

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



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

Concluding items

FUTURE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused considerable disruption for the implementation of the Convention and the effect has been summarized in document SC73 Doc. 15. In terms of the business of the Standing Committee (SC), this has manifested itself primarily in the difficulty of holding Committee meetings. The 73rd meeting of the SC was initially scheduled to take place from 5 to 9 October 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland. On 17 June 2020, the Secretariat provided the SC with [a scenario analysis](#) of the prospects for the meeting. It organized an online question and answer session about that analysis for SC Members on 1 July 2020. On 14 July 2020, the Standing Committee advised the Secretariat that, having considered the risks associated with holding a face-to-face meeting and alternative scenarios presented by the Secretariat, it concluded that the meeting should not take place on those dates. This decision was conveyed to Parties in [Notification No. 2020/051](#) of 16 July 2020.
3. Subsequently, the Standing Committee asked the Secretariat to prepare a table of its CoP18-CoP19 intersessional activities grouped into three categories: (A) work already underway via an SC working group, MIKE-ETIS Subgroup or Finance and Budget Subcommittee; (B) preparatory work for the Standing Committee being undertaken by others (Animals Committee, Plants Committee or Secretariat) and (C) work addressed to the Committee that needs to be initiated. With the concordance of the Committee, in September 2020, the Chair determined a way forward for work addressed to the Standing Committee that needs to be initiated (the language used in the table below is copied from the email correspondence):

Subject	Way forward agreed by the Standing Committee
Financial matters (Resolution Conf. 18.1)	The Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) will review the financial situation of the Trust Fund with a view to giving authority to the Secretary-General to use some of the Trust Fund budget for 2020 in 2021 – in particular for the organization of meetings that could not be held in 2020. A recommendation on this matter under Rule 20 will subsequently be put to the Committee for its consideration.
Arrangements for CoP19 [Resolution Conf. 18.2 Annex 1 para 2 c)]	We will ask the Secretariat to provide guidance on actions needed by the Standing Committee.
Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Resolution Conf. 18.4)	The Chairs of SC, AC and PC will maintain oversight of intersessional opportunities to submit comments to IPBES e.g. in relation to the IPBES sustainable use assessment. All Committee Members will be consulted further on anything substantive that is proposed for submission to IPBES prior to its submission.

Subject	Way forward agreed by the Standing Committee
Review of the Convention (Decision 18.27)	We will ask the Secretariat to prepare a paper with some of the history of past reviews and their conclusions to help inform the first part of Decision 18.27 directed to the Standing Committee.
Conduct of Committees (Decision 18.2)	The FBSC is to discuss whether its Terms of Reference should be annexed to Resolution Conf. 18.2, after which the SC Chair will make a recommendation on this point for the Members' consideration under Rule 20.
Language strategy for the Convention (Decision 18.30)	We will ask the Secretariat to prepare the relevant analysis and the FBSC to consider it so that their advice is already developed for a later face-to-face meeting in response to Decision 18.30.
United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) [Decision 18.38/Resolution Conf. 17.1 (Rev. CoP18)]	The theme for WWD 2021 will be focused on livelihoods of indigenous peoples and rural and local communities - the precise title will be determined by the Secretariat who leads on the detailed arrangements for WWD.
Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes [Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15)]	We will defer consideration of the requests to include "Earth Ocean Farms. S. de R.L. de C.V." (Mexico) for <i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i> and [if necessary] Tugan Falconry Club Ltd (Uzbekistan) for <i>Falco pelegrinoides</i> and <i>Falco peregrinus</i> in the Register, until a face-to-face meeting can be held.
Stocks and stockpiles [Decision 17.170 (Rev. CoP18)]	We will ask the Secretariat to prepare some background information on "existing provisions" to support future SC consideration of Decision 17.170.

4. Concerning compliance matters, in order to keep Parties and observers updated on the progress being made by Parties concerned against the relevant recommendations, the Chair also asked the Secretariat to prepare interim reports on the ongoing compliance processes. These were [published on the CITES website](#) in November 2020.
5. Further, the Secretariat posted six draft Standing Committee meeting documents on the CITES website, inviting Committee Members, Parties and observers to submit comments. In this way, the Secretariat has been able to take these comments into account when finalizing the documents for the present meeting.

Future meetings

6. The Conference of the Parties has affirmed in Resolution Conf. 18.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2020-2022* that no more than two regular meetings of the Standing Committee should be convened between regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP). The timing of the 74th meeting of the Committee (SC74) will be significantly influenced by the date of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19). Costa Rica had originally offered to host CoP19 in March 2022, but in the light of the withdrawal of this offer to act as host, it is highly probable that CoP19 will now be held later in 2022, which leaves more time for intersessional activities by the Standing Committee and more flexibility for the timing of SC74. The Secretariat has made a contingency reservation of conference facilities in Geneva for CoP19 for the period 9-21 July 2022 (which would mean that CoP19 documents would need to be submitted by 9 February 2022). The remainder of the present document assumes that CoP19 would be held from 9-21 July 2022 at the earliest.
7. In the present disrupted circumstances, the nature (face-to-face/hybrid/online) and timing of future meetings of the Standing Committee will be subject to a number of risks summarized in the table below. Some of these risks are more likely than others and some would have more severe impacts than others.

Type of risk factor	Description
Public health	SC Members are not able to travel to the meeting, resulting in a lack of quorum.
	Members and observers have restricted or no ability to travel to a meeting.
	Meeting participants need to quarantine at the meeting venue and/or when they return home.
	Public authorities at the place of the meeting do not permit gatherings of persons such as at meeting venues.
	Public authorities at the place of the meeting restrict the number of participants allowed in the meeting venue.
Conservation	Some taxa may be overexploited if the Committee does not adopt compliance measures under the Review of Significant Trade.
	The lack of compliance measures determined by the Committee results in increased illegal trade.
	The SC fails to act timely and authoritatively in response to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in an inability to adequately support Parties' policy development needs.
Governance	The lack of transparency in decision-making and communications due to the absence of some participants leads to a loss of trust or commitment and goodwill of Parties and observers.
	The absence of decisions taken by the SC incurs a loss of momentum in the implementation of the Convention and of the SC work programme.
	The failure of the SC to meet and discharge its responsibilities leads to a loss of trust and support from Parties and observers.
Logistical	There is not enough time for working groups to conclude negotiations and for the Secretariat staff to prepare documents.
	There is not enough time to hire interpreters and procure services necessary for the organization of the meeting.
	There is not enough time to thoroughly prepare documents for the meeting.
	Information in working documents becomes out of date and needs to be revised.

8. Some possible scenarios for holding SC74 are detailed below and the risk factors for each are shown in the tables in Annex 1 to the present document, where a score of one is low and five is high. There may be other conceivable scenarios, but the three discussed below seem the most probable at the time of writing.

Scenario 1: Hold a face-to-face SC74 meeting at the Centre International de Conférences (CICG), Geneva Switzerland in September 2021.

