

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Administrative and financial matters

Agenda

ANNOTATED AGENDA
(provisional)

Opening remarks of the Chair *No document*

The Chair of the Standing Committee will open its seventy-fourth 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 SC74 Doc. 1.1

The Committee will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in document SC74 Doc. 1.1.

1.2 Annotated agenda SC74 Doc. 1.2

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

2. Adoption of the working programme SC74 Doc. 2

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

3. Rules of Procedure SC74 Doc. 3

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 SC74 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 SC74 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 SC74 Doc. 5.

6. Report of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees SC74 Doc. 6

The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees present to the Standing Committee the outcomes of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31, online, June 2021) and of the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC25, online June 2021). The issues discussed at AC31 and PC25 that are relevant to the Standing Committee and subject of a separate agenda item for its current meeting are indicated in the tables below.

AC31 agenda item	SC74 Document
Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	SC74 Doc. 30.1
Identification materials	SC74 Doc. 46
Identification and traceability of sturgeons and paddlefish (<i>Acipenseriformes</i> spp.)	SC74 Doc. 47
Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'	SC74 Doc. 50
Quotas for leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) hunting trophies	SC74 Doc. 53
Captive bred and ranched specimens [Resolution Conf. 17.7]	SC74 Doc. 55
Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity [Decision 18.176]	SC74 Doc. 57
West African vultures (<i>Accipitridae</i> spp)	SC74 Doc. 63
Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.)	SC74 Doc. 64.2
Precious corals (Order <i>Antipatharia</i> and family <i>Coralliidae</i>)	SC74 Doc. 65
Marine turtles (<i>Cheloniidae</i> spp. and <i>Dermochelyidae</i> spp.)	SC74 Doc. 66.2
Sharks and rays (<i>Elasmobranchii</i> spp.)	SC74 Doc. 67.3
Seahorses (<i>Hippocampus</i> spp.)	SC74 Doc. 70.2
Saiga antelope (<i>Saiga</i> spp.)	SC74 Doc. 78
Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>)	SC74 Doc. 79
Pangolins (<i>Manis</i> spp.)	SC74 Doc. 73

PC25 agenda item	SC74 Document
Tree species programme	SC74 Doc. 14
Towards a resolution on <i>CITES and forests</i>	SC74 Doc. 15
Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	SC74 Doc. 30.1
Inclusion of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> from all range States in the Review of Significant Trade	SC74 Doc. 35.1.1
Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.) and ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.)	SC74 Doc. 28.3.2
Identification materials	SC74 Doc. 46
Specimens grown from wild-collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated	Addressed in SC74 Doc. 6
Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)] [Decision 18.236]	SC74 Doc. 72
Annotation #15	SC74 Doc. 83
Annotations for Appendix-II orchids	SC74 Doc. 84

Concerning matters referred from the AC31, the Standing Committee is invited to note the information in paragraphs 5 to 16 of document SC74 Doc. 6 concerning matters relating to fauna and to review the following draft decisions on *African elephant nomenclature* and provide its comments to the Animals Committee before the draft decisions are submitted to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) for its consideration:

19.BB Directed to the Secretariat:

The Secretariat shall:

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

19.CC Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall:

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

19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the report submitted by the Secretariat under paragraph d) of Decision 19.BB; and
- b) provide advice and any recommendations on the potential impacts of recognizing *L. cyclotis* as a separate species for CITES purposes, including the potential impacts on Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Standing Committee is further invited to provide guidance on the matter of benefits and impacts of higher taxon listings in the Appendices, as outlined in paragraph 10 of document SC74 Doc. 6, taking into account document AC31 Doc. 38 with its Annex and its addendum, as well as the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), Annex 3, as part of its work on *Guidance for publication of the Appendices*, or another process.

Concerning matters referred from PC25, the Standing Committee is invited to note the information in paragraphs 17 to 23 of document SC74 Doc. 6 concerning matters relating to flora; and to consider the following recommendations of the Plants Committee on *Specimens grown from wild collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated* and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at CoP19:

The Plants Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) accept the report from the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and acknowledge its findings.
- b) note that there currently is a limited number of examples of the implementation by Parties of paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, and any amendments of paragraph 4 at this stage are not necessary until a later date, at which more examples of its implementation are anticipated to have been identified.
- c) note that any future revision of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) should also include a review of paragraph 4.

- d) note that certain revisions to Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes* could be considered jointly with amendments to paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18).
- e) encourage Parties to submit case studies and examples of non-detriment findings on the use of the exception in paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) to meetings of the Plants Committee, and report on best practice examples on implementation of paragraph 4 to the Plants Committee for the formulation of future guidance.
- f) invite the Secretariat to publish indications in the registry of nurseries to identify those registered nurseries that implement paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18).
- g) agree to consider that Decisions 18.179 and 18.180 are completed.

Concerning matters referred jointly from AC31 and PC25, the Standing Committee is invited to note the information in paragraphs 24 to 40 of document SC74 Doc. 6 concerning matters relating to fauna and flora; and to review the following draft decisions on *Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings* and consider submitting them to CoP19:

18.313 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

The Animals and Plants Committees shall, taking into consideration the current guidance in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*, paragraph 2 g), evaluate how nomenclature changes affect Appendix-III listings and propose further guidance and recommendations as necessary, that address how such nomenclature changes are to be handled, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

18.314 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, shall take into account the guidance and recommendations from the Animals and Plants Committees and make recommendations to address nomenclature changes that affect an Appendix-III listing, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) or Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III*, for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

7. Financial matters..... SC74 Doc. 7

The document highlights the financial performance of the Secretariat since the last 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Geneva, 2019) and provides information on income and expenditure from 1 January 2019 to 30 September 2021 for both Convention trust funds. The report should be read in conjunction with the document on administrative matters.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) approve the reports on the costed programme of work for the full years of 2019 and 2020, and for the period up to 30 September 2021 for 2021; and
- b) take note of other information provided in the report.

8. Report on proposed budget scenarios for 2023-2025 SC74 Doc. 8

As per the paragraph 7 of the Resolution Conf. 18.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2020-2022*, the Secretariat will propose three alternative budgetary scenarios to CoP19: one scenario with zero nominal growth, a second one with zero real growth and a third one with incremental growth.

The Standing Committee is invited to consider document SC74 Doc. 8 and to provide feedback to the Secretariat on the proposed budget scenarios and the preparation for the budgetary discussions during CoP19.

9. Access to funding: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 9

The Secretariat reports on the implementation of Decisions 18.4 to 18.11 noting that there had been no loan of personnel services (“secondments”) supported by Parties, but that it had benefited from the continued support of Germany for one Junior Professional Officer. The Secretariat had also welcomed a number of interns. In support of Decision 18.6, the Secretariat has regularly published Notifications to Parties entitled *Status of funding for the implementation of valid Decisions after CoP18*, so that interested Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are better informed of the existing funding gaps. The Secretariat has continued to participate in the Program Steering Committee of the GEF Global Wildlife Program with the aim to align GEF funded projects with CITES objectives. With regard to Decision 18.9, the Secretariat has received funds from the European Union for the convening of a wildlife roundtable with a particular focus on sustainable use. The meeting has unfortunately not been convened due to global sanitary measures in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of document SC74 Doc. 9 and the progress made in implementation of Decisions 18.4 and 18.5; and to review the following draft decisions on *Access to funding* and recommend them for adoption at CoP19:

Directed to Parties

19.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) engage with their Global Environment Facility (GEF) national focal points in order to take part in the national GEF processes and enhance access to GEF funding through the Global Wildlife Program (GWP);
- b) contribute to the development and implementation of GEF projects that may have components related to the implementation of CITES, by communicating with their national GEF counterparts and informing them of relevant CITES requirements and processes; and
- c) monitor the progress of the GEF Global Wildlife Program and the discussion on the establishment of the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program under the eighth replenishment of resources for the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-8) and ensure that national projects, where applicable, can enhance the beneficiary Parties’ ability to meet their obligations under CITES.

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

19.BB All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are invited to provide financial or technical assistance for ensuring the effective implementation of the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

19.CC In providing financial assistance, Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are encouraged to take into consideration the administrative and financial management support needed to ensure that the funded activities are managed in an efficient, effective and accountable manner, and that they do not affect the Secretariat’s core administrative tasks.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.DD The Secretariat shall:

- a) continue to participate in the Program Steering Committee of the GEF Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, or other GEF mechanisms as appropriate, to ensure that GEF projects under the programme are, as far as possible, aligned with CITES Decisions and Resolutions and contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention; and

- b) provide technical advice and in-kind support to Parties in the development and implementation of their GEF projects under the Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, or other GEF mechanisms as appropriate.
- 19.EE Subject to the availability of external funding and in collaboration with the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions, cooperation agencies and potential donors, the Secretariat shall organize a wildlife donor roundtable with a particular focus on sustainable use, to:
- a) share information on existing funding programmes on wildlife;
 - b) understand the long-term financial needs of developing countries to implement the Convention; and
 - c) explore the potential for scaled-up financial resources to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife.
- 19.FF The Secretariat shall report on the progress on the implementation of Decisions 19.BB, 19.DD and 19.EE and make any recommendations, as necessary, to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.GG The Standing Committee shall review the Secretariat's report and make recommendations, as necessary, to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

10. Administrative matters

- 10.1 Administrative matters including host country arrangements for the Secretariat: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 10.1

The Secretariat provides an update on the host country arrangements for the Secretariat, its staffing situation, as well as the administrative changes introduced by the United Nations (UN) Secretariat and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). These administrative changes focus on the drafting of UNEP's first Strategy for Private Sector Engagement; the Programme Support Cost Policy and its allocation and usage; Umoja extension 2 deployment of modules related to project management; and on the New Delegation of Authority Policy and Framework for the management and administration of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

The Secretariat further presents the results of and the management response to the audit of the CITES Secretariat conducted by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) during the period January to June 2021 in line with paragraph 38 of Resolution Conf. 18.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2020-2022*.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of document SC74 Doc. 10.1 on administrative matters, including the host country arrangements for the Secretariat.

- 10.2 Administrative hosting models for the Secretariat: Report of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee *No document*

The Acting Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee will provide an update on the administrative hosting models for the Secretariat.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the oral report by the Acting Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee.

- 10.3 Report of the United Nations Environment Programme on administrative matters SC74 Doc. 10.3

The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reports on the administrative and financial management support provided to the Convention. Document SC74 Doc. 10.3 provides information on the UNEP-led COVID-19 pandemic liquidity situation assessment and the implementation of the Implementing Partner and Integrated Planning and Management Reporting (IPMR) modules in Umoja. The delegation of authority policy framework that was issued

on 15 September 2021 is mentioned, as well as the establishment of a dedicated unit in Corporate Services Division to support Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The report furthermore reflects on the review of the Programme Support Cost policy, and the implementation of strict International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)-based liquidity management which requires that cash be available for the settlement of payments.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of document SC74 Doc. 10.3.

11. Arrangements for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19)

11.1 Preparations for CoP19..... *No document*

The Secretariat will provide an oral update on the ongoing preparations for CoP19 and will invite Panama as Next Host Country to the CoP to take the floor.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the oral reports by the Secretariat and Panama.

11.2 Draft agendaSC74 Doc. 11.2

The Secretariat introduces the draft agenda to CoP19, noting that, at present, it was only based on items for which a discussion is expected by virtue of the text of the Convention or an instruction in a Resolution or Decision, and that it would doubtless change.

The Standing Committee is invited to provide its comments on the draft provisional agenda; and to approve the draft provisional agenda for CoP19 annexed to document SC74 Doc. 11.2, with any amendments made during the meeting.

11.3 Draft working programme.....SC74 Doc. 11.3

The Secretariat outlines the proposal for the draft working programme in document SC74 Doc. 11.3, noting that SC65 had decided to maintain the basic meeting structure of CoP16 for future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

The Standing Committee is invited to approve the Annex to document SC74 Doc. 11.3 as the basis for the preparation of a provisional working programme for CoP19

11.4 Review of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties: Report of the working group.....SC74 Doc. 11.4

Canada, as the Chair of the intersessional working group on Rules of Procedure, presents draft amendments to Rule 7 2.a) on the membership of the Credentials Committee and Rule 25.5 on addressing amendments to proposals that were agreed at the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee. The document proposes for consideration further amendments to Rule 25.6 on amendment proposals that concern the same taxon but are different in substance. The document includes guidance materials in the form of example scenarios to illustrate the application of Rule 25, with the amendments agreed at SC73 and those proposed for consideration by SC74.

The Standing Committee is invited to agree to propose to CoP19 amendments to Rule 25.6 as follows (additions in underline text, deletions in ~~strikeout~~ text):

Rule 25

6. If two or more proposals, including proposals amended in accordance with Rule 24, paragraph 2 ~~or, and proposals made~~ in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Rule, relate to the same taxon, but are different in substance, the Chair shall so advise the Conference, clearly indicating the implications of the adoption of one proposal for the other(s), and should allow each of the proposals to be introduced prior to submitting any of them for discussion and decision. The Conference shall first decide on the proposal that will have the ~~least~~ most restrictive effect on the trade and then on the proposal with the next ~~least~~ most restrictive effect on the trade, and so on until all proposals have been submitted to decision. However, the Chair may exceptionally propose a different order, if appropriate. If, in relation to the same taxon, when however the adoption of one proposal

necessarily implies the rejection of another proposal, the latter proposal shall nevertheless ~~not~~ be submitted to decision in relation to any remaining taxon.

11.5 Selection of nominees for Committee Chairs *No document*

The Secretariat provides an oral update and notes that the selection panel has been finalised and that a call for candidates was distributed via Notification to the Parties No. 2021/058 of 4 October 2021. Parties should make their proposals to the Panel through the CITES Secretary-General by 19 March 2022 at the latest. The selection panel will decide on nominees by 14 June 2022, after which the Secretary General will inform members of the Standing Committee of the selected nominees. Selected nominees will be formally confirmed at the 75th meeting of the Standing Committee in Panama City, Panama.

The Standing Committee is invited to note the oral update by the Secretariat.

11.6 CoP19 sponsored delegates.....SC74 Doc. 11.6

The Secretariat launched the CoP19 Sponsored Delegates Project on 1 October 2021 through Notification to the Parties No. 2021/057. A dedicated page on the CITES website was also updated and published on the same date. In line with Decision 18.12, paragraph a), the selection criteria have been clearly indicated on the website.

The Secretariat wishes to inform the Standing Committee that the administration of the Sponsored Delegates Project represents a significant workload for the Secretariat and may become heavier if the Sponsored Delegates Project is expanded to the meetings of the Standing Committee and of the Animals and Plants Committees.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of document SC74 Doc. 11.6 and to recommend to CoP19 to consider Decision 18.12 to be fully implemented.

12. Review of the ETIS programme: Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 12

The Secretariat presents the results of the Review of the ETIS programme that was carried out based on the terms of reference agreed by the Standing Committee ([SC70 SR](#)) and the Conference of Parties in Decision 18.18. The operational and financial sustainability of the ETIS programme was covered in the review and therefore not included in document SC74 Doc. 13.

The summary of ratings of the review can be found below:

Table 1: Summary of Ratings	
Criterion	Overall Rating¹
A. Strategic Relevance	Highly satisfactory
B. Effectiveness	Satisfactory
C. Efficiency	Satisfactory
D. Sustainability	Moderately Likely
E. Impact	Satisfactory
Overall review rating	Satisfactory

The review offers a set of recommendation that is included in the executive summary of the document and led to several proposals on amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens* as well as an amendment to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on *National reports* that are submitted to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

¹ The individual rating scale used for the criteria of Strategic Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency and Impact is consistent with [UNEP guidelines](#) as follows: Highly satisfactory, Satisfactory, Moderately Satisfactory, Moderately Unsatisfactory, Unsatisfactory and Highly Unsatisfactory. Similarly, the ratings used for the assessment of sustainability are also consistent with UNEP guidelines as follows: Highly Likely, Likely, Moderately Likely, Moderately Unlikely, Unlikely and Highly Unlikely.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the report on the review of the ETIS programme;
- b) consider submitting to the Conference of the Parties the following amendment to paragraph 27 g) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens*:
 - 27. g) *summaries and aggregates of data provided to MIKE and ETIS, and the analyses of such data, constitute information that will be considered to be in the public domain once they are published on the CITES website, or otherwise publicly distributed; the detailed data on individual seizure cases, elephant mortalities and law enforcement submitted to MIKE or ETIS are owned by the respective data providers, which in most case are the CITES Parties; any such data relating to a CITES Party will be accessible to that Party, ~~and~~ the members of the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group for information and review purposes, and the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC) for global research and analysis, but will not be released to any third party without the consent of the Party concerned; data may also be released to contractors (e.g. statisticians) or other researchers (e.g. MIKE ETIS Subgroup approved research collaborations) under appropriate nondisclosure agreements; and*
 - c) consider submitting to the Conference of the Parties the proposed amendments to Annex 1 on *Monitoring illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens* to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) contained in Annex 4 to document SC74 Doc. 12;
 - d) consider submitting to the Conference of the Parties the following amendment to paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on *National reports*:
- 4. *AGREES that, unless otherwise specified by the reporting Party, data collected in the annual illegal trade report and included in the database should be made available to Parties for research and analysis of wildlife and forest crime as it affects them, ~~and~~ to the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC) for ICCWC global research and analysis studies on wildlife and forest crime, and any data on elephant specimens seized to ETIS to support the monitoring the illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens as provided for in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18);*
 - e) request the Secretariat, TRAFFIC and the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group, with oversight by the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, to prioritize the recommendations in Annexes 1 and 2 and prepare a costed action plan for the implementation of prioritized recommendations, to be included in the report to CoP19 on this matter; and
 - f) request the Secretariat to, based on the further work done as outlined in paragraph e) above, draft recommendations as required by Decision 18.20 on behalf of the Committee and in consultation with the Standing Committee Chair, for consideration at CoP19.

13. MIKE and ETIS programmes: Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 13

In order to develop a proposal on possible approaches to address the financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE and ETIS programmes as called for in Decision 18.21, the Secretariat presents the MIKE Programme's objectives; the reporting responsibilities and role of the Secretariat; the resources required by the Secretariat to continue supporting MIKE implementation; as well as the approaches implemented by the Secretariat to enhance operational sustainability, including funding diversification options.

The Secretariat proposes the following approaches to address the financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE programme:

- a) incorporate the MIKE and ETIS programmes in a resource mobilisation strategy to be developed by the Secretariat;
- b) identify key elements of support and analytical capacity to be integrated in the core budget of the Secretariat;
- c) prepare proposals for support to the MIKE programme for consideration by donors;

- d) further explore the options to secure support from alternative funding sources, such as the private sector and through crowdfunding; and
- e) continue to enhance operational performances, including improvements to the MIKE Online Database and online training, and identifying and implementing cost-effective approaches to deliver on MIKE objectives.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note that three multi-year projects managed by the Secretariat in support of the MIKE programme will come to an end in 2023 (European Union-funded CRWCP project in Africa), 2024 (European Union-funded MIKES+ project in Africa) and 2023 (US-funded project in Southeast Asia);
- b) note that the Secretariat has not been able to secure funds to support MIKE implementation in south Asia;
- c) note and support the approaches that the Secretariat proposes to address the financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE programme;
- d) request the Secretariat to provide a report to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee on the resources secured to support the implementation of the MIKE programme in Africa and Asia, with any relevant recommendations in this regard;
- e) encourage donors and Parties to provide funds to the Secretariat to support MIKE implementation in Africa and Asia; and
- f) consider submitting the following draft decisions to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

19.AA *Directed to the Parties*

All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support elephant range States and the Secretariat in their efforts to implement the MIKE and ETIS programmes as mandated in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, and the Secretariat in the implementation of Decision 19.BB.

19.BB *Directed to the Secretariat*

The Secretariat shall

- a) pursue the following approaches to address the financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE programme:
 - i) prepare proposals for support to the MIKE programme for consideration by donors;
 - ii) further explore alternative options to secure support from alternative funding sources, such as the private sector and through crowdfunding; and
 - iii) continue to enhance operational performances, including improvements to the MIKE Online Database and online training, and identifying and implementing cost-effective approaches to deliver on MIKE objectives.
- b) provide the Standing Committee with a report on the activities it has undertaken and the results thereof, including funding secured to support the implementation of the MIKE and ETIS programmes.

19.CC *Directed to the Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee shall review the report by the Secretariat in terms of Decision 19.BB and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties.

14. Tree Species Programme: Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 14

The Secretariat provides an update on the implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP) that provides direct financial assistance to Parties to take conservation and management measures to ensure that trade in timber, bark, extracts and other products from CITES-listed tree species is sustainable, legal, and traceable. The Secretariat highlights positive feedback by the beneficiary countries as well as by the members of the Advisory Committee on the CTSP as an effective mechanism for providing short-to-medium-term support for the sustainable forest management in key range States of CITES-listed tree species. The Secretariat further outlines considerations for a possible way forward for the programme, noting that a potential continuation of the CTSP is dependent on the availability of external funding.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the Secretariat's progress report in document SC74 Doc. 14 and its annexes provided under Decision 18.17, paragraph b) and the support by the Plants Committee for the further implementation of the programme as set out in paragraph 11 of document SC74 Doc. 14;
- b) consider the following draft decisions:

Directed to the Parties

19.AA Parties are invited to provide financial and in-kind support for the continuation of a capacity-building programme that provides long-term support to Parties on their implementation of the Convention for CITES-listed tree species.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.BB The Secretariat shall bring to the attention of the Plants Committee relevant technical and scientific results of the CTSP and, subject to external funding:

- a) develop and implement a capacity-building programme on the implementation of CITES for tree species included in the Appendices based on the lessons learned of the CTSP;
 - b) seek advice and guidance from the Plants and Standing Committees, where required;
 - c) continue cooperation with organizations working on forest related matters, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to strengthen the support to Parties for implementing the Convention for listed tree species; and
 - d) report on the implementation of this Decision at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- c) provide any guidance and recommendations to the Secretariat for its consideration in preparation for its report to CoP19.

Strategic matters

15. Towards a resolution on CITES and forests..... SC74 Doc. 15

At the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC25, online, June 2021), the Secretariat provided a rationale for the development of a resolution on *CITES and forests* and its proposed structure. The Plants Committee retained two options for progressing the development of a resolution on CITES and forests and recommended that the Secretariat submit both to the Standing Committee for consideration at the present meeting. As a first option, it recommended that the Secretariat develop and submit a draft resolution on CITES and forests (see Annex 1A to document SC73 Doc. 15); and as a second option, it offered two draft

decisions on the subject (see Annex 2 to document SC73 Doc. 15). As a complement to Option 1, the Secretariat has also drafted decisions to support the implementation of the resolution in its first iteration, should it be adopted at CoP19.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the Secretariat's draft resolution on CITES and forests contained in Annex 1A and the complementary draft decisions contained in Annex 1B of document SC74 Doc. 15;
- b) consider, as an alternative, the Plants Committee's draft decisions contained in Annex 2 of the present document; and
- c) on the basis of the above, provide any guidance to the Secretariat on this matter.

16. Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade: Report of the working group..... SC74 Doc. 16

Canada as Chair of the working group on the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade presents outcomes of the deliberations of the working group, including two online meetings. The recommendations aim to be legally viable; be able to demonstrate success on the ground; fall within the CITES mandate and align with the aim of the Convention; avoid duplication of existing efforts or initiatives; be commensurate to the result ("worth the effort"); and be practical and feasible.

The draft decisions focus on gathering information on existing measures taken by Parties to mitigate the risk of pathogen spillover from international wildlife trade to be provided to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee to inform their advice regarding the development of a joint programme of work with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) under the auspices of the existing cooperation agreement. This collaborative effort could firstly focus on ways to provide practical guidance for the appropriate housing, care and handling of CITES-listed live animals in international trade in order to mitigate the risk of pathogen spillover and disease transmission. Beyond collaboration with OIE, the Secretariat is also requested to provide advice on cooperation opportunities to the Animals and Standing Committees, in line with existing Resolutions, Decisions or agreements. Finally, for the longer term, some draft decisions suggest considering the need to develop a Resolution to outline CITES' contribution to advancing a 'One Health' approach, including the role of maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Additional to the draft decisions, the document also suggests working with IATA to review the *IATA Live Animals Regulations* in order to incorporate new animal and human health risk mitigation measures and strengthen existing measures, as appropriate, as well as to include relevant provisions in its guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants.

The Standing Committee is invited to submit the following draft decisions to CoP19:

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.za The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties, requesting Parties to identify and describe any new or existing domestic measures, or stricter domestic measures on in-transit shipments, imports and (re-) exports, on live wildlife trade or markets, and for what purposes they have adopted such measures; and make the results available to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee for their information and consideration in undertaking Decisions 19.zd and 19.zf.
- 19.zb The Secretariat shall, in line with the cooperation agreement between the CITES Secretariat and the OIE, work with the OIE and its Wildlife Working Group, including through the new *Ad Hoc Working Group on Reducing the Risk of Disease Spillover in Wildlife Markets and along the Wildlife Supply Chain*, in order to, *inter alia*, develop a joint program of work to collaboratively help fill knowledge gaps and identify effective and practical solutions for reducing pathogen spillover risk in wildlife supply chains. In undertaking this work, the Secretariat shall seek the views of the Animals and Standing Committee on the joint program of work, through their Chairs, and report on the progress of the development and implementation of the joint program of work to the Animals Committee, the Standing Committee and the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat shall also

review its Cooperation Agreement with OIE to identify any necessary updates to reflect guidance provided by the Animals and Standing Committees.

- 19.zc The Secretariat shall prepare a report summarizing existing activities or formal agreements with other entities (such as, among others, FAO, WHO and ICCWC) as well as possible emerging opportunities, and identify opportunities for additional practical collaboration towards reducing the risk of pathogen spillover or zoonotic disease transmission in international wildlife trade supply chains for consideration by the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 19.zd The Animals Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 19.zb and make recommendations, including on priorities for the joint program of work and taking into the consideration the responses to the Notification prepared under Decision 19.za.
- 19.ze The Animals Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat under Decision 19.zc and make recommendations on opportunities for practical collaboration under the direction of existing Resolutions, Decisions or agreements.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.zf The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 19.zb, taking into account the recommendations of the Animals Committee, and make its own recommendations, including on priorities for the joint program of work and taking into consideration the responses to the Notification prepared under Decision 19.za.
- 19.zg The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat under Decision 19.zc, and make recommendations on opportunities for practical collaboration under the direction of existing Resolutions, Decisions or agreements.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.zh The Standing Committee shall, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, consider the development of a Resolution on actions CITES Parties and others could take to advance a 'One Health' approach as it pertains to international wildlife trade, and provide its recommendations, which may be in the form of a new draft Resolution, to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In developing any resolution, the Standing Committee may consider, *inter alia*, encouraging Parties to undertake actions that would improve monitoring and reduce the risk of pathogen spillover along international wildlife trade supply chains; encouraging or enhancing collaboration with national wildlife and human health authorities to minimize and mitigate the risk of disease transmission; providing instructions to the CITES Committees or Secretariat to collaborate with relevant agencies and instruments to strengthen the consideration of wildlife health and international wildlife trade in a 'One Health' approach; and contributing their expertise in discussions on the development of an international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committee

- 19.zi The Animals and Plants Committee shall consider scientific elements that could be included in a possible Resolution on actions CITES Parties and others could take to advance a 'One Health' approach as it pertains to international wildlife trade, and provide its recommendations to the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee is further invited to submit the following amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on *Transport of live specimens* to CoP19:

- a) proposed amendment to paragraph 2 e), in underline text below, that would read:

2. RECOMMENDS that:

[...]

- e) the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and IATA, regularly review, revise and approve amendments to the CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants, including recommending any appropriate updates to include measures to mitigate risks to animal and human health posed by international trade in CITES-listed species;
- b) proposed amendment to paragraph 3 to insert a new subparagraph (c), in underline text below (renumbering subsequent subparagraphs), that would read:

3. DIRECTS the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat:

[...]

- c) to review and recommend any appropriate updates to the *IATA Live Animals Regulations* to incorporate measures to mitigate risks to animal and human health posed by international trade in CITES-listed species;

17. CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030

17.1 Report of the working group..... SC74 Doc. 17.1

Georgia as Chair of the Standing Committee's working group on Strategic Vision proposes new or revised indicators of progress to be included in the *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030*. These indicators presented in the Annex to the document were reviewed by the working group in terms of adequacy, measurability and sufficiency.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC74 Doc. 17.1 and the progress made in implementation of Decisions 18.23 through 18.26; and
- b) review the potential indicators presented in the Annex to document SC74 Doc. 17.1 and recommend for adoption by CoP19 after discussion in the wider group during the present meeting of the Committee.

17.2 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 17.2

The Secretariat presents in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 17.2 a mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 objectives against the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, noting that the mapping could not include the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that has not yet been adopted. The Secretariat further presents a mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision's objectives against valid CITES Resolutions and Decisions in Annex 2 to the document, as amended by the Animals and Plants Committees, and a list of reporting requirements in Annex 3. The Secretariat also provides an overview of the process used and the results of the mapping exercises.

The Standing Committee is invited to review the mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 objectives against the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 17.2 , as well as the views of the Animals and Plants Committees in paragraph 12 of the document, and make recommendations to CoP19.

The Standing Committee is invited to propose the deletion of Decision 18.24 to CoP19. Should the Standing Committee consider useful a mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision against the Global Biodiversity Framework, then it is invited to submit following draft decisions to CoP19:

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.AA The Secretariat shall undertake a comparative analysis in order to illustrate the linkages between the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and present its analysis to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.BB The Standing Committee shall review the information provided by the Secretariat in Decision 19.AA, and make recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

18. Review of the Convention SC74 Doc. 18

At the request of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat presents some background information in order to support the implementation of Decision 18.27 that directs the Standing Committee to “consider the need for a targeted review of the implementation of the Convention.”

The Secretariat presents the following information: a) a summary of what led to the 1996 “Study on how to improve the effectiveness of CITES” and of how the recommendations of the study were implemented; b) an overview of existing CITES review mechanisms, highlighting what they cover and do not cover; and c) a short presentation of what targeted reviews usually look at (relevance, effectiveness and efficiency).

The Standing Committee is invited to consider the need for a targeted review of the implementation of the Convention, and, if appropriate, prepare a costed proposal, including draft terms of reference, for consideration by the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

19. Language strategy for the Convention..... SC74 Doc. 19

At the request of the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting (SC73, online May 2021), the Secretariat provides the following information: a) administrative and cost implications for the Secretariat of adding Arabic, Chinese and Russian as working languages of the Convention; b) an overview of the benefits and challenges (including administrative and cost implications) for CITES Parties of adding Arabic, Chinese and Russian; c) a proposed tiered incremental approach that focus on key documents that would need to be translated in Arabic, Chinese and Russian in order to facilitate and improve the implementation of the Convention by Management and Scientific Authorities; and d) an option that focuses on the provision of language services in Arabic, Chinese and Russian only during meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

The Finance and Budget Subcommittee will meet on the margins of the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and presents its recommendations later in the meeting.

Taking into account the recommendations of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, the Standing Committee is invited to formulate a way forward for the implementation of Decision 18.30 on *Language strategy for the Convention*.

20. Engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities

20.1 Report of the working group..... *No document*

Kenya, as Chair of the Standing Committee’s working group on engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities, will provide an oral update.

The Standing Committee is invited to note the oral update.

20.2 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 20.2

The Secretariat presents the results of a questionnaire that gathered information on Parties’ experiences and lessons learned in engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in CITES processes. The questionnaire covered the status of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and their relationship with CITES-listed species; scale and form of engagement; successful experiences in IPLC engagement in relation to CITES; challenges, and additional information. The Secretariat also summarizes the experiences of engagement with IPLCs by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention).

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of document SC74 Doc. 20.2, in particular of the summaries of the responses from Parties on their experiences and lessons learned in engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in the CITES processes and of the experiences shared by relevant organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements in engaging IPLCs.

The Secretariat further suggests that draft decisions on engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities to be submitted by the Standing Committee for consideration by the Conference of Parties at its 19th meeting refer to the Parties' responses to the questionnaire.

21. Livelihoods

21.1 Report of the working group..... SC74 Doc. 21.1

Peru, as Chair of the Standing Committee's working group on livelihoods, provide an overview of the activities of the working group since its establishment at the 72nd meeting of the Standing Committee. Peru further notes an overlap between the mandate of the working group on livelihoods and of the working group on engagement with IPLCs.

The Standing Committee is invited to consider merging the working group on livelihoods and of the working group on engagement with IPLCs as part of draft decisions to be submitted to CoP19 in order to pursue further work on these issues.

21.2 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 21.2

The Secretariat presents an overview of 16 case studies on livelihoods it had commissioned. These case studies cover a wide range of taxonomic groups of species including mammals, reptiles and medicinal plants, found in Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, and North America, representing different purposes and forms of use. Based on a review of existing case studies, the Secretariat prepared for review by the Standing Committee a draft *Guidance on maximising benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities from trade in CITES-listed species* in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 21.2. The Secretariat also commissioned a study to explore the use of registered marks, certification and traceability mechanisms for products of CITES-listed species produced by indigenous peoples and local communities to enhance conservation and livelihood outcomes (see Annex 2 to the document).

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review the draft *Guidance on maximising benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities from trade in CITES-listed species* in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 21.2 and provide recommendations for improvement so that the Secretariat can submit the draft guidance for consideration at CoP19; and
- b) review the report on exploring the use of registered marks, certification schemes and other traceability mechanisms for products of CITES-listed species produced by indigenous peoples and local communities to enhance conservation and livelihood outcomes in Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 21.2 and make recommendations on possible way forward for inclusion in the Secretariat's document for consideration at CoP19.

22. Capacity-building: Report of the working group SC74 Doc. 22

New Zealand, as Chair of the Standing Committee's working group on capacity-building, reports on progress made in implementation of Decisions 18.39 through 18.46 and proposes for the consideration of the Standing Committee a draft resolution and draft decisions on capacity-building. The document also contains updates from the Secretariat, such as the streamlining of a dedicated page to capacity-building on the CITES website, the revision of the CITES Virtual College, the provision of capacity-building support to CITES Parties and collaboration with external partners to provide training opportunities to Parties.

For their part, the Animals and Plants Committees agreed that:

- a) some form of CITES capacity-building conceptual framework (strategy) is needed;

- b) a wide variety of elements must be considered when developing the capacity-building conceptual framework;
- c) wide stakeholder consultation is needed for the development of the capacity-building framework; and
- d) elements for both face-to-face and online means of capacity building delivery must be considered in the framework.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC74 Doc. 22 and the progress made in implementation of Decisions 18.39 through 18.46;
- b) review the draft resolution and decisions on *capacity-building* contained in Annexes 1 and 2 to this document and recommend them for adoption at CoP19.

23. Cooperation with other biodiversity-related Conventions:

Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 23

The Secretariat presents a summary of the provisions of existing Resolutions and Decisions related to synergies, partnerships and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities; an overview of existing formal agreements with other biodiversity-related Conventions and other entities; and an overview of Resolutions and Decisions adopted by other conventions on cooperation and synergies.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the information presented by the Secretariat in document SC74 Doc. 23 and provide comments to the Secretariat to be addressed in any further work and reports;
- b) consider the conclusion reached by the Secretariat that a partnership strategy could assist in ensuring a more strategic, streamlined, cohesive and effective approach to cooperation, and agree to propose to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of Decisions 18.48 and 18.49 and the adoption of the following draft decisions;

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall prepare for consideration by the Standing Committee a partnership strategy for the Parties, the Permanent Committees and the Secretariat to enhance the implementation of the Convention through strategic partnerships.

19.BB Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review the draft partnership strategy developed by the Secretariat under Decision 19.AA and make recommendations for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties.

- c) agree to propose to CoP19 the renewal of Decisions 17.55 (Rev. CoP18), 17.56 (Rev. CoP18) as follows.

17.55 (Rev. CoP18) Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to strengthen synergies among biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity-building activities.

17.56 (Rev. CoP18) Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, its Aichi Targets and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as appropriate, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This should involve the members of the Liaison Group of

Biodiversity-related Conventions, and, as appropriate, engagement with other relevant organizations and processes, including processes under the Rio Conventions. The Standing Committee shall report on the implementation of this Decision at the 49th 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Should the Standing Committee agree to the recommendation in paragraph 26 b) and the proposals be adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat suggests that the Committee forms an intersessional working group at its 76th or 77th meeting to advance the consideration of this matter.

24. Cooperation with the World Heritage Convention:
Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 24

The Secretariat presents a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) it has prepared with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (see Annex to document SC74 Doc. 24).

The Standing Committee is invited to provide its recommendations or approval of the draft MoU with the World Heritage Centre.

25. Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform
on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services SC74 Doc. 25

The Chairs of the Standing Committee, Animals and Plants Committees provide an overview of their engagement with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as well as information from the Secretariat. They include in Annex to document SC74 Doc. 25 a draft report for submission to CoP19.

The Standing Committee is invited to agree to:

- a) mandate the Chairs of the Standing Committee, Animals and Plants Committees to represent the Convention in the launch of the *Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species* at the 9th meeting of the IPBES Plenary to highlight its relevance to the implementation of the Convention and offer to engage with IPBES further on any relevant follow-up activities; and
- b) submit the report of its work on IPBES in the Annex to document SC74 Doc. 25 to CoP19, including the draft decisions to consider the results of the thematic assessment and provide recommendations.

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

26. National laws for implementation of the Convention:
Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 26

The Secretariat presents an update on the number of Parties with legislation in Categories 1 (legislation that is believed generally to meet the requirements for implementation of CITES), 2 (legislation that is believed generally not to meet all of the requirements for the implementation of CITES) and 3 (legislation that is believed generally not to meet the requirements for the implementation of CITES) under the National Legislation Project (NLP) as indicated below:

National Legislation Project Jan-22		
Category	Parties	Percent
Cat. 1	108	58.7%
Cat. 2	41	22.3%
Cat. 3	31	16.8%
Recent Parties	4	2.2%
Total	184	100.0%

The Secretariat provides an update on progress (or lack thereof) of Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3 and on Targeted technical and legislative assistance it has provided to Parties since CoP18.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) commend Jordan, Mauritania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Solomon Islands for the efforts leading to the legislation to be placed in Category 1 and other Parties that have made substantial progress in adopting measures for the effective implementation of the Convention;
- b) agree on a recommendation to all Parties to suspend commercial trade with Congo, Dominica, Grenada, Kazakhstan, Libya, Mongolia and Sao Tome and Principe. The Secretariat shall inform the Parties concerned of this measure immediately after the present meeting. The recommendation shall take effect 60 days after it is agreed unless the Party concerned adopts appropriate measures before the expiry of the 60 days or takes significant and substantive steps to do so. Upon the expiry of the 60 days after the recommendation is agreed, the Secretariat shall issue Notification to the Parties informing them of the recommendations to suspend commercial trade taking effect from that date; and
- c) request the Secretariat to issue a formal warning to the Parties that have not reported any legislative progress for more than three years (at the time of writing, this included Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Montenegro, Sierra Leone and Zambia), requesting them to immediately take steps to ensure progress be made before CoP19 and to report such progress to the Secretariat by 1 September 2022.

The Standing Committee is also invited to recognize and welcome the support provided by Parties, development partners as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of the development and adoption of national measures to effectively implement and enforce the Convention.

27. National reports: Submission of annual reports SC74 Doc. 27

The Secretariat provides the list of Parties that had failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years, without having provided adequate justification: Albania, Australia, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Dominica, Iceland, Iran, Libya, Mongolia, Niger, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe and the Syrian Arab Republic (as of 17 February 2022).

The Standing Committee is invited to instruct the Secretariat to determine whether the Parties mentioned above have failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years, without having provided adequate justification. If so determined, the Secretariat will issue a Notification (60 days after the closure of this 74th meeting of the Standing Committee) recommending that Parties not authorize any commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those Parties until they have provided the missing reports.

28. Compliance matters

28.1 Implementation of Article XIII and Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18)
on CITES compliance procedures SC74 Doc. 28.1

The Secretariat provides the Standing Committee with information on matters relating to trade in specimens of CITES-listed species that have not yet been identified as compliance matters under Article XIII but are emerging as potential compliance matters. The following potential compliance matters and proposed actions to be taken by the Secretariat are presented in the document: Trade in live Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) involving China and the Lao People's Democratic Republic; trade in *Pericopsis elata* from Cameroon; registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes (European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); timber trade involving Viet Nam; and the import of birds to Bangladesh.

In light of the information provided, the Standing Committee is invited to consider making the following recommendations:

Regarding trade in live Asian elephants (Elephas maximus)

- a) The Secretariat continue to keep close communication and strengthen the cooperation with China and Lao PDR on this potential case and seek an invitation from China and Lao PDR

to provide in-country assistance, conduct a technical assessment and a verification mission to understand the type of trade controls that are put in place, once the specimens had been introduced, to ensure compliance with Article III with respect to the import of live Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*). The technical assessment of the facility(ies) hosting the live elephants should focus on clarifying the purpose of the transaction and the specific characteristics and objectives of the reported trade. The Secretariat shall present its findings and recommendations to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC77).

- b) The export of live Asian elephants from the Lao People's Democratic Republic be incorporated into the application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic to be considered under agenda item 28.2.1.

Regarding trade in Pericopsis elata from Cameroon

- c) The Standing Committee take note of the information provided on *Pericopsis elata* from Cameroon and request the Secretariat to further investigate this case and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.
- d) Pursuant to Article II, paragraph 1, articles IV and VI and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18), the Secretariat continue to keep close communication and strengthen the cooperation with Cameroun on this potential case and seek an invitation from Cameroon to provide in-country assistance, conduct a technical assessment and a verification mission to understand how the CITES authorities ensure that timber species are legally acquired and exported in full compliance with CITES. The Secretariat shall present its findings and recommendations to SC77.

Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes – European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- e) The Secretariat continue to keep close communication and strengthen the cooperation with the European Union, its member States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding this case and seek an invitation from the European Union and from the United Kingdom to provide in-country assistance, conduct a technical assessment and a verification mission to several selected operations to know the type of trade controls that are put in place to verify the legal origin of the parental stock and the commercial or non-commercial nature of those operations. The aim of the visits would be to have a clearer understanding of the purpose of the breeding and the specific characteristics and objectives of the operations breeding bird and reptile species listed in Appendix I. The Secretariat shall present its findings and recommendations to SC77.

Regarding timber trade from or to Viet Nam

- f) The Secretariat continue to keep close communication and strengthen the cooperation with Viet Nam to understand how the CITES authorities ensure that timber species are imported and re-exported in full compliance with CITES. The Secretariat shall seek an invitation from Viet Nam to provide in-country assistance, conduct a technical assessment and a verification mission to further investigate allegations related to Viet Nam's possible engagement in trade in timber that has been illegally harvested or traded, including timber that has been traded contrary to CITES provisions. The Secretariat shall present its findings and recommendations to SC77.

28.2 Application of Article XIII: Reports of the Secretariat

28.2.1 Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic..... SC74 Doc. 28.2.1

The Secretariat reviews the progress made by the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) on the implementation of the Standing Committee's recommendations regarding the management of exports of *Dalbergia* spp.; the national legislation for the implementation of CITES; the Lao CITES Authorities; law enforcement; the monitoring of wildlife farms and related trade; awareness-raising; and capacity-building and technical assistance. The Secretariat considers that the progress report submitted by the Lao

People's Democratic Republic demonstrates continued commitment by the country to work towards full compliance with the Convention and to address the recommendations by the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee is invited to update its recommendations as follows:

Regarding management of exports of Dalbergia spp.

- a) Parties shall continue to suspend commercial trade in specimens of the genus *Dalbergia* spp., including finished products, such as carvings and furniture from Lao PDR, until Lao PDR makes scientifically based non-detriment findings for trade in the relevant species, including *D. cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri*, to the satisfaction of the Secretariat.

Regarding national legislation for the implementation of CITES

Lao PDR shall

- b) enact and effectively implement the CITES Decree and ensure that it is widely disseminated among all relevant authorities and stakeholders.
- c) finalize the ongoing revision of the Wildlife and Aquatic Law to ensure that the gaps in the CITES Decree are fully addressed.

Regarding CITES Authorities

- d) Lao PDR shall continue to address the need for strengthening capacity and training of staff of the CITES authorities, in particular the CITES Scientific Authority, and ensure smooth collaboration between all relevant CITES authorities, with the support of the CITES Secretariat;

Regarding law enforcement

Lao PDR shall

- e) continue to progress the implementation of its National Wildlife Crime Response Strategy Plan to tackle illegal trade in wildlife as adopted by Decision MAF No. 1559 (2018);
- f) continue to investigate and prosecute cases involving organized or transboundary illegal trade activities, such as those identified by various international partners; and provide to the Secretariat the results of any investigations conducted by competent national authorities, including on arrests, and the results of any legal proceedings against alleged perpetrators, in the illegal trade report format;
- g) continue to work with the law enforcement agencies from China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, including the context of the Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other relevant networks to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices with the objective of improving the mechanisms for justice and police cooperation on the issues of trade and transiting of illegal acquired wildlife and illegal wildlife tourism; and
- h) implement the recommendations of the Wildlife and Forest Crime Toolkit of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) with the assistance of ICWC and other partners and conduct a follow-up ICWC indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime within 24 months to monitor performance over time and to identify any changes needed in the response.

