

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



Seventy-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Online, 5-7 May 2021

ANNOTATED AGENDA
(provisional)

Opening remarks of the Chair *No document*

The Chair of the Standing Committee will open its seventy-third session.

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

The Secretary-General will provide an update on the Secretariat's activities.

Administrative and financial matters

1. Agenda

1.1 Adoption of the agenda SC73 Doc. 1.1

The Committee will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in document SC73 Doc. 1.1.

1.2 Annotated agenda SC73 Doc. 1.2

The Committee will be invited to note the annotated agenda in the present document.

2. Adoption of the working programme SC72 Doc. 2

The Committee will be invited to adopt its working programme as set out in document SC73 Doc. 2.

3. Rules of Procedure SC73 Doc. 3

The Secretary-General will draw the attention of the Committee to information document SC73 Inf. 1 that provides guidance on the application of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee in an online meeting.

The Committee will be invited to note that its Rules of Procedure as amended at its 70th meeting (Sochi, October 2018) and set out in the Annex to document SC73 Doc. 3 remain valid for each of its meetings.

4. Credentials *No document*

The Secretary-General will provide an update on the number of credentials it received in particular from Members of the Standing Committee, noting that only Members that had submitted credentials can vote.

The Committee will be invited to note the oral report of the Secretariat.

5. Admission of observers SC73 Doc. 5

The Committee will be invited to note the list of observer organizations that had been invited to attend the meeting as set out in the Annex to document SC73 Doc. 5.

6. Financial matters: Report of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee *No document*

The Acting Chair (Switzerland) of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) will inform the Committee that the FBSC had agreed to exceptionally reduce the participation charges for observers at the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee to USD 50, noting that this should not be considered as a precedent and had noted the quarterly reports for the year 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 for the Core Trust Fund (CTL). The FBSC will further provide a recommendation on a language strategy for the Convention as set out in document SC73 Doc. 11.

7. Arrangements for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) *No document*

The Secretary-General will recall that, on 12 March 2021, it was advised by Costa Rica that due to the financial and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic it was, with great regret, formally withdrawing its offer to host CoP19. In Notification 2021/027 of 25 March 2021, the Secretariat therefore sought expressions of interest from another Party (or Parties) to host (or co-host) CoP19 in the second half of 2022. Interested Parties have been requested to contact the Secretariat as soon as possible and at the latest by 30 June 2021. If no new host is forthcoming, CoP19 will be held at the International Conference Center (CICG) in Geneva, Switzerland, from 9 to 21 July 2022, but with a restricted participation due to capacity limitations at the venue.

8. Report on current activities of the scientific committees

8.1 Animals Committee SC73 Doc. 8.1

The document by the Chair of the Animals Committee provides an update on the ambitious intersessional work programme the Committee had to develop following the postponement of its 31st meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report on the current activities of the Animals Committee set out in document SC73 Doc. 8.1 highlights how the Committee intends to provide useful inputs to the discussions that will take place at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and at CoP19.

The Standing Committee will be invited to take note of document SC73 Doc. 8.1.

8.2 Plants Committee SC73 Doc. 8.2

The document by the Chair of the Plants Committee provides an update on the ambitious intersessional work programme the Committee had to develop following the postponement of its 25th meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report on the current activities of the Plants Committee set out in document SC73 Doc. 8.2 highlights how the Committee intends to provide useful inputs to the discussions that will take place at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and at CoP19.

The Standing Committee will be invited to take note of document SC73 Doc. 8.2.

Strategic matters

9. Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties: Report of the working group SC73 Doc. 9

The document by Canada, as the Chair of the intersessional working group on Rules of Procedure, presents draft amendments to the following Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties: Rule 7 2a) on the membership of the Credentials Committee, Rule 25.5 on addressing amendments to proposals and Rule 25.6 on amendment proposals that concern the same taxon but are different in substance. As set out in document SC73 Doc. 9, the working group agreed on the amendments to Rules 7 2a) and 25.5 but did not have enough time to fully deliberate on the amendments to Rule 25.6 outlined in paragraph 14.