- a) The Secretariat has reserved meeting rooms at CICG to hold SC74 in the week of 20-24 September 2021. In view of the likely extra volume of work to be addressed by the Committee, an option also exists, at an extra cost, to meet in the evenings during this period, during the weekend before (18-19 September 2021) and on the Saturday afterwards (25 September 2021). The cost to the CITES Trust Fund of a regular five day meeting is estimated at CHF 35,000 and that for an extended SC74 estimated at CHF 65,000.
- b) Notwithstanding the disruption to SC73 and some of the Committee's intersessional work, this scenario is the nearest to the 'normal' course of events. Additional meeting session time may be required to catch up with the backlog of subjects to be addressed. The public health risks related to the pandemic are however quite high for this scenario. If the public health risks result in the meeting having to be postponed, this decision needs to be taken early enough to make alternative arrangements. As noted in Annex 1, the resulting adaptation measures to address these public health risks, such as moving the meeting to a hybrid or online format, would increase the conservation and governance risks. This is because holding the meeting at a later date would mean that necessary conservation actions would be delayed and as explained under scenario 3, a meeting held partially or wholly online may be perceived to lack transparency and lead to a loss of momentum or trust.

- c) As CoP19 will be delayed until 9-21 July 2022 at the earliest, a meeting in September would leave less time to prepare working documents for the SC meeting. Production of some of these has already been disrupted by issues such as the inability to hold required meetings and events. Holding a meeting in September would therefore bring higher logistical risks compared with those for a later meeting date. However, in order to provide working documents for SC74 from other authors that are as well developed as possible, it would be desirable, where appropriate, to undertake some 'peer reviews' by Parties and observers in advance of their completion for submission to the Committee. A similar exercise has already been undertaken in relation to six of the documents for the present meeting. Drafts of these documents, authored by the Secretariat, were posted on the CITES website and Parties and observers were invited via Notification to the Parties to comment on them. This peer review process allowed a number of more technical issues to be resolved in advance of consideration by the Committee and improved the final working document for SC73. In view of the volume of work before the SC, a similar process for some upcoming working documents of the Standing Committee may also be advantageous for scenarios 2 and 3 outlined below. Working documents produced by the Committee's intersessional working groups can be expected to have incorporated the views of interested Parties and it may be difficult for the Animals and Plants Committees to respond to comments made on documents that they have produced, but it would be more feasible for documents produced by the Secretariat.

Scenario 2: Invite a Party to host SC74 or seek alternative facilities in Switzerland in late 2021 or early 2022.

- d) As the date of CoP19 will be later in 2022, delaying SC74 may be an option, provided that a meeting venue can be found. The Secretariat has inquired about availability of CICG and meeting rooms in the United Nations Palais des Nations in Geneva but these are booked at the moment. Such a delay will increase the conservation risks and some of the governance risks. While public health risks related to the pandemic may be reduced by then, the Secretariat does not believe they will be eliminated given the current global pandemic situation with variants and delays in vaccination. If the public health risk continues, its impact could still be significant. If the public health risks to the meeting do result in it having to be cancelled, this decision needs to be taken early enough to make alternative arrangements. The resulting adaptation measures to address these risks, such as moving the meeting to a hybrid or online format, would increase conservation and governance risks. As time passes, the number of scenarios open to the Committee decreases.
- e) The Secretariat believes that one Party may be willing to consider offering to host SC74 at the end of 2021. Others could be invited to express an interest to do so via a Notification to the Parties.

Scenario 3: Hold SC74 in an online format in early 2022.

- f) Scenario 3 would eliminate the public health risks related to the pandemic and reduce some of the logistical risks in particular by allowing more time for preparatory work for the meeting. However, governance and conservation risks would be higher in this scenario and would need adaptation. Due to time zone and other constraints, online sessions would need to be of limited duration, which would mean that the meeting would need to be spread out over more than one week if it is to address all the accumulated business.
- g) The present meeting will provide the Committee with experience of functioning in an online mode, but being the final SC meeting before CoP19, SC74 will be a greater challenge to organize as the agenda will be larger. Nevertheless, we are witnessing the experience of other conventions in organizing online meetings with challenging agendas and some where members are taking decisions.
- h) The present meeting will also allow the Committee to better appreciate the modalities of online meetings. At any online SC74 meeting, the transparency of the decision-making at the meeting and the fair and equitable access to it by Parties and observers should be a priority.

Risk Analysis

Outcome

Recommendation

Scenario 1

A physical meeting in September 2021 may reduce conservation risks but possibly at a high cost given the public health, governance and logistical risks. The risk assessment (result 83) indicates there is a **high** probability that risks would not be addressed favourably in time.

Meeting may have to be cancelled, which would incur financial (potentially 196-392 thousand CHF just for cancelling CICG after contract is signed by the S-G) and human resource losses amongst others. Higher probability of not finding a venue in 2022 for SC74 if Secretariat waits until September 2021, ultimately risking a successful SC74 and thus CoP19 as work will be delayed and conservation goals will not be met.

The Secretariat does not recommend this decision given the high risks that most likely cannot be addressed satisfactorily.

Scenario 2

Delaying a physical meeting until late 2021 or early 2022 may increase the conservation risks but public health and governance risks will be reduced with adaptations. The logistical risks must be considered as there is no venue available at the moment and a degree of public health risks remain. The risk assessment (result 50) indicates there is a **medium** probability that risks would not be addressed favourably in time.

A delayed SC74 physical meeting could be held successfully with an alternative venue (CICG and UN meeting rooms in Geneva are booked these dates) or a host Party. A deadline on this option **must** be agreed to ensure sufficient time to organize an online meeting if a venue is not found or public health risks continue to be high so that the work for a CoP19 in July 2022 can be delivered.

The Secretariat can recommend this decision, with an agreed deadline of 15 September 2021 to find a host/venue, as risks can more likely be addressed satisfactorily, including switching to an online meeting.

Scenario 3

Delaying the SC74 meeting until early 2022 as an online meeting may increase the conservation risks but public health, governance and logistical risks will be reduced with adaptations. This scenario has the least overall risks according to the risk assessment (result 40) indicating there is a **medium to low** probability that risks would not be addressed favourably in time.

A delayed SC74 online meeting could be held successfully as there is sufficient time for organization of the modalities of the meeting (e.g. number of meeting days, conditions to ensure an inclusive and transparent process, etc.), advance the work of Committees, and preparation of papers.

The Secretariat can recommend this decision given overall lower risks that can most likely be addressed satisfactorily.

Standing Committee intersessional tasks prior to CoP19

9. CoP18 gave the Standing Committee its largest ever intersessional workload, with 86 Decisions directed to it in addition to its longer-term obligations in the Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties. This would have proved challenging in the best of circumstances, but the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened this challenge.
10. At the request of the Committee, the Secretariat has prepared a table of tasks of the SC to CoP19 and a brief status update summarizing progress on each. The current version of this table is presented as Annex 2 to the present document. An oral update on any significant developments will be provided at the present meeting.
11. Whether held face-to-face under scenarios 1 or 2, or online under scenario 3, time will be short at SC74 for the Standing Committee to hold extensive discussions on all the agenda items before it. Preparatory work is already being undertaken on many issues, either by established SC intersessional working groups, the Animals Committee, the Plants Committee or the Secretariat. However, as noted in paragraph 8 c) of the present document, further effort may be needed to undertake preparatory work in advance of SC74 to prepare the working documents for the meeting.
12. Notwithstanding the efforts being made by the SC intersessional working groups, the Animals Committee, the Plants Committee and the Secretariat, it may well be that some intersessional instructions to the Standing Committee, particularly those in Decisions, can only be partially completed or cannot be completed at all in time for CoP19. In that eventuality, the Secretariat suggests that SC74 determines whether to recommend to CoP19 that these Decisions be extended, perhaps in a revised form, or whether they should be deleted as the opportunity to undertake them has passed.