Regarding monitoring of wildlife farms and related trade

Lao PDR shall

- i) disseminate and effectively implement Ministerial Decision No. 0188/MAF, dated 8 February 2019 on the *Establishment and Management of zoos, wildlife farms, centers for rehabilitation and breeding of wildlife and wild flora farms*;
- j) finalize the full audit of the tigers kept in captivity, combined with a marking scheme and genetic analysis of the animals to establish their origin in collaboration with relevant international organizations to comply with paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* and Decision 14.69, and taking into account the provisions of Decision 17.226; and
- k) establish an appropriate advisory committee or mechanism with involvement of the CITES Secretariat and other relevant organizations and partners to provide advice on the transformation of commercial tiger farms;

Regarding trade in live Asian elephants

- l) Parties shall suspend all trade in live specimens of Asian elephants until Lao PDR is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretariat that specimens to be traded with source code C comply with the definition of captive-bred specimens set out in [Resolution Conf. 10.16 \(Rev.\) on Specimens of animal species bred in captivity](#);
- m) Lao PDR shall take substantive steps to implement Decision 18.226, in particular by developing strategies to manage captive Asian elephant populations, by ensuring that trade is conducted in compliance with Article III for Asian elephants of wild origin and by strengthening its system for registration and marking of Asian elephants held in captivity in Lao PDR.

Regarding awareness raising

- n) Lao PDR should continue to implement outreach campaigns targeted to raise awareness among nationals, traders, visitors and consumers from neighbouring countries about the laws and regulations of the State for the protection of fauna and flora.

Regarding capacity-building and technical assistance

- o) Parties, the CITES Secretariat, international non-governmental organizations and development partners shall make efforts to respond to the requests for capacity-building and technical support expressed by Lao PDR to implement the action plan and aim to coordinate their support to maximize effectiveness and minimize overlap.

The Secretariat further recommends that the Standing Committee request Lao PDR to submit a report to the Secretariat by 28 February 2023 on activities undertaken in the period January – December 2022 to implement the recommendations a) to m) in order for the Secretariat to convey this report and its comments and recommendations to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Secretariat finally recommends that the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting review progress made by Lao PDR and decide on appropriate compliance measures, including a recommendation to suspend trade in specimens of all CITES-listed species for commercial purposes if progress is considered insufficient.

28.2.2 Application of Article XIII
in the Democratic Republic of the Congo SC74 Doc. 28.2.2

The Secretariat reviews the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the implementation of the Standing Committee's recommendations regarding quota

setting and management; the management of trade in *Psittacus erithacus*; trade in pangolin stockpiles; trade in *Pericopsis elata*; illegal trade; compliance assistance and reporting.

The Standing Committee is invited to update its recommendations as follows:

Regarding quota setting and management

- a) The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) shall continue to strengthen its Scientific Authorities by building capacity and allocating sufficient modern resources for the making of the non-detriment findings and the setting of annual export quotas based on the best available science, particularly considering the species of wild fauna and flora in the DRC that are currently included in the Review of Significant Trade process;

Regarding the management of trade in Psittacus erithacus

- b) Parties shall maintain the suspension of trade in specimens of the species *Psittacus erithacus* from the DRC pending compliance with the recommendations made at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC69, Geneva, November 2017);
- c) The Standing Committee recommends that the CoP does not renew Decision 17.256 (Rev. CoP18) and agrees to consider whether it would be appropriate to adopt a specific Resolution on the management of the species *Psittacus erithacus* or the taxon Psittacidae at the next meeting of the Standing committee;

Regarding trade in pangolin stockpiles

- d) Parties shall not authorize trade of specimens from stockpiles of *Manis* spp. held in the DRC, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019).
- e) The Standing Committee urges the Management Authorities of the DRC and the Republic of the Congo to provide the information requested by the Secretariat on 17 June 2021 about the repatriation of pangolin scales;

Regarding illegal trade

- f) The DRC shall intensify efforts to conduct analyses of available information to map organized crime groups active in the country and convene multi-disciplinary investigative teams involving all relevant authorities, to work in close collaboration with local authorities in key identified areas, and initiate intelligence-driven operations and investigations, with a particular focus on pangolins and ivory.

Regarding compliance assistance

- g) Parties, partners and donors are encouraged to provide coordinated financial, technical and logistical support to the DRC to support the implementation of the above recommendations with a particular focus on scientific-related assistance;

Regarding reporting to the Secretariat

- h) The DRC should report to the Secretariat on progress made on the implementation of these recommendations by 31 December 2022, in order for the Secretariat to convey its report and its comments to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee.

28.2.3 Application of Article XIII in Guinea..... SC74 Doc. 28.2.2

The Secretariat reviews the progress made by Guinea on the implementation of the Standing Committee's recommendations regarding export of pre-Convention specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*; national legislation; management and issuance of CITES permits and certificates; and compliance and law enforcement. Since the 71st meeting of

the Standing Committee (SC71, Geneva, August 2019), Guinea has made significant efforts to implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

Regarding the export of the pre-Convention stockpile of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, the Secretariat notes that Guinea has not yet undertaken the marking of the logs, their loading into containers or the sealing of the containers, although the entire stock had to be exported before 26 April 2022 in accordance with paragraph iv) of the decision of the Standing Committee adopted on 21 April 2021. At the time of drafting the document, the Secretariat was still awaiting from Guinea a planned timetable for these following stages as well as the Service Note on the appointment of new members of the Commission for monitoring the export of the stockpile and the minutes of the latest consultation meeting of the Commission.

The Standing Committee is invited to agree the following recommendations:

Regarding export of pre-convention specimens of Pterocarpus erinaceus

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) take note of the inventory of the stockpile of pre-Convention *Pterocarpus erinaceus* made by the Guinean authorities on 7 June 2021, that is, a total volume of 12,882 m³ of exportable wood of the 14,000 m³ originally estimated;
- b) recommend that Guinea take all the necessary measures by 26 April 2022 to implement the Standing Committee decision adopted on 21 April 2021 (Notification to the Parties No. 2021/033 of 26 April 2021);
- c) invite importing Parties to exert due diligence when CITES permits or certificates from Guinea are submitted, if they have reason to believe that the specimens of CITES-listed species may not have been traded in accordance with the decision adopted by the Standing Committee on 21 April 2021 (Notification to the Parties No. 2021/033 of 26 April 2021) and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention [paragraphs 1 c) and 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*];

Regarding national legislation

The Standing Committee recommends that Guinea:

- d) adopt legislative measures that meet the CITES minimum requirements set out in Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on *National laws for implementation of the Convention* and in accordance with the guidance provided under the National Legislation Project; this should include the issuance of a legally binding instrument on the functions and responsibilities of the CITES Scientific and Management Authorities;

Regarding management and issuance of CITES permits and certificates

The Standing Committee recommends that Guinea:

- e) implement a system for the receipt and management of applications for CITES documents, and for the issuance, filing and monitoring of CITES documents, including use of secure paper and security stamps;
- f) develop a protocol for the making of non-detriment findings by the CITES Scientific Authority prior to the issuance of export permits;
- g) assess the capacity of the CITES Management and Scientific Authority as well as customs on CITES implementation, including the capacity to make non-detriment findings, and address any gaps and needs for training and capacity-building, with the relevant technical assistance, including from the CITES Secretariat, if requested and subject to available resources;

- h) consider establishing voluntary national export quotas for CITES-listed species expected to be in trade;
- i) every six months, submit copies of CITES permits and certificates issued to the CITES Secretariat for information and monitoring;

Regarding compliance and law enforcement

The Standing Committee recommends that Guinea:

- j) continue to investigate and prosecute cases of illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed species, and inform the Secretariat of the results of any legal proceedings by submitting the annual illegal trade report in accordance with existing guidelines;
- k) establish a formal agreement between the CITES Management Authority and the Customs Service on collaboration, coordination and exchange of information;
- l) consider the implementation of the ICCWC *Indicator Framework for wildlife and forest crime* and request support from the CITES Secretariat in this regard; and
- m) develop a protocol for the management and disposal of seized and confiscated specimens (live and dead), taking into account the provisions of the Convention and the recommendations of Resolution Conf. 17.8 on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*.

The Secretariat also recommends that the Standing Committee ask Guinea to submit a report to the Secretariat on the implementation of these recommendations before the 75th meeting of the Standing Committee so that the Secretariat can in turn submit its report and recommendations to the Standing Committee at that meeting.

The Standing Committee could also instruct the Secretariat to provide capacity building and training to Guinea, subject to the availability of resources. This could include another mission to Guinea before the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Finally, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to publish a Notification to the Parties to replace Notification No. 2021/037 of 6 May 2021, recommending that the Parties maintain the suspension of commercial trade with Guinea until the above-mentioned recommendations have been implemented to the satisfaction of the Secretariat.

28.2.4 Application of Article XIII in Nigeria SC74 Doc. 28.2.4

The Secretariat reviews the progress made by Guinea on the implementation of the Standing Committee's recommendations regarding management of trade in specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, including its inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade; legislation, law enforcement, issuance of permits and information system; and reporting on seizures. To date, the Secretariat has not received the progress report requested by the Standing Committee to be submitted by Nigeria by 31 December 2019.

The Secretariat acknowledges Nigeria's efforts to progress the implementation of some of the Standing Committee's recommendations, in particular those related to the management of trade in *P. erinaceus* and certain law enforcement-related activities. Nigeria did not provide information on activities that it may have undertaken concerning the issuance of permits, the development of associate information systems, or the handling of seized specimens and stockpiles.

Nigeria's progress with the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee at SC70 is not satisfactory. Given the lack of progress, the Committee may wish to consider adopting a recommendation to suspend commercial trade in all CITES-listed species from Nigeria until the Party is able to demonstrate significant progress in the implementation of the Standing Committee's recommendations.

The Standing Committee is invited to agree the following recommendations:

1. *Regarding trade in specimens of CITES-listed species*

- a) Parties shall suspend commercial trade in specimens of all CITES-listed species from Nigeria until the recommendations of the Standing Committee have been implemented to the satisfaction of the Secretariat.

2. *Regarding trade in specimens of Pterocarpus erinaceus*

- b) The Standing Committee encourages all potential transit and destination countries of shipments of illegal specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Nigeria to take appropriate measures to ensure that such timber is not illegally transported or traded, including prohibiting entry, seizing such specimens upon arrival and applying appropriate sanctions against traffickers in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.
- c) The Standing Committee invites the importing Parties to share with the Secretariat the administrative, legislative and enforcement arrangements put in place to sanction illegal trade in specimens of this species, including any relevant due diligence measure to verify legality and ensure sustainability; and encourages those Parties to consider inviting the Secretariat to conduct technical missions in order to strengthen cooperation between range States and importing countries and identify further recommendations to ensure that timber trade is conducted in accordance with the Convention.

3. *Regarding legislation and law enforcement*

- d) Nigeria shall strengthen the regulatory framework in relation to forestry management, including forestry legislation at the State level, to avoid any loopholes that may be generated by the distribution of competences between Federal and State levels.
- e) Nigeria shall continue implementing a strategy to counter corruption linked to illegal wildlife trade at all levels, including anti-bribery policies, and intensify efforts to ensure full implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.6 on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption*, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention. The strategy should protect officials responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES from undue pressure, obstruction and threats.
- f) Nigeria shall establish a national platform for enforcement cooperation and coordination between relevant authorities to strengthen the control of trade in CITES-listed species and to combat transnational organized wildlife crime, in line with relevant paragraphs of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*.
- g) Nigeria shall scale up efforts to map out organized crime groups involved in illegal wildlife trade and operating in the country. Nigeria shall convene multi-disciplinary investigative teams involving all relevant authorities. These teams will work in close collaboration with local authorities in key identified areas, and initiate intelligence-driven operations and investigations, with a particular focus on pangolins and ivory.

4. *Regarding issuance of export permits and information systems*

- h) Nigeria shall establish an efficient and secure information system, preferably an electronic system (resources permitting), to facilitate the issuance of permits and certificates, and the verification of all CITES provisions applicable to the specimens to be exported.
- i) Nigeria shall facilitate liaison and integration with other permitting/certification systems relating to the harvest of and trade in CITES-listed resources, e.g. timber concession authorizations, phytosanitary/veterinary documentation, or customs declarations.

5. *Handling and disposal of seized stockpiles CITES-listed species*

- j) Nigeria shall clearly define the competences of, and the division of labour between, relevant institutions to ensure that adequate control measures are put in place to secure storage facilities for seized stocks of CITES-listed species, including for pangolins and ivory, and reduce the risk of leakage. Nigeria shall develop a uniform protocol for the marking, recording, handling, storage and disposal of seized and confiscated specimens.
- k) Nigeria shall maintain an inventory of all seized stocks of CITES listed species and ensure strict implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.8 on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*.

6. *Collaboration with Nigeria*

- l) The Standing Committee thanks Parties, ICCWC partners and other donors that are providing financial, technical and logistical support to Nigeria and invites them to coordinate further with the CITES Secretariat to avoid duplication and align activities to the extent possible with the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

7. *Monitoring progress*

- m) The Secretariat shall remain in close contact with Nigeria, monitor the Party's progress in the implementation of recommendations of the Standing Committee, and bring any matters of concern to the attention of the Committee.

28.2.5 Introduction from the sea of sei whale
(*Balaenoptera borealis*) by Japan..... SC74 Doc. 28.2.5

Pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention, the Standing Committee reviewed a case concerning introduction from the sea (IFS) of specimens from the North Pacific population of sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*) by Japan. At SC71, the Committee agreed that the initial compliance matters had been corrected by Japan and were considered resolved. However, a new issue was raised regarding the existing stockpiles of meat and blubber specimens of sei whales from the North Pacific population introduced from the sea prior to the agreement at SC70 that the IFS certificates had not been issued in compliance with Article III, paragraph 5 (c), of the Convention.

Japan informed the Secretariat that all the specimens of sei whale meat and blubber introduced prior to SC70 had been sold by the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) and distributed domestically. Japan further reported that proceeds of the sales of meat and blubber obtained in 2017 and before were refunded by ICR to the national treasury and appropriated to the costs of subsequent cetacean research programmes and the proceeds of 2018 were refunded by ICR to the national treasury. Japan explained that the retrospective confiscation of specimens of meat and blubber introduced with the prior grant of a certificate from the Management Authority and distributed into domestic markets and reiterates its commitment to follow the Standing Committee's recommendations not to issue IFS certificates for sei whales from the North Pacific population except for biopsy samples obtained via non-lethal methods.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the information provided by Japan and consider whether any further action is necessary on sei whale specimens from the North Pacific population that were introduced under IFS certificates prior to SC70. In case that no further action is deemed necessary, the Committee may decide to consider the compliance matter resolved and proceed to close the case.

28.3 Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)

28.3.1 Report of Madagascar..... SC74 Doc. 28.3.1

Madagascar provides an update on its implementation of Decision 18.96 with its report focusing on enforcement measures against illegal logging; seizures, investigations, arrests, and prosecutions; surveillance measures for protected areas; along the coast and at the borders; additional measures taken by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, including the establishment of an anti-corruption unit and awareness-raising activities; capacity-building in the first against corruption; cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; the establishment of a Special Court for the fight against illegal trade in ebonies, palisanders and rosewoods; and regional and international cooperation in the fight against illegal wildlife trade. Madagascar further reports on the management and inventory of its stockpiles. The document also contains meeting reports of the intersessional advisory group on Malagasy palisander, rosewoods and ebonies.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of Madagascar's report in document SC74 Doc. 28.3.1

28.3.2 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 28.3.2

The Secretariat provides an update on the implementation of Decision 18.99 and first provides a short summary of the recommendations adopted by the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee since CoP16. Regarding the scientific aspects of Decision 18.96, the Secretariat notes considerable progress. The Secretariat further notes indisputable progress in the control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and exports at the national level in the last few years. However, despite the considerable efforts made by Madagascar and its partners, the Secretariat notes very slow and insufficient progress regarding the governance aspects of Decision 18.96 and that the Stockpile Verification Mechanism and Business Plan no longer seems appropriate in the framework of CITES regarding the management and use of 'officially controlled' stockpiles.

The Standing Committee is invited to consider the following recommendations:

The Standing Committee:

- a) decides to uphold the recommendation for Parties not to accept exports or re-exports for commercial purposes from Madagascar of specimens of *Diospyros* spp. (populations from Madagascar; annotation #5) or *Dalbergia* spp. (annotation #15) from Madagascar, until Madagascar has made a legal acquisition finding and a non-detriment finding for these species on a national level to the satisfaction of the Secretariat;
- b) invites Parties of origin, transit and destination of specimens of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar to implement all the measures recommended by the Standing Committee regarding commercial trade in specimens of these species from Madagascar, including the suspension of such trade, and to effectively manage the stockpiles of wood of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar. Parties are invited to follow the guidance included in Resolution Conf. 17.8 on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*, in particular paragraphs 2 and 8;
- c) notes the progress made by Madagascar regarding paragraphs a) to d) of Decision 18.96 (i.e., scientific aspects) and paragraph e) (i.e., enforcement) and calls on the Parties and relevant partners to provide technical and financial assistance to support the work of Scientific Authorities and enforcement authorities;

- d) notes:
- i) the statements by Madagascar about its intention to make domestic use of the 'officially controlled' stockpiles;
 - ii) that, for this reason, the management and use of these stockpiles corresponding to Step 1 of Phase 1 of the *Stockpile Verification Mechanism and Business Plan* no longer falls within the scope of CITES;
 - iii) and that, consequently, paragraphs f) and g) of Decision 18.96 are no longer appropriate;
- e) invites Madagascar to implement all the necessary control measures for the application and respect of annotation #15 in the event of any export of objects made from *Dalbergia* spp.;
- f) invites Madagascar to refer to the Standing Committee after completion of the process to manage and use the 'officially controlled' stockpiles on a domestic level in order to report its outcomes;
- g) takes note of the progress made in the framework of the Intersessional Advisory Group established to assist and advise Madagascar on the implementation of all measures regarding *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp., and considers that its mandate has been fulfilled;
- h) takes note of the present report and of progress made regarding the provisions of paragraphs a) to c) of Decision 18.99 directed to the Secretariat;
- i) instructs the Secretariat to publish a Notification to the Parties reflecting paragraph a) of the present recommendations;
- j) requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to assess the administrative and legislative provisions for the implementation of CITES in Madagascar, in accordance with Article XIII of the Convention, to explore the necessary measures and to provide Madagascar with the technical assistance required for implementing the Convention.

28.4 National ivory action plans process:

Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 28.4

The Secretariat presents progress on reporting by and engagement with Turkey as a new Party identified for inclusion in the NIAP process; and with the 14 Parties and one territory that are included in the NIAP process. Five Parties are in Category A: Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Togo and Viet Nam; these Parties require priority attention. One territory is in Category B: Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China. Finally, nine Parties are in Category C: Angola, Cambodia, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), and Qatar. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, the NIAP process aims at strengthening legislation and regulations; national level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration; international and regional enforcement collaboration; outreach, public awareness and education; and reporting in the fight against illegal trade in ivory.

The Standing Committee is invited to consider the following recommendations.

Turkey

- a) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
- i) not include Turkey in the NIAP process at present;
 - ii) encourage Turkey to continue to be vigilant in the implementation of measures to prevent the transit of illegal ivory through Turkey; and

- iii) request the Secretariat, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18), to continue to monitor illegal trade in ivory as it affects Turkey and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee.

Parties that continue with NIAP implementation

Angola, Cameroon, Ethiopia

- b) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee, regarding Angola, Cameroon, and Ethiopia as Category C Parties:
 - i) note that these Parties did not submit reports on progress with NIAP implementation; and
 - ii) consider any progress reports submitted by these Parties ahead of SC74, and any oral updates provided by these Parties at the present meeting, and make any further recommendations as appropriate.
- c) In the absence of any report or oral update on progress with NIAP implementation to SC74 by any of the Parties referred to in recommendation b) above, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, on behalf of the Committee to issue a warning, requesting the Party concerned to submit its NIAP progress reports to the Secretariat within 60 days of the conclusion of SC74.

Cambodia

- d) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee note the progress made by Cambodia in implementing its NIAP and agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Cambodia, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*.

Congo

- e) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) note the limited progress made by the Congo in implementing its NIAP and encourage the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP;
 - ii) request the Congo, in its future NIAP implementation progress reports, to report on all progress made in the implementation of each NIAP action since the NIAP was approved in 2015, and to allocate a rating to each NIAP action based on the overall progress made in implementing the action since 2015;
 - iii) request the Congo if it wishes to revise and update its NIAP found to be adequate in 2015, to do so using the template for NIAP development available on the NIAP webpage and, if applicable, to provide justification for the removal of, or the reduction of the scope of, any actions which have not yet been achieved or substantially achieved in the NIAP originally found to be adequate;
 - iv) encourage the Congo to commence the implementation of actions 4.1, 5.2 and 6.1 of its NIAP;
 - v) agree an overall rating of 'limited progress' for the Congo, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*; and
 - vi) encourage Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others to provide, where possible, financial and technical assistance to the Congo to support the implementation of its NIAP.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- f) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) note that the Democratic Republic of the Congo did not use the template for reporting on progress, as required by Step 4, paragraph b), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process* and as requested by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting;
 - ii) note that the Democratic Republic of the Congo did not report on five of the 28 actions included in its NIAP, and that as a result the Secretariat was not able to fully evaluate the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
 - iii) request the Democratic Republic of the Congo, if it wishes to revise and update its NIAP found to be adequate in 2018, to do so using the template for NIAP development available on the NIAP webpage and, if applicable, to provide justification for the removal of any actions which have not yet been achieved or substantially achieved in the NIAP found to be adequate in 2018;
 - iv) note the concerns regarding the escalation of illegal trade in ivory from the DRC, as detailed in paragraph 43 of Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 28.4; and
 - v) consider any revised progress report submitted by the DRC ahead of SC74, and any oral updates provided by the DRC at the present meeting and make any further recommendations as appropriate.
- g) In the absence of any updated progress report or oral update on progress with NIAP implementation to SC74 by the DRC, request the Secretariat in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, to issue a warning on behalf of the Committee, requesting the DRC to submit a revised NIAP progress report to the Secretariat, using the template for reporting on progress available on the NIAP webpage, and including information on the implementation of actions C.1, C.2., C.3., E.1 and E.2 of its NIAP, within 60 days of the conclusion of SC74.

Gabon

- h) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) request Gabon to take note of the observations of the Secretariat in its assessment regarding actions B.2, C.2 E.4 and E.9 of the NIAP, and invite Gabon to elaborate in more detail in its future reports on the activities implemented to achieve these actions; and
 - ii) agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Gabon, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

- i) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) note the revised and updated NIAP of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; and
 - ii) agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*.

Malaysia

- j) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) commend Malaysia for achieving its NIAP;
 - ii) encourage Malaysia to submit a report to the Secretariat, 90 days before the deadline for submission of documents to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC77), on any

further measures taken and activities implemented to combat illegal ivory trade, so that the Secretariat can make the report available to the Standing Committee at SC77; and

- iii) request the Secretariat to continue to monitor progress in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18), and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee.
- k) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee agree that it will consider at SC77 whether Malaysia should exit the NIAP process, in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines*.

