the Resolution because no volunteers offered to undertake the reviews. The Secretariat furthermore informed the Committees that India proposed that *Semnopithecus priam* be removed from the Periodic Review process and maintained in Appendix I. Regarding the review of *Chelodina mccordi*, Indonesia submitted information document: PC27 Inf. 2 / AC33 Inf. 10 that concluded that this species should be maintained in Appendix II. Regarding the review of *Dryocopus javensis richardsi*, the Republic of Korea indicated that the capture or sale of the species are prohibited and that, although regular surveys are conducted, specimens have not been observed since 1989. A full review was not conducted and the Secretariat proposed the species be deleted from the periodic review schedule. Regarding *Encephalartos concinnus* and *Encephalartos manikensis*, Zimbabwe indicated that it will not be able to carry out a review at this point in time and the species could therefore be deleted from the periodic review schedule.

The United States of America thanked Indonesia for the information document but proposed that the species be retained until the review is submitted as a working document for the Animals Committee to review. Indonesia indicated it would do so at the next meeting of the Animals Committee.

Mexico volunteered to undertake the Periodic Review of *Abies guatemalensis* and the AC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori), speaking on behalf of Colombia, announced that Colombia volunteered to undertake the Periodic Review of *Ramphastos vitellinus*.

The Animals and the Plants Committee:

- a) agreed the completion of the review of *Pteropus tokudae* and the deletion of the species from the periodic review as indicated below:

CoP17 to CoP19 – species selected at the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC29; Geneva, July 2017)

Taxon CITES Appendix	Proposed action
<i>Ovis ammon</i> (App. II)	Delete species from review – no volunteer
<i>Ovis aries</i> complex (App. I/II)	Delete species from review – no volunteer
<i>Podilymbus gigas</i> (App. I)	Delete species from review – no volunteer (the species is extinct)
<i>Struthio camelus</i> (App. I)	Delete species from review – no volunteer
<i>Podarcis lilfordi</i> (App. II)	Delete species from review – no volunteer

CoP17 to CoP19 – species selected at the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC23; Geneva, July 2017)

Taxon CITES Appendix	Proposed action
<i>Melocactus paucispinus</i> (App. I)	Delete species from review – no volunteer
<i>Caryocar costaricense</i> (App. II)	Delete species from review – no volunteer

- b) invited Indonesia to submit the information it has provided in information document PC27 Inf. 2/AC33 Inf.10 as a working document to the next meeting of the Animals Committee;

- c) noted that Colombia had volunteered to conduct a periodic review for *Ramphastos [vitellinus] citreolaemus* with support from the United States of America; and
- d) requested the Secretariat to update the records in the Annexes accordingly.

45.2 Selection of species for the periodic review* PC27 Doc. 33.2 / AC33 Doc. 45.2 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat presented the assessment outlined in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*. The Secretariat invited the Animals Committee to establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices, and based on outputs indicated in paragraph 8, identify a list of animal taxa to review during the next intersessional period until CoP21 (2028). The Secretariat noted that revisions to the document related to paragraph 8 d) iv) to include Neobalaenidae in line with paragraph 2 of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) and the consequential amendment to Annex 1 on fauna to remove *Caperea marginata*.

In paragraph 9 of the document, the Secretariat noted that paragraphs 2 and 3 b) ii) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) detailed taxa that should not be considered for review within the periodic review process. Whilst paragraphs 2 and 3 b) ii) A-C establish clear criteria for exclusion of taxa, paragraph 3 b) ii) D (referred to here as 'criterion D'), which proposes the exclusion of species "for which it is clear that there has been no change in the status, range or trade and for which there is no possibility to need to amend the Appendices" is less clearly defined. Looking at past practice, the Secretariat proposed a draft decision requesting the Animals and Plants Committee to provide clarification and guidance on criterion D.

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) did not support the proposed draft decision to provide clarification and guidance on criterion D and instead proposed the deletion of criterion D from Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19). This was seconded by the AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and Germany.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) suggested adding another criterion to the Resolution that would exclude those non-threatened species that have been included in the Appendices as look-alike species. The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), Canada and Germany considered that this new criterion would be difficult to implement but could be something for the Animals and Plants Committees to keep in mind when they consider the outputs of the Periodic Review.

The PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) and Japan opined that it was premature to amend the Resolution.

With regard the establishment of a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices, Israel noted that output 1 did not indicate whether instances of trade in Appendix-I specimens for commercial purposes (purpose code T) came from registered facilities. The United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) responded that trade from source code D was excluded from the output. Reacting to UNEP-WCMC's clarification, Israel considered that there might be several instances of illegal trade in output 1 that should be referred to the Standing Committee. The Secretariat referred to the provisions in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) including its Annex that sets out the protocol for assessment of taxa for consideration in the Periodic Review of the Appendices and indicated that it would reach out to relevant Parties and refer any problems that had not been clarified for the attention of the Standing Committee.

Japan indicated that the trade recorded in table 3 under the name *Monachus monachus* was a reporting error and the 10 traded tusks came from *Monodon monoceros*.

The Animals Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on the periodic review with the mandate to:

- a) establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices;
- b) based on outputs indicated in paragraph 8 of document AC33 Doc. 45.2 (Rev. 1), identify a list of animal taxa to review during the next intersessional period until CoP21 (2028); and
- c) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy) and the alternate representative for Oceania (Mr. Murrell);

Parties: Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, European Union, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); International Union for Conservation of Nature, Animal Welfare Institute, Bundesverband für fachgerechten Natur-, Tier- und Artenschutz e.V., European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, European Bureau for Conservation and Development, German Society for Herpetology, International Fur Federation, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Society for Wildlife and Nature International, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, Sustainable Users Network, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Wildlife Ranching South Africa NPC.

Later in the meeting, the alternate representative for Oceania (Mr. Murrell) introduced document AC33 Com. 2 and informed the Committee that the representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy) had been unable to co-chair the working group due to their participation in the working group on the Review of Significant Trade. The alternate representative for Oceania noted that, where there is no legal trade for 10 years, it would be useful to have an indication of data relating to illegal trade.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori) expressed concern about illegal trade in macaws. The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) thanked Australia for volunteering to review *Pezoporus wallicus* and *Psephotellus pulcherrimus*. Mexico announced that it would volunteer to review *Unio tampicoensis tecomatensis*, a species endemic to Mexico. For *Elachistodon westermanni*, India informed the Committee that this species was granted the highest degree of protection under Indian national law and opined that a periodic review was not necessary.

The Animals Committee noted that the representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy), Israel and Mexico were unable to participate in the in-session working group.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in document AC33 Com. 2 amended as follows:

The Animals Committee:

- a) agreed that the following species in output 1 in Annex 1 of document AC33 Doc. 45.2 (Rev. 1) be reviewed in terms of the sources and purposes of trade to ascertain whether the Appendix-I listing is being managed appropriately regarding the sources and purpose codes:

Ara macao
Gorilla gorilla
Pan troglodytes

- b) invited the Secretariat to:

- i) engage with Parties relating to the reported trade in the species included above and request them to verify the source of the specimens in trade and the correct use of purpose codes:
- ii) draw the attention of the Standing Committee to the list above, the clarification provided by Parties in response to the Secretariat's request for verification of the source of the specimens in trade and the correct use of purpose codes.

- c) agreed to select the following 6 species in outputs 3 and 4 in Annex 1 of document AC33 Doc. 45.2 (Rev. 1), as candidates for potential review under Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) during the next intersessional period until CoP21 (2028). Where a range State has volunteered to conduct the review, this is indicated in **bold** in the table.