Recommendations

13. The Secretariat understands that, all other things being equal, most Committee Members would prefer to hold SC meetings face-to-face. In the present uncertainty and to keep all options open, the Secretariat therefore proposes to immediately invite a Party to host SC74 in early 2022 and seek facilities in Switzerland to hold SC74 in early 2022. Scenarios 1 and 2 which involve a face-to-face meeting come with some preparatory time restraints: meetings at CICG incur higher cancellation charges if cancelled closer to the meeting dates and any host Party for SC74 would need time to express their interest and prepare the event.
14. In the light of the discussions at the present meeting on the holding of CoP19 and of the Secretariat's assessment in paragraph 13 above, the Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) 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;
 - b) take note of the table of tasks of the Standing Committee to CoP19 and status report provided in Annex 2 to the present document, together with any oral updates; and
 - c) 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.

Possible scenarios for holding SC74 and analyses of some risk factors (a score of one is low and a score of five is high)

Scenario 1: Hold a face-to-face meeting SC74 at the Centre International de Conférences (CICG), Geneva Switzerland in September 2021.

Type of risk factor	Description	Likelihood	Impact	Result	Adaptation
Public health	SC Members are not able to travel to the meeting, resulting in a lack of quorum.	3	5	15	Identify the likelihood of the meeting being inquorate early enough to make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
	Members and observers have restricted or no ability to travel to a meeting.	3	4	12	Determine threshold for critical disruption and be prepared early enough to make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
	Meeting participants need to quarantine or present vaccination certificates at the meeting venue and/or when they return home.	3	4	12	Determine threshold for critical disruption and be prepared early enough to make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
	Public authorities at the place of the meeting do not permit gatherings of persons such as at meeting venues.	2	5	10	Determine threshold for critical disruption and be prepared early enough to make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
	Public authorities at the place of the meeting restrict the number of participants allowed in the meeting venue.	2	4	8	Determine threshold for critical disruption and be prepared early enough to limit attendance or make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
Governance	The lack of transparency in decision-making and communications due to the absence of some participants leads to a loss of trust or commitment and goodwill of Parties and observers.	3	4	12	Determine threshold for critical disruption and be prepared early enough to make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
Logistical	There is not enough time for working groups and AC and PC to conclude negotiations and for the Secretariat staff to prepare documents.	2	4	8	Defer some SC reporting on some issues from CoP19 to CoP20.
	There is not enough time to thoroughly prepare documents for the meeting.	2	3	6	Where possible, Parties and observers to comment in advance on working documents for the meeting.
TOTAL				83	

Scenario 2: Invite a Party to host SC74 or seek alternative facilities in Switzerland in early 2022.

Type of risk factor	Description	Likelihood	Impact	Result	Adaptation
Public health	SC Members are not able to travel to the meeting, resulting in a lack of quorum.	1	5	5	Determine threshold for critical disruption and be prepared early enough to make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
	Members and observers have restricted or no ability to travel to a meeting.	2	4	8	Determine threshold for critical disruption and be prepared early enough to make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
	Meeting participants need to quarantine or present vaccination certificates at the meeting venue and/or when they return home.	2	4	8	Determine threshold for critical disruption and be prepared early enough to make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
	Public authorities at the place of the meeting do not permit gatherings of persons such as at meeting venues.	1	5	5	Determine threshold for critical disruption and be prepared early enough to limit attendance or make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
	Public authorities at the place of the meeting restrict the number of participants allowed in the meeting venue.	1	4	4	Determine threshold for critical disruption and be prepared early enough to make alternative arrangements for hybrid or online meeting instead.
Conservation	Some taxa may be overexploited if the Committee does not adopt compliance measures under the Review of Significant Trade.	2	2	4	Consider adopting measures using intersessional decision-making procedure.
	The lack of compliance measures determined by the Committee results in increased illegal trade.	2	3	6	Consider adopting measures using intersessional decision-making procedure
	The SC fails to act timely and authoritatively in response to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in an inability to adequately support Parties' policy development needs.	2	2	4	Consider adopting measures using intersessional decision-making procedure
Governance	The absence or delay of decisions taken by the SC incurs a loss of momentum in the implementation of the Convention and of the SC work programme.	2	2	4	Consider adopting measures using intersessional decision-making procedure
Logistical	Information in working documents becomes out of date and needs to be revised	2	1	2	Update working documents
TOTAL				50	

Scenario 3: Hold SC74 in online format in early 2022.

Type of risk factor	Description	Likelihood	Impact	Result	Adaptation
Conservation	Some taxa may be overexploited if the Committee does not adopt compliance measures under the Review of Significant Trade.	2	2	4	Consider adopting measures using intersessional decision-making procedure.
	The lack of compliance measures determined by the Committee results in increased illegal trade.	2	3	6	Consider adopting measures using intersessional decision-making procedure
	The SC fails to act timely and authoritatively in response to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in an inability to adequately support Parties' policy development needs.	2	2	4	Consider adopting measures using intersessional decision-making procedure
Governance	The lack of transparency in decision-making and communications due to the absence of some participants leads to a loss of trust or commitment and goodwill of Parties and observers.	4	4	16	Minimize technical access difficulties. Provide financial support to cover communication costs. Utilize system for ensuring all statements from registered observers are duly recorded even if they cannot be delivered orally.
	The absence or delay of decisions taken by the SC incurs a loss of momentum in the implementation of the Convention and of the SC work programme.	2	2	4	Consider adopting measures using intersessional decision-making procedure.
	The failure of the SC to meet face-to-face and discharge its responsibilities leads to a loss of trust and support from Parties and observers.	2	2	4	Consider adopting measures using intersessional decision-making procedure.
Logistical	Information in working documents becomes out of date and needs to be revised	2	1	2	Update working documents
TOTAL				40	

TASKS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO CoP19 AND STATUS UPDATE

GROUP A WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY VIA AN SC WORKING GROUP, MIKE ETIS SUBGROUP OR FBSC.

GROUP B PREPARATORY WORK FOR SC BEING UNDERTAKEN BY OTHERS

B.1 ANIMALS COMMITTEE

B.2 PLANTS COMMITTEE

B.3 THE SECRETARIAT

3.1 COMPLIANCE MATTERS

3.2 OTHER MATTERS

GROUP C WORK ADDRESSED TO THE SC THAT NEEDS TO BE INITIATED.

As instructed by the CoP, tasks in **yellow** depend on the availability of a report from the Secretariat which may require a consultants' study, workshop or Party consultations etc.

As instructed by the CoP, tasks in **blue** depend on the availability of a report from the Animals and/or the Plants Committee.