Mozambique

- l) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) note the revised and updated NIAP of Mozambique;
 - ii) note that Mozambique did not submit its report on progress with NIAP implementation; and
 - iii) note any progress report submitted by Mozambique ahead of SC74, and any oral updates provided by Mozambique at the present meeting; and make any further recommendations as appropriate.
- m) In the absence of any report or oral update on progress with NIAP implementation to SC74 by Mozambique, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, to issue a warning on behalf of the Committee requesting Mozambique to submit its NIAP progress report within 60 days of the conclusion of SC74 to the Secretariat.

Nigeria

- n) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) note the revised and updated NIAP of Nigeria;
 - ii) note that Nigeria did not submit its reports on progress with NIAP implementation in time for its progress to be assessed and reflected in the documents on NIAPs prepared by the Secretariat for SC66, SC67, SC69, SC70 and SC74;
 - iii) note any progress report submitted by Nigeria ahead of SC74, and any oral updates provided by Nigeria at the present meeting;
 - iv) note the concerns regarding the escalation of illegal trade in ivory and other wildlife specimens from Nigeria, as detailed in paragraph 82 of Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 28.4; and
 - v) note that persistent compliance challenges have been identified concerning Nigeria, as described in document SC74 Doc. 28.2.4 on the application of Article XIII in Nigeria, and request the Secretariat, on behalf of the Committee and in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process* and Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures*, to issue a consolidated Notification to the Parties recommending all Parties to suspend commercial trade in all CITES-listed species with Nigeria, until Nigeria complies with the Standing Committee's recommendations under the Article XIII process and the provisions of Step 4, paragraphs a) and b), of the *Guidelines*.

Qatar

- o) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Qatar, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*; and

- ii) request Qatar to continue to progress the implementation of its NIAP between SC74 and SC77.

Togo

- p) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) note that Togo did not submit its reports on progress with NIAP implementation in time for its progress to be assessed and reflected in the documents on NIAPs prepared by the Secretariat for SC70 and SC74; and
 - ii) note any progress report submitted by Togo ahead of SC74, and any oral updates provided by Togo at the present meeting;
- q) In the absence of any report or oral update on progress with NIAP implementation to SC74 by Togo, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, to issue a warning on behalf of the Committee requesting Togo to submit its NIAP progress report within 60 days of the conclusion of SC74 to the Secretariat.

Viet Nam

- r) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) note the progress made by Viet Nam in implementing its NIRAP;
 - ii) agree an overall rating of 'partial progress' for Viet Nam, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*;
 - iii) request Viet Nam to continue to progress the implementation of its NIRAP between SC74 and SC77;
 - iv) encourage Viet Nam to continue to implement activities specifically targeting key locations known to be associated with illegal wildlife trade, both at its borders and in domestic markets; and
 - v) encourage Viet Nam to build upon the findings made through the survey conducted in accordance with action 2.5 in the NIRAP, regarding illegal online wildlife trade, and to respond to the findings of the survey through the implementation of appropriate measures and activities.

Parties that achieved their NIAPs

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China

- s) The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - i) commend Hong Kong SAR of China for achieving its NIAP and for the further measures taken to address illegal trade in ivory;
 - ii) agree that Hong Kong SAR of China exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines*; and
 - iii) request the Secretariat to continue to monitor progress in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18), and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee.

28.5	<u>Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>):</u>	
	<u>Report of the Secretariat</u>	SC74 Doc. 28.5

The Secretariat presents progress made by Mexico in the implementation of Decision 18.283 in order to address the threats to totoaba and vaquita posed by illegal trade. The actions taken by

Mexico focus on collecting and analysing information, undertaking intelligence-driven operations and investigations, and convening multi-disciplinary investigative teams to address organized crime groups involved in totoaba trafficking; establishing and operationalizing a trilateral enforcement contact group together with China and the United States of America; and on preventing fishers and vessels from entering the vaquita refuge and zero tolerance area and gillnet removal efforts. The Secretariat further reports on the outcomes of a meeting of range, transit and consumer States of totoaba and on the prospects of a study on vaquita and totoaba.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the reporting provided by Mexico in accordance with Decision 18.293, paragraph d) and the Secretariat's final assessments of Mexico's efforts presented in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 28.5 on *Totoaba* (*Totoaba macdonaldi*), and:
 - i) note the efforts made and substantial resources deployed by Mexico to address illegal fishing and trafficking of totoaba, and the associated threats posed to the vaquita;
 - ii) note the ongoing concerns about fishers illegally operating in the vaquita refuge and zero-tolerance area, and highlight the urgency of addressing this;
 - iii) encourage Mexico to actively pursue the urgent implementation of all aspects of the [Agreement regulating gear, systems, methods, techniques and schedules for carrying out fishing activities with smaller and larger vessels in Mexican Marine Zones in the Northern Gulf of California and establish landing sites as well as monitoring systems for such vessels](#);
 - iv) request Mexico to strengthen measures to ensure that a "zero tolerance policy" is strictly applied in the vaquita refuge and zero-tolerance area, and that consistent measures are taken, and strict penalties imposed against fishers that are found operating in areas where fishing is prohibited;
 - v) encourage Mexico to further scale up and expand maritime surveillance and patrol activities in the vaquita refuge and zero-tolerance area to ensure that authorities are present on a full-time basis to prevent fishers from engaging in illegal activities in these areas and take action to address any illegal activities detected;
 - vi) request Mexico to include information on the measures implemented and activities conducted as anticipated by recommendation a) iii), iv) and v), in its next regular six-monthly reports to the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.293, subparagraph a) iii); and
 - vii) request the Secretariat to continue to monitor Mexico's implementation of Decision 18.293, and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Standing Committee;
- b) take note of the outcomes of the online *Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba*, as contained in the agreed meeting outcomes document presented in Annex 4 to document SC74 Doc. 28.5, and encourage all Parties affected by totoaba specimen trafficking to make every effort to implement the measures and activities agreed as relevant to them, and:
 - i) request Parties affected by totoaba trafficking that have not yet done so to communicate the details of their national focal points to the Secretariat in accordance with activity 1.6 in the agreed meeting outcomes document;
 - ii) encourage Parties to scale up information and intelligence exchange in support of disrupting criminal networks from source to destination and bringing the perpetrators involved to justice, by implementing activity 1.5 in the agreed meeting outcomes document, drawing upon the support available through INTERPOL, as well as the functionalities available through the WCO closed user group on totoaba established in accordance with activity 1.10; and

- iii) invite the Republic of Korea to take note of the information on totoaba trafficking associated with it, as reported upon by Mexico and highlighted in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 28.5, and of the agreed outcomes from the online *Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba*, and to implement the measures and activities as relevant to it; and
- c) request China, Mexico and the United States to set and agree a timeline to finalize the terms of reference for the establishment and operationalization of the trilateral enforcement contact group, as well as to establish and operationalize the group, and to communicate this timeline to the CITES Secretariat by 15 April 2022.

The Standing Committee is further invited to consider the following draft decisions, for submission to CoP19:

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.AA. The Secretariat shall revise the terms of reference for the study on vaquita and totoaba outlined in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 89 (Rev. 1), taking into consideration the outcomes of the online *Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba* held in October 2021, and the decisions of the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee, and undertake the study, subject to the availability of external resources and in consultation with organizations with relevant expertise, and report on the outcomes of this work to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.BB. The Standing Committee shall review and assess the study undertaken in accordance with Decision 19.AA and any recommendations from the Secretariat concerning the study and make recommendations as appropriate.

29. Compliance Assistance Programme: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 29

The Secretariat presents an update on the establishment of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) and on the financial or technical support to the CAP provided by Parties. Support to Parties was provided through online meetings and not through technical missions or in-person country assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the information provided by the Parties and the observers which is used by the Secretariat in the design of assistance programmes to eligible Parties;
- b) consider for submission to CoP19 the following amendment to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures*;

RECALLING ~~Decision 12.84, whereby~~ that the Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002) instructed the Secretariat to draft a set of guidelines on compliance with implementation of the Convention for consideration by the Standing Committee;

RECALLING FURTHER that the Standing Committee at its 50th meeting (Geneva, March 2004) decided to establish an open-ended working group to draft such guidelines;

RECALLING FURTHER that the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (Geneva, 2019) instructed the Secretariat to establish a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP);

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. TAKES NOTE of the Guide to CITES compliance procedures annexed to this Resolution; ~~and~~
2. RECOMMENDS that the Guide be referred to, when dealing with compliance matters;

3. TAKES NOTE that the Secretariat has established the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) to support countries facing persistent compliance challenges; and
4. INVITES all Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources to provide financial and/or technical assistance for the effective implementation of the CAP.

c) consider submitting the following draft decisions to CoP19 to replace Decisions 18.68 to 18.70:

19.AA Directed to the Parties

Parties are invited to continue to provide financial or technical support to Parties subject to compliance mechanisms and other related compliance measures as specified in Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures* to further strengthen their institutional capacity.

19.BB Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding:

- a) upon request, conduct technical missions and facilitate the organization of in-country assistance coordination mechanisms to selected Parties eligible to benefit from the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP);
- b) in consultation with the International University of Andalucía which hosts the Masters Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade – The International Framework' and other relevant universities, explore the possibility and feasibility of training and deploying short term consultants to assist Parties benefiting from the Compliance Assistance Programme; and
- c) report to the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of Decisions 19.AA and 19.BB.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) and report its findings and recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

30. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

- 30.1 Implementation of recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees SC74 Doc. 30.1

The Secretariat reports on actions taken by Parties to implement recommendations made by the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees under the Review of Significant Trade to ensure compliance with the obligations of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a) of the Convention. The Secretariat informs the Standing Committee of its determination as to whether the recommendations formulated by the Animals or Plants have been implemented by the range State concerned.

The Animals and Plants Committees will provide their comments and recommendations in an addendum to document SC74 Doc. 30.1.

- 30.2 Review of Standing Committee recommendations to suspend trade made more than two years ago..... SC74 Doc. 30.2

In accordance with paragraph 1 p) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*, the Secretariat presents a review of recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years and evaluates the reasons why this is the case in consultation with the range States concerned. Concerning fauna cases, the Secretariat focuses on those cases that were not reviewed at SC70 and had been subject to a recommendation to suspend trade since 2016, due to limited available resources.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) withdraw its recommendation to suspend trade for *Cycas thouarsii* from Mozambique;
- b) withdraw its recommendation to suspend trade for *Pterogyra simplex* and *P. sinosa* from Fiji, subject to the publication of voluntary zero export quotas, recalling the provisions of paragraph k) i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) that in such circumstances any change to the quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and Chair of the relevant Committee along with a justification, for their agreement;
- c) retain the recommendations to suspend trade for the following species/country combinations; and

Range State	Taxon
Belize	<i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i>
Benin	<i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i>
	<i>Chamaeleo senegalensis</i>
	<i>Kinixys homeana</i>
Cameroon	<i>Triceros quadricornis</i>
Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>
Equatorial Guinea	<i>Prunus africana</i>
Ghana	<i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i>
	<i>Chamaeleo senegalensis</i>
Guinea	<i>Hippocampus algiricus</i>
Lao People's Democratic Republic	<i>Dendrobium nobile</i>
Senegal	<i>Hippocampus algiricus</i>
Solomon Islands	<i>Tridacna derasa</i> ,
	<i>Tridacna crocea</i>
	<i>Tridacna gigas</i>
	<i>Tridacna maxima</i>
	<i>Tridacna ningaloo</i> ²
	<i>Tridacna noae</i> ³
	<i>Tridacna squamosa</i>
United Republic of Tanzania	<i>Kinyongia fischeri</i>
	<i>Kinyongia tavetana</i>

- d) request the Secretariat to write to the exporting and importing Parties referred to in paragraph 16 a) in relation to potential non-compliance with the Standing Committee's recommendations to suspend trade, to check the accuracy of the data and remind them of their obligations under the Convention and report back to the Standing Committee where non-compliance is confirmed.

31. Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews: Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 31

At AC31 and PC25, the Animals and Plants Committees considered it was premature for them to evaluate whether the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar could be addressed through the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), or whether a new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties in relation to the Review of Significant Trade at a national level. In the document, the Secretariat reviews existing CITES mechanisms and programme activities and presents progress on the CAP. The Secretariat is of the view that the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar can be integrated into other existing CITES mechanisms or programme activities, in particular the Compliance

² Recognized as a new species at CoP17

³ Split from *Tridacna maxima* at CoP17

Assistance Programme. It concludes that it is not necessary to develop a new mechanism to provide targeted support to Parties at a national level.

The Standing Committee is invited to support the Secretariat's conclusion that the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar can be integrated into other existing CITES mechanisms or programme activities and there is no need to develop a new mechanism to provide targeted support to Parties at a national level; and convey this to CoP19.

32. Review of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on
Compliance and enforcement: Report of the working group SC74 Doc. 32

The United States of America, as Chair of the Standing Committee's working group on the review of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18), presents amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) with a view to, *inter alia*, reorganizing it to improve usefulness and readability, updating and clarifying where needed, and identifying gaps.

The Standing Committee is invited to agree to propose to CoP19 the amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) as found in the Annexes to document SC74 Doc. 32. Annex 1 presents the recommended changes in underlined and strike through text, with explanatory notes, as needed, and Annex 2 presents a clean version of the Resolution with recommended changes accepted.

The Standing Committee is further invited to consider the gaps in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) as outlined in paragraph 7 of document SC74 Doc. 32 and if it agrees that further consideration of these issues is warranted, propose draft decisions as appropriate to CoP19.

33. Enforcement

33.1 Enforcement matters: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 33.1

The Secretariat presents a summary of its enforcement-related activities, highlighting several resolutions and declarations adopted since CoP18 in different fora that reflect the continued political concern over the devastating impacts of wildlife crime. The Secretariat continues to cooperate and engage with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. As required by Resolution Conf. 17.6 on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention*, the Secretariat continues to address credible allegations of corrupt activities that come to its attention with the Parties concerned. For instance, the Secretariat wrote to Ghana regarding allegations of corruption related to illegal rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) trade from the Party.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the activities reported upon;
- b) note the reporting of the Secretariat in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.6, paragraph b), concerning Ghana;
- c) welcome the resolutions and declarations adopted since CoP18 in different fora concerning addressing wildlife crime, and encourage Parties to actively pursue the implementation of the commitments made by UN Member States in these fora;
- d) encourage Parties to step up efforts to actively pursue activities at national level to facilitate engagement to target money-laundering and illicit financial flows associated with wildlife crime, in particular by pursuing the implementation of paragraph 15.f) in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*; and
- e) encourage Parties to draw upon the tools, reports, handbooks and other resources developed that are available to them through the *Enforcement webpage* on the CITES Secretariat website, to inform and strengthen their responses to wildlife crime.

33.2 Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species..... SC74 Doc. 33.2

The Secretariat informs the Standing Committee that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting of the Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species took place online on 1 to 4, 7 and 11 February 2022 with a focus on CITES-listed tree species mostly found in illegal trade based on available illegal trade data (seizure quantities; volume; weight); source, transit and destination countries most affected by this illegal trade; Parties affected by illegal trade concerning more than one CITES-listed tree species; and ongoing CITES processes including the Review of Significant Trade, CITES Article XIII processes, tree species-specific trade suspensions, and CoP18 Decisions related to CITES-listed tree species.

The outcomes of the online *Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species* will be presented in an addendum.

33.3 International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 33.3

The Secretariat present an update on the work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), the collaborative effort between the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The report is structured along the six focus areas of ICCWC: provide institutional support and strengthen cooperation and coordination; facilitate analysis of national capacity to strengthen law enforcement responses and help guide investment; develop or enhance criminal justice and preventive capacity across institutions; increase awareness and support for measures to combat wildlife and forest crime; expand the use of knowledge, technology and innovation; and ensure the effective operation, coordination and evaluation of ICCWC.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the broad range of activities reported upon and support available to Parties through ICCWC;
- b) encourage Parties to draw upon the World Wildlife Crime Report 2020 developed by the UNODC in cooperation with ICCWC partners, to inform their decision-making and in support of the development of appropriate law enforcement responses to wildlife crime;
- c) encourage Parties that have implemented the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit to actively pursue mobilizing resources and to make dedicated efforts to implement the resulting recommendations, requesting support from ICCWC where needed;
- d) encourage donors, international and national organizations with ongoing initiatives in countries that implemented the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit to liaise with national authorities to explore how their ongoing efforts could align with the recommendations of the Toolkit and support their implementation; and
- e) take note of the progress made with the development of the ICCWC Vision 2030 and accompanying 2023-2026 Strategic Action Plan and encourage Parties to continue their support to ICCWC in the context of Decision 18.13.

33.4 Wildlife crime linked to the Internet: Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 33.4

The Secretariat presents information on activities undertaken by Parties and organizations in their fight against wildlife crime linked to the Internet as part of their implementation of Decisions 18.81 to 18.85. Although more needs to be done, it is encouraging to note from the information received that authorities increasingly respond to and demonstrate commitment in their efforts to combat wildlife crime linked to the Internet, notably through several successful investigations that resulted in prosecutions and the conviction of offenders involved, targeted operations, or the development of best practices and guidance materials.

The Standing Committee is invited to note document SC74 Doc. 33.4.

34. Demand reduction to combat illegal trade: Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 34

The Secretariat presents a draft *CITES guidance on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* in Annex 3 to document SC74 Doc. 34. The guidance aims to serve as a practical tool for Parties and other potential users in designing and implementing their demand-reduction initiatives. It focuses on a five-step process: from identifying the species and type of consumption behaviour to change; the audience segment to target; the most effective approaches to reducing demand; to designing the most effective messages and choosing messengers; and implementing, evaluating and refining the strategy.

The Standing Committee is invited to endorse the draft *CITES guidance on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* in Annex 3 to document SC74 Doc. 34 and submit it to CoP19.

The Standing Committee is invited to submit the following draft decisions to CoP19.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:

- a) organize translation of the *Guidance on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* into French and Spanish;
- b) organize regional training seminars on the use of the Guidance;
- c) organize pilot projects to promote the use of Guidance for selected species and countries, with necessary adaptation to suit local context when appropriate;
- d) support all interested Parties in implementing demand-reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species and provide necessary technical support including the use of the guidance; and
- e) report on the progress made in the implementation of this decision to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.BB The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 19.AA and make recommendations as appropriate to the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties

19.CC Parties are encouraged to translate the *Guidance on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* into local languages and share their experience in the implementation of the *Guidance*.

The Standing Committee is further invited to submit the following draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.4 on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* to CoP19.

RECOGNIZING that poaching and illegal trade are decimating some ~~wildlife populations and driving numerous~~ CITES-listed species and driving them toward extinction;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that wildlife trafficking contributes to damage to ecosystems and rural livelihoods, ~~including those based on ecotourism~~, undermines good governance and the rule of law and, in some cases, threatens national stability and security and requires enhanced regional cooperation and coordination in response;

[...]

RECOGNIZING the *CITES guidance on demand-reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species*;

~~RECOGNIZING the demand reduction initiatives by many countries, organizations and inter-governmental bodies, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) demand reduction workshop organized by the governments of the United States of America and Viet Nam and the workshop on demand-side strategies~~

for curbing illegal trade in ivory in Hangzhou, China, organized by the government of China and the CITES Secretariat;

[...]

3. ALSO URGES Parties to make full use of the *CITES guidance on demand-reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* in their efforts to reduce demand for illegally acquired wildlife and their products through the 5-step approach in order to achieve behaviour change of the consumers;

35. Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa

35.1 Inclusion of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in the Review of Significant Trade

35.1.1 Report of the Plants Committee..... SC74 Doc. 35.1.1

At the request of the Standing Committee, the Plants Committee had considered at PC25 the inclusion of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process. The Plants Committee agreed to categorise the following *Pterocarpus erinaceus*/country combinations as 'action is needed', and therefore included in Stage 2 of the RST process: Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. The Plants Committee further agreed to categorise the following *Pterocarpus erinaceus*/country combinations as 'less concern': Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. The Plants Committee further agreed to refer all *Pterocarpus erinaceus* range States (which does not include Liberia) to the Standing Committee for further consideration under Decision 18.92, based on documented, widespread and pervasive illegal trade.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the progress achieved by the Plants Committee in the Review of Significant Trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus* following the request of SC70;
- b) in accordance with paragraph 2 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18), address the problems not related to the implementation of Article IV 2 a) or 3, identified by the Plants Committee and in other relevant documentation of the present meeting, including SC74 Doc. 28.24 [on Article XIII/Nigeria] and SC74 Doc. 35.1.2 [Senegal's document]); and,
- c) agree that paragraph b) of Decision 18.92 can be considered completed.

35.1.2 Report by Senegal..... SC74 Doc. 35.1.2

Senegal presents an analysis of trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus* that seems to be predominantly originating from West Africa and more specifically from Nigeria, The Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Mali following the suspension in the trade of *P. erinaceus* from Nigeria. Due to the very high volume of legal and illegal trade that it considers to be unsustainable, Senegal suggests that a temporary trade suspension of *P. erinaceus* from all the range States should be considered by the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee is invited to establish an in-session working group in order to develop recommendations to limit ongoing and pervasive illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. Considerations for the in-session working group may include:

- a) review of the information related to *P. erinaceus* contained in documents SC74 Doc. 35.1.2 and SC74 Doc. 35.2;
- b) whether the Standing Committee should consider a recommendation for Parties not to accept exports or re-exports for commercial purposes from range States of specimens of *P. erinaceus* to halt ongoing and shifting illegal trade, and to lay the groundwork for future legal trade in *P. erinaceus* in compliance with the Convention; and

- c) which, if any, of the Decisions 18.88 to 18.93 on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West Africa*, should be modified, expanded or submitted in their current form as draft decisions to CoP19.

35.2 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 35.2

The Secretariat summarizes in document SC74 Doc. 35.2 several initiatives undertaken by Parties in West and Central Africa, in particular under the coordination of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to strengthen CITES implementation and address wildlife crime. The Secretariat also developed a suite of activities that could be delivered in support of strengthening implementation and enforcement of CITES across the West and Central African subregions.

It is encouraging to note that the growing recognition of West and Central Africa as a source and transit region for illegal wildlife products has led to increased awareness amongst some of the Parties concerned, as well as an increase in interest and support amongst the international community and technical partners. However, West and Central Africa continue to be significantly affected by wildlife crime and further strengthened efforts and support are needed to improve CITES implementation and enforcement in the two subregions.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the broad range of activities reported upon and support available to Parties in West and Central Africa;
- b) encourage Parties in West and Central Africa, as well as organizations and other entities implementing projects in the two subregions, to build upon this through continued exploration of synergies and by leveraging on collective action to strengthen responses to wildlife crime affecting the subregions;
- c) further encourage Parties in West and Central Africa to further step up efforts to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement by actively pursuing the implementation of the Decisions adopted at CoP18 and implementing the recommendations in [Annex 2 of document CoP18 Doc. 34](#);
- d) welcome the adoption of the West Africa Strategy on Combating Wildlife Crime (WASCWC) and encourage Parties in West Africa to actively pursue its rapid and full implementation; and
- e) encourage Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and interested stakeholders to provide support to the West Africa subregion in its implementation of the WASCWC.