Taxon	Appendix	Range State(s)
Output 3:		
<i>Pteropus pilosus</i>	I	PW
<i>Falco newtoni</i> (population of Seychelles)	I	SC
<i>Pezoporus wallicus</i>	I	AU
<i>Psephotellus pulcherrimus</i>	I	AU
<i>Unio tampicoensis tecomatensis</i>	I	MX
Output 4:		
<i>Ovis jubata</i>	II	CN, MN

- d) acknowledged that the species identified under Output 2 (in document AC32 Doc. 14.2) was considered at length by the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee and therefore agreed not to review those species at this time.
- e) noted that, in terms of paragraph 3 d) in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19), the Secretariat shall send a copy of the proposed list of taxa to be reviewed to all Parties, and request range States of the taxa to comment within 60 days on whether they support a review of the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the reviews. The responses shall be relayed by the Secretariat to the Animals Committee. If no volunteer offers to undertake a review within two intersessional periods between CoPs, those taxa shall be deleted from the list of species to be reviewed.
- f) noted that an indication of whether illegal trade is taking place in the species included in the outputs produced in terms of paragraph 3 b) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on the *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II* may assist in informing the selection of species for review.

The Animals and Plants Committees agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of criterion D in paragraph 3 b) ii) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*.

45.3 Periodic review of *Arctocephalus townsendi*..... AC33 Doc. 45.3

Mexico presented a periodic review of *Arctocephalus townsendi*, the Guadalupe fur seal, which has been included in Appendix I since 1975 and outlined the biology, status, trade, and management of the species. Mexico noted that population is estimated at 34,000-44,000 individuals and increasing and recommended the transfer of *A. townsendi* from Appendix I to Appendix II considering that it does not meet the biological criteria set out in Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and in accordance with precautionary measures A1 and A2 of Annex 4 of the same Resolution.

The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), the representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and IWMC-World Conservation Trust congratulated Mexico on this periodic review and supported its conclusions. IWMC-World Conservation Trust suggested that the ensuing amendment proposal should cover the whole genus without an annotation.

The Animals Committee thanked Mexico and supported the submission of a proposal to transfer *Arctocephalus townsendi* from Appendix I to Appendix II.

45.4 Periodic review of *Monachus tropicalis*..... AC33 Doc. 45.4

Mexico presented a periodic review on *Monachus tropicalis*, the Caribbean monk seal, which has been included in Appendix I in 1975. They indicated that records show that *M. tropicalis* was last sighted in 1952. In 1986, the IUCN Pinniped Specialist Group classified the species in the IUCN Red List as Extinct. In 2008, the United States of America finalized an in-depth review of its List of Endangered Species (ESA), and also concluded that the species was extinct. Mexico recommended the deletion of *Monachus tropicalis* from the CITES Appendices, given that it does not meet the biological criteria (Annex 1), nor the precautionary criteria for possibly extinct species (Annex 4D) of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

The representatives for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and from North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) supported the conclusions of the periodic review. The nomenclature specialist noted that there might be a nomenclature split proposed for this species at CoP20 and that the amendment proposal should take this nomenclature issue into consideration.

Humane Society International, echoed by IWMC-World Conservation Trust, noted that this species had become extinct well before the Convention came into force and was included in the Appendices as part of a higher taxon listing. As an alternative, in accordance to paragraph 1 of Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*, the annotation (possibly extinct) could be added in the Appendices.

The Animals Committee thanked Mexico and supported the submission of a proposal to delete the extinct species *Monachus tropicalis* from Appendix I. The Animals Committee encouraged Mexico to liaise with the nomenclature specialist to resolve any nomenclature issues before the submission of the amendment proposal to the Conference of the Parties.

Annotations

46. Informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations*
[Decision 19.267]..... PC27 Doc. 37/AC33 Doc. 46

The Secretariat presented a study on the feasibility and requirements for an informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations in accordance with Decision 19.266. The Secretariat noted that the study provided important background information on the subject matter for the Parties and constituted a useful basis for discussion. The Secretariat considered that there would be value in elaborating various aspects, including but not limited to the implications of such a mechanism – considering the wide range of issues and species and specimens that may be considered under different annotations – and potential terms of reference or a rapid guide developing criteria to guide the review of annotations.

The PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), the AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz), the AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Humane Society International, also on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation and Species Survival Network, and the World Wide Fund for Nature cautioned against the establishment of a review mechanism, especially of one that would have financial and workload implications, noting that there was enough time for a review of annotations between the document deadline for CoPs and the CoP meeting itself and that implementation challenges linked to annotations could be considered by the Standing Committee intersessional working group on annotations.

Canada and IWMC-World Conservation Trust did see value in some form of mechanism that should also consider bracketed annotations, in particular quota annotations, that could be harmonized.

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) suggested that Parties could benefit from capacity-building on how to implement Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II* and invited the Secretariat to issue a Notification to gather feedback on the study. The United Kingdom encouraged Parties to submit draft amendment proposals to the Animals and Plants Committees before meetings of the Conference of the Parties in order to gather feedback on annotations.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) noted the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of Decision 19.266; and
- b) invited the Secretariat to publish a Notification to the Parties asking Parties to provide comments on the assessment of feasibility of establishing an informal mechanism for review of existing and proposed annotations in the CITES Appendices and on other issues related to annotations to inform the Secretariat's reporting to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting.

Nomenclature matters

47. Botanical and zoological nomenclature*
[Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and Decisions listed below]

47.1 Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings*
[Decision 18.313 (Rev. CoP19)].....PC27 Doc. 40.1/AC33 Doc. 47.1

* This agenda item is addressed to the Animals and Plants Committees.

The specialist on zoological nomenclature (Mr. Van Dijk) introduced document PC27 Doc. 40.1/AC33 Doc. 47.1 that summarized the perspectives of Parties and observers on nomenclature of Appendix-III listings. The submissions proposed that the standard nomenclature review process already carried out for Appendices I and II integrate the species listed in Appendix III to avoid a parallel review process, while acknowledging that nomenclature amendment of Appendix-III listings has to follow a different approach, because the inclusion and deletion of a species in Appendix III is decided by an individual Party. It therefore proposed in paragraph 33 to develop a specific procedure for any nomenclatural amendments to species listed in Appendix III, to be reflected in Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III* and/or Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*.

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) proposed some substantive edits to the draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III* and to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*. The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) supported the recommendations in the document, except for one draft amendment since they preferred that the nomenclature reference be submitted at the same time as the submission of the Appendix-III listing.

Conservation Force, supported by Zimbabwe, proposed that paragraph 1 a) iii) of Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) refer to the national laws of the country, and not only regulations.

The Plants and Animals Committees requested the Secretariat to prepare an in-session document reflecting the amendments proposed by the AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), the AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and Conservation Force to the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 40.1/AC33 Doc. 47.1.

Later in the meeting, the Secretariat introduced document PC27/AC33 Com. 1. The specialist in zoological nomenclature (Mr. Van Dijk) and the AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) supported the recommendations.