GROUP A WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY VIA AN SC WORKING GROUP, MIKE ETIS SUBGROUP OR FBSC

CoP instruction	Subject	SC output	Status update
Res. Conf. 18.1 and 18.2.	Financial matters (Res 18.1 paras 12, 13 and 25, Res 18.2 Annex 1 para 2 d) and Res. Conf. 18.2 para 2 d) of Annex 1)	Oversee development and execution of the Secretariat's budget and fund raising.	A virtual meeting was held on 15 October 2020 in which all regions participated. Acting interim chair of FBSC is Switzerland. By intersessional decision of 24 January 2021, SC took note of the financial report for 2020 as at 30 September for the Core Trust Fund (CTL) and approved transfer of projected savings for the year 2020 for use in 2021 (Notification No. 2021/015). A virtual meeting of FBSC is planned for March 2021 in particular to consider revising standard participation charge for observer organizations at CITES meetings.
Dec. 18.26	<i>CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030</i>	Recommendations to CoP19	Work in progress AC and PC considering if the way they address this issue at their upcoming meetings AC31/PC25 meeting outcomes can be reported to SC in September 2021, together with report of SC WG.
	<i>CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030: Report of the Secretariat (18.24)</i>		
	<i>CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030: Report of the Animals and Plants Committees (18.25)</i>		
Dec. 18.1	Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (18.1)	Recommendations to CoP19	Work progressing well with parts of the mandate close to conclusion. Update to be provided at SC73.
Dec. 17.57 Dec. 18.31	Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities (17.57 (Rev. CoP18) and 18.31)	Guidance on consultation over amendment proposals	Work of SC WG to be started shortly.
	<i>Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities: Report of the Secretariat (18.32)</i>	Recommendations on IPCL engagement in CITES processes Recommendations on terminology	
Dec. 18.34	Livelihoods (18.34)	Recommendations as required to CoP19	Work of SC WG to be started shortly. Secretariat shared responses from Parties on IPLC engagement with SC WG. Secretariat will report to next full SC meeting on its work
	<i>Livelihoods: Report of the Secretariat (18.36 & 37)</i>		

Dec. 18.41-18.43	Capacity-building (18.41-43)	Guidance to Secretariat Recommendations CoP19	WG established and work in progress. Results of Notification No. 2020/027 (Dec. 18.46) –summarized in AC31 Doc.10/PC25 Doc.11 and reported to the WG. While awaiting AC/PC advice, the WG is discussing Dec 16.42, 18.43 a) and c) and considering holding a virtual WG meeting in mid-2021.
	Capacity-building: Report of the Animals and Plants Committees (18.40)		
Dec. 18.74	Review of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Compliance and enforcement</i> (18.74)	Recommendations to CoP19	The substantive work of the WG has been initiated. The WG will be in a position to report progress to SC - but unlikely that any recommendations will be ready for May 2021.
Dec. 18.126 Dec. 18.128	Electronic systems and information technologies: Report of the Secretariat (18.127-128) (18.126 via WG)	Recommendations to CoP19	Work in progress. Workshop in Dec. 2020 addressed Dec. Dec. 18.127 a) (and Dec. 18.130 on Authentication and control of permits). Link to news item and workshop report. The WG discussed key workshop findings and agreed on elements for further consideration. WG plans to meet again in March 2021 to agree on the recommendations to the SC as per Dec. 18.126 f). Activities pursuant to Dec. 18.126-127 are underway: UNECE & UNESCAP's establishment of an EPIX Task Force, cooperation with WCO, WTO, UNCTAD and IPPC, and capacity support to Parties, including on the eCITES Base Solution.
Dec. 14.54	Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates [14.54 (Rev. CoP18)]	Recommendations to CoP19	Work in progress
Dec. 18.149	Specimens produced through biotechnology (18.149)	Recommendations to CoP19 as needed	Work in progress AC/PC have started work and expect to report to SC in September 2021
	Specimens produced through biotechnology: Report of the Secretariat (18.150)		
	Specimens produced through biotechnology: Report of the Animals and Plants Committees (18.148)		

Dec. 18.173	Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source (18.173)	Recommendations as appropriate to CoP19	Work in progress. WG has produced a first version of outputs for further discussions. This is a very complicated issue. AC/PC expect to report in September 2021. SC outcomes could guide AC/PC.
	Report of the Animals and Plants Committees (18.172)		
Dec. 18.182	Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory)	Approve guidance	SC requested Secretariat to prepare a background document. Work in progress and SC should be able to address the matter in May 2021.
	Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory) (18.182)		
Dec. 16.162, 18.316, 18.317, 18.319	Annotations Annotations [16.162 (Rev. CoP18) and 18.316, 317 and 319]	Recommendations, if appropriate, to CoP19	Work progressing well. Update can be provided to SC73
	Annotations: Report of the Secretariat (18.320)		
Dec. 18.146	Labelling system for trade in caviar: Report of the Secretariat (18.146)	Recommendations to CoP19	By intersessional decision, SC established a WG to undertake this work (Notification No. 2020/081). Work to begin shortly.
Dec. 18.224	Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) (18.224)	Report findings on LAF and stockpiles to CoP19.	By intersessional decision, SC established a WG to undertake this work (Notification No. 2020/081). Work to begin shortly.

GROUP B PREPARATORY WORK FOR SC BEING UNDERTAKEN BY OTHERS

B.1 ANIMALS COMMITTEE

CoP instruction	Subject	SC output	Status update
Dec. 16.138	Identification and traceability of sturgeons and paddlefishes: Report of the Animals Committee [16.137 & 138 (Rev. CoP18)]	Recommendations to Parties or CoP19	Informal AC intersessional working group formed – members and known experts will be consulted on an ad hoc basis, if and when necessary. WWF draft study; to be reviewed by informal AC WG. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
Dec. 18.156	Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' (18.156)	Recommendations as appropriate to CoP19	AC intersessional working group formed and work is underway. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021
	Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations': Report of the Animals Committee (18.155)		
Dec. 18.170	Quotas for leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) hunting trophies: Report of the Animals Committee (18.167-170)	Recommendations as appropriate to CoP19	Work underway. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021
Dec. 18.177	Review of the provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18): Report of the Animals Committee (18.176-177)	Any Recommendations to CoP19	Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021
Dec. 18.192	West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.): Report of the Animals Committee (18.191-192)	Recommendations for Parties Report to CoP19	AC established formal intersessional working group. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021. Information and materials available to initiate work. Additionally, UNEP-WCMC has been contracted to prepare a report for consideration by the WG, which will be available mid-February.