35.3 Report by Nigeria, Benin and Niger SC74 Doc. 35.3

Nigeria, Benin and Niger, on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its member States, inform the Standing Committee of a set of activities undertaken to facilitate the regional implementation of Decisions 18.88 to 18.90, specifically the validation of the West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime (WASCWC) by all ECOWAS Environment Ministers; the establishment of a West Africa Network to Combat Wildlife Crime (WAN); a number of capacity-building initiatives; and significant seizures in several countries.

West African Parties are extremely concerned about the ongoing high levels of wildlife crime taking place across the region. ECOWAS member States are exploring options for the adoption of measures which ensure that source, transit and consumer countries all play an equal role in the CITES compliance process, thereby ensuring more systematic enforcement collaboration between all countries across the whole illegal trade chain.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review the information contained in document SC74 Doc. 35.2; and
- b) consider the request for guidance detailed in paragraphs 8 to 13 of the document

- c) consider to submit CoP19 the following draft decisions:

Draft decisions on Strengthening collaboration between source, transit and consumer countries

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.AA** The Standing Committee shall establish a working group, with representation from all regions, to make recommendations for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the development and adoption of procedures that will promote enhanced collaboration between source, transit and consumer countries including (*inter alia*):
- a) a secure mechanism for regular exchange of seizure data between CITES Management Authorities along illegal trade chains;
 - b) the establishment of a CITES early warning mechanism (e.g. in response to heightened seizures, or identification of a new trade route) that will ensure all Parties along the supply chain are promptly made aware of priority enforcement needs and can respond accordingly;
 - c) the establishment of a forum to promote regular communication between source, transit and consumer countries on priority issues (e.g. *Pterocarpus erinaceus*); and
 - d) the need for *CITES guidelines on enforcement coordination between source/transit/consumer countries*

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.BB** The Secretariat shall support the Standing Committee in the implementation of Decision 19.AA, including through the provision of technical expertise, translation and interpretation as appropriate.

Draft decisions on Strengthening wildlife law enforcement in West Africa

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.AA** The Standing Committee shall establish an intersessional working group, to be comprised of representatives of regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks, to provide the newly formed West Africa Network to Combat Wildlife Crime (WAN) with expert guidance and support as the WAN becomes operational.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.BB** The Secretariat shall support the Standing Committee in the implementation of Decision 19.AA, including through the provision of technical expertise, translation and interpretation as appropriate.

36. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 36

The Secretariat summarizes in document SC74 Doc. 36 some of the key aspects contained in the reporting received from Austria, Cambodia, the Czech Republic, India, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Slovakia, Spain, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet Nam). The following issues were addressed: the conservation status of Asian big cats; on the management practices and controls concerning facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity; enforcement measures and activities to address illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens; the sharing samples of tiger specimens from living animals, seized animals or products that could contain tiger DNA with the Czech Republic; and the reduction of demand for illegal tiger and other Asian big cat specimens.

Due to COVID-19 measures limiting meetings and travel, the Secretariat was not able to conduct the missions anticipated by Decision 18.108, paragraph a), in 2020 and 2021. The Czech Republic, Thailand,

the United States of America and Viet Nam indicated that they are ready to welcome a mission from the Secretariat.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) encourage Parties to – where not yet done – implement regular monitoring and inspections of facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity, by taking into consideration Decision 17.226 and implementing measures that will enable accurate record keeping for all tigers kept in captivity;
- b) encourage Parties in whose territories captive breeding facilities identified as of concern in document SC70 Doc. 51 exist, to pay particular attention to the activities of these facilities in their implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* and Decision 17.226, and to take swift and decisive action concerning any unauthorized or illegal activities that may be detected;
- c) encourage all Parties that have made seizures of tiger skins within their territories to implement Decision 18.103; and
- d) encourage Parties affected by illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens to remind their national authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement about the field pocket *Guide for law enforcement agencies to combat illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens*, available electronically in the CITES Virtual College, and to request hard copies from the Secretariat, where needed, to be made available to relevant authorities.

37. Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 37

The Secretariat presents information on the measures and activities implemented and on measures reported by Namibia, South Africa, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe to address crimes involving rhinoceroses. The report includes information on the submission of DNA samples to range States. In the absence of reporting from China, Mozambique and Myanmar, as encouraged by Decision 18.111, these Parties are invited to provide an oral update on their implementation of the Decision at the present meeting. In Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 37, the Secretariat presents options regarding how information on challenges and best practices associated with addressing rhinoceros poaching and horn trafficking, could be incorporated and reflected upon in the report on rhinoceroses prepared for each meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 7 of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17).

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the reports received from Namibia, South Africa, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, and thank these Parties for the reports submitted;
- b) consider any oral updates that may be provided by China, Mozambique and Myanmar at SC74, on their implementation of measures and activities as anticipated by Decision 18.111;
- c) consider the following amendments to paragraph 7. e) and 8 in Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses* for submission to CoP19:
 - 7. *DIRECTS the Secretariat, prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and pending external funding, to commission the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC to submit a report to the Secretariat on*

[...]

- e) enforcement issues, including information on challenges and best practices associated with addressing rhinoceros poaching and horn trafficking.

[...]

- 8. REQUESTS the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC to engage with range and implicated States as appropriate, including by conducting a survey focusing on range and implicated States and relevant experts, to gather information on challenges and best practices associated with addressing rhinoceros poaching and horn trafficking, as well as with the

UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, when producing the report, and to reflect the outcomes of these consultations and the survey in their reporting pursuant to this Resolution;

- d) encourage Parties to scale up efforts and make full use of the provisions under *Regarding the use of simplified procedures to issue permits and certificates* in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates*, to facilitate more frequent and effective sharing of samples associated with rhinoceros poaching and horn trafficking, for forensic analyses in support of investigations and addressing these crimes;
- e) encourage Parties to scale up efforts and make use of the *Form for collection and sharing of data on rhinoceros horn seizures and on samples for forensic analysis*, available in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17), to facilitate exchange of information and samples for analyses;
- f) request Parties implicated in the illegal trade of rhinoceros horn as a range, transit or destination State, to communicate to the Secretariat whether the details of their national focal points, in the [Directory of illegal trade in rhinoceros horn focal points](#) available on the CITES Secretariat *Enforcement focal points* webpage remains valid, and provide the Secretariat with updated information where needed, and further request the Secretariat to review the current directory and to reach out to Parties implicated in the illegal trade affecting rhinoceroses not currently included in the directory, to request that these Parties communicate to the Secretariat the details of their national focal points for inclusion in the directory; and
- g) remind Parties of the outcomes of the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2013, communicated to Parties through [Notification to the Parties No.2014/006](#) and its [Annex](#), and encourage Parties to revisit these outcomes and take them into consideration in their development and implementation of measures and activities to address crimes affecting rhinoceroses.

38. Domestic markets for frequently illegally traded specimens:

Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 38

The Secretariat presents a report on domestic controls in consumer markets for specimens of CITES-listed species for which international trade is predominantly illegal, other than elephant ivory. For the report, trade in "Appendix-I listed species" is used as a proxy for "CITES-listed species for which international trade is predominantly illegal." The report examines existing legal controls on domestic trade in Appendix-I listed species that have been adopted by China [including Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR)]; the European Union; India; Indonesia; the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Nigeria; Thailand; the United States of America; and Viet Nam. The main findings of the study related to legal controls on domestic trade in Appendix-I listed species focus on the following: approaches to domestic laws and regulations; legality of domestic trade in Appendix-I listed species; regulation of domestic trade in Appendix-I listed species; regulation of possession of Appendix-I listed species; authority to seize Appendix-I listed species; handling of seized or forfeited specimens and products; penalties; and registration and regulation of captive-breeding facilities. Based on the study and the suggestions summarized in document SC74 Doc. 38, the Secretariat offers some comments on the suggestions and offers its own recommendations for the consideration of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the study and the information contained therein and agree that Decisions 17.87 (Rev. CoP18) and 17.88 (Rev. CoP18) have been implemented and can be deleted;
- b) propose for consideration and possible adoption by CoP19 the following amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*:
 - i) move subparagraph 12 a) to become a new subparagraph 15 e) so that it addresses trade in specimens of species included in Appendix I more broadly and not only in the context of online trade;
 - ii) include a new subparagraph in paragraph 15 as follows:
 - x) review and amend national legislation, as necessary, to enable authorities to take action in cases where evidence of legal acquisition of specimens of species included in Appendix I cannot be provided by the owner, to the extent that it is practicable to require such evidence;

iii) include a new subparagraph 15 r) as follows:

- r) ensure that legislative provisions cover online trade and that national agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement be made aware of the challenges raised by online trade and provided with adequate means to tackle it;
- c) review and, as appropriate, submit the following draft decision, for consideration by CoP19:

19.AA Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee, with the assistance of the Secretariat, shall:

- a) explore whether further guidance is needed on the implementation of the Convention with respect to possession of specimens of species included in Appendix I to help address illegal international trade and, if so, request the Secretariat to prepare draft guidance for its endorsement;
- b) consider whether additional recommendations related to the possession of specimens of species included in Appendix I in relevant Resolutions are warranted to address illegal international trade in such specimens; and
- c) make recommendations for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including appropriate revisions to existing Resolutions, to strengthen the regulation of possession of specimens of species included in Appendix I to help address illegal trade in such specimens.

39. Closure of domestic ivory markets: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 39

The Secretariat presents information submitted by Australia, the European Union (EU coordinated reply); Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Zimbabwe on what measures they are taking to ensure that their domestic ivory markets are not contributing to poaching or illegal trade. The Parties' reports are available as Annexes 1 through 10 to document SC74 Doc. 39. The Secretariat notes the limited number of responses that were submitted in response to notifications issued relating to the closure of domestic ivory markets.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of this document and the reports submitted by Australia, the European Union, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe;
- b) consider the reports under Decision 18.118 contained in Annexes 1 to 10 to document SC74 Doc. 39; and
- c) consider the Secretariat's observations in paragraphs 21 to 28 of document SC74 Doc. 39.

The Standing Committee is further invited to:

- a) encourage Parties to pay particular attention to the provisions contained in paragraphs 12 and 13 of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement* in addressing illegal ivory trade;
- b) request the Secretariat to include a reminder to Parties about the provisions in paragraph 9 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens* in the Notification it issues annually to remind Parties about the provisions in Resolution Conf 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) relating to the marking, inventories and security of elephant ivory stocks;
- c) request the Secretariat to assist the Standing Committee in its reporting to the Conference of the Parties as provided for in paragraph 19 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18), and to include the information contained in document SC74 Doc. 39 in the report called for in Decision 18.119, paragraph b); and

- d) invite the Conference of the Parties to agree that Decisions 18.117 to 18.119 have been fully implemented and can be deleted.

Regulation of trade

40. Guidance for making legal acquisition findings: Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 40

The Secretariat presents information on Parties' experience regarding the use of the guidance contained in Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings* and the applicability of this guidance to the additional circumstances described in Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 18.7. Information was received from Malta, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zimbabwe and from a non-governmental organization (Center for International Environmental Law – CIEL). In response to the Parties' views, the Secretariat has revised the rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings that is designed in a manner that is sufficiently standardised to be applicable by all Parties for all transactions. A digital application is under consideration to further assist interested Parties in the automatization of relevant steps.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC74 Doc. 40 and review the 'Rapid guide for the making of legal acquisition findings' in the Annex to document SC74 Doc. 40; and
- b) as per Decision 18.124, consider submitting the 'Rapid guide for the making of legal acquisition findings', as revised, and the following draft decisions to CoP19:

19.AA Directed to the Parties

Parties are invited to test the 'Rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings' developed by the Secretariat and offer, upon request, peer assistance to other Parties for the improvement of their capacity to verify legal acquisition for different taxa.

19.BB Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, develop digital solutions to automate relevant parts of the 'Rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings' and maintain a dedicated webpage regarding the verification of legal acquisition for different taxa and specimens on the CITES website and update it regularly;
- b) subject to external funding, organize workshops and other capacity-building activities related to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on Legal acquisition findings and disseminate training material for the verification of the legal acquisition of CITES specimens; and
- c) report to the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on the basis of information, experiences and examples submitted by the Parties.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7, assess any reports submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.BB., paragraph c) and, where appropriate, make recommendations for improving the verification of legal acquisition by the Parties for submission to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

41. Electronic systems and information technologies: Report of the working group and the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 41

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 further recommendations to amend the text of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* as

presented in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 41; guidance on the use of 2-dimensional barcodes; endorsement/validation of permits; nomenclature changes and the use of the CITES Checklist API; national data protection laws; the use of the Harmonized System (HS) codes; and the review of the e-permitting toolkit.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC74 Doc. 41;
- b) propose the following draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* for the consideration of CoP19:

- i) After the sixth preambular paragraph, insert the following new paragraph:

RECOGNIZING that electronic permitting systems can support Parties in regulating trade, in incentivizing compliance with legal trade frameworks, in monitoring the legality and sustainability of trade, including with regard to producing CITES annual trade reports, and in combatting illegal trade;

- ii) Amend the tenth, eleventh and twelfth preambular paragraphs as follows (agreed by SC73):

NOTING that the [eCITES Implementation Framework](#), [CITES electronic permitting toolkit](#), [Guidelines and specifications for Electronic Permit Information eXchange \(EPIX\) of CITES permits and certificates](#), and the [Guidance on CITES electronic signatures](#) provides guidance to Parties on common internationally recognized information exchange formats, protocols and standards, and electronic signatures;

RECOGNIZING the need to adopt the principles outlined in the ~~CITES electronic permitting toolkit~~ above-mentioned guidance to facilitate the exchange of information among national Management Authorities;

RECOGNIZING that the ~~CITES electronic permitting toolkit~~ this guidance will require updates and revisions to reflect the evolution of technologies and ongoing development of international standards;

- iii) Amend paragraph 2 e) as follows (agreed by SC73):

- e) if a permit or certificate form, whether issued in an electronic or paper format, includes a place for the signature of the applicant, the absence of the handwritten signature or, in case of electronic forms, any electronic equivalent, should render the permit or certificate invalid, taking into account the [Guidance on CITES electronic signatures](#); and

- iv) In paragraph 3, insert a new subparagraph c), amend the current subparagraph c), insert two new subparagraphs after subparagraph c) and renumber the subsequent subparagraphs as follows:

- c) all Parties consider the development and use of electronic permit management systems such as those outlined in the [eCITES Implementation Framework](#) that, *inter alia*, support the production of annual reports required under the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 7 (a); where relevant and appropriate, Parties consider the implementation of electronic processes for permit issuance and the development and use of the electronic equivalent of paper-based permits and certificates;

- ed) Parties using or developing electronic permits and certificates, adopt the standards recommended in the [CITES electronic permitting toolkit](#), [Guidelines and specifications for Electronic Permit Information eXchange \(EPIX\) of CITES permits and certificates](#) and the [Guidance on CITES electronic signatures](#);

- e) Parties that issue electronic permits and certificates submit information to the Secretariat documenting that when their system issues electronic permits and certificates, these are the electronic equivalent of original paper permits and certificates and information on how to verify the validity of permits and certificates issued electronically;

- f) the Secretariat, via Notification, provide the information from Parties submitted under [subparagraph e] on their electronic systems;
- v) Amend paragraph 3, subparagraph n) as follows:
 - n) Parties that do not already do so affix a security stamp to each permit and certificate, or add a two-dimensional barcode, or both, or use any other relevant manner to secure each permit and certificate;
- vi) In paragraph 3 after the current subparagraph o), insert a new subparagraph as follows:
 - AA) Parties that issue electronic permits and certificates ensure that their systems issue electronic equivalent of original paper permits and certificates, and that their systems have adequate security measures, including mechanisms that:
 - i) in the case of a single-use document, prevent more than one movement under the same document; and in the case of a multiple-use document, prevent its unauthorized use;
 - ii) receive information from the importing Party when a document has been used;
 - iii) enable the authorities of any Party to verify whether the document is valid or has been used;
 - iv) contain security protocols that maintain integrity of all communications and data transfer, including use of two-dimensional barcodes;
- vii) Amend the current paragraph 3, subparagraph q) to read as follows (agreed by SC73)
 - q) Parties that have not yet done so communicate to the Secretariat the names of the persons empowered to sign permits and certificates, as well as three specimens of their signatures, or in case of electronic permits and certificates, the names of the empowered persons and methodologies used to authenticate them, and that all the Parties communicate, within one month of any change thereto, the names of persons who have been added to the list of those already empowered to sign, the names of persons whose signatures are no longer valid and the dates the changes took effect;
- viii) Amend Annex 1, paragraph I) as follows (agreed by SC73):
 - I) The name of the signatory and his/her handwritten signature for paper permits and certificates or its electronic equivalent for electronic permits and certificates taking into account the Guidance on CITES electronic signatures;
- ix) Amend Annex 2, page 2, paragraph 4 as follows:
 - 4. **Complete** name and address of the exporter/re-exporter. The name of the country must be stated. The absence of the signature of the applicant renders the permit or certificate invalid, if a place for the signature of the applicant is included.
- x) Amend Annex 3, page 2, paragraph 3 as follows:
 - 3. Complete the full name, permanent address and country of the owner of the specimen covered by the certificate. Absence of the signature of the owner renders the certificate invalid, if a place for the signature of the owner is included.
- c) proposed the following draft decisions for the consideration of CoP19:

19.AA Directed to the Parties

Parties are invited to:

- a) use the eCITES Implementation Framework, the latest edition of the CITES electronic permitting toolkit, Guidelines and specifications for Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) of CITES

permits and certificates, and the Guidance on CITES electronic signatures in planning and implementing electronic CITES systems;

- b) consider the implementation of electronic CITES systems in a manner designed to meet CITES requirements, including those provided in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* to increase transparency and efficiency of the permit issuance and control process, to prevent use of fraudulent permits, and to provide quality data for reporting and improved sustainability assessment;
- c) work with the customs, National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and other relevant agencies to ensure that trade in CITES-listed specimens is in compliance with CITES requirements and, where appropriate, in line with, or integrated into, other relevant national cross-border trade systems and procedures;
- d) share experience, challenges and know-how with other Parties on the development and implementation of electronic CITES permit management systems and use of the electronic equivalent of paper-based permits and certificates, and provide inputs to the Secretariat for continuous improvement of eCITES reference materials;
- e) take note of the [eCITES BaseSolution](#) as an automated permit management system option that is now available to Parties for implementation;
- f) call upon donor countries and agencies to provide financial support towards the implementation of electronic CITES permit management systems in developing countries; and
- g) submit to the Secretariat information on the use of HS codes for risk-based control procedures.

19.BB Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, in consultation with the Secretariat, undertake the following tasks:

- a) work with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Bank, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and other relevant partners, to continue the exchange of information and the development and implementation of joint projects that would facilitate Parties' access to electronic permitting systems that comply with CITES requirements and where appropriate are aligned with international trade standards and norms;
- b) work with relevant partners on the further development of standards and solutions for Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) for the exchange of CITES permit and certificate data and the improvement of the validation of CITES permit data by CITES Management Authorities and customs officials;
- c) recognizing the importance of the requirement for endorsement of permits and certificates at export, explore possible alternatives to the physical endorsement;
- d) monitor and advise on Parties' work related to the development of traceability systems for specimens of CITES-listed species to facilitate their harmonization with CITES permits and certificates;
- e) monitor the use of HS codes in implementing risk-based control procedures in different countries;
- f) support the development of the capacity of Management Authorities, especially those with the greatest needs, to electronically collect, secure, maintain, and transmit data using systems compatible with those of the Secretariat and other Management Authorities; and
- g) submit reports on activities undertaken under Decision 19.BB, paragraphs a) to f) and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

19.CC Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding:

- a) undertake a study on the information used by different Parties in a risk-based approach for CITES trade controls;
 - b) collect information from Parties on any issues encountered with regard to the application of national data protection laws that affect implementation of Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) for the exchange of CITES permits and certificates;
 - c) support the work of the Standing Committee under Decision 19.BB through the organization of workshops, consultations, preparation of studies and guidance materials on relevant topics as identified by the Standing Committee; and
 - d) provide capacity-building and advisory services to support Parties interested in implementing electronic solutions for the management and control of CITES permits and certificates and support Parties in establishing electronic permit systems and information exchanges.
- c) agree that Decisions 18.125-128 have been implemented and propose to CoP19 that they can be deleted.

42. Authentication and control of permits: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 42

The Secretariat presents the results of an in-depth study on the current practices in CITES permit authentication and control, using a selection of Parties as case studies to demonstrate the state-of-play on how current trading practices and the use of technologies affect their CITES trade regulation process; and identifies possible gaps in relevant Resolutions that could be addressed to provide guidance to Parties, particularly from the point of view of adapting CITES permitting process to match the current range of trading practice. A total of seventeen Parties from across all six CITES regions were included in the study: Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa), Asia (Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Peru), Europe (Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Switzerland), North America (Canada, United States of America) and Oceania (Australia, Solomon Islands, Tonga). The study focused on the implementation of automated online permit systems; the use of the Species+/CITES Checklist API; the use of security stamps and/or 2D barcodes; e-commerce; border controls; inspection and endorsement of CITES documents at the point of export; guidance for physical inspection; and data recorded in the annual reports.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the information on the study on permit authentication and control, contained in document SC74 Doc. 42;
- b) encourage Parties to review the controls of authorized e-commerce in specimens of CITES-listed species their implementation of the Convention;
- c) consider proposing to CoP19 the following amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*;

XX. RECOMMENDS that Parties:

- i) institutionalize regular formalized meetings between customs and CITES authorities;
- ii) where possible and appropriate, exchange information on seizures between customs and the CITES authorities;
- iii) allow customs systems access to permitting databases of Management Authorities;
- iv) institute automated verification schemes between customs application systems and CITES permitting databases;

- v) ensure collaboration between CITES authorities and customs to use information contained in the respective electronic data systems, available intelligence and the HS code to implement risk-based control procedures;
 - vi) ensure that professionals involved in wildlife trade and management, such as veterinarians receive training on CITES and their role in implementing the Convention and compliance with relevant national laws as part of their professional practice and ongoing accreditation;
- d) consider proposing to CoP19 the following draft decisions:

19.AA Directed to the Parties

Where this has not yet been done, Parties are encouraged to undertake risk assessments to develop risk profiles specific to CITES-listed specimens frequently found in trade, and to reach out to the World Customs Organization for support in this regard, where needed.

19.BB Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to available resources, work with the World Customs Organization and other partners to develop guidance and elements for a national policy on physical inspections and present its report and recommendations to the Standing Committee.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and endorse any guidance, as appropriate.

- e) agree that Decisions 18.130 and 131 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion by the Conference of the Parties.

43. Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates: Report of the working group..... SC74 Doc. 43

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 to document SC74 Doc. 43.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) 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 SC74 Doc. 43 and the draft amendments to Resolution Conf 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) in Annex 2;
- b) based on the outcomes of discussions under paragraph a) above, revise and submit the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) found in Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 43 to CoP19; and
- c) note that, pending the Standing Committee views on paragraph b) above, the Chair of the working group will work with the Secretariat to consider any Resolution related to or affected by purpose-of-transaction codes, to ensure coherent interpretation in accordance with paragraph d) of its mandate, for submission to CoP19.

44. Simplified procedures for permits and certificates..... SC74 Doc. 44

Australia draws the attention of the Standing Committee to the request from the Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) who raised the issue of the issuance of permits and certificates associated with the exchange of wildlife health diagnostic samples. The OIE proposes further exploring simplified CITES requirements for the transport of wildlife diagnostic specimens (most of the times collected and held by veterinarians or wildlife rangers in the field) with the aim to further facilitating the ability to undertake rapid wildlife health diagnostics.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP18) on *Non-commercial loan, donation or exchange of museum, herbarium, diagnostic and forensic research specimens* and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* following the Resolution's amendments adopted at CoP18 in facilitating the movement of diagnostic specimens;
- b) consider whether the issues raised in this document should be presented to CoP19 for discussion;
- c) dependent on the views expressed under paragraph b) above, provide comment on the below draft decision which could be proposed for discussion at CoP19:

19.XX Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider the need for the development of further appropriate mechanisms to facilitate the efficient international movement of wildlife samples for diagnostic purposes, for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

45. Transport of live specimens SC74 Doc. 45

The Secretariat presents a revised *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants* in the Annex to document SC74 Doc. 45. The Secretariat revised these guidelines because they had not been amended since they were adopted by CoP16 in 2013, whereas the Live Animals Regulations (LAR) for the transport of live animals is revised every year. The Animals Committee, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Born Free on behalf of the Species Survival Network's Working Group on Animals in Captivity submitted comments on the draft revised guidelines.

The Standing Committee is invited to review and approve the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants* as set out in the Annex to document SC74 Doc. 45.

46. Identification materials:
Report of the Animals and Plants Committee and the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 46

The Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, reports on progress to date towards the drafting of a new resolution on species identification. The draft resolution is included in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 46. The Secretariat also includes in Annex 2 to the document a set of draft decisions that could be submitted to the CoP should the draft resolution not be submitted by the Standing Committee to the CoP. The Secretariat further reports on its continued efforts to collect identification materials on CITES-listed species and improve their accuracy and availability through the CITES website and the CITES Virtual College:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC74 Doc. 46 and the progress made in implementation of Decisions 18.135 to 18.137;
- b) review the draft resolution contained in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 46 and submit it to CoP19;
- c) consider whether the draft decisions contained in Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 46 should be submitted to the Conference of the Parties considering the comments by the Secretariat in paragraph 9 above and, as appropriate, review and submit them to CoP19; and
- d) invite the Conference of the Parties to agree that Decisions 18.135 to 18.139 have been implemented and can be deleted.

47. Identification and traceability of sturgeons and paddlefishes
(Acipenseriformes spp.): Report of the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 47

The Animals Committee presents a draft study on *Identification of species, subspecies, source and origin of sturgeons and paddlefish species and specimens (Acipenseriformes spp.) in trade* for review by the Standing Committee. The study was also shared with the intersessional working group of the Standing Committee on labelling system for trade in caviar.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review the study on *Identification of species, subspecies, source and origin of sturgeons and paddlefish species and specimens (Acipensiformes spp.) in trade* in the Annex to document SC74 Doc. 47;
- b) take note of the implementation by the Secretariat of recommendations of the Animals Committee, and explained in paragraphs 6 to 8; and
- c) make recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to Parties concerned or for consideration at CoP19.

48. Labelling system for trade in caviar:

Report of the working group..... SC74 Doc. 48

Canada, as Chair of the working group on labelling system for trade in caviar, reports on the activities of the working group that was tasked to consider the practical challenges in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention with regard to the application of the *CITES guidelines for a universal labelling system for the trade in and identification of caviar* contained in Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* in light of the recognized shift in many instances from trade in wild-caught specimens to non-wild specimens produced in aquaculture facilities. Based on the discussion and on the fact that working group members had mixed views about replacing “country of origin” with “country of processing or repacking” in the labelling provisions, the Chair of the working group concluded that the working group was unable to recommend a practical approach for labelling the country or countries of origin of caviar from aquaculture production.

The Standing Committee is invited to propose the following draft decisions to CoP19:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall prepare, in consultation with relevant information technology, industry and other experts, an analysis of the benefits and drawbacks of incorporating QR codes into the application of the *CITES guidelines for a universal labelling system for the trade in and identification of caviar* contained in Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*, and present its analysis and recommendations to the Standing Committee.

19.BB Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider the report on the use of QR codes in the application of the *CITES guidelines for a universal labelling system for the trade in and identification of caviar* prepared by the Secretariat, and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Standing Committee is further invited to propose deletion of Decision 18.146 on labelling system for trade in caviar. Alternatively, the Committee may propose its renewal if further discussion is needed to seek other practical approaches to address the challenges in implementing the provisions of the Convention with regard to the application of the *CITES guidelines for a universal labelling system of the trade in and identification of caviar*.

49. Specimens produced through biotechnology:

Report of the working group..... SC74 Doc. 49

China, as Chair of the working group on Specimens produced through biotechnology, presents information on the application of the term “readily recognizable part or derivative” for specimens produced through biotechnology as reported by Austria, China, Germany, Pakistan, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Based on these responses and discussions within the working group, two general conclusions emerged: specimens produced through biotechnology should be regulated within the framework of the Convention, more specifically through Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives*; given the complexity of biotechnology and the diverse paths of production, it does not seem fit to introduce new definitions into the Convention or to develop a new Resolution at this moment. The document includes different proposed amendments to paragraph 1 and 2 of Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) since no consensus was reached within the working group. In addition,

the working group also identified a number of further questions that merit exploration and discussion as outlined in paragraphs 14 and 15.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review the progress made by the working group and offer its comments and recommendations to CoP19, in particular with respect to the following proposed amendments to Resolution Conf 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives*:
- b) review and refine the issues identified under paragraphs 14 and 15 for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees in the next intersessional period for further advice and guidance; and
- c) consider revising and updating the relevant Decisions to incorporate, *inter alia*, the considerations outlined in paragraphs 17 b) of the present document and propose them for adoption to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

50. Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations':

Report of the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 50

The Animals Committee presents for consideration by the Standing Committee the *Non-binding best practice guidance on how to determine whether “the trade would promote in situ conservation”* contained in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 50 and the *Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen of African elephant and/or southern white rhinoceros is suitably equipped to house and care for it*, contained in Annex 2. In order to continue collecting feedback on the *Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it*, the Animals Committee further proposed a set of draft decisions.

At AC31, the Animals Committee agreed to refer the following concerns to the Standing Committee for its advice and recommendations, as appropriate:

- a) Namibia's interpretation of its exports of live African elephants to non-range States outlined in paragraph 7 of document AC31 Doc. 18.1, Addendum 1; and
- b) Zimbabwe's reservation submitted following the changes adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' and the export of live elephants occurring in 2019 as outlined in paragraph 9 of document AC31 Doc. 18.1, Addendum 1, while noting discrepancies between document AC31 Doc. 18.2 and the response provided by Zimbabwe in Annex 3 to document AC31 Doc. 18.1.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider proposing the following draft decisions to CoP19 to replace Decisions 18.152 to 18.165:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification within 90 days of the close of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, inviting feedback on experience with using the guidance contained in Notification to the Parties No. 2019/070 on Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it, as well as the information provided on the CITES webpage “Appropriate and acceptable destinations”, and
- b) report on this feedback to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee for their consideration and recommendations, as appropriate.

19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall review the report from the Secretariat on feedback from Parties called for in Decision 19.AA and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review the report from the Secretariat and any comments and recommendations coming from the Animals Committee on feedback from Parties called for in Decision 19.AA and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

- b) consider the concerns raised in paragraph 10 of document SC74 Doc. 50 and outlined above and make recommendations, as appropriate;
- c) review the non-binding best practice guidance on how to determine whether “the trade would promote *in situ* conservation” contained in Annex 1 to document SC75 Doc. 50 and consider submitting it for consideration at CoP19;
- d) review the non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen of African elephant and/or southern white rhinoceros is suitably equipped to house and care for it, contained in Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 50 and consider submitting it for consideration at CoP19; and
- e) taking into account the guidance in Annexes 1 and 2 to the present document and the guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1, make recommendations, as appropriate, including possible revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* and any other relevant Resolution, for consideration at CoP19.

51. Introduction from the sea:

Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 51

The Secretariat reports on progress made during the negotiations on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). As part of its monitoring of the implementation of Resolution 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea*, the Secretariat identifies several challenges faced by the Parties with regards to introduction from the sea and answers 10 questions most frequently asked by Parties when consulting about the implementation of the new listings of marine species. The Secretariat further presents an analysis of the trade data relating to introduction from the sea.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the progress made on the negotiations on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and propose to CoP19 the renewal of Decision 17.181 if the negotiations continue.
- b) review intersessionally the 10 questions more frequently asked on ‘CITES trade from the sea’ and the Secretariat’s responses and suggest additional questions, if needed.
- c) instruct the Secretariat, following the intersessional review by the Standing Committee, to publish the 10 questions more frequently asked on ‘CITES trade from the sea’ together with and the Secretariat’s responses on the webpage dedicated to introduction from the sea and to submit a proposal to the CoP to include some of them in the Annex (explanatory note) to Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea*; and
- c) recommend a decision to the Conference of the Parties instructing the Secretariat to continue to monitor the implementation of Resolution 14.6 (Rev. CoP16), and report as appropriate to the Standing Committee. This may include exploring the feasibility of establishing a register with the list of flag-of-convenience States and territories. The list could include the vessels which are authorized to harvest CITES-listed species and the respective fisheries areas. A separate decision could also instruct the Secretariat to approach and work with the States that are most active in the trade in CITES species from the sea, including flag-of-convenience States and territories, with a view to encouraging them to fulfil their CITES responsibilities.

If the Standing Committee agrees with the recommendations suggested above, the Secretariat offers the following draft text for those decisions:

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.AA The Secretariat shall monitor the negotiations on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and report to the Standing Committee the results, as appropriate.
- 19.BB The Secretariat shall continue to monitor the implementation of Resolution 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea* and report as appropriate to the Standing Committee. In doing so, the Secretariat shall explore the feasibility of establishing a register with the list of flag-of-convenience States and territories. The list could include the vessels which are authorized to harvest CITES-listed species and the respective zones.
- 19.CC The Secretariat shall approach and work with the States that are most active in the trade in CITES species from the sea, including flag-of-convenience States and territories, with a view to encouraging them to fulfil their CITES responsibilities.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.DD The Standing Committee shall, as appropriate, review intersessionally the 10 questions most frequently asked on 'CITES trade from the high seas' and the responses prepared by the Secretariat and provide recommendations to the Secretariat regarding the possible amendment of the Annex to Resolution Conf 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea*.

52. Disposal of confiscated specimens: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 52

The Secretariat presents an update on the implementation of Decisions 18.159 to 164 and draws the Committee's attention to a dedicated webpage on the CITES website compiling existing resources and information on networks on the management of seized and confiscated live animals. The webpage contains general international or national guidelines on the management of seized and confiscated live animals and references to relevant networks that may assist with managing confiscated live animals.

The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to note the progress on the implementation of Decisions 18.159 to 18.161 and 18.164 and to consider the following draft decisions for submission to CoP19:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) continue to collect information on existing networks and resources on the management of seized and confiscated live animals and make it available to Parties on the CITES website;
- b) subject to the availability external funding, develop and make available materials that may assist Parties in implementing Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 17.8 on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*, as needed; and
- c) report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of this Decision.

Directed to Parties

19.BB Parties are encouraged to make use of the information and materials made available by the Secretariat on the CITES webpage dedicated to the disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens.

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

19.CC Parties and relevant stakeholders that have not already done so are invited to share with the Secretariat information on existing networks and resources on the management of seized and

confiscated live animals in place in their country, including any action plans, protocols, regulatory measures, standard operating procedures developed to coordinate actions among public authorities, and guidelines for the management of specific species or genera.

- 19.DD** Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are invited to provide financial and/or technical assistance, as relevant, for the implementation of Decision 19.AA, paragraph b).

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.EE** The Standing Committee shall consider the report submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 19.AA and make recommendations, as appropriate.

53. Quotas for leopard (*Panthera pardus*) hunting trophies:
Report of the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 53

The Animals Committee reports on its exchanges with Botswana, the Central African Republic and Ethiopia in order to review these quotas and consider whether these quotas are still set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. Based on these exchanges, the Animals Committee considers the quotas for leopards for the Central African Republic and Botswana, as mentioned in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16), to be set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. For Ethiopia, the Animals Committee considers the proposed reduction of the quota for leopards in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) from 500 to 20 trophies to be set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

The Standing Committee is invited to consider the recommendations of the Animals Committee in paragraphs 5 and 6 of document SC74 Doc. 53 and outlined above, and make a recommendation for consideration at CoP19 to amend paragraph 1 a) of Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use* by changing the quota indicated for Ethiopia from “500” to “20”. 8.

The Animals Committee recalls that, at its 70th meeting, the “Standing Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) so as to remove quotas for Kenya and Malawi from this resolution” – following the request to do so by these two countries (see SC70 SR). However, at CoP18, the issue was not brought to the attention of Committee I and the proposed deletion of Kenya’s and Malawi’s quotas was not agreed. As such, the Standing Committee is invited once again to propose to the Conference of the Parties draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) so as to remove quotas for Kenya and Malawi from this Resolution.

54. Implications of the transfer of a species from one Appendix to another..... SC74 Doc. 54

The Secretariat reports that, since the Conference of the Parties resolved that in the case a species is transferred from one Appendix to another, specimens concerned shall be subject to the provisions applicable to them at the time of export, re-export, import or introduction from the sea, it has not received any questions or requests for additional guidance. However, the Secretariat notes that more time may be needed to assess the implications of the transfer of a species from one Appendix to another.

The Standing Committee is invite to propose to CoP19 the renewal of Decision 18.151 as follows:

18.151 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, with the assistance of the Secretariat, consider whether further guidance related to the period of transition, including the period between the adoption of a proposal to transfer a species from one Appendix to another and the entry into force of the new listing, should be developed and, if so, present amendments to an existing Resolution or a new draft resolution to the ~~49th~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In this context, the Standing Committee shall consider, in consultation with the Plants Committee, as appropriate, whether special recommendations should apply in the case of a transfer of a tree species with Annotation #5 or other annotated plant species.

Exemptions and special trade provisions

55. Captive-bred and ranched specimens: Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 55

The Secretariat reports on the organization of a capacity development workshop in March 2021 to provide training for African Parties on how to use and apply the "Guide to the application of CITES source codes (2017)" and "Guidelines for inspection of captive-breeding and ranching facilities (2017)". Based on these guidance documents, the Secretariat further developed a mobile and tablet application (app) for determining the correct source codes of specimens, and undertaking inspections of captive breeding and ranching facilities for CITES listed taxa and evaluating compliance of those facilities with the requirements of the Convention.

The Standing Committee is invited to encourage Parties to make use of the app and provide feedback on its usefulness to the Secretariat or directly through the feedback button in the app.

56. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source..... SC74 Doc. 56

Spain, as Chair of the Standing Committee working group on captive-bred and ranched specimens, reports on progress in the review of the key issues and challenges in the application of the Convention to non-wild specimens. The working group focused its work on proposing amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity* and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* and did not consider plants. For both Resolutions, the working group agreed on some proposed amendments, but did not have sufficient time to reach agreement on others.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the results and recommendations of the working group as presented in paragraphs 7-9 of document SC74 Doc. 56, and its Annexes 1 and 2; and
- b) consider the following draft decisions for submission to CoP19:

19.AA Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity* and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* concerning provisions on trade in specimens of CITES-listed animals and plants not of wild source, taking into account findings and suggestions in document SC74 Doc. 56 and any related comments and recommendations from the Standing Committee, Parties, the Secretariat or other stakeholders;
- b) review issues and challenges in the application of the Convention for trade in non-wild specimens of CITES-listed animal and plant species and communicate to the Animals and Plants Committees any matters that may require scientific advice and guidance, as appropriate; and
- c) make recommendations for addressing these issues and challenges for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

19.BB Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

In support of the Standing Committee's implementation of Decision 19.AA, the Animals and Plants Committees shall provide scientific advice and guidance on CITES provisions concerning trade in non-wild specimens of CITES-listed animal and plant species to the Standing Committee upon request and as appropriate.

57. Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity SC74 Doc. 57

The Secretariat provides an update on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*, specifically on the 15 species/country combinations retained in the process at SC71.

Switzerland has offered funding to convene a workshop for the Standing Committee to update the review of the provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) presented in document SC70 Doc. 31.4 and develop draft recommendations for improvements to the process which it could submit to CoP19. It may be possible to convene this workshop in the first half of 2022, either in person or online, and invite members of the AC, SC and other interested Parties, including Parties that have been involved in the process. The Secretariat would be grateful for guidance from the Committee on whether this option should be explored or whether Decisions 18.176 and 18.177 should be extended for a further intersessional period.

The Animals Committee provided its comments and recommendations in an addendum to document SC74 Doc. 57.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the evaluation by the Secretariat of the implementation of the recommendations in the Annex to this document, and the views expressed by the Animals Committee in the addendum;
- b) in accordance with paragraph 2 p) of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18), decide on appropriate actions and make recommendations to the countries concerned;
- c) concerning the review of the provisions of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18), provide advice to the Secretariat on the options presented in paragraph 18 of document SC74 Doc. 57 and outlined above.

Further to the decisions of the Standing Committee and responses received from affected Parties, the Secretariat intends to report on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) at the 75th meeting of the Standing Committee.

58. Specimens grown from wild-collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated:
Report of the Plants Committee No document

The Plants Committee refers to document SC74 Doc. 6 on *Report of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees* noting that the issue of specimens grown from wild-collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated is addressed in that document.

59. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

59.1 Registration of the operation Earth Ocean Farms. S. de R.L. de C.V. (Mexico) breeding *Totoaba macdonaldi*

59.1.1 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 59.1.1

On 17 April 2018, the Secretariat received an application from Mexico to include *Totoaba macdonaldi*, bred by Earth Ocean Farms S. de R.L. de C.V., in the *CITES Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes*. The Secretariat received objections from Israel and the United States of America, respectively, to this proposed registration and consulted the Animals Committee. The Animals Committee is of the view that the proposal largely fulfils the requirements for a registration of a breeding facility for the Appendix-I species *Totoaba macdonaldi* under Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15). However, to be fully convinced, the Animals Committee would ask Mexico to respond to the questions raised in paragraph 7 of document SC74 Doc. 59.1.1.

The Standing Committee is invited to consider the objections concerning the application by Mexico to register the captive breeding operation "Earth Ocean Farms S. de R.L. de

C.V.”, breeding *Totoaba macdonaldi*, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), Annex 2, paragraph 4:

- a) If the Committee considers the objections trivial or ill-founded, it shall reject them and the application shall be accepted.
- b) If the Committee considers the objections justified, it shall review the response of the applying Party and decide whether or not to accept the application.

59.1.2 Report by Mexico..... SC74 Doc. 35.1.2

Mexico provides updated information regarding the application to register “Earth Ocean Farms S. de R.L. de C.V.” (EOF) in the *Register of operations that breed Appendix I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes* [based on Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15)].

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the additional and updated information regarding the application to register “Earth Ocean Farms S. de R.L. de C.V.” as an operation that breeds Appendix I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes, according to Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15);
- b) take into account that the technical-biological and law enforcement issues that the United States of America and Israel indicated have been fully answered by Mexico;
- c) take into account that, at the moment, the registration is not requesting to trade totoaba maw or swim bladder;
- d) support the registration of “Earth Ocean Farms S. de R.L. de C.V.” as an “Operation that breeds Appendix I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes”, for Totoaba specimens (*Totoaba macdonaldi*), with the exception of maw or swim bladder; and
- e) collaborate with Mexico in the development of a future procedure for the production, storage, marking, transport and monitoring of totoaba swim bladders, for a possible commercialization of this by-product when convenient.

59.2 Registration of the operation Tugan Falconry Club Ltd (Uzbekistan) breeding *Falco pelegrinoides* and *Falco peregrinus* SC74 Doc. 59.2

On 12 December 2019, the Secretariat received an application from Uzbekistan to include the “Tugan Falconry Club” in the *CITES Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes*. The Secretariat received objections from the European Union to this proposed registration and consulted the Animals Committee. The Animals Committee is of the view that a registration of this facility is premature but encourages Uzbekistan to resubmit the application once the concerns raised have been adequately addressed.

The Committee is invited to consider the objection concerning the application by Uzbekistan to register the captive breeding operation “Tugan Falconry Club”, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), Annex 2, paragraph 4.

- a) If the Committee considers the objections trivial or ill-founded, it shall reject them and the application shall be accepted.
- b) If the Committee considers the objections justified, it shall review the response of the applying Party and decide whether or not to accept the application.

60. Stocks and stockpiles: Report of the working group SC74 Doc. 60

Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee working group on stocks and stockpiles, presents the perspectives of the working group on existing challenges to implementation of CITES provisions on stocks

and stockpiles, on the fundamental objectives of conservation and enforcement that should direct the management of stocks and stockpiles, and on the need for, and possible definition of the terms “stock” and “stockpile”.

The Standing Committee is invited to consider document SC74 Doc. 60 and the observations provided by the working group as context for any subsequent discussions by the Standing Committee on controls on stocks and stockpiles of specimens of CITES-listed species. As the working group was not able to complete fully the tasks directed to it in the terms of reference, the working group recommends that the Standing Committee request the Secretariat to revise Decision 17.170 (Rev. CoP18) and propose its adoption to CoP19.

61. Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory)

61.1 Guidance on ivory stockpiles: Report of the working group..... SC74 Doc. 61.1

The European Union, as Chair of the Standing Committee working group on guidance on ivory stockpiles, presents two documents: a “Practical guidance on ivory stockpile management” in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 61.1 and a “Review of elephant destruction methods” in Annex 2.

The Standing Committee is invited to review and consider for approval the “Practical guidance on ivory stockpile management” in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 61.1 and the “Review of elephant destruction methods” in Annex 2.

The Standing Committee is invited to consider 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 that will take into account new techniques and technologies and will continue to help Parties to implement Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) in the future. This could initially be done via a decision at CoP19 requesting the Secretariat to issue a Notification prior to CoP20, requesting input from Parties on whether or not there is new information that should be considered by the Standing Committee for incorporation in the guidance document or any of the documents which are referred to in the guidance document. This decision could be continued at subsequent CoPs, or if considered to be of a long-term nature, could eventually be integrated into Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) in the future.