The Plants and Animals Committees agreed the recommendations in document PC27/AC33 Com. 1 as follows:

Proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III*:

1. RECOMMENDS that, when considering the inclusion of a species in Appendix III, a Party:
 - a) ensure that:
 - i) the species is native to its country;
 - ii) if the species concerned is included in one of the standard lists of names or taxonomic references adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the name provided by that reference be used; if the species concerned is not included in one of the adopted standard references, the Party provide references as to the source of the name used as indicated in sub-paragraph e) below, and in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, as appropriate;
 - iii) its national laws and regulations for the conservation of the species are adequate to prevent or restrict exploitation and to control trade, and include penalties for illegal taking, trade or possession and provisions for confiscation; and
 - iiii) its national enforcement measures are adequate to implement these regulations;
 - [...]
 - c) inform the Management Authorities of other range States, the known major importing countries, the Secretariat and the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee that it is considering the inclusion of the species in Appendix III, provide the Nomenclature Specialist of the Animals or Plants Committee with the reference as to the source of the name used to describe the species being proposed, and seek their opinion on the potential effects of such inclusion;

[...]

- e) after due consultation, and having satisfied itself that the biological and trade status of the species justify the action, submit to the Secretariat its considerations under paragraph 1 a) to d) above, specifying the following, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article XVI of the Convention:
 - i) the scientific name of the species it is submitting for inclusion in Appendix III:
 - A. if the species concerned is included in one of the standard lists of names or taxonomic references adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the reference citation and the name provided by that reference should be submitted;
 - B. if the species concerned is not included in one of the adopted standard references, the Party(ies) should provide reference(s) as to the source of the name used; and
 - C. if there are nomenclature uncertainties concerning the species, Party(ies) should consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, as appropriate; and
 - ii) any readily recognizable parts and derivatives to be included, unless it intends to include all readily recognizable parts and derivatives

.....

- 6. URGES Parties having included species in Appendix III to:
 - a) review periodically the status of these species, seek assistance of the Animals or Plants Committee in undertaking the review mentioned in paragraph 5 of this Resolution, if necessary, and taking into account these guidelines and any recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, to consider the necessity to maintain the species in Appendix III;
 - b) inform the Secretariat and the Animals and Plants Committees about any taxonomic or nomenclatural changes affecting species included in Appendix III to determine whether these changes would also result in changes in distribution that would affect the determination of which countries would be required to issue certificates of origin, and proceed to amend the Appendix-III listing, if needed; and
 - c) respond in a timely manner to requests from the Secretariat on proposed nomenclature changes for Appendix-III listed species recommended by the Animals or Plants Committee through its process for updating current standard nomenclatural references in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature* to inform amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and proceed to amend the Appendix-III listing, if needed.

Proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*:

- 2. RECOMMENDS that:

.....

- f) whenever a change in the name of a taxon included in the Appendices is proposed, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, determine whether this change would alter the scope of protection for fauna or flora under the Convention. In the case where the scope of a taxon is redefined, the Animals or Plants Committee shall evaluate whether acceptance of the taxonomic change would cause additional species to be included in the Appendices or listed species to be deleted from the Appendices and, if that is the case, a range state Party or the Depositary Government should be requested to submit a proposal to amend the Appendices in accordance with the recommendation of the Animals or Plants Committee, so that the original intent of the listing is retained. Such proposals should be submitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees will be considered;
- g) if the Animals or Plants Committee become informed of taxonomic or proposes nomenclatural changes in a published taxonomic authority (see definition in paragraph 2.h) relating to taxa included in Appendix-III, they should advise the Secretariat of such proposed changes and whether they these changes would

also result in changes in species distribution that would affect the issuance of determination of which countries would be required to issue certificates of origin by range States. To ensure the Party (or Parties) that included the species in Appendix III are aware of the potential changes and their potential impacts on implementation, the Secretariat will inform the Party (or Parties) of the nomenclature changes and any resulting changes in distribution that potentially alter the scope of protection for fauna and flora (inclusion or deletion of species or populations) included in Appendix III and in consultation with the nomenclature specialist(s) as appropriate, encourage the Party (or Parties) to revise the nomenclature of their Appendix-III listing in accordance with the procedure described in Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III*.

.....

8. AGREES that the adoption of a standard checklist or reference by the Conference of the Parties does not by itself change the status vis-à-vis CITES of any entity, whether it is listed in the Appendices or not, and the status of the entity remains as intended in the proposal adopted by the Conference unless specifically changed by the adoption of a further amendment proposal; any Party that identifies a change in the status vis-à-vis CITES of any entity as a result of the adoption of a new standard reference should consult the Secretariat and nomenclature specialist as soon as possible.

The Plants and Animals Committees agreed that Decision 18.313 (Rev. CoP19) has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the Conference of the Parties.

47.2 Higher taxon listings in the Appendices*

[Decision 19.272]..... PC27 Doc. 40.2/AC33 Doc. 47.2 (Rev. 1)

The specialist on zoological nomenclature (Mr. Van Dijk) introduced document PC27 Doc. 40.2/AC33 Doc. 47.2 (Rev. 1) that reviewed the scientific implications and impacts of existing and future higher taxon listings in the Appendices. Taking into account the broadly held view of the Parties that a higher taxon listing is substantively different from a comprehensive listing of all individual species contained in that higher taxon, the document concluded that any conversion of a listing of individual species to a higher taxon listing, or a higher taxon listing converted to a listing of individual species, is a substantive change, which therefore requires a proposal to the Conference of the Parties compliant with the Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II specified in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and/or Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18). It was concluded that the changes that may be proposed by the nomenclature specialists under the mandate of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) should be restricted to: taxon splits (i.e., recognition of new names applied to populations or taxa previously considered part of an already-listed species or higher taxon); and taxon merges (i.e., synonymisations).

The PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) saw merit in revising Resolution Conf 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and supported the recommendations in the document, while the PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) did not.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) and Australia expressed grave concerns about the changes proposed in paragraph 8 of the document since demonstrating for each of the species included in a higher taxon that it complies with the listing criteria would be a tall order for Parties. The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz), Argentina, Brazil and Israel expressed similar concerns about paragraph 8 and also opposed the amendments proposed in paragraph 10, mainly because a change to a higher taxon is not systematically a substantive change as indicated in document SC77 Doc. 74. The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz), Brazil and Israel supported the recommendation in paragraph 17 b) i) and 17 c) of document PC27 Doc. 40.2/AC33 Doc. 47.2 (Rev. 1).

The Center for Biological Diversity, also speaking on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Born Free USA, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pan-African Sanctuary Alliance, ProWildlife, Species Survival Network and Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, as well as Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature also rejected the amendments proposed in paragraph 17 a) and supported maintaining the current system that examines the need for amendment proposals on a case by case basis.

The Plants and Animals Committees:

- a) agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the following amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*:

whenever a change in the name of a taxon included in the Appendices, or the taxonomic level in which a taxon is included in the Appendices, is proposed, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, determine whether this change would alter the scope of protection for fauna or flora under the Convention. In the case where the scope of a taxon is redefined, the Animals or Plants Committee shall evaluate whether acceptance of the taxonomic change would cause additional species to be included in the Appendices or listed species to be deleted from the Appendices and, if that is the case, the Depositary Government should be requested to submit a proposal to amend the Appendices in accordance with the recommendation of the Animals or Plants Committee, so that the original intent of the listing is retained. Such proposals should be submitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees that are determined not to alter the scope of protection for fauna and flora under the Convention will also be considered by the Conference of the Parties;

- b) agreed that Decision 19.272 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

47.3 Development of a standardized global checklist of species*

[Decision 19.274].....PC27 Doc. 40.3/AC33 Doc. 47.3

The specialist on botanical nomenclature (Ms. Klopper) introduced document PC27 Doc. 40.3/AC33 Doc. 47.3 and presented an update on the work of the Checklist Governance Working Group established under the auspices of the International Union of Biological Sciences. The nomenclature specialists considered that the Global Checklist process is a long-term process and proposed incorporating the participation in initiatives to develop a standardized global checklist of species in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*. They also presented possible priorities for the selection, preparation, or updating, and adoption of nomenclature standard references based on feedback received from members of the joint intersessional working group on nomenclature.