Dec. 18.196	Conservation of amphibians (<i>Amphibia</i> spp.): Report of the Animals Committee (18.195-196)	Recommendations to CoP19	AC will be working through an informal intersessional working group – members and known experts will be consulted on an ad hoc basis, if and when necessary. Funding currently available for background research, but not workshop. 18.194 may only partially be implemented in 2021. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
Dec. 18.217	Marine turtles (<i>Cheloniidae</i> spp. and <i>Dermochelyidae</i> spp.) (18.217)	Recommendations to CoP19 as appropriate	Study available and Notification to the Parties issued. AC members will be consulted via a closed intersessional process. Funding available for follow-up study which is due for completion Sept 2021. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
	Marine turtles (<i>Cheloniidae</i> spp. and <i>Dermochelyidae</i> spp.): Report of the Animals Committee (18.216)		
Dec. 17.193	Precious corals [Order <i>Antipatharia</i> /Family <i>Coralliidae</i>]: Report of the Animals Committee [17.192 (Rev. CoP18)]	Recommendations as appropriate to CoP19	AC established a formal intersessional WG. Work underway. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
Dec. 18.241	Pangolins (<i>Manis</i> spp.) (18.241)	Recommendations as appropriate to Parties and Secretariat. Report to CoP19	AC will be working through an informal intersessional working group – members and known experts will be consulted on an ad hoc basis, if and when necessary. Level of progress will depend on when results of studies will become available – scheduled to be completed for early 2021. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
	Pangolins (<i>Manis</i> spp.): Report of the Animals Committee (18.243)		
Dec. 18.201	Eels (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	Recommendations arising from AC report	AC will be working through an informal intersessional working group – members and known experts will be consulted on an ad hoc basis, if and when necessary. Secretariat work in Decision 18.199 (study) underway. Notification to the Parties to be published shortly. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
	Eels (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>): Report of the Animals Committee (18.200)		

Dec. 18.248 b) and c)	African lions (<i>Panthera leo</i>) and the CITES Big Cats Task Force	Report with Recommendations as appropriate to CoP19	AC established a formal intersessional WG. Regarding Decision 18.247; AC is expected to complete para a) and some elements of para b) in order to report to SC in September 2021.
	Report of the Animals Committee (18.247)		
Dec. 18.258	Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes): Report of the Animals Committee (18.257-258)	Recommendations to CoP19	No external funding for study and workshop unlikely to take place before any AC meeting in 2021, therefore nothing to review. There may be no AC report for SC in September.
Dec. 18.273	Saiga antelope (<i>Saiga</i> spp.) (18.273)	Recommendations as necessary	Currently no external funds to carry out full preparatory work. Saiga range States meeting will probably take place in autumn 2021, after any SC meeting in September 2021.
	Saiga antelope (<i>Saiga</i> spp.): Report of the Animals Committee (18.272)		
Dec. 18.285	Titicaca water frog (<i>Telmatobius culeus</i>): Report of the Animals Committee (18.284 and 18.285)	Report to CoP19	No documents or materials to review at present. Recommendations to SC perhaps available in September 2021.
Res. Conf. 14.8	Periodic review of the Appendices: Report of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees (Res. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17))	Note	Report to SC expected in September 2021.
Dec. 18. 314	Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings: Report of the Animals and Plants Committee (18.313 & 314)	Recommendations to CoP19	AC established a formal intersessional WG. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.

B.2 PLANTS COMMITTEE

CoP instruction	Subject	SC output	Status update
Dec. 18.16	Tree Species Programme (18.16)	Recommendations to Parties, Secretariat and ITTO/CPF	<p>Report to the PC is available for review (PC25 Doc.8). As per Decision 18.15 the PC is discussing through closed intersessional working group.</p> <p>Awaiting PC to provide recommendations to the SC (Dec. 18.15), at its upcoming online discussion. Recommendations to SC should be ready for the September meeting.</p>
	Tree Species Programme: Report of the Plants Committee (18.15)		
Dec. 18.51	Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: Report of the Plants Committee (18.50-51)	Recommendations to CoP19	<p>PC has established a closed intersessional WG to report to PC25.</p> <p>Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.</p>
Dec. 18.143	Identification of timber and other wood products: Report of the Plants Committee (18.140)	Recommendations to Plants Committee	<p>PC has established a formal intersessional WG. Will report to PC25.</p> <p>Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.</p>
Dec. 18.181	Specimens grown from wild-collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated: Report of the Plants Committee (18.180-181)	Recommendations as appropriate to CoP19	<p>PC to consider this through an informal intersessional process which will report to PC25.</p> <p>Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.</p>

Dec. 18.237	Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]: Report of the Plants Committee (18.236)	Recommendations for more effective implementation rosewood tree species	PC has established a formal intersessional WG to report to PC25. However, no funding for implementing 18.234 in full [workshop; study] has been secured. Only partial reporting to SC likely in September 2021.
Dec. 18.262	African cherry (<i>Prunus africana</i>): Report of the Plants Committee (18.260 & 262)	Recommendations to Parties and PC	PC has established a formal intersessional WG. Report and recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
Dec. 18.303	Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species: Report of the Plants Committee (18.302 & 303)	Recommendations to Parties and to CoP19	PC has established a formal intersessional WG. Materials available, but full implementation may require additional funding. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
Res. Conf. 14.8	Periodic review of the Appendices: Report of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees (Res. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17))	Note	See AC section B.1
Dec. 18.314	Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings: Report of the Animals and Plants Committee (18.313 & 314)	Recommendations to CoP19	See AC section B.1
Dec. 18.330	Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids: Report of the Plants Committee (18.329 & 330)	Recommendations to CoP19	PC has established an informal intersessional WG, to report to PC25. However, currently no external funds to carry out 18.327. Only limited progress to report to SC in September 2021.

B.3 THE SECRETARIAT

B.3.1 COMPLIANCE MATTERS

CoP instruction	Subject	SC output	Status update
Dec. 18.64 – 18.66	National laws for implementation of the Convention: Report of the Secretariat (18.64-67)	Advise Secretariat on NLP guidance Review Party progress and agree any compliance measures	The Secretariat prepared an information document (SC2020 Inf. 1) to update the SC, posted on the website on 20 November 2020. The Secretariat has engaged in the Caribbean Wildlife Initiative to assist Parties in the Caribbean meeting the CITES minimum requirements.
Dec. 18.70	Compliance Assistance Programme: Report of the Secretariat (18.69-70)	Advise Secretariat and report Recommendations to CoP19	Work in progress, external funds identified, e-tools under development, mapping of the compliance status of all countries under way. Report in preparation.
Dec. 18.73	Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews (18.73)	Recommendations to CoP19	Secretariat report to be submitted to AC and PC in 2021. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021
	Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews: Report of the Secretariat (18.71)		
	Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews: Report of the Animals and Plants Committees (18.72)		
Res. Conf. 11.17	National reports: Submission of annual reports (Res. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18))	Decide compliance measures for Parties not reporting for three consecutive years (or more).	SC Doc on Annual Reports drafted. As of 23 February 2021, 9 Parties have not submitted annual reports for 3 or more consecutive years.
Res. Conf. 14.3	Application of Article XIII (Res Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18))		
	Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic	Decide on any compliance measures required (or lifting of measures already in place)	Progress reports on the implementation of the SC recommendations received from Lao PDR in January and July 2020. The Secretariat posted a summary report of the progress made in November 2020 (SC2020 Inf. 5). Lao PDR is making progress, notably on the implementation of recommendation a) (NDF of <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. and recommendation b) national legislation. A few activities delayed due to COVID-19.