61.2 Annual inventories of stockpiles: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 61.2

The Secretariat presents a summary of the information submitted by Parties on the levels of ivory stockpiles. The Conference of the Parties has urged concerned Parties to make annual declarations of government held stockpiles of ivory and, where possible, of significant privately held stockpiles of ivory within their territory since 2014. Since that time, 39 (21%) Parties have declared their ivory stocks for one year or another, but only two Parties have declared their stockpiles every year. The Secretariat does not have complete information on which Parties appear to have stockpiles (discrete assemblages) of government-held ivory but have never reported such stockpiles. Less information still is available to make any judgement in relation to significant privately held stockpiles.

The Secretariat draws the attention of the Standing Committee to a seizure made in Uganda in March 2015 contained ivory, which the Secretariat had reason to believe came from the stockpile which had been held in Burundi. The Secretariat will report orally at the present meeting on any information received from Burundi and, in the absence of any report from Burundi, present any consequent recommendations that it has for the Standing Committee.

Notwithstanding the efforts of a number of Parties, a large number of Parties either do not declare their government ivory stockpiles or do not declare them every year as urged in paragraph 7 e) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18). Very few Parties have declared significant privately held stockpiles of ivory to the Secretariat, although there is anecdotal evidence that such stockpiles exist.

The Standing Committee is invited to

- a) appeal to Parties to step up their efforts to comply with the provisions of paragraph 7 e) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens* concerning stockpiles, with a view of submitting the required information to the Secretariat every year;

- b) recommend that regional Members and Alternate regional Members, as part of their regular contact with Parties in their region, remind Parties of the obligations of paragraph 7 e) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18); and
- c) in the absence of any report from Burundi by the time of the present meeting, request the Secretariat to put in place arrangements to conduct a technical mission to Burundi, in accordance with paragraph 29 e) in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures*, to verify the current status of the Burundi stockpile, and to report to the Committee on its findings.

The Standing Committee is further invited to determine whether any actions are necessary in the case of Parties that have failed to provide annual inventories of government-held stockpiles of ivory and significant privately held stockpiles of ivory within their territory or where stockpiles are not well secured.

Finally, the Secretariat requests the Standing Committee to take note of its intention to recommend the deletion of Decisions 18.184 and 18.185 at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Species specific matters

62. Illegal trade in cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) SC74 Doc. 62

Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Yemen summarize the fight against the illegal trade in cheetah since CoP16, including the findings of the study on illegal trade in cheetah but note that illegal trade in live cheetahs continues at an alarming rate, with significant harmful impacts on cheetah populations, particularly in East Africa. Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Yemen acknowledge that, in the future, several matters relating to cheetah can be addressed through the CITES Big Cats Task Force and the African Carnivores Initiative. However, there remains uncertainty over how these bodies will operate going forward.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) invite range, transit and destination States for illegally traded cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) to report to the first regular meeting of the Standing Committee after CoP19 (SC77 in 2023 if all goes to plan) on their efforts to combat illegal trade in live cheetah, including ongoing implementation of the recommendations from the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (summarised in paragraph 4 of document SC74 Doc. 62), and those from the 70th meeting (SC70 Summary Record, summarised in paragraph 7 of document SC74 Doc. 62) with a view to making any recommendations, including country-specific recommendations, that it deems appropriate. In particular, transit and destination States should be requested to report on efforts to combat trafficking in live cheetahs.
- b) in the meantime, pending such reporting by range, transit and destination States, and given the urgency of the situation, which we now know is much greater than was represented in previous Committee meetings, the Committee should establish an in-session working group where affected parties can propose and discuss a strategy to combat illegal trade in cheetahs and prepare recommendations for submission to CoP19, including recommendation on the establishment of a working group of the Committee at the CoP to analyse and report on recommendations on cheetahs made in the Big Cats Task Force and report at CoP20;
- c) request the Secretariat to take account of the content of this document in implementing Decision 18.246, and to report to CoP19 on the discussions outlined in paragraph 17 c) of document SC74 Doc. 62; and
- d) ensure that the mandate and Terms of Reference for the Big Cat Task Force include a clear and specific requirement for it to consider measures which address in particular, the illegal trade in live cheetah cubs, working with range, transit and destination States as appropriate.

63. West African vultures (*Accipitridae* spp.): Report of the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 63

The Animals Committee reports on the implementation of the Decisions on West African vultures, noting that it had requested the Secretariat to inform the range States of West African vultures that in the context of the implementation of Decisions 18.132 to 18.134 on *Non-Detriment findings (NDF)*, improved NDF guidance is expected to be developed; and to share relevant new NDF materials with the range States when available.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) in accordance with Decision 18.192, paragraph a), consider the information and recommendations of the Animals Committee, and the following draft decisions for submission, as appropriate, to CoP19; and

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

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

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

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

Parties, West African range States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged, subject to resources, to:

- a) collaborate in the conservation and restoration of West African vultures and support the implementation of the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to conserve African-Eurasian Vultures; and

- b) gather and exchange scientific knowledge and expertise on West African vultures, with a particular focus on:
 - i) documenting the scale of vulture trade by surveying markets in and outside West Africa, and identifying inter-regional and international trade routes;
 - ii) characterizing links between poisoning and trade in vultures, and contributing to the African Wildlife Poison Database; and
 - iii) updating the conservation and population status information of West African vultures, and *Gyps africanus* (white-backed vultures), *Gyps rueppellii* (Rüppell's vultures) and *Torgos tracheliotus* (lappet-faced vultures) in particular.

19.CC Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

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

19.DD Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) encourage West African range States to undertake a Periodic Review of the vulture species referred to in Decision 19.AA pursuant to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*, taking note of the offer of the Vulture Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature to assist range States in such an effort;
- b) consider any reports or requests for advice submitted by Parties with respect to the making of non-detriment findings for trade in CITES-listed West African vulture species;
- c) consider the reports and recommendations of the Secretariat submitted in accordance with Decision 19.CC, paragraph e); and
- d) make recommendations as appropriate for consideration by range States, Parties, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.

19.EE Directed to the Standing Committee

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

19.FF Directed to Parties, donor organizations and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

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

- b) agree on a process for reporting on the implementation of Decisions 18.186 to 18.191 to CoP19 in consultation with the Secretariat, as instructed in Decision 18.192, paragraph b).

64. Eels (*Anguilla anguilla*)

64.1 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 64.1

The Secretariat presents a summary of Parties' responses to the request of information on the status, management and trade in eels (*Anguilla* spp.) in Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 64.1 and a study on *Status of use and trade of anguillid eels* (in Annex 4 to the document). The Secretariat further presents an analysis of the data on seizures of *A. anguilla* in the illegal trade database, as submitted by CITES Parties and provides additional information on illegal trade in *A. anguilla*, including a summary of the case study on glass eels in the 2nd *World Wildlife Crime report*.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the information provided in this document and its Annexes; and
- b) invite the Secretariat to review the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 in Annex 2, the case study on glass eels in the 2nd World Wildlife Crime report, the analysis of the data compiled from annual illegal trade reports submitted by Parties in Annex 3 and the findings of the study presented in Annex 4 to document SC74 Doc. 64.1 and prepare a consolidated set of draft recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 75th meeting.

64.2 Report of the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 64.2

The Animals Committee presents an update of its work on *Anguilla anguilla*. The Animals Committee agreed to reconsider the issues of the potential use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of European eel (*A. anguilla*) from aquaculture production systems and the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels to the wild, when making recommendations on the study on levels of trade and trade patterns, especially in live eels for aquaculture, that is currently being prepared in the implementation of Decision 18.199, paragraph d), which will be reviewed by the Animals Committee following the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Animals Committee also noted that the European eel could be a good case study for consideration at the planned workshop on non-detriment findings under Decision 18.132.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this document; and
- b) amend the following draft decisions to incorporate any additional draft decisions proposed by the Standing Committee for consideration at CoP19.

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

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

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

19.BB Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

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

19.CC Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall:

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

19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee

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

65. Precious corals [Order Antipatharia/Family Coralliidae]:
Report of the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 65

The Animals Committee presents an update on its work on precious corals, having considered the study *Global Report on the Biology, Fishery and Trade of Precious Corals* conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and agreed to a set of recommendations on conservation and sustainable use, international trade and on a way forward in Annex 2 to the addendum to document AC31 Doc 23.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the information and recommendations of the Animals Committee made in accordance with Decision 17.192 (Rev. CoP18); and
- b) make recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties or for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as instructed in Decision 17.193 (Rev. CoP18).

66. Marine turtles (Cheloniidae spp. and Dermochelyidae spp.)

- 66.1 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 66.1

The Secretariat reports on the implementation of Decision 18.210 to 18.215 centered around the follow-up to the study *Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities* (see information CoP18 Inf. 18), the drafting of a study examining marine turtle bycatch and its relationship to trade at the global level, and the gathering of information on the status of implementation of Decisions 18.210 to 18.214 (see Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 66.1).

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note document SC74 Doc. 66.1 and the implementation of Decisions 18.210, 18.214 and 18.215;
- b) review the study *Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities* contained in information document CoP18 Inf. 18, the responses to the Notifications issued under Decision 18.210 paragraph f) in Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 66.1, and the recommendations of the Animals Committee in document SC74 Doc. 66.2; and
- c) submit recommendations to CoP19, as appropriate.

The Animals Committee presents an update of its work on Marine turtles. The Animals Committee noted that the study *Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities*, identified key issues where CITES and other actors can help with the conservation of marine turtles. The Animals Committee reminded Parties to include marine turtle confiscation and seizure date in their annual illegal trade report.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review the recommendations of the Animals Committee in paragraph 5 of document SC74 Doc. 66.2 and outlined above; and
- b) consider the following draft decisions by the Animals Committee and consider any additional draft decisions for submission, as appropriate, to CoP19:

19.AA Directed to the Parties

Parties are encouraged to:

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

19.BB Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) based on analysis of the annual illegal trade reports, bring to the attention of the Animals and Standing Committees, as appropriate, any significant changes in the illegal trade of marine turtles;
- b) liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), its Indian Ocean and South-East Asia Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA) on the conservation and management of marine turtles, as outlined in the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021-2025; and
- c) report on the implementation of paragraphs a) to f) of Decision 19.AA to the Animals and Standing Committees, as appropriate.

19.CC Directed to the Animals Committee

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

19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee

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

67. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

- 67.1 Legal acquisition findings and control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives:
Report of the working group..... SC74 Doc. 67.1

The United States of America, as Chair of the Standing Committee working group on sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.), presents on its work on legal acquisitions findings and control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) encourage the Secretariat to liaise with relevant regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements (RFMO/As) to identify opportunities for capacity-building with the same organizations. In this regard, the Standing Committee is invited to submit the draft decision 19.XX1, below, to CoP19 for consideration.
- b) invite self-nomination from more Parties, particularly those Parties that self-identify as key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) provided by Decision 19.XX2 paragraphs a) and b) to encourage further and broader participation in any Standing Committee working group established to address Decision 19.XX2. In this regard, the Standing Committee is invited to submit the draft decision 19.XX3, below, to CoP19 for consideration.
- c) recommend to CoP19 the renewal of Decision 18.224 with some amendments as captured in Decision 19.XX2 below (text proposed to be deleted from CoP18 Decision is in strikethrough and proposed new text is underlined). Although this intersessional working group made progress in its deliberations, more time and discussion are needed to fulfil its mandate.

- d) prepare information to support engagement with and capacity-building of RFMO/As and include this information within the guidance called for by Decision 19.XX2. In this regard, the Standing Committee is invited to submit paragraph d), below, as part of Decision 19.XX2, for consideration at CoP19.
- e) review the content of the following sources and to include relevant information within the guidance called for by Decision 19.XX2 paragraphs a-c): 1) FAO's guidance on Catch Document Schemes, pending publication (FAO. 2022. Understanding and implementing catch documentation schemes - A guide for national authorities. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 14. Rome.), 2) guidance the CITES Parties have agreed on traceability, and 3) relevant documents on the Secretariat's website on traceability (https://cites.org/eng/prog/Cross-cutting_issues/traceability). In this regard, the Standing Committee is invited to submit paragraph e), below, as part of Decision 19.XX2, for consideration at CoP19.

The Standing Committee is invited submit the following set of draft decisions for consideration at CoP19:

19.XX1 Directed to Secretariat

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall liaise with relevant RFMO/As to identify opportunities for capacity building with the same organizations, possibly in the form of attending meetings (where the RFMO/A permits such attendance) or by directly liaising with the Secretariat of the organization to provide this information to its membership and/or the provision of training. The aim of this exercise would be to share information to improve the knowledge of CITES in the workings of each relevant RFMO/A.

19.XX2 Directed to Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on Legal acquisition findings and its annexes 1 and 2. This guidance should include detailed descriptions and related graphics on specific scenarios regarding trade in CITES-listed shark species;
- b) develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II; ~~and~~
- c) report its findings under Decision ~~18.224 (Rev. CoP19)~~, 19.XX2 paragraphs a), ~~and~~ b), ~~d) and e)~~ to the ~~49th~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- d) prepare information to support engagement with and capacity building of RFMO/As and include this information within the guidance called for by Decision 19.XX2 paragraph a).
- e) review the FAO's guidance on Catch Document Schemes, pending publication (FAO. 2022. Understanding and implementing catch documentation schemes - A guide for national authorities. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 14. Rome.), guidance the CITES Parties have agreed on traceability, relevant documents on the Secretariat's website on traceability (https://cites.org/eng/prog/Cross-cutting_issues/traceability) and include relevant information within the guidance called for by Decision 19.XX2 paragraph a).

19.XX3 Directed to Parties

The Parties shall consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) provided by Decision 19.XX2 paragraphs a) and b); if so, the same Parties are strongly encouraged to participate in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision 19.XX2.

67.2 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 67.2

The Animals Committee presents an update of its work on sharks and rays, including the publication of non-detriment findings for sharks and rays on the CITES website and of an analysis of information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2000, sorted by species and by product, in Annex 2 to Document SC74 Doc. 67.2. The Secretariat also presents relevant key findings from a TRAFFIC study on *Missing sharks: A country review of catch, trade and management recommendations for CITES-listed shark species* in Annex 3 to document SC74 Doc. 67.2.

Concerning the joint report of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee to CoP19 required under Decision 18.225, the Secretariat suggests that the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Chair of the Animals Committee work with the Animal Committee's lead on the agenda item to merge the draft decisions on sharks and finalize a single joint report to be submitted to CoP19.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the Secretariat's report on the implementation of Decisions 18.220, 18.221 and 18.222 in document SC74 Doc. 67.2;
- b) comment on the overview of reported trade in specimens of CITES-listed shark and rays in Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 67.2 and the key findings of the TRAFFIC study on shark trade presented in Annex 3 to document SC74 Doc. 67.2;
- c) consider the contribution of the Animals Committee to the joint report to CoP19 requested under Decision 18.225; and
- d) consider the Secretariat's suggestion for a way forward regarding this joint report in paragraph 16 of document SC74 Doc. 67.2 and outlined above.

67.3 Report of the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 67.3

The Animals Committee presents the outcomes of its discussions on sharks and rays at AC31 in paragraphs 6 to 16 of document SC74 Doc. 67.3, including recommendations for the Standing Committee to review the results of the Secretariat's study on the apparent mismatch between trade in shark products, especially regarding introduction from the sea, if available, in fulfilment of Decision 18.221, paragraph a); and to consider the inclusion of a new three letter code form (FFN) for registering trade in wet (fresh, chilled, frozen) fins of sharks in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports*.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the recommendations of the Animals Committee in paragraphs 6 to 16 of document SC74 Doc. 67.3;
- b) consider the recommendations of the Animals Committee directed to the Standing Committee in paragraphs 6 and 8 of document SC74 Doc. 67.3 and outlined above; and
- c) consider the following draft decisions by the Animals Committee and review the draft decisions that are relevant to the Standing Committee.

Directed to Parties

19.AA Parties are encouraged to:

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

- b) in accordance with their national legislation, provide a brief report (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat about the assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained before the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable;
- c) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC and share available national conversion factors used when estimating live catch weight by species, fishery, and product form for more accurate reporting of shark and ray trade data by Parties and indicate whether and how these are used in the development of their non-detriment findings;
- d) inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transhipped, to verify presence of CITES-listed species and verify the presence of a valid CITES permit or certificate as required under the Convention or to obtain satisfactory proof of its existence;
- e) continue to support the implementation of the Convention for sharks, including by providing funding for the implementation of Decisions 19.BB, 19.DD and 19.EE, and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat; and
- f) actively collaborate to combat illegal trafficking in sharks and ray products by developing mechanisms for coordination between source, transit, and destination countries.

Directed to Secretariat

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

19.CC The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
 - i) provide concise (with 200 word executive summary, if the report exceeds four pages) new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular:
 - A. the making of non-detriment findings;
 - B. the making of legal acquisition findings;
 - C. the identification and monitoring of CITES-listed shark-products in trade, in source, transit, and consumer Parties; and
 - D. recording stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; and
 - ii) share with the Secretariat their NDFs and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, to post in the sharks and rays web portal;
 - iii) highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade data (e.g. which units are used in reporting trade) for the CITES Trade Database;

- b) provide information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010, sorted by species and, if possible, by product;
- c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above;
- d) disseminate new or existing guidance identified by the Standing Committee on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives pursuant to Decision 19.GG, paragraph b); and
- e) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.

19.DD The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, and in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts:

- a) conduct a study to investigate the apparent mismatch between the trade in products of CITES-listed sharks recorded in the CITES Trade Database and what would be expected against the information available on catches of listed species; and
- b) bring the results of the study in paragraph a) and any proposed solutions to resolve this issue in the future to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

19.EE The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to:

- a) verify that information about Parties' shark management measures is correctly reflected in the shark measures database developed by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/>) and if not, support FAO in correcting the information;
- b) compile clear imagery of wet and dried unprocessed shark fins (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of iSharkFin software developed by FAO;
- c) conduct a study analysing the trade in non-fin shark products of CITES-listed species, including the level of species mixing in trade products and recommendations on how to address any implementation challenges arising from the mixing that may be identified; and
- d) bring the results of activities in paragraphs a) to c) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.FF The Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organisations and experts, shall:

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

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.GG The Standing Committee shall consider:

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

Directed to the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee

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

68. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.):
Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18)
Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 68

The Secretariat reports on any apparent problems in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens* or in the control of trade in elephant specimens; on the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS); the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup of the Standing Committee; on trade in Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*); and on trade in mammoth ivory.

Annex 1 to the document presents among others the 2021 trends analysis for the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) and an illegal ivory trade trend analysis. The annual mean continental PIKE in Africa generally increased from 2003 to 2010, peaked in 2011, and decreased from 2011 to 2020. The 2020 PIKE estimate in Africa is the lowest since 2003. In Asia, the continental PIKE trend in the last five years (2015-2019) has remained relatively flat. The illegal ivory trend analysis based on the transaction index shows that there was a peak in ivory seizures in 2014 – 2015, after which there has been an overall decreasing trend in illegal ivory trade to 2020. In terms of legal trade, UNEP-WCMC reports in Annex 1 that trade in tusks reported by number decreased by 67% between 2016 and 2019 according to data reported by African elephant range States and no exporting range State appears to have exceeded their annual export quotas set in 2018 and 2019.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the information contained in document SC74 Doc. 68, as well as its annexes;
- b) encourage elephant range States to use the MIKE Online Database for MIKE data submission and Parties to use ETIS Online to submit seizure information;
- c) encourage donors and partners to support African elephant range States to conduct and fund surveys of elephant populations;
- d) note that the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup intends to meet in the margins of the present meeting to discuss matters as indicated in paragraph 64 of document SC74 Doc. 68 (i.e. the nominations for global and co-opted members membership of the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group) and items referred to it by the Standing Committee and report back to the Standing Committee;
- e) request Parties to step up efforts concerning use of the guidance to standardise reporting of hunting trophies included in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* when reporting on trade in hunting trophies of *Loxodonta africana*;

- f) note the low response rate from Asian elephant range States on their implementation of Decision 18.226, paragraphs a) to d), and the reports received from Cambodia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, thanking these Parties for the reports submitted;
- g) consider recommending to CoP19 that Decision 18.226 be renewed and revised to be addressed to Asian elephant range States;
- h) consider recommending to CoP19 that Decision 18.227 be deleted and replaced with the following draft decision:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) request a report from Asian elephant range States on the implementation of paragraphs a) through d) of Decision 18.226;
- b) subject to the availability of external funding, develop minimum requirements for a registering, marking and tracing system for live Asian elephants, to be presented to Asian elephant range States with the aim of establishing a regional system, or alternatively standardized national systems, for registering, marking and tracing live Asian elephants; and
- c) report any information provided in response to Decision 19.AA paragraph a) and on the implementation of Decision 19.AA paragraph b), as well as findings and recommendations concerning trade in Asian elephants and their parts and derivatives as appropriate, to the Standing Committee.
- i) consider recommending to CoP19 that Decisions 18.120 and 18.121 be deleted and the following draft decisions be considered for adoption:

19.XX Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, taking into consideration available information and research studies, compile information relating to the potential contribution of mammoth ivory trade to illegal trade in elephant ivory and elephant poaching and report its findings to the Standing Committee.

19.XX Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider the report and findings provided by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 19.xx and make recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

69. CITES Big Cats Task Force (Felidae spp.):

Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 69

The Secretariat presents in the Annex to document SC74 Doc. 69 the draft terms of reference and *modus operandi* for the CITES Big Cats Task Force that were finalized following a consultation via a Notification to the Parties.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) in accordance with Decision 18.248, paragraph a), review and adopt the revised terms of reference and *modus operandi* for the CITES Big Cats Task Force presented in the Annex to document SC74 Doc. 69; and
- b) request the Secretariat to report to the 75th meeting of the Standing Committee on the implementation of Decision 18.245.

70. Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.)

70.1 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 70.1

The Secretariat presents an update of its work on seahorses, including on the information it gathered on any national management measures for seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.), including non-detriment findings, and on how Parties are implementing and enforcing such measures. The Secretariat also summarizes the findings of a study by Project Seahorse entitled *Changes in the international trade in live seahorses* (*Hippocampus* spp.) *after their listing on CITES Appendix II* and presents the outcomes of another Project Seahorse study entitled *Implementation of CITES Appendix-II listing for seahorses in the context of export bans and suspensions*. The Secretariat notes that the Animals Committee has proposed draft decisions in document SC74 Doc. 70.2 to allow for full implementation after CoP19.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of document SC74 Doc. 70.1.