The United States of America and Canada preferred the renewal of Decision 19.274, rather than incorporating it in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and expressed concerns about the possibility of deflecting the resources and time of the nomenclature specialist on the Global Checklist Process. The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) signalled that they were amenable to either option. The United States of America proposed additional text to Decision 19.274 in order to clarify its value for CITES.

France, noting that nomenclature was the fourth language of CITES, wished to include *Pandinus* spp. in the list of nomenclature priorities, while the United States of America wished to add corals.

Conservation Force asked whether the nomenclature specialists were involved in the Global Taxonomy Initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to which the specialist on botanical nomenclature (Ms. Klopper) responded that that initiative focused on promoting capacity and had limited relevance for CITES.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) noted the list of priority taxa for the adoption of nomenclature standard references in paragraph 7 of document PC27 Doc. 40.3/AC33 Doc. 47.3 as amended by the United States of America and France (see below);

REPTILIA: SAURIA

Gekkonidae: *Carphodactylus* spp., *Nephurus* spp., *Orraya* spp., *Phyllurus* spp., *Saltuarius* spp., all listed *Sphaerodactylus* species, *Strophurus* spp., *Underwoodisaurus* spp., and *Uvidicolus* spp.

Helodermatidae: *Heloderma* spp.

Phrynosomatidae: *Phrynosoma* spp.

Scincidae: *Egernia* spp.

ARTHROPODA: ARACHNIDA

Scorpionidae: *Pandinus* spp.

INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA

Papilionidae: *Bhutanitis* spp., *Teinopalpus* spp.

MOLLUSCA: BIVALVIA

Tridacnidae spp.

MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA

Achatinellidae: *Achatinella* spp.

Cepolidae: *Polymita* spp.

ANTHOZOA

FLORA

Amaryllidaceae: *Galanthus* spp., *Sternbergia* spp.

Apocynaceae: *Hoodia* spp.

Asparagaceae: *Beaucarnea* spp.

Bignoniaceae: *Handroanthus* spp., *Roseodendron* spp., *Tabebuia* spp.

Crassulaceae: *Rhodiola* spp.

Cyatheaceae: *Cyathea* spp.

Dicksoniaceae: *Dicksonia* spp.

Didiereaceae spp.

Euphorbiaceae: Succulent *Euphorbia* spp.

Leguminosae: *Afzelia* spp.

Meliaceae: *Cedrela* spp.

Nepenthaceae: *Nepenthes* spp.

Portulacaceae: *Anacampseros* spp., *Avonia* spp.

Primulaceae: *Cyclamen* spp.

Sarraceniaceae: *Sarracenia* spp.

Stangeriaceae: *Stangeria* spp., *Bowenia* spp.

Thymelaeaceae: *Aquilaria* spp., *Gyrinops* spp., *Gonystylus* spp.

Zamiaceae spp.

Zygophyllaceae: *Guaicum* spp.

- b) agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the renewal of Decision 19.274 as amended by the United States of America:

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

19.274 (Rev. CoP20)

Subject to external funding, the Animals and Plants Committees shall, through their respective nomenclature specialists, participate in the initiative of the International Union of Biological Sciences to develop a standardized global checklist of species, and report on progress to the 20th 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including views on the prospective values, benefits, and the potential limitations of participating in such effort as it relates to improving CITES implementation and with consideration of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19).

- c) agreed to propose for deletion paragraph 11 of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*.

48. Report of the specialist on zoological nomenclature
[Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and Decisions 19.276
(African elephants), 19.278 (Bird family and order names) and
Decision 18.310 (Rev. CoP19) (time-specific versions of online-databases)]..... AC33 Doc. 48

The nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee (Mr. Van Dijk) presented an update on the implementation of the nomenclatural tasks referred to the Animals Committee at CoP19; updates to standard nomenclature under Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19), including the preparation of checklists, standard references for Reptilia (Sauria and Testudines), cartilaginous and bony fishes and sea cucumbers. The nomenclature specialist also reflected on the ever-increasing tasks assigned by the Conference of Parties to the nomenclature specialists, the frequency of consultations by the Parties, and the increasing complexity and acceleration of taxonomic and nomenclatural analyses and developments in the scientific community and reminded the Animals Committee that the terms of reference of the Animals and Plants Committees provides for the election of an alternate member to the specialists on botanical and zoological nomenclature.

The representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) generally supported the recommendations and called for a thoughtful and conservative approach to taxonomic changes given the implementation consequences they have, noting that one needs to think whether the lack of taxonomy has an impact on CITES controls and whether there is consensus among taxonomic authorities.

The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), echoed by the representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and Mexico, cautioned against the suspension of the work of adopting the *HBW/BI Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World*, noting that the 2025 delivery date might not be met in time for CoP20. Humane Society International provided an update on the delivery of that publication.

The representative for Africa (Ms. Maha), echoed by Cameroon, Kenya and Senegal, indicated that the Animals Committee should not look at the issue of whether a genus listing for elephants should be recommended or not, but should focus on recommending a new taxonomic reference.

The Animals Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on nomenclature to consider the recommendations in paragraph 34 of document AC33 Doc. 48 and to report back to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk);

Members: representative for Africa (Ms. Maha), representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr);

Parties: Botswana, Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, France, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Namibia, Portugal, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: Convention on Migratory Species, United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); International Union for Conservation of Nature; Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Brazilian Association of breeders and Traders of Native and Exotic Animals, Bundesverband für fachgerechten Natur-, Tier- und Artenschutz e.V., Center for Biological Diversity, Conservation Force, German Society for Herpetology, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Fur Federation, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Pan-African Sanctuary Alliance, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, ProWildlife, Wildlife Ranching South Africa NPC, Safari Club International, Society for Wildlife and Nature International, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Later in the meeting, the nomenclature specialist (Mr. Van Dijk) introduced document AC33 Com. 3.

Chile, Israel, Togo, the United States of America and Humane Society International highlighted the crucial importance of nomenclature that is vital for the successful implementation of the Convention and thanked the nomenclature specialist for their hard work. In response to the query of Israel, the nomenclature specialist explained that its term would run until CoP21, and the Secretariat explained how nomenclature specialists

are nominated and chosen. The Secretariat indicated that it will issue a Notification inviting Parties to nominate candidates.

The United States of America proposed an edit to Decision 18.311 (Rev. CoP20).

The Animals Committee noted that the Chair had agreed to add Chile and Rwanda as members of the in-session working group.

The Animals Committee agreed the recommendations in document AC33 Com. 3 amended as follows:

The Animals Committee:

- a) urged Parties to nominate candidates for the vacant alternate position for the specialist on zoological nomenclature;

With regard to the Use of time-specific versions of online-databases as standard nomenclature references

- b) encouraged the Secretariat to, subject to available resources, continue its work on the use of online taxonomic resources as standard nomenclature references and report to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- c) agreed to submit for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the renewal and revision of the decisions relating to the use of time-specific versions of online database as standard nomenclature references, as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

18.309 The Secretariat shall:

- a) continue to engage copyright-holders of relevant online-databases that might serve as standard nomenclature references and explore the possible use of time-specific versions for CITES services; for example, relevant databases include but are not limited to WoRMS, Fish Base, ESCHMEYER & FRICKE's *Catalog of Fishes*, *Amphibian Species of the World*, and *Corals of the World* as standard references;
- b) report the results of its consultations to the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.310 (Rev. CoP1920) The Animals Committee shall:

- a) evaluate the results of the Secretariat's consultation;
- b) develop recommendations on the use of time-specific online-databases as standard nomenclature references for decision by the Conference of the Parties at its ~~20th~~21st meeting.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.311(Rev. CoP20) The Secretariat shall:

- a) determine ~~seek~~, as a priority, if access is possible, to ~~if possible~~, a time-specific version of the WoRMS database for consideration as a standard nomenclature reference for CITES listed coral species and, if accessible, provide it to the Animals Committee; and
- b) issue a Notification to the Parties reminding Parties, when they issue permits and certificates for coral specimens, to use the names of coral species as defined in the standard nomenclature reference adopted by the Conference of the Parties, as recommended in Resolution Conf.12.3 (Rev.CoP19) on *Permits and certificates*.