	Application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Decide on any compliance measures required (or lifting of measures already in place)	Progress reports on the implementation of the SC recommendations received from DRC. New website developed (https://www.citesrdc.org/). DRC waiting for SC instructions on follow up. Secretariat ready to report to SC.
	Application of Article XIII in Guinea	Decide on any compliance measures required (or lifting of measures already in place)	Updates on the implementation of the recommendations submitted to the Secretariat regularly. The Secretariat posted a summary of the progress made in SC2020 Inf. 4, notably on recommendations a) on the export of pre-convention specimens of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>) and j) on compliance and law enforcement). Guinea selected as the first CITES CAP country; consultations ongoing on the support to be provided.
	Application of Article XIII in Nigeria	Decide on any compliance measures required (or lifting of measures already in place)	Progress reported on enforcement matters and preparation of NDF for <i>P. erinaceus</i> . Good cooperation with national Customs and ICCWC partners. The Secretariat prepared an information document to update the SC on progress, posted on the SC intersessional work page as document SC2020 Inf. 6. The Secretariat is regularly liaising with Nigeria regarding progress in the implementation of the recommendations adopted at SC70. The next call with Nigeria is scheduled for 9 February 2021.
	Introduction from the sea of sei whale (<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>) by Japan	Decide on any compliance measures required (or lifting of measures already in place)	On 7 July, the Secretariat received a letter from Japan reporting the treatment of the specimens of sei whale meat and blubber introduced from the sea. Japan understands that compliance matters, including the treatment of the specimens of sei whale meat and blubber introduced from the sea, will not be discussed on the intersessional process of the SC73. If compliance matters are not scheduled to be discussed, Japan understands that the Secretariat will publish

			the final report of this matter 45 days before the physical meeting of the next SC.
Dec. 18.98	Malagasy ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.)	Recommendations to MG, relevant Parties and the Secretariat	Madagascar submitted report to the SC on 6 August, explaining that owing to the COVID-19 some pieces of information may be missing. SC Consultative Group active and in regular contact. Good progress made, notably on Decision 18.96 f) and SC70 recommendations c) i) (business plan). As reported by the Secretariat in SC2020 Inf. 8. Madagascar submitted updated reports to PC as per Decision 18.96 (PC25 Doc. 16.1), which will be considered at PC25 meeting. Likely PC to report to SC on this at SC74 (September 2021).
	Report of Parties (18.94)		
	Report of Madagascar (18.96)		
	Report of the Secretariat (18.94 and 18.99)		
	Report of the Plants Committee (18.97)		
Res. Conf. 10.10	National ivory action plans process: Report of the Secretariat (para 10 & 17 Res. Conf. 10.10)	Decide on any compliance measures required (or lifting of measures already in place)	Work in progress. Concerned countries submitted progress reports within the deadline. Assessment by the Secretariat under way. The Secretariat prepared an information document to update the SC on progress, posted on the SC intersessional work page as document SC2020 Inf. 9. SC doc in preparation with the corresponding annexes. Secretariat liaising regularly with countries concerned. A couple of countries requesting to exit the process and a potential country to enter the process
Dec. 18.185 a)	Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory)	Decide on any compliance measures required	Report in preparation. Ready for consideration by the SC by September 2021.
	Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory): Report of the Secretariat (18.184-85)		
Res. Conf. 12.8	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species (Res Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18))	Decide on any compliance measures required (or lifting of measures already in place)	Several active cases to be discussed and decided upon, based on recommendations from the Secretariat [5 fauna; 3 flora; additional cases may be identified, based on further responses from range States]. UNEP-WCMC will undertake a review of trade suspensions in place longer than 2 years to be considered at September meeting.
	Implementation of recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees (para 1 l & m)		
	Review of recommendations to suspend trade made more than two years ago (para 1 p)		

Dec. 18.109	Illegal trade in Asian big cats: Report of the Secretariat (18.108 and 109)	Decide on any compliance measures or other action required	Funding available for missions to three of the seven target countries but required missions not possible at present due to COVID-19. Online consultations with target countries envisaged.
Dec. 18.287	Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.) (18.287)	Decide on any compliance measures required (or lifting of measures already in place) for MG (or other actions)	Report from Madagascar received on 30 June 2020. May become outdated if not considered by SC. Update provided in document SC2020 Inf. 13 on CITES website. Further consideration under review.
	Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.): Report of Madagascar (18.286)		
	Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.): Report of the Secretariat (18.287)		
Dec. 18.295	Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>): Report of the Secretariat (18.293 & 294)	Decide on any compliance measures required	Report from Mexico in accordance with Decision 18.293, par. d) received on 7 July 2020. Secretariat report in accordance with Dec. 18.294, par. d) is ready, but since this is a complex compliance matter it will likely only be discussed at the envisaged in person meeting of the SC in September 2021. Update provided in document SC2020 Inf. 14 on CITES website. Reporting may become outdated if not considered by SC

B.3.2 OTHER MATTERS

CoP instruction	Subject	SC output	Status update
Dec. 18.3	Conduct of Committees (18.3)	Provide comments to Secretariat draft guidance to assist chairs of working groups established by the Committees	Draft Guidance circulated to SC for comments in SC2020 Doc. 1. Revised draft can be submitted to a May meeting of the SC for consideration and approval.
Dec. 18.12	Sponsored Delegates Project: Report of the Secretariat (18.12)	Approve any Secretariat recommendations	Secretariat considering if any recommendations need bringing to the attention of the SC.
Dec. 18.11	Access to funding: Report of the Secretariat (18.10)	Recommendations as necessary to CoP19	The Secretariat will be ready to report on the implementation of Decisions 18.4-18.5, as well as other pertinent issues that may be of interest to the SC, at an SC meeting in September 2021.
	Administrative matters		Information on administrative matters including staffing is provided on quarterly reports to FBSC. No further information on the administrative hosting models for the Secretariat. Secretariat has met with UNEP in December 2020 and January 2021 to further discuss programme support costs policy in relation to the MoU between SC and UNEP. A draft framework for a new Delegation of Authority has been shared by UNEP which is currently being reviewed.
	Administrative matters including host country arrangements for the Secretariat	Note	
	Administrative hosting models for the Secretariat	Note	
	Report of the United Nations Environment Programme on administrative matters (Res 18.1 para 5 and 8)	Action as required	
16	Species Programme (18.16)	Recommendations to Parties, Secretariat and ITTO/CPF	No reporting to SC envisaged.
	Tree Species Programme: Report of the Secretariat (18.16)		
Dec. 18.20	Review of the ETIS programme: Report of the Secretariat (18.19)	Recommendations to CoP19	Consultants' report on the ETIS review is being finalized. Secretariat document will likely be ready for SC review at the end of Apr 2021. Decision 18.22 on MIKE and ETIS financial and logistical sustainability will also be addressed in part by the ETIS review.