70.2 Report of the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 70.2

The Animals Committee presents an update on its work on seahorses and proposes to the Standing Committee draft decisions to pursue this work.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC74 Doc. 70.2; and
- b) consider the following draft decisions for submission to CoP19:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, organize an expert workshop to discuss the implementation and enforcement of CITES for trade in *Hippocampus* spp., including the recommendations and outcomes from the Review of Significant Trade process, and propose practical steps to address implementation and enforcement challenges; and
- b) report on the implementation of paragraph a) to the Animals and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229, paragraph c) i), and other relevant available information;
- b) develop recommendations to the Parties, the Secretariat, and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to ensure sustainable and legal trade in seahorses; and
- c) report on the implementation of Decision 19.BB to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229 paragraph c) i) and, as appropriate, the report of the Animals Committee;

- b) develop recommendations to the Parties and the Secretariat, as appropriate, to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement for trade in seahorses; and
- c) report on the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

71. Great apes (Hominidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 71

The Secretariat reports on its work with the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), an alliance of over 100 national governments, conservation organizations, research institutions, United Nations agencies and private companies, committed to ensuring the long-term survival of great apes and their habitats in Africa and Asia; on illegal trade in great apes as reported by CITES Parties; and on emerging issues concerning great apes and COVID-19.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the report of the Secretariat provided in document SC74 Doc. 71; and
- b) include details of its consideration of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18) in its report under paragraph 2 i) of Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 18.2 on *Establishment of Committees*.

72. Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]: Report of the Plants Committee..... SC74 Doc. 72

The Plants Committee outlines the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.234 to 18.237 and proposes to the Standing Committee draft decisions to pursue this work once external resources are secured following CoP19.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the following draft decisions as agreed by the Plants Committee:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to external resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) in consultation with the Plants Committee, develop the objectives of the proposed study of rosewood tree species, taking into account findings and recommendations contained in documents PC25 Doc. 26.1, PC25 Doc. 26.2 and PC25 Doc. 26.3;
- b) commission a study on the conservation and trade rosewood-tree species identified, taking into account the priorities, findings and recommendations contained in documents PC25 Doc. 26.1, PC25 Doc. 26.2 and PC25 Doc. 26.3;
- c) report on the progress of the study to the Plants Committee;
- d) taking into account the above, organize an international workshop, inviting relevant range States, trading countries, relevant organizations, industry representatives and other experts, with a view to presenting and discussing the results, and develop recommendations; and
- e) submit the final study for consideration by the Plants Committee, as well as the outcomes of the workshop, if held.

19.BB Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall consider any progress reported by the Secretariat in relation to the implementation of Decision 19.AA, work with the Secretariat to develop the objectives of the study, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

19.CC Directed to the Parties

Parties are invited to collaborate with the Secretariat and the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decisions 19.AA and 19.BB, and support the work of the study and the international workshop, including seeking external resources from relevant organizations and stakeholders.

19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider any report relating to the implementation of Decision 19.AA to 19.CC;
 - b) identify any implementation and enforcement issues associated with the international trade in rosewood tree species, particularly those identified as a priority by the Plants Committee; and
 - c) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- b) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 19th meeting.

73. Pangolins (*Manis* spp.): Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 73

The Secretariat presents a report on the national conservation status of pangolin species; legal and illegal trade in pangolins; the disposal of pangolin specimens; stocks of specimens of pangolins and stockpile management; enforcement issues; and tools and materials that could assist Parties in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.10 on *Conservation of and trade in pangolins*. Pangolins continue to be significantly affected by illegal trade. However, the lack of up-to-date knowledge and data about pangolin abundance and population trends poses a challenge in determining the true impact of poaching and illegal trade.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the report presented in Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 73;
- b) consider the following draft decision 19. AA agreed by the Animals Committee and proposed for submission to the CoP19:

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.AA The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the conversion parameters for all pangolin species, developed in accordance with the provisions of Decision 18.239, to enable the reliable determination of the number of animals associated with any quantity of pangolin scales seized, and that can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for law enforcement and court purposes; and
 - b) make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.
- c) encourage all pangolin range States to step up efforts and actively pursue the implementation of Decision 18.238, by taking urgent steps, where not yet done, to develop and implement *in situ* pangolin management and conservation programmes, which include population assessments;
 - d) remind Parties about the [Pangolin Species Identification Guide and reference materials](#) developed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and encourage Parties to bring the guide and materials to the attention of all relevant authorities; and
 - e) encourage Parties in whose territories stocks of parts and derivatives of pangolins exist to establish and apply, where not yet done, strict control measures to secure these stocks, as called for in paragraph 3 of [Resolution Conf. 17.10](#) on *Conservation of and trade in pangolins*.

The Standing Committee is further invited to consider the following draft decisions, for submission to CoP19:

19.BB Directed to Parties

All Parties are encouraged to identify seized pangolin specimens at species level and report the seizures at species level in their annual illegal trade reports.

19.CC Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification inviting Parties, international organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations that developed identification materials concerning pangolin species, their parts and derivatives, to bring such materials to the attention of the Secretariat;
- b) bring any materials reported in accordance with Decision 19.CC paragraph a) to the attention of the Animals Committee, together with any recommendations the Secretariat may have;
- c) subject to external funding, provide training to Parties on the identification of pangolin specimens;
- c) work with its partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC) to initiate activities and support the efforts of Parties to address illegal trade in Pangolin specimens; and
- d) report to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of Decision 19.CC.

19.DD Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall review existing identification materials concerning pangolin species, their parts and derivatives, and consider the need for new or additional materials to be developed, including to support the identification of seized pangolin specimens at species level, and make recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.

19.EE Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report and any recommendations of the Animals Committee in accordance with Decisions 19.AA and 19.DD, and make recommendations to the Parties or the Secretariat as appropriate; and
- b) report the results of its work together with any recommendations it may have to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

74. African lions (*Panthera leo*): Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 74

The Secretariat reports on the implementation of activities in joint African lion conservation plans and strategies, and review of such plans and activities; the study of African lion population trends and conservation and management practices; capacity-building in African lion conservation and management, including non-detriment findings; the joint webportal between CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species on African lions; the *Guidelines for the conservation of lions in Africa*; research and analysis on legal and illegal trade in lions and other big cats; purpose code “H”; guidance materials for the identification of lion and other big cat specimens; and forensic-type techniques for identifying lions and other big cat species in trade and on the *CITES Big Cats Task Force*.

Due to delays in implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Standing Committee may wish to propose in its report to CoP19 an extension or update of some or all of the other mandates in Decision 18.248. The Standing Committee may also wish to invite the Secretariat to assist the Chair of the

Standing Committee in the production of this report for CoP19 to promote good coordination with its own reports on this matter required under Decisions 18.244 and 18.246.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of document SC74 Doc. 74 and consider the Secretariat's suggestion in paragraph 17 and outlined above.

75. Jaguars (*Panthera onca*): Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 75

The Secretariat presents in Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 75 a study on illegal trade in jaguars (*Panthera onca*) that focuses on mapping illegal trade in jaguar specimens; the uses of jaguar specimens; *modus operandi* and possible drivers; and the impact of illegal trade on jaguar populations. The Secretariat further reports on its cooperation with relevant partners on this issue.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the main findings and conclusions of the jaguar study contained in Annex 2 to document SC74 Doc. 75;
- b) consider the following draft decisions on illegal trade in jaguars, and provide comments to the Secretariat for onward submission to CoP19:

19.AA Directed to Parties, especially those that are range States of the jaguar, and relevant stakeholders

Parties, especially those that are range States of the jaguar, and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to:

- a) urgently adopt comprehensive legislation and enforcement controls aimed at eliminating the poaching of jaguars and illegal trade in their parts and derivatives, including online sales of specimens;
- b) include the jaguar as a priority species to be targeted as part of enforcement operations, measures and controls deployed to respond to and address wildlife crime;
- c) ensure that any illegal domestic and international trade in jaguar specimens detected are included in annual illegal trade reports in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on *National reports*;
- d) promote the design and implementation of conservation corridors between range countries of the jaguar, strengthening cooperation mechanisms on a local, national and regional level in order to promote good conservation practices; channel investments to the conservation of the species; reduce the threats to the connectivity of its habitats; and strengthen the capacities of the main players involved, including by mobilizing Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for this purpose;
- e) support the development of the proposal for establishing a long-term system for monitoring illegal killing of jaguars, associated illegal trade in their part and derivatives and other key aspects related to jaguar conservation;
- f) raise awareness about the importance of the jaguar and its protection status, its role in the ecosystem and the threats it faces, including illegal trade;
- g) participate in the meeting of jaguar range States referred to in paragraph c) of Decision 19.BB, and other events as appropriate, in order to share experiences and knowledge about the priority issues identified to combat illegal trade in jaguars;
- h) recognize the jaguar as the flagship species of its range countries so that the protection and conservation of the species and its habitat becomes a joint priority; and
- i) provide information to the Secretariat on the measures and activities they undertook to implement the actions directed to them under this Decision.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.BB The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding, cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Coordination Committee for the 2030 Jaguar Conservation Roadmap for the Americas led by the United Nations Development Programme with a view to:

- a) integrate and align conservation efforts, demand reduction strategies, behaviour change and livelihood alternatives to prevent illegal killing of jaguars and associated illegal trade in jaguar part and derivatives;
- b) develop a proposal for establishing a long-term system for monitoring illegal killing of jaguars, associated illegal trade in their part and derivatives and other key aspects related to jaguar conservation;
- c) convene a meeting of jaguar range States to:
 - i) identify opportunities for cross-border collaboration and regional cooperation, joint actions, and resource mobilisation aimed at reducing habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and human-animal conflict, and preventing the illegal killing of and illegal trade in jaguars;
 - ii) review options for an intergovernmental platform aimed to support jaguar conservation and combating the poaching and illegal trade in jaguars through a continental action plan;
 - iii) review the Secretariat's proposal for establishing a long-term system for monitoring poaching and other key aspects related to jaguar conservation, referred to under paragraph b) of the present Decision; and
 - iv) promote the reporting of any illegal domestic and international trade in jaguar specimens in CITES annual illegal trade reports in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on *National reports*; and

19.CC The Secretariat shall,

- a) support Parties in their implementation of Decision 19.AA; and
- b) report on the implementation of the Decisions 19.AA and 19.BB to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties with recommendations as appropriate.

19.DD *Directed to the Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee shall review the implementation of Decision 19.BB as well as the report and recommendations of the Secretariat under Decision 19.CC and make recommendations to range States, transit and destination countries, as appropriate.

- c) request the Secretariat to further engage in consultations with jaguar range States, destination countries, the host of the next Conference of the Parties, the Chair of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Coordination Committee for the 2030 Jaguar Conservation Roadmap for the Americas led by the United Nations Development Programme, and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of maintaining the momentum. Consultations should focus in particular on the development of a proposal to establish a long-term system for monitoring illegal killing of jaguars, associated illegal trade in their parts and derivatives, and other key aspects related to jaguar conservation, and on the purposes and characteristics of demand for illegal jaguar body parts in destination countries which constitute a key area for further investigation.

76. Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*): Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 76

The Secretariat reports on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope*, noting that the efforts made by Switzerland to combat illegal trade in Tibetan antelope specimens resulted in an increase of seizures of Shahtoosh shawls.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) encourage Parties affected by illegal trade in specimens of Tibetan antelope to continue to approach the CITES Management Authority of Switzerland for assistance with identification methods and exchange of information and knowledge about this topic;
- b) encourage India and Italy to enhance efforts to strengthen the capacity of its border officials concerning the identification of Tibetan antelope specimens, in particular garments and cloth, including by drawing upon the support available from Switzerland, as appropriate; and
- c) report on this matter to CoP19 as part of the report of the Chair under paragraph 2 i) in Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 18.2 on *Establishment of committees*.

77. Helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*): Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 77

The Secretariat reports on its implementation of Decisions 18.266 to 18.269, including on its efforts to bring Resolution Conf. 17.11 on *Conservation of, and trade in, helmeted hornbill* to the attention of its partners within the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC).

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC74 Doc. 77 on the implementation of Decisions 18.266 to 18.268;
- b) recall paragraph 2 of Resolution Conf. 17.11 on *Conservation of, and trade in, helmeted hornbill* and encourage range States to respond to the Secretariat's invitation to provide assistance in their implementation of that Resolution;
- c) encourage relevant range, transit and consumer States to actively take part in the INTERPOL-led meeting of a Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Management on illegal trade in helmeted hornbill, expected to be held in 2022; and
- d) request the Chair of the Standing Committee to include information on the implementation of Decisions 18.266 to 18.269 in its report to CoP19.

78. Saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.): Report of the Secretariat and the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 78

The Secretariat provides an overview of the information it has received from range States of the saiga antelope and important consumer and trading countries, pursuant to Decision 18.270; reports on its implementation of Decision 18.271; and presents a report by the Animals Committee on its implementation of Decision 18.272. The Secretariat provides an update on the Fourth Meeting of the Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga* spp.) [MOS4]; the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2021-2025 [MTIWP (2021-2025)]; conservation of and trade in saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.), including conservation challenges and threats, legal and illegal trade in saiga specimens; on management of stockpiles of saiga specimens; and on reporting. The Animals Committee, after noting the Secretariat's document AC31 Doc. 32, agreed to pursue work on this issue and to propose the renewal of Decisions 18.270 to 18.274.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC74 Doc. 78;
- b) commend the saiga antelope range States for their efforts in restoring saiga antelope populations in the wild, and saiga range States and major trading and consumer States for their contributions to the implementation of the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope; and
- c) consider the following draft decisions proposed by the Animals Committee and amended by the Secretariat with new text underlined for submission to CoP19:

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

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

19.BB Directed to the Secretariat

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

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

19.CC Directed to the Animals Committee

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

19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee

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

19.EE Directed to saiga antelope range States, Parties, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders

Saiga antelope range States, Parties, multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders are encouraged to collaborate in the conservation and restoration of the saiga antelope

(*Saiga* spp.), and to support the implementation of MTIWP (2021-2025) as well as the technical coordination of the Saiga MOU.

79. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*): Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 79

The Secretariat reports on its implementation of Decisions 18.275, 18.277 and 18.278 on the queen conch, specifically on the Fourth and Fifth meetings of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES Working Group on Queen Conch in 2019 and 2021, respectively; and on the level of illegal trade in queen conch as reported in the CITES illegal trade reports between 2016 and 2020. The Secretariat further draws the Standing Committee's attention to a project entitled "Seizing the trade and business potential of Blue BioTrade products for promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation of marine biodiversity in selected Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Countries" (Blue BioTrade Project).

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in document SC74 Doc. 79; and
- b) remind Parties that the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report* in Annex 2 to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/044 indicate that shells should preferably be reported by number and that meat should be reported in kilograms.

80. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (*Testudines* spp.)

80.1 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 80.1

The Secretariat summarizes key elements from the report submitted by Madagascar (paragraphs 6 to 22 of document SC74 Doc. 80.1) and contains the observations and recommendations of the Secretariat (paragraphs 23 to 33). Madagascar's reporting focused on its conservation efforts; capacity-building to combat wildlife crime; prevention, detection, and response efforts; seizures, arrests and prosecutions; international cooperation; public awareness; and intergovernmental and non-governmental organization support.

The Secretariat welcomes the capacity-building activities, the ongoing work to establish an anti-corruption unit, and the information on seizures, arrests, and prosecutions provided by Madagascar, as well as information provided by Madagascar on projects led by various other stakeholders, to support the Party in its efforts to address wildlife crime. The Secretariat notes that, for most of the cases, information on prosecutions and penalties are not provided and that there is room for improvement regarding the successful prosecution of cases. The Secretariat commends Madagascar for its work on the reintroduction of radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*) seized from illegal trade to the wild. The number of animals reintroduced however also reaffirms that numbers of tortoises and freshwater turtles in Madagascar affected by illegal trade remains high.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) welcome the work undertaken and initiatives ongoing in Madagascar to respond to and address wildlife crime, including illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles;
- b) note the ongoing nature of poaching and trafficking in tortoises and freshwater turtles affecting Madagascar, and encourage its national authorities to:
 - i) further scale up efforts to address illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, in particular by scaling up efforts to gather information and intelligence concerning the criminal networks operating within and from the country, and by engaging representatives from the Anti-Corruption Centres of the Ministry of Justice in such efforts, to pursue investigations targeting those individuals managing and organizing the illegal activities;
 - ii) pursue activities to facilitate information and intelligence exchange with Parties that seize and confiscate tortoises and freshwater turtles originating from Madagascar, with the aim of initiating investigations to bring to justice the criminals involved across the illegal trade chain;

- iii) consider reviewing and amending Madagascar's legislation taking into consideration paragraphs 15 e), f) and g) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, and associated recommendations resulting from the implementation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* in the country; and
- iv) continue its efforts to inform and sensitize the public about endemic tortoise and freshwater turtle species of Madagascar and the importance of their conservation and protection, and undertake further awareness-raising activities targeting relevant national law enforcement agencies, to sensitize them about illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles and the importance of scaling-up law enforcement efforts to address this illegal trade.
- c) request the Secretariat to continue to monitor illegal trade in tortoise and freshwater turtle species as it affects Madagascar, and the measures being implemented to address it, and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Standing Committee.
- d) agree that Decisions 18.286 and 18.287 have been implemented.

80.2 Report of Madagascar..... SC74 Doc. 80.2

Madagascar reports on the measures it has taken to combat illegal trade in turtles, with a focus on capacity-building; prevention, detection and intervention efforts; and species conservation and management efforts, including reintroduction into the wild and identification and awareness-raising materials. Madagascar includes in its report a compilation of data on seizures, arrests and prosecutions (2019-2021) and offers perspectives for the future. Madagascar draws the attention of the Standing Committee on the difficulties encountered in the fight against fraud and illegal harvests, highlighting the role of demand as the driver of illegal trade.

The Standing Committee is invited to consider and note document SC74 Doc. 80.2.

Maintenance of the Appendices

81. Annotations: Report of the working group..... SC74 Doc. 81

Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on annotations, updates the Committee on the activities of the working group, specifically on annotations #4, #11 for *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, #12 for *Aniba rosaeodora*, #14 for *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp. The working group further proposes amendments to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Interpretation section of the Appendices, specifically the definitions of ten (10) kg per shipment and of transformed wood.

The Standing Committee is invited to endorse the following amendments:

- a) amendments to paragraph 5 of the Interpretation Section of the Appendices, to the parenthetical annotation to Appendix I Orchidaceae, to Annotation #1, to Annotation #4 and to Annotation #14,
- 5. As none of the species or higher taxa of FLORA included in Appendix I is annotated to the effect that its hybrids shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the Convention, this means that artificially propagated hybrids produced from one or more of these species or taxa may be traded with a certificate of artificial propagation, and that seeds and pollen (including pollinia), cut flowers, seedling or tissue cultures obtained *in vitro*, ~~in solid or liquid media~~, transported in sterile containers of these hybrids are not subject to the provisions of the Convention.

ORCHIDACEAE

Orchids (For all of the following Appendix-I species, seedling or tissue cultures obtained *in vitro*, ~~in solid or liquid media~~, and transported in sterile containers are not subject to the provisions of the Convention only if the specimens meet the definition of 'artificially propagated' agreed by the Conference of the Parties.

- #1 All parts and derivatives, except:
 - a) seeds, spores and pollen (including pollinia);

- b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained *in vitro*, ~~in solid or liquid media~~, transported in sterile containers;
 - c) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants; and
 - d) fruits, and parts and derivatives thereof, of artificially propagated plants of the genus *Vanilla*.
- #4 All parts and derivatives, except:
- a) seeds (including seedpods of Orchidaceae), spores and pollen (including pollinia). The exemption does not apply to seeds from Cactaceae spp. exported from Mexico, and to seeds from *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* and *Dypsis decaryi* exported from Madagascar;
 - b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained *in vitro*, ~~in solid or liquid media~~, transported in sterile containers;
 - c) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants;
 - d) fruits, and parts and derivatives thereof, of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genus *Vanilla* (Orchidaceae) and of the family Cactaceae;
 - e) stems, flowers, and parts and derivatives thereof, of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genera *Opuntia* subgenus *Opuntia* and *Selenicereus* (Cactaceae); and
 - f) finished products of *Aloe ferox* and *Euphorbia antisyphilitica* packaged and ready for retail trade.
- #14 All parts and derivatives except:
- a) seeds and pollen;
 - b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained *in vitro*, ~~in solid or liquid media~~, transported in sterile containers;
 - c) fruits;
 - d) leaves;
 - e) exhausted agarwood powder, including compressed powder in all shapes; and
 - f) finished products packaged and ready for retail trade, this exemption does not apply to wood chips, beads, prayer beads and carvings.
- b) amendments to annotation #14:
- f) *finished products packaged and ready for retail trade*; ~~this exemption does not apply to wood chips, beads, prayer beads and carvings.~~
 - f) *les produits finis conditionnés et prêts pour la vente au détail; cette dérogation ne s'applique pas aux copeaux en de bois, aux perles, aux grains de chapelets et aux gravures.*
- c) amendments to paragraph 7 of the Interpretation Section of the Appendices:
- 7. When a species is included in Appendices I, II or III, the whole, live or dead, animal or plant is always included. In addition, all parts and derivatives thereof are also included unless, for animal species listed in Appendix III and plant species listed in Appendix II or III, all parts and derivatives of the species are also included in the same Appendix unless the species is annotated with the symbol # followed by a number to indicate that only specific parts and derivatives are included. The symbol # followed by a number placed against the name of a species or higher taxon included in Appendix II or III refers to a footnote that indicates the parts or derivatives of animals or plants that are designated as 'specimens' subject to the provisions of the Convention in accordance with Article I, paragraph (b), subparagraph (ii) or (iii).
- d) amendments to the definitions of Ten (10) kg per shipment and of transformed wood in paragraph 8 of the Interpretation Section of the Appendices:

Ten (10) kg per shipment

*For the term "10 kg per shipment", the 10 kg limit should be interpreted as referring to the weight of wood of the individual portions of each item in the shipment made of wood of the species concerned each individual annotated species of genus *Dalbergia* or *Guibourtia* present in the items in the shipment. In other words, the 10 kg limit is to be assessed only against the individual weights of the individual portions of wood of *Dalbergia*/*Guibourtia* each individual annotated species contained in each item of the shipment, and not against rather than against the total weight of the shipment. The total weights present of each individual annotated species are considered individually to determine whether a CITES*

permit or certificate is required for each individual annotated species, and weights of different individual annotated species are not added together for this purpose.

Transformed wood

Defined by Harmonized System code 44.09: Wood (including strips, friezes for parquet flooring, not assembled), continuously shaped (tongued, grooved, rebated, champhered, 4V-jointed, beaded, moulded, rounded or the like) along any of its edges, ends or faces, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed.

The Standing Committee is invited to ask the Secretariat to submit a document to CoP19 proposing that the Parties adopt the amendments above.

The Standing Committee is further invited to note the advice provided by the working group in paragraphs 7 through 9 on exceptions for seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro transported in sterile containers and on the proposed addition of a new paragraph g) on retail trade of cosmetics to Annotation #4 by the Management Authority of Switzerland and Liechtenstein and in paragraph 19 on inclusion of the definitions of logs, sawn wood, veneer Sheets, and plywood currently located in paragraph 1 c) of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on Implementation of the Convention for Tree Species in paragraph 8 of the Interpretation Section of the Appendices.

The Standing Committee is invited to ask the Secretariat to revise Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