- b) ~~report on progress to the Animals Committee.~~

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.312 (Rev. CoP1920) The Animals Committee shall:

- a) ~~consider the report of the Secretariat~~ the time specific version of the WoRMS database, and any other taxonomic authorities, for use as a standard nomenclature reference and proceed towards recommending for adoption of an updated standard nomenclature reference for CITES-listed corals as a priority;
- b) update its list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level is acceptable, but which should be identified to species level where feasible, once a new standard nomenclature reference for CITES-listed coral species has been identified and provide the updated list to the Secretariat for dissemination; and
- c) report with recommendations to the ~~20th~~ 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

With regards to Nomenclature for birds:

- d) agreed to propose the deletion of Decision 19.278 on *Nomenclature for bird family and order names* to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- e) agreed to submit the following draft decision relating to nomenclature for birds for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.AA *The Animals Committee shall continue its work towards adoption of an updated standard nomenclature reference for birds, taking into consideration previous work done, as well as the consolidated checklist of birds of the world in preparation.*

With regards to Reptilia: Sauria

- f) noted progress in the preparation and evaluation of updated checklists for *Phrynosoma* and Iguanid lizards;

With regards to Reptilia: Testudines

- g) agreed to continue its work towards adoption of an updated standard nomenclature reference for turtles and tortoises;

With regards to cartilaginous and bony fishes

- h) requested the Nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee to prepare an amended version of Annex 1 to document AC33 Doc. 48, concerning CITES-listed and closely related fishes, for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- i) invited the Depositary Government to work with the Nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee to submit a proposal for the listing of *Probarbus* spp. in Appendix I for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with Article XV and paragraph 2 f) of Resolution 12.11 (Rev. CoP19);

With regards to sea cucumbers

- j) requested the Nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee to prepare an amended version of Annex 2 to document AC33 Doc.48, concerning CITES-listed sea cucumbers, for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

Additional or updated nomenclatural standard references in Annex 3 in document AC33 Doc. 48

- k) agreed to recommend the draft nomenclature updates contained in the Annex 1 to document AC33 Com. 3 for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting;
- l) requested UNEP-WCMC to include deferred and rejected names in Annex 2 to document AC33 Com. 3 as synonyms in the CITES Checklist.
- m) invited the Secretariat in consultation with the Nomenclature Specialist of the Animals Committee, taking into consideration the priority list of taxa agreed at the joint session of the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee (PC27/AC33 Sum 2), to prepare draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, in order to facilitate, subject to external funding, the preparation of checklists.

General recommendation

- n) invited the Secretariat to, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and the nomenclature specialists, consider possible ways to link previously valid scientific names as synonyms with updated CITES nomenclature adopted by the Conference of the Parties and make recommendations to the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate.

With regards to the mandate in paragraph 1 b)

- o) agreed to reconfirm its acknowledgment at AC32 of the scientific merit of recognizing the two species of African elephants, recognizing that hybrids and mixed-species groupings do occur.
- p) recommended that the nomenclatural standard references concerning African elephants be updated by:
 - i) deleting Wilson & Reeder 1993 as the specific reference for *Loxodonta africana* in the Annex of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature* and therefore including African elephants as covered by the adopted nomenclatural standard reference Wilson & Reeder 2005; and
 - ii) adopting as a supplementary standard reference to clarify the distribution of *Loxodonta africana*, *L. cyclotis*, and their hybrids, Mondol *et al.* 2015, or a more up-to-date publication if that becomes available before the document submission deadline for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- q) agreed to defer to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties the considerations on how to reflect the recognition of these taxa in the Appendices, noting the discussion at SC77.

Regional matters

49. Regional reports

49.1 Africa AC33 Doc. 49.1

The representative for Africa (Mr. Kasoma) introduced document AC33 Doc. 49.1.

49.2 Asia..... AC33 Doc. 49.2 (Rev. 1)

The representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy) introduced document AC33 Doc. 49.2 (Rev. 1).

49.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean AC33 Doc. 49.3

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori) introduced document AC33 Doc. 49.3.

49.4 Europe..... *No document*

The representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) presented an oral report on the activities of their region.

49.5 North America AC33 Doc. 49.5

The acting representative for North America (Mr. Leuteriz) introduced document AC33 Doc. 49.5.

49.6 Oceania AC33 Doc. 49.6

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) introduced document AC33 Doc. 49.6.

The Committee noted the oral report and documents AC33 Doc. 49.1, AC33 Doc. 49.2 (Rev. 1), AC33 Doc. 49.3, AC33 Doc. 49.5 and AC33 Doc. 49.6.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

Concluding items

50. Any other business *No document*

Ukraine requested that the following intervention be included in the summary record:

For over a decade, and especially during the past two years of full-scale invasion, Russia's unjustified and unprovoked armed aggression has devastated the habitats of thousands of species of wild fauna and flora in Ukraine.

According to the information received from the technical staff of the "Askaniya Nowa" Biosphere Reserve, the largest steppe reserve in Europe, the situation under the control of the temporarily occupying authorities remains critically difficult. The occupation administration illegally exchanged seven animals from the Askaniya Nowa biosphere reserve with the Rostovskiy State Nature Biosphere Reserve and the Association for the Conservation and Restoration of Rare and Endangered Animal Species "Living Nature of the Steppe" (Rostov-on-Don, Russia). From the Askaniya Nowa zoo collection the following animals: 2 Chapman zebras, 2 American Bisons, 2 Przewalski horses and 1 Père David's deer. Unfortunately, one more Père David's deer was injured during transportation and died.

It is important to note that the Przewalski horse is listed in the Red Book of Ukraine, in the IUCN Red List with the status 'Extinct in the Wild', as well as in CITES Appendix I. Additionally, the Père David's deer and the American Bison are listed in the IUCN Red List as 'Endangered' and 'Near Threatened' respectively. At the same time, the Askaniya zoo received 2 common elands, 2 domestic yaks, 2 Bactrian camels and 1 guanaco. However, occupation media resources only disseminated the propagandistic information about the arrival of these animals.

The export/import of CITES specimens was carried without proper CITES permits or certificates, which is a direct violation of CITES provisions. This illegal exchange not only undermines our collective efforts to protect endangered species and maintain global biodiversity, but also raises serious concerns about Russia's commitment to wildlife conservation. All this relevant data has been transmitted to the CITES Secretariat.

With all this in mind, we reiterate our demand for the Russian Federation to seize its aggression and withdraw its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine, thus restoring Ukraine's ability to protect and restore the environment within its internationally recognized borders.