Dec. 18.22	MIKE and ETIS programmes: Report of the Secretariat (18.21)	Recommendations to CoP19	See above for ETIS. Proposal related to MIKE currently being prepared.
Dec. 17.56, Dec. 18.48	Cooperation with other biodiversity-related Conventions: Report of the Secretariat (17.56 (Rev. CoP18) and 18.47)	Report and any recommendations to CoP19	Secretariat report could be made available for a May 2021 meeting of the SC.
Dec. 18.54	Cooperation with the World Heritage Convention: Report of the Secretariat (18.53-54)	Recommendations to Secretariat on MoU	Work not yet commenced.
Res. Conf. 13.3	Cooperation with Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Res. 13.3)	Agree new Joint Work Programme	Joint work plan is being drafted, and can be ready before the end of 2020 for review by SC in May 2021.
Dec. 18.57	African Carnivores Initiative: Report of the Secretariat (18.56-57)	Advise Secretariat on Programme of Work. Report to CoP19	Draft Programme of Work has been developed by IUCN, CITES and CMS, and is being circulated to range States. Can be ready for review by SC in May 2021.
Res. Conf. 4.6	Review of Resolutions and Decisions: Report of the Secretariat (Res. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18))	Advise on Secretariat proposals	Draft document posted on the CITES website for comment and now revised accordingly. Proposals ready for consideration by SC
Res. Conf. 11.17	National reports: Revisions to the <i>Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports</i> and to <i>Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report</i> (Res. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18))	Approve revised Guidelines	Draft document posted on the CITES website for comment and now revised accordingly. Proposals ready for consideration by SC
Res. Conf. 11.3 Dec. 18.80	Enforcement matters: Report of the Secretariat (Res. Conf 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) par. 22.b) and 17.6, par. 13.b) and 18.79-80)	Note Recommendations arising from on Trees Task Force meeting	Meeting of the Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species postponed due to COVID-19. Options to progress some work by virtual means are currently being explored. Draft report on Res. Conf. 11.3 and Decision 17.6 available and will be finalized depending on SC schedule
Res. Conf. 11.3	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime: Report of the Secretariat (Res. Conf 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) par. 9)	Advise on development of ICCWC Programme of Work to ensure CITES Parties' needs are adequately addressed	Draft report available and will be finalized depending on SC schedule
Dec. 18.85	Wildlife crime linked to the Internet: Report of the Secretariat (18.85)	Receive Secretariat report	Draft report available and will be finalized depending on SC schedule

Dec. 18.87	Demand reduction to combat illegal trade: Report of the Secretariat (18.86-87)	Recommendations to CoP19	Draft guidance received and Secretariat is working with consultant to improve the Guidance which will be reviewed at an expert workshop. Final version to be submitted to next full SC meeting.
Dec. 18.92	Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa	Consider reports. Make further recommendations as appropriate	UNEP-WCMC has produced the report on the inclusion of Pterocarpus erinaceus in the Review of Significant Trade. It is available through document PC25 Doc. 15.5. PC considering recommendations through closed intersessional process. Outcomes of these decisions to be presented to SC until September 2021 meeting. Draft report on capacity building support available and will be finalized depending on SC schedule.
	Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa: Report of the Plants Committee (18.92)		
	Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa Report of the Secretariat (18.93)		
Dec. 17.88	Domestic markets for frequently illegally traded specimens: Report of the Secretariat [17.87 (Rev. CoP18)]	Recommendations to CoP19	Study by externally funded consultants completed. Work also underway on the Secretariat's report to SC74.
Dec. 18.119	Closure of domestic ivory markets: Report of the Secretariat (18.118-19)	Report and Recommendations as appropriate to CoP19	Eight reports received in response to Notification issued in 2020. Draft document prepared based on responses. Notification requesting further reports from Parties issued on 18 Jan 2021 (No. 2021/005).
Dec. 18.121	Trade in mammoth ivory: Report of the Secretariat (18.120-121)	Recommendations to CoP19	Currently no external funds to carry out preparatory work, but the Secretariat is in contact with an MSc student researching this topic and will consider if it might be helpful in implementing this Decision
Dec. 18.124	Guidance for making legal acquisition findings: Report of the Secretariat (18.123-124)	Recommendations where appropriate to CoP19	Guidance under preparation, including e-tools for online training. External funds identified for a workshop in spring 2021. Civil society also preparing guidance in consultation with the Secretariat.

Dec. 18.131	Authentication and control of permits: Report of the Secretariat (18.130-131)	Recommendations to CoP19 as necessary.	Study underway. First findings presented to the CITES-WCO workshop in December 2020. First draft report due in Q1 of 2021 to be considered by the SC WG on electronic systems (see Decisions CoP18.126-128). Secretariat report to be included in agenda of SC74.
	Identification		
Dec. 18.138	Identification materials: Report of the Secretariat (18.136 & 138)	Revised draft Resolution to be presented to CoP19	The Secretariat has started the review of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP19) through a Notification to the Parties. It is currently developing an online database of ID materials that would make the materials more searchable and accessible. An AC/PC WG is currently working on the draft resolution, which will hopefully be reviewed by AC31/PC25 in June. A revised draft Resolution should be ready for consideration by the SC at a September 2021 meeting.
Dec. 18.158	Introduction from the sea: Report of the Secretariat [17.181 & 18.157-158]	Propose measures to CoP19	The Secretariat monitoring implementation of Resolution 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) and BBNJ negotiations. Little to report to SC at this stage
Dec. 18.163	Disposal of confiscated specimens: Report of the Secretariat (18.161 & 163)	Recommendations as appropriate	Work underway, but no recommendations for the SC ready at this stage. External funding for implementation identified.
Dec. 18.151	Implications of the transfer of a species from one Appendix to another: Report of the Secretariat (18.151)	Recommendations as required to CoP19	Work underway, but no recommendations for the SC ready at this stage.
Dec. 18.156	Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' (18.156)	Recommendations as appropriate to CoP19	See Group B. 1 above. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021
	Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations': Report of the Secretariat (18.152)		
Dec. 18.171	Simplified procedures for permits and certificates: Report of the Secretariat (18.171)	Review, amend and endorse draft guidance on the use of the simplified procedures	Draft guidance prepared in consultation with Parties and stakeholders. Ready for review by the SC

Dec. 17.102	Captive-bred and ranched specimens: Report of the Secretariat (17.102)	Note	Report expected in September 2021
18.201	(<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	Recommendations on illegal trade Report to CoP19 on engagement with the World Customs Organization on feasibility of harmonizing customs codes relevant to trade in all <i>Anguilla</i> species	Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021
	Eels (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) (18.202)		
	Eels (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>): Report of the Secretariat (18.199)		
Dec. 18.217	Marine turtles (Cheloniidae spp. and Dermochelyidae spp.) (18.217)	Recommendations to CoP19 as appropriate	See Group B.1 above. Recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
	Marine turtles (Cheloniidae spp. and Dermochelyidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat (18.210)		
Dec. 18.225	Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) (18.225)	Joint report with AC to CoP19 on reporting, management measures, fin ID and trade in non-fin products	No funding for implementing the full range of activities in 18.221 and 18.222, but progress can be made on some aspects. Report to SC expected in September 2021.
	Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.): Report of the Secretariat (18.220, 221 & 222)		
Dec. 18.227	Elephants (Elephantidae spp.): Elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade (para 17 Res. Conf. 10.10 and 18.227)	Report on implementation of Res Conf. 10.10 results to CoP19	Reports on trade in Asian elephants and their parts and derivatives received in response to Notification 2020/017. Reporting may become outdated if not considered by SC. The MIKE ETIS Subgroup considered a MIKE and ETIS report in 2020. Information was received from UNEP-WCMC (legal trade in elephant specimens) and the IUCN African and Asian Elephant Specialist Group (conservation status of elephants) for incorporation into a report to the SC. Updated information will be requested from these organisations in preparation for the next SC meeting.
Res Conf. (Rev. CoP18)	Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species (Res Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18))	Respond to report from Secretariat on status of Asian big cats in the wild, their conservation, and trade controls in place in Parties.	Report to SC expected in September 2021
Dec. 18.233	Seahorses (<i>Hippocampus</i> spp.): Report of the Secretariat (18.229 and 233)	Recommendations as appropriate	Funding for part of the work in 18.229 secured. Report to SC expected in September 2021.