The Standing Committee will be invited to agree to propose to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties amendments to Rule 7 2.a) as found in paragraph 8 of the same document, and amendments to

Rule 25.5 and Rule 25.6 as found in paragraph 9 of document SC73 Doc. 9. The Committee will further be invited to consider the amendments to Rule 25.6 proposed in paragraph 14 of the document, as well as any further considerations from the working group reported by the Chair, and advise on whether to propose amendments to Rule 25.6 to the Conference of the Parties or to continue deliberations within the working group for the Standing Committee to consider at its 74th meeting.

10. Conduct of Committees: Guidance to assist chairs of working groups established by the Committees..... SC73 Doc. 10

The document by the Secretariat presents draft guidance to assist chairs of working groups established by the committees in fulfilling their tasks as set out in the Annex to the document. Parties and stakeholders have been able to comment on a first draft of this guidance, through Notification to the Parties No. 2020/067 of 5 November 2020 and the Secretariat outlines in the document how it has incorporated those comments.

The Standing Committee will be invited to consider and endorse the guidance as set out in the Annex to document SC73 Doc. 10 and to request the Secretariat to finalize the guidance, taking into account any comments, and to make it available to chairs of committee working groups and on the CITES website.

11. Language strategy for the Convention SC73 Doc. 11

The document by the Secretariat lays out two options: the complete integration of Arabic, Chinese and Russian as languages of the Convention at an estimated cost of USD 2.43 million for the triennium or an incremental language strategy that aims to identify, with the help of interested Parties, those documents that should be translated as a priority in order to facilitate the daily implementation work of their national authorities. The Acting Chair (Switzerland) of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee will make a recommendation to the Standing Committee based on the two options laid out in document SC73 Doc. 11 or propose an alternative language strategy to the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee will be invited to formulate a way forward for the implementation of Decision 18.30 on *Language strategy for the Convention*.

12. Cooperation with other biodiversity-related Conventions: CITES input to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework..... SC73 Doc. 12

The document by the Secretariat summarizes the inputs of CITES to the different fora working on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Since the negotiations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework are still ongoing, the Standing Committee will be invited to establish an intersessional working group to, within the policies adopted by the Conference of the Parties and with the support of the Secretariat, provide inputs to the negotiations on a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on behalf of the Parties, with the aim of strengthening the linkages between CITES and the Framework; demonstrating the value of CITES to the development of the Framework; and identifying a role for the Convention in the achievement of its objectives.

13. Cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals SC73 Doc. 13

The document by the Secretariat provides an overview of its cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), specifically on the implementation of the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020 (see Annex 1), and presents to the Committee the Draft CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021-2025 as set out in Annex 2 to the document.

The Standing Committee will be invited to note document SC73 Doc. 13 and its Annex 1 and endorse the draft CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021-2025 in Annex 2.

14. African Carnivores Initiative: Report of the Secretariat SC73 Doc. 14

The document by the Secretariat presents to the Committee the draft Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative in Annex 2. The African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) aims to bring coherence and efficiency to the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of CITES and CMS relating to four African carnivore species, African lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), and African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), and recommendations regarding the ACI made by the

African Carnivore range States. The comments of the range States of these four species were incorporated in the draft Programme presented to the Committee.

The Standing Committee will be invited to review the draft Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative in Annex 2 to document SC73 Doc. 14 and make appropriate recommendations or revisions.

15. Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the Convention SC73 Doc. 15

The document by the Secretariat summarizes the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the Convention, specifically on national CITES authorities, governing bodies and scientific advisory committees of CITES and on the CITES Secretariat. The Secretariat will present some of the lessons learnt in the process thanks to feedback from Parties on that document that was posted for comments on 28 January 2021 and to an online survey on the experiences of Parties in implementing the Convention during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Standing Committee will be invited to comment on the scope and objectives of the Secretariat's proposed adaptation and mitigation measures to cope with unexpected events such as the COVID-19 pandemic in the future (see paragraph 32 of document SC73 Doc. 15).