The Russian Federation requested that the following intervention be included in the summary record:

We didn't want to politicize today's meeting. We are forced to take the floor in exercise of the right of reply. We regret to see the delegation of Ukraine seeking to politicize the meeting. We reject the accusations of aggression and environmental damage to Ukraine. The reasons for the special operations in Ukraine have been repeatedly explained by the Russian representatives on the relevant political platforms. They are the barbaric civil war unleashed by Kiev against its own population, the economic and environmental blockade of the south-east of the country and Ukraine's sabotage of the Minsk agreement endorsed by the United Nations Security Council. We call on participants to refrain from making biased assessments.

Indonesia requested that the following intervention be included in the summary record:

Indonesia would like to use this opportunity to draw the attention to the situation in Palestine, especially Gaza which is facing severe environmental and biodiversity destruction ... and humanity tragedy ... due to the atrocities by the illegal occupying power of Israel.

Gaza is suffering from damage farmland, loss of animals and plants, disease outbreaks and pollution, water crisis, hindered climate change mitigation and waste management, hence it has truly become a biodiversity disaster. This biodiversity disaster is affecting both human populations and the natural ecosystem.

Thus, at this forum, as CITES is part of the system which aims to protect our biodiversity, which includes our humanity, it is relevant for us to call to stop this environmental and biodiversity destruction ... and humanity tragedy in Gaza...

We cannot let this situation persist.

Israel requested that the following intervention be included in the summary record:

Israel regrets very much that Indonesia has chosen to use this meeting of the CITES Animals Committee for its antisemitic rhetoric, which is unrelated to the mission of this Convention, whose goals are based on international collaboration and cooperation.

On October 7, 2023, over 20 Israeli towns and villages were brutally attacked by Hamas terrorists, breaking a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, that had been in place for years.

More than 4,000 terrorists killed, tortured, raped, and brutalized hundreds of Israeli civilians at a peaceful music festival and in their homes. My nephew, Benjamin Cohen, was murdered by Hamas at the music festival, and my neighbor's son, Daniel Peretz, was also murdered by Hamas on that tragic day.

Additionally, Hamas terrorists kidnapped innocent civilians; over 130 men, women, children, and elderly civilians, including foreign nationals and Israeli-Arab citizens, are still being held hostage in Gaza. This includes Eitan Yahalomi, a ranger from my agency. Hamas has declared its intention to repeat these atrocities against Israeli citizens.

Israel did not start this war. The Hamas terrorists can end it by releasing the hostages and laying down their arms immediately.

Homes have been destroyed, families have been disrupted, people have been killed and displaced, and innocent lives have been lost on both sides. Hamas is entirely to blame for this devastation.

Any condemnations or complaints about the current situation in Gaza should be directed at the Hamas terrorists. Such comments are totally inappropriate at this meeting.

At the request of the Chair, the United States of America agreed not to make an intervention on the floor but requested that the following statement be included in the summary record of the meeting:

The United States supports Ukraine and shares their concern about the environmental devastation that is occurring as a result of Russian aggression.

The United States condemns Russia's aggression against Ukraine, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations. The toll this aggression is taking on Ukraine's people, environment, and infrastructure is catastrophic and must end.

Russia's February 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine was unprovoked and unjustified. President Putin has chosen a premeditated war that has brought catastrophic loss of life and human suffering.

Russia's actions constitute a clear violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, which states that all UN member states shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

The international community must act resolutely and in solidarity with Ukraine. The United States will continue to stand with the people of Ukraine.

At the request of the Chair, Iran also agreed not to make an intervention on the floor but requested that the following statement be included in the summary record of the meeting:

The Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports the statement made by Indonesia on the "Palestine issue", under agenda item 50.

My delegation is of the view that the Israeli regime has perpetrated violation of international law, including the spirit and lofty goals of the Convention, by destroying biodiversity and creating environmental catastrophe in Gaza.

There was no decision taken by the Animals Committee.

51. Time and venue of the 34th meeting of the Animal Committee *No document*

The Animals Committee noted that the 28th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee should take place in Geneva in July 2026.

52. Closing remarks *No document*

The Secretary-General and the Chair thanked the Committee Members, in particular those that chaired in-session working groups, as well as Party observers, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations, the interpreters and the Secretariat. The Animals Committee wished the best to its Chair for his retirement. The Chair closed the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED TO RANGE STATES RETAINED
IN THE REVIEW PROCESS – AGENDA ITEM 14.3

The following recommendations, directed to the range States retained in the review process, are based on the principles outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33.

1. *Sphyrna lewini* / Nicaragua

The Management Authority of Nicaragua shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establish an annual zero export quota within 90 days for <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website. iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement. 	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Undertake science-based studies on the status of the species (e.g. delineation of stocks, population estimates, trends, distribution) including an evaluation of the threats to the species for use as the basis for NDFs. v. Develop NDFs, in consultation with fisheries agencies, which are time-bound (no more than 5 years) for all stocks of <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> where catch for export occurs, which could, inter alia, include the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) consideration of each stock as a separate management unit for conservation and harvest purposes, paying particular attention to any RFMO measures, as appropriate, in place; B) adaptive management, with a review period of no more than 5 years, to take into consideration signals from the stock; C) a precautionary approach, where a cautionary offtake is initially considered, and revised with further information; D) all sources of mortality within the stock. vi. Establish an export quota proportionate to the harvest quota with a clear justification. 	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>vii. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/ problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

2. *Carcharhinus longimanus* /Yemen

The Management Authority of Yemen shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish an annual zero export quota within 90 days for <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Undertake science-based studies on the status of the species (e.g. delineation of stocks, population estimates, trends, distribution) including an evaluation of the threats to the species for use as the basis for NDFs.</p> <p>v. Develop NDFs, in consultation with fisheries agencies, which are time-bound (no more than 5 years) for all stocks of <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> where catch for export occurs, which could, inter alia, include the following elements:</p> <p>A) consideration of each stock as a separate management unit for conservation and harvest purposes, paying particular attention to any RFMO measures, as appropriate, in place;</p> <p>B) adaptive management, with a review period of no more than 5 years, to take into consideration signals from the stock;</p> <p>C) a precautionary approach, where a cautionary offtake is initially considered, and revised with further information;</p> <p>D) all sources of mortality within the stock.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
vi. Establish an export quota proportionate to the harvest quota with a clear justification.	
<u>Long-term Actions</u> vii. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/ problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.	36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee

3. *Sphyrna lewini* / Yemen

The Management Authority of Yemen shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<u>Short-term Actions</u> i. Establish an annual zero export quota within 90 days for <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website. iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.	90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee
<u>Long-term Actions</u> iv. Undertake science-based studies on the status of the species (e.g. delineation of stocks, population estimates, trends, distribution) including an evaluation of the threats to the species for use as the basis for the issuance of certification to the effect that the competent scientific institution has advised that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. v. Develop such certification, in consultation with fisheries agencies, which are time-bound (no more than 5 years) for all stocks of <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> where catch for export occurs, which could, inter alia, include the following elements: A) consideration of each stock as a separate management unit for conservation and harvest purposes, paying particular attention to any RFMO measures, as appropriate, in place; B) adaptive management, with a review period of no more than 5 years, to take into consideration signals from the stock;	36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>C) a precautionary approach, where a cautionary offtake is initially considered, and revised with further information;</p> <p>D) all sources of mortality within the stock.</p> <p>vi. Establish an export quota proportionate to the harvest quota with a clear justification.</p>	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>vii. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article X of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 9.5 (Rev. CoP16). Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