Res. Conf. 13.4	Great apes (<i>Hominidae</i> spp.): Report of the Secretariat [Res. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18)]	Report to CoP19 with recommendations	Progress reporting to SC possible in September 2021.
Dec. 18.241	Pangolins (<i>Manis</i> spp.) (18.241)	Recommendations as appropriate to Parties and Secretariat. Report to CoP19	Study called for in Decision 18.240, paragraph a), has been commissioned and work is ongoing. Report and any recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
	Pangolins (<i>Manis</i> spp.): Report of the Secretariat (18.240)		
Dec. 18.248 a)	African lions (<i>Panthera leo</i>) and the CITES Big Cats Task Force	Adopt ToR, membership and <i>modus operandi</i> of CITES Big Cats Task Force – draft to be submitted by the Secretariat	Draft ToR, membership and <i>modus operandi</i> will be ready for a May 2021 meeting of the SC. SC could agree the ToR in May or if no consensus, establish a WG to report to the SC at a September 2021 meeting.
Dec. 18.248 b) and c)	African lions (<i>Panthera leo</i>) and the CITES Big Cats Task Force Report of the Secretariat (18.244, 245 b), c) & 246)	Report with Recommendations as appropriate to CoP19	Unlikely that external funding for implementing all activities mentioned in 18.244 and 18.246 will be secured. 18.244: Some outputs will become available in the course of 2021, where possible before AC31. 18.246: Studies underway, with progress reporting at SC in September.
Res. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17)	Tibetan antelope (<i>Pantholops hodgsonii</i>): Report of the Secretariat [Res. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17)]	Report to CoP19	Reports received in response to Notification 2020/038. Reporting may become outdated if not considered by SC
Dec. 18.253	Jaguars (<i>Panthera onca</i>): Report of the Secretariat (18.251)	Recommendations to CoP19	External funds identified for the study. Consultant recruited to carry out the study. Notification to the Parties published. Range States and stakeholders engaged. Study expected to be finalized by 15 May 2021..
Dec. 18.113	Rhinoceroses (<i>Rhinocerotidae</i> spp.): Report of the Secretariat (18.113-15 and Res 9.14 (Rev. CoP17))	Pursue actions on poaching and illegal trade Recommendations [to Parties] and proposals for CoP19	Report and any recommendations to SC expected in September 2021.
Dec. 18.269	Helmeted hornbill (<i>Rhinoplax vigil</i>): Report of the Secretariat (18.268)	Recommendations to Secretariat and Parties. Report to CoP19	No external funding secured for implementing 18.267, para a). Report, including the responses to Notification [to be issued] and recommendations expected in September 2021.

Dec. 18.273	Saiga antelope (<i>Saiga</i> spp.) (18.273)	Recommendations as necessary	Currently no external funds to carry out full activities. Notification and trade analysis in 2021. Limited reporting to SC envisaged in September 2021. See also Group b.1 above.
	Saiga antelope (<i>Saiga</i> spp.): Report of the Secretariat (18.271)		
Dec. 18.277	Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>): Report of the Secretariat (18.277 and 278 & 279)	Recommendations [to Parties? To CoP19?] on traceability and enforcement issues	Currently some external funding limitations for preparatory work. Restricted report to SC therefore envisaged in September 2021.
Dec. 18.322	Annotation #15: Report of the Secretariat (18.321)	Report to CoP19	Currently no external funds to carry out preparatory work
Dec. 18.332	Guidance for the publication of the Appendices (18.331)	Comment on/approve guidance proposed by the Secretariat	Draft document posted on the CITES website for comment and now revised accordingly. Proposals ready for consideration by SC
NEW	CITES and zoonotic diseases		SC currently considering by intersessional procedure a proposal to establish intersessional WG on this matter (Notification No. 2021/009)
	Implications of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) for the implementation of the Convention		Draft document posted on the CITES website for Party and stakeholder comment (SC2021 Doc. 1)
NEW	Towards a resolution on <i>CITES and forests</i>		Document already prepared and on the CITES website as PC25 Doc. 12. PC members will be consulted via a closed intersessional process.
NEW	Reservations entered after the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties: Report of the Secretariat		Research and consultation with relevant legal experts within the UN system under way.

GROUP C WORK ADDRESSED TO THE SC THAT NEEDS TO BE INITIATED

CoP instruction	Subject	SC output	Status update and proposal
Res. Conf. 18.4	Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Res. Conf. 18.4)	Oversee relationship with and inputs to IPBES. Report to CoP19	SC agreed on 29 September 2020 that the Chairs of SC, AC and PC will maintain oversight of intersessional opportunities to submit comments to IPBES e.g. in relation to the IPBES sustainable use assessment. All Committee members will be consulted further on anything substantive that is proposed for submission to IPBES prior to its submission
Res. Conf. 18.2	Arrangements for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) (Res 18.2 Annex 1 para 2 c)	Approve agenda, working programme and nominees for the chairs of the CoP committees	Secretariat ready to provide SC with an update on progress in the arrangement for CoP19
Dec. 18.27	Review of the Convention (18.27)	Recommendations, if appropriate, to CoP19	SC requested Secretariat to prepare a paper with some of the history of past reviews and their conclusions to help inform the first part of Decision 18.27 directed to the SC. Document now ready for consideration by SC.
Dec. 18.2	Conduct of Committees (18.2)	Recommendations to CoP19	Being discussed by FBSC.
Dec. 18.30	Language strategy for the Convention (18.30)	Recommendations to CoP19	SC requested Secretariat to prepare the relevant analysis and the FBSC to consider it so that their advice is already developed for a later face to face meeting in response to Decision 18.30. Discussions ongoing in the FBSC.
Dec. 18.38	United Nations World Wildlife Day (Res. 17.1 (Rev. CoP18) and 18.38)	Work with the Secretariat to recommend theme for WWD 2021 and 2022	The theme for WWD 2021 was agreed as "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet", pursuant to Decision 18.38 directing the SC consider designating a future WWD to be focused on livelihoods of indigenous peoples and rural and local communities. It highlights the central role of forests, forest species and ecosystems services in sustaining the livelihoods of people, particularly of Indigenous and local communities with historic ties to forested and

			forest-adjacent areas. The WWD Website has been launched, and an online WWD event (as well as associated film showcase and art competition) is being planned, which will be streamed online to all interested viewers.
Res. Conf. 12.10	Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes: Registration of the operation "Earth Ocean Farms. S. de R.L. de C.V." breeding <i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i> (Res Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15))	Decide on registration (deferred from SC71)	SC agreed on 29 September 2020 to defer consideration of these requests until a face to face meeting can be held.
	Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes: Registration of the operation Tugan Falconry Club Ltd (Uzbekistan) breeding <i>Falco pelegrinoides</i> and <i>Falco peregrinus</i> . (Res Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15))	Decide on registration	
Dec. 17.170	Stocks and stockpiles (Dec. 17.170 (Rev. CoP18))	Conclusions and recommendations to CoP19	SC agreed to ask the Secretariat to prepare some background information on "existing provisions" to support future SC consideration of Decision 17.170. Document can be available for SC in May 2021 if required.