Interpretation and implementation matters

Existing Resolutions and Decisions

16. Review of Resolutions and Decisions: Report of the Secretariat SC73 Doc. 16

The document by the Secretariat proposes corrections of non-substantive errors in the Interpretation section of the Appendices and in Resolutions and Decisions. Most of these non-substantive errors are incorrect cross-references, translation errors or renumbering of paragraphs. In the document, the Secretariat also informs the Standing Committee of its intention to propose to the Conference of the Parties amendments to relevant Resolutions and Decisions to ensure consistent use of the term 'wildlife crime linked to the internet' and other amendments related to the use of the term "implementation report" instead of "biennial report". Parties and stakeholders have been able to comment on a first draft of this document, through Notification to the Parties No. 2020/067 of 5 November 2020 and the Secretariat outlines in the document how it has incorporated those comments.

The Standing Committee will be invited to agree to the proposed corrections of the non-substantive errors outlined above in paragraph 4 of document SC73 Doc. 16 and instruct the Secretariat to republish the Interpretation section of the Appendices and the Decisions and Resolutions concerned with the necessary corrections; take note of the Secretariat's intention to propose revisions to certain Resolutions to ensure consistent use of the term 'wildlife crime linked to the internet' in accordance with Decision 18.84, as indicated in paragraph 5 of document SC73 Doc. 16; further take note of the Secretariat's proposed revisions in paragraph 7 of document SC73 Doc. 16; and comment on any further consolidations or corrections that are needed.

General compliance and enforcement

17. Revisions to the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and to the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report SC73 Doc. 17

The document by the Secretariat introduces proposed revisions to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report* as set out in document SC73 Doc. 17. Most of the proposed revisions aim to incorporate any term used in the Appendices into the *Guidelines*. In the document, the Secretariat also proposes some amendments to Resolutions Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties* and Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on *National reports* to ensure that any new term introduced in the Appendices is systematically included in the *Guidelines*. Parties and stakeholders have been able to comment on a first draft of this guidance, through Notification to the Parties No. 2020/067 of 5 November 2020 and the Secretariat outlines in the document how it has incorporated those comments.

The Standing Committee will be invited to approve the revised *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* presented in Annex 1 to document SC73 Doc. 17, including the revisions to the Spanish version proposed in paragraph 7 to document SC73 Doc. 17, and the revised *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports* presented in Annex 2 to document SC73 Doc. 17; and comment on the suggested revisions to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) and Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) as outlined in paragraphs 10 and 11 of document SC73 Doc. 17.

Regulation of trade

18. Electronic systems and information technologies: Report of the working group SC73 Doc. 18

The document by Switzerland, as Chair of the intersessional working group on electronic systems and information technologies, updates the Committee on the activities of the working group, specifically on a Task Force on CITES Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) for Parties from the regions of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), an international workshop on modern customs procedures for improved control of trade in CITES-listed species that took place from 7 to 9 December 2020, the review of the EPIX guidelines, the guidance on the electronic signatures on CITES permits and certificates (see Annex 1) and the revision of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* (see Annex 2). The working group has not fully completed its mandate and may submit to the Standing Committee at its next meeting additional recommendations, as well as set of draft decisions to be considered for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting (CoP19).

The Standing Committee will be invited to take note of document SC73 doc. 18 and agree to propose the draft amendments of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* contained in Annex 2 to document SC73 Doc. 18 for the consideration of CoP19.

19. Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates: Report of the working group SC73 Doc. 19

The document by Australia, as Chair of the intersessional working group on purpose-of-transaction on CITES permits and certificates, updates the Committee on the activities of the working group, specifically on the draft definitions of purpose-of-transaction codes outlined in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* at paragraph 3. g). The working group focused its work on codes Z (zoo), P (personal), T (commercial), M (medical), E (educational), N (reintroduction or introduction to the wild) and L (law enforcement/judicial/forensic) with the draft definitions set out in Annex 1. Arising from this work on definitions, the working group is also considering subsequent amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18), as well as the merits of proposing a new resolution to deal with the more substantive matters related to zoos and aquariums.

The Standing Committee will be invited to review the progress made by the working group and offer its comments and suggestions, in particular with respect to the proposed suite of draft definitions outlined in Annex 1 to document SC73 Doc. 19 and the draft amendments to Resolution Conf 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) in Annex 2; note the other working group discussions, particularly with regard to a new resolution on zoos, and the further work to understand more detail on trade in Appendix I specimens where purpose code 'P' has been assigned; and note that the working group will work to refine its recommendations to amend Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) and recommend any proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) and to any other affected Resolutions in its document to the Standing Committee at its next meeting.

Exemptions and special trade provisions

20. Simplified procedures for permits and certificates: Report of the Secretariat SC73 Doc. 20

The document by the Secretariat presents a draft guidance on the use of the scientific exchange exemption and the simplified procedures to issue permits and certificates as set out in the Annex. The aim of the guidance is to increase awareness of the scientific exchange exemption (SEE) provided in Article VII, paragraph 6, of the Convention and the simplified procedures (SP) established in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* by Authorities and by possible 'beneficiaries' and provide non-binding guidance on their use; facilitate a better understanding of the benefits and the risks of using these procedures; and explain the similarities and differences between the two procedures. Parties and stakeholders have been able to comment on a first draft of this guidance and the Secretariat outlines in the document how it has incorporated those comments.

The Standing Committee will be invited to consider and endorse the draft guidance contained in the Annex to document SC73 Doc. 20; and request the Secretariat to finalize the guidance taking into account the considerations expressed by the Committee and to make it available on the website of the Convention.

21. Stocks and stockpiles SC73 Doc. 21

The document by the Secretariat presents the overview of existing provisions agreed by the Parties concerning controls on stocks of specimens of CITES-listed species. Those controls focus on the Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*), the saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.), the vicuna (*Vicugna vicugna*), Asian big cats (Felidae spp.), rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.), pangolins (*Manis* spp.), elephants (Elephantidae spp.), pythons (Boidae spp.), sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.), Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.).

In order to implement Decision 17.170 (Rev. CoP18) that directs the Standing Committee to consider the objectives and implementation of controls on stocks of specimens of CITES-listed species, and the resource implications for Parties and the Secretariat, the Committee will be invited to establish an intersessional working group with a mandate based on paragraph 9 to document SC73 Doc. 21.

22. Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory): Report of the working group SC73 Doc. 22

The document by the European Union, as Chair of the intersessional working group on guidance on ivory stockpiles, presents the outcomes of the activities of the working group, specifically a “Practical guidance for the management of ivory stockpiles, including their disposal” in Annex 1 and a “Review of Elephant Ivory Destruction Methods” in Annex 2. The guidance lists the most important attributes of an effective system, detailing the goals of such a system whilst providing links to further tools available for Parties to use. Both documents were supported by the members of the working group, with some concerns by two Parties and a group of observers as outlined in paragraph 8 of the document.

The Standing Committee will be invited to review and consider for approval the two documents “Practical guidance on ivory stockpile management” and “Review of Elephant Ivory Destruction Methods” and to consider drafting a decision for CoP19 in order to establish a periodic review of the available management tools, including but not limited to new destruction methods, which would allow the practical guidance to be a living document.

Species specific matters

23. CITES Big Cats Task Force: Report of the Secretariat SC73 Doc. 23

The document by the Secretariat presents draft terms of reference and a *modus operandi* for the CITES Big Cat Task Force set out in the Annex to document SC73 Doc. 23. The Task Force is expected to generate a better understanding of enforcement priorities relating to illegal trade in specimens of big cats; a better understanding of the tools and techniques to identify big cat specimens in trade; their use for enforcement purposes to address illegal trade; and better knowledge of relevant forensic facilities, research institutions, and developments; and an enhanced exchange of intelligence and other information on illegal trade in big cats. The Task Force is further expected to generate proposals for strengthened collaboration and targeted activities to more effectively enforce the Convention in response to this illegal trade; and strategies and proposed actions providing a strong basis for Parties to take concrete actions to respond to illegal trade in big cat species, to be presented to a future meeting of the Standing Committee. The *modus operandi* explains the Task Force will prioritize Parties and big cat species and how the membership of the Task Force will be established.

The Standing Committee will be invited to review and adopt the terms of reference for the CITES Big Cat Task Force in the Annex to document SC73 Doc. 23.

24. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)

24.1 Report of the Secretariat SC73 Doc. 24.1

The document by the Secretariat summarizes the report submitted by Madagascar (see document SC73 Doc. 24.1) on its implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles* and the measures it has taken to combat illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles occurring in Madagascar.. The document presents the

Secretariat's observations and recommendations on the report, noting some positive work and developments, but also areas for improvement and the need for continued and further strengthened efforts.

- 24.2 Implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18) on Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles in Madagascar: Report of Madagascar..... SC73 Doc. 24.2

The document by Madagascar is a report on its implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles*. The document provides information on capacity-building to combat illegal trade; on prevention, detection, and intervention efforts; on identification materials; on awareness raising efforts and on seizures. It highlights the Global Action Plan (GAP) for the conservation of endemic turtles of Madagascar, and includes the Regional strategy to combat trafficking in radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*) in the Atsimo-Andrefana region of Madagascar (Stratégie régionale de lutte contre le trafic de tortues radiées « *Astrochelys radiata* » dans la région Atismo Andrefana – in French only) as an Annex.

The Standing Committee will be invited to note document SC73 Doc. 24.2 and the progress reported by Madagascar and to adopt a set of recommendations directed to Madagascar, Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations implementing programmes in Madagascar or planning to do so, and to the Secretariat, as outlined in paragraph 16 of document SC73 Doc. 24.1.

Maintenance of the Appendices

25. Annotations: Report of the working group..... SC73 Doc. 25

The document by Canada, as Chair of the intersessional working group on annotations, updates the Committee on the activities of the working group, specifically on annotations #4, #11, #12, #14 and #15 and on paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Interpretation section of the Appendices. The working group anticipates concluding its work on the annotations and paragraphs specified above in time for the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee will be invited to take note of document SC73 Doc. 25 and to offer comments or guidance to the working group regarding the tasks included in the terms of reference contained in paragraph 3, subparagraph c) of document SC73 Doc. 25.

26. Guidance for the publication of the Appendices: Report of the Secretariat SC73 Doc. 26

The document by the Secretariat presents a draft guidance for the publication of the Appendices. Parties and stakeholders have been able to comment on a first draft of this guidance, through Notification to the Parties No. 2020/067 of 5 November 2020 and the Secretariat outlines in the document how it has incorporated those comments. The aim of the guidance is to support the Secretariat in publishing the Appendices and assist those Parties that incorporate the amendments to the Appendices directly into their national legislation. Parties have been able to comment on a first draft of this guidance and the Secretariat outlines in the document how it has incorporated those comments. The Secretariat will also outline issues that arose from this work, specifically the possibility of harmonizing references to zero quotas in the Appendices and the possibility of including higher taxa listings in accordance with Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*.

The Standing Committee will be invited to provide any additional comment on the draft "Guidance for the publication of the Appendices" in the Annex to document SC73 Doc. 26 before its publication on the CITES website; and to provide guidance on the desirability of additional work on harmonizing references to "zero quotas" in the Appendices and on including higher taxa listings in accordance with Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*, to help the Secretariat determine whether proposals on these matters should be put to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Concluding items

27. Any other business *No document*

The Committee will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose subjects for discussion under this item are invited to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.

28. Future Standing Committee meetings and activities SC73 Doc. 28

The document by the Secretariat presents a risk analysis for future meetings of the Standing Committee and three different scenarios for the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee: 1) hold a face-to-face meeting at the Centre International de Conférences (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland, in September 2021; 2) invite a Party to host SC74 or seek alternative facilities in Switzerland in late 2021 or early 2022; or 3) hold SC74 in an online format in early 2022.

The Standing Committee will be invited to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the best way forward, using the scenarios and analysis in paragraph 8 if considered appropriate, and instruct the Secretariat to progress with planning going forward; take note of the table of tasks of the Standing Committee to CoP19 and status report provided in Annex 2 to the document, together with any oral updates; and request the Secretariat, where appropriate, to make drafts of working documents for SC74 available for comment on the CITES website and to the extent that they consider desirable, revise the documents in the light of comments received prior to submitting them for discussion at SC74.

29. Closing remarks *No document*

The Chair will close the meeting.

A consolidated executive summary will be circulated to the Members and Acting Members of the Committee for endorsement. The decisions taken at SC73 will come into effect as soon as the consolidated executive summary has been endorsed by the Committee. The Summary record will be prepared based on paragraph 2 of Rule 19 and include further details on the discussions at the meeting. Any comments or views expressed in the chat of the meeting will not be included in the summary record unless such comments have been read into the record. The list of participants will be finalized by the Secretariat after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the CITES website.