4. *Sphyrna lewini* / Sri Lanka

The Management Authority of Sri Lanka shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish an annual zero export quota within 90 days for <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Undertake science-based studies on the status of the species (e.g. delineation of stocks, population estimates, trends, distribution) including an evaluation of the threats to the species for use as the basis for NDFs.</p> <p>v. Develop NDFs, in consultation with fisheries agencies, which are time-bound (no more than 5 years) for all stocks of <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> where catch for export occurs, which could, inter alia, include the following elements:</p> <p>A) consideration of each stock as a separate management unit for conservation and harvest purposes, paying particular attention to any RFMO measures, as appropriate, in place;</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>B) adaptive management, with a review period of no more than 5 years, to take into consideration signals from the stock;</p> <p>C) a precautionary approach, where a cautionary offtake is initially considered, and revised with further information;</p> <p>D) all sources of mortality within the stock.</p> <p>vi. Establish an export quota proportionate to the harvest quota with a clear justification.</p>	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>vii. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

5. *Mobula* spp. / Sri Lanka

The Management Authority of Sri Lanka shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish an annual zero export quota within 90 days for <i>Mobula</i> spp. and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Undertake science-based studies on the status of the species (e.g. delineation of stocks, population estimates, trends, distribution) including an evaluation of the threats to the species for use as the basis for NDFs.</p> <p>v. Develop NDFs, in consultation with fisheries agencies, which are time-bound (no more than 5 years) for all stocks of <i>Mobula</i> spp. where catch for export occurs, which could, inter alia, include the following elements:</p> <p>A) consideration of each stock as a separate management unit for conservation and harvest purposes, paying particular attention to any RFMO measures, as appropriate, in place;</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>B) adaptive management, with a review period of no more than 5 years, to take into consideration signals from the stock;</p> <p>C) a precautionary approach, where a cautionary offtake is initially considered, and revised with further information;</p> <p>D) all sources of mortality within the stock.</p> <p>vi. Establish an export quota proportionate to the harvest quota with a clear justification.</p>	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>vii. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

6. *Carcharhinus longimanus* / Kenya

The Management Authority of Kenya shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish an annual zero export quota within 90 days for <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Undertake science-based studies on the status of the species (e.g. delineation of stocks, population estimates, trends, distribution) including an evaluation of the threats to the species for use as the basis for NDFs.</p> <p>v. Develop NDFs, in consultation with fisheries agencies, which are time-bound (no more than 5 years) for all stocks of <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> where catch for export occurs, which could, inter alia, include the following elements:</p> <p>A) consideration of each stock as a separate management unit for conservation and harvest</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>purposes, paying particular attention to any RFMO measures, as appropriate, in place;</p> <p>B) adaptive management, with a review period of no more than 5 years, to take into consideration signals from the stock;</p> <p>C) a precautionary approach, where a cautionary offtake is initially considered, and revised with further information;</p> <p>D) all sources of mortality within the stock.</p> <p>vi. Establish an export quota proportionate to the harvest quota with a clear justification.</p>	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>vii. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

7. *Sphyrna lewini* / Kenya

The Management Authority of Kenya shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish a conservative annual export quota of 50 live specimens, within 90 days, for <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Undertake science-based studies on the status of the species (e.g. delineation of stocks, population estimates, trends, distribution) including an evaluation of the threats to the species for use as the basis for NDFs.</p> <p>v. Develop NDFs, in consultation with fisheries agencies, which are time-bound (no more than 5 years) for all stocks of <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> where catch for export occurs, which could, inter alia, include the following elements:</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>A) consideration of each stock as a separate management unit for conservation and harvest purposes, paying particular attention to any RFMO measures, as appropriate, in place;</p> <p>B) adaptive management, with a review period of no more than 5 years, to take into consideration signals from the stock;</p> <p>C) a precautionary approach, where a cautionary offtake is initially considered, and revised with further information;</p> <p>D) all sources of mortality within the stock.</p> <p>vi. Establish an export quota proportionate to the harvest quota with a clear justification.</p>	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>vii. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

8. *Sphyrna lewini* / Mexico

The Management Authority of Mexico shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish a conservative annual export quota of 50% of volumes published for 2024, within 90 days, for <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Develop NDFs, in consultation with fisheries agencies, which are time-bound (no more than 5 years) for all stocks of <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> where catch for export occurs, which could, inter alia, include the following elements:</p> <p>A) any RFMO measures, as appropriate, in place;</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>B) adaptive management, with a review period of no more than 5 years, to take into consideration signals from the stock;</p> <p>C) a precautionary approach, where a cautionary offtake is initially considered, and revised with further information;</p> <p>D) all sources of mortality within the stock;</p> <p>E) rebuilding plan.</p> <p>v. Establish an export quota proportionate to the harvest quota with a clear justification.</p>	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>vi. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

9. *Sphyrna mokarran* / Mexico

The Management Authority of Mexico shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish a conservative annual export quota of 50% of volumes published for 2024, within 90 days for <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>v. Develop NDFs, in consultation with fisheries agencies, which are time-bound (no more than 5 years) for all stocks of <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> where catch for export occurs, which could, inter alia, include the following elements:</p> <p>A) any RFMO measures, as appropriate, in place;</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>B) adaptive management, with a review period of no more than 5 years, to take into consideration signals from the stock;</p> <p>C) a precautionary approach, where a cautionary offtake is initially considered, and revised with further information;</p> <p>D) all sources of mortality within the stock;</p> <p>vi. Establish export quota proportionate to the harvest quota with a clear justification.</p>	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>viii. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

10. *Kinixys homeana* / Ghana

The Management Authority of Ghana shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish an annual zero export quota within 90 days for <i>Kinixys homeana</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, including levels of domestic and illegal trade for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Develop and implement an ongoing science-based population monitoring program that is used in conjunction with an adaptive management program for the species, for use in making of NDFs.</p> <p>v. Develop and implement coordinated national and/or local management plans (that include harvest management considerations), with clear monitoring requirements; management is adaptive (regular review of harvest records; of impact of harvesting, including for the domestic bushmeat trade; adjustment of harvest instructions as necessary), harvest restrictions, including</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>size limits, based on monitoring results.</p> <p>vi. Undertake qualitative monitoring of the scale and trends of all exports (increasing, stable or decreasing) for use in making NDFs.</p> <p>vii. Provide training for CITES authorities and conservation staff.</p> <p>viii. Develop identification methods and materials</p>	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>ix. Upon completion of other recommendations provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p> <p>x. Develop science-based export quotas using standardised terms and units used in reporting trade export quotas as found in the most recent version of the guidelines for the preparation of CITES annual reports.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

11. *Python regius* / Ghana

The Management Authority of Ghana shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, an interim conservative annual export quota for source codes W and R within 90 days for <i>Python regius</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>iv. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>Develop and implement an ongoing science-based population monitoring program that is used in conjunction with an adaptive management program for the species, for use in making of NDFs</p> <p>v. Develop and implement coordinated national and/or local management plans (that include harvest management</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>considerations), with clear monitoring requirements; management is adaptive (regular review of harvest records; of impact of harvesting; adjustment of harvest instructions as necessary), harvest restrictions, based on monitoring results</p> <p>vi. Undertake qualitative monitoring of the scale and trends of all exports (increasing, stable or decreasing) for use in making NDFs.</p> <p>vii. Provide training for CITES authorities and conservation staff.</p> <p>viii. Develop identification methods and materials</p>	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>ix. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p> <p>x. Develop science-based export quotas using standardised terms and units used in reporting trade export quotas as found in the most recent version of the guidelines for the preparation of CITES annual reports.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

12. *Python regius* / Benin

The Management Authority of Benin shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, an interim conservative annual export quota for source codes W and R within 90 days for <i>P. regius</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>iv. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p>v. Develop and implement an ongoing science-based population monitoring program that is used in conjunction with an adaptive management program for the species,</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>for use in making of NDFs</p> <p>vi. Develop and implement coordinated national and/or local management plans (that include harvest management considerations), with clear monitoring requirements; management is adaptive (regular review of harvest records; of impact of harvesting; adjustment of harvest instructions as necessary), harvest restrictions, based on monitoring results</p> <p>vii. Undertake qualitative monitoring of the scale and trends of all exports (increasing, stable or decreasing) for use in making NDFs.</p> <p>viii. Provide training for CITES authorities and conservation staff.</p> <p>ix. Develop identification methods and materials.</p>	<p>of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>x. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p> <p>xi. Develop science-based export quotas using standardised terms and units used in reporting trade export quotas as found in the most recent version of the guidelines for the preparation of CITES annual reports.</p>	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

13. *Python regius* / Togo

The Management Authority of Togo shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, an interim conservative annual export quota for source codes W and R within 90 days for <i>Python regius</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>iii. The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>iv. Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. Develop and implement an ongoing science-based population monitoring program that is used in conjunction with an adaptive management program for the species, for use in making of NDFs vi. Develop and implement coordinated national and/or local management plans (that include harvest management considerations), with clear monitoring requirements; management is adaptive (regular review of harvest records; of impact of harvesting; adjustment of harvest instructions as necessary), harvest restrictions, based on monitoring results vii. Undertake qualitative monitoring of the scale and trends of all exports (increasing, stable or decreasing) for use in making NDFs. viii. Provide training for CITES authorities and conservation staff. ix. Develop identification methods and materials. 	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> x. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process. xi. Develop science-based export quotas using standardised terms and units used in reporting trade export quotas as found in the most recent version of the guidelines for the preparation of CITES annual reports. 	<p>36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

15. *Testudo horsfieldii* / Uzbekistan

The Management Authority of Uzbekistan shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establish an annual zero export quota for sources codes W and R within 90 days for <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. ii. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website. iii. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their 	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation
<p>agreement.</p> <p>iv. Clarify why there were high levels of exports of wild-sourced specimens reported in 2020 and 2021 (years in which harvest from the wild was reported to have stopped)</p> <p>v. Provide information on the level of offtake from the wild to supplement captive breeding operations</p>	

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
RESOLUTION CONF. 11.10 (REV. COP15) ON *TRADE IN STONY CORALS*

Conf. 11.10
(Rev. CoP15)

Trade in stony corals

AWARE that stony corals (~~in the orders Scleractinia, as well as non-scleractinian corals within the genera *Distichopora*, *Heliopora*, *Millepora*, *Stylaster* and *Tubipora*, Helioporacea, Milleporina, Scleractinia, Stolonifera, and Stylasterina~~) are in international trade as live or dead specimens intact specimens for aquaria and as curios;

RECOGNIZING that coral rock, skeleton fragments, sand and other coral products are also traded;

NOTING the unique nature of corals, namely that their skeletons are persistent, that they may become mineralized in time and that they are the foundation of reefs, and that, following erosion, fragments of coral may form part of mineral and sedimentary deposits;

NOTING also that coral rock may act as an important substrate for the attachment of live corals and that the removal of rock may have a detrimental impact on coral reef ecosystems;

AWARE, however, that coral rock can ~~not only~~ be readily identified ~~other than~~ to the order Scleractinia, or in the case of non-scleractinian corals, to the genus level (*Distichopora*, *Heliopora*, *Millepora*, *Stylaster* or *Tubipora*), and that accordingly non-detriment findings under Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention cannot be readily applied;

NOTING however, that for practical purposes of implementing the Convention, all coral rock can be reported in trade as "Scleractinia spp." irrespective of whether the coral rock contains scleractinian corals, non-scleractinian corals, or a mixed composition, for ease of identification and reporting.

NOTING that Article IV, paragraph 3, requires the monitoring of exports of specimens of each species in Appendix II, in order to assess whether the species is being maintained at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem;

NOTING that assessments under Article IV, paragraph 3, of the impacts of harvesting corals on the ecosystems from which they are derived cannot be adequately made by monitoring exports alone;

ACCEPTING that coral skeleton fragments and coral sand cannot be readily recognized;

RECOGNIZING also that it is ~~frequently~~ usually difficult to identify live or dead corals to the species level owing to the lack of a standard nomenclature and the lack of comprehensive and accessible identification guides for the non-specialist;

RECOGNIZING that stony corals that are fossilized are not subject to the provisions of the Convention;

NOTING that it has been difficult to apply and enforce the provisions of the Convention to trade in corals;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ADOPTS the working definitions of coral sand, coral skeleton fragments, coral rock, live coral and dead coral provided in the Annex to this Resolution;
2. RECOMMENDS that Parties give much greater emphasis to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 3, when permitting the export of corals and that they adopt the principles and practice of an ecosystem approach, rather than relying on the monitoring of exports alone; and

3. URGES:

- a) interested Parties and other bodies from range and consumer States to collaborate and provide support, coordinated by the Secretariat, to produce as a priority accessible and practical guides to recognizing corals and coral rock in trade and to make these widely available to Parties through appropriate media; and
- b) Parties to seek synergy with other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives to work for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems.

Annex

Definitions

Coral sand – material consisting entirely or in part of ~~fine sediments finely crushed fragments~~ of dead coral ~~origin~~ no larger than 2 mm in diameter and which may also contain, amongst other things, the remains of Foraminifera, mollusc and crustacean shell, and coralline algae. Not identifiable to the level of genus. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives, coral sand is not considered readily recognizable, and is therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Coral skeleton fragments (including gravel and rubble) – unconsolidated fragments of ~~broken finger-like~~ dead coral and other material between 2 and 30 mm measured in any direction, which is not identifiable to the level of genus. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives, coral skeleton fragments are not considered readily recognizable, and are therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Coral rock¹ ~~is (the collective term used for also live rock and substrate)~~ – hard consolidated material, >3 cm in diameter, formed of fragments of dead coral and which may also contain cemented sand, coralline algae and other sedimentary rocks. The term 'coral rock' should not be used on permits; which should instead refer to 'live rock' and 'substrate'.

'Live rock' is the term given to large pieces of coral rock (usually > 0,5 kg each) to which are attached live specimens of invertebrate species and coralline algae not included in the CITES Appendices. Live rock should not have live specimens of CITES-listed coral species attached. Live rock is used as decoration and habitat in aquariums and is usually and which are transported in moist condition, but not in water, in crates. Live rock is subject to the provisions of the Convention and should be reported as Scleractinia spp.

'Substrate' is the term given to small pieces of coral rock (usually < 0.5 kg each), to which are attached invertebrates (of species not included in the CITES Appendices). Substrate is used as pedestal (base) for attached invertebrates, such as sea anemones or soft corals and is therefore and which are transported in water to keep these organisms alive, like live corals. Substrate should not have live specimens of CITES-listed coral species attached. Coral rock is not identifiable to the level of genus but is recognizable to the level of order. The definition excludes specimens defined as dead coral. Substrate, when readily recognizable as coral, is subject to the provisions of the Convention and should be reported as Scleractinia spp.

Dead coral – pieces of coral that are dead when exported, but that may have been alive when collected, and in which the structure of corallites (the skeleton of the individual polyp) is still intact; specimens are therefore identifiable to the level of species or genus.

Live coral – pieces of live coral transported in water and that are identifiable to the level of species or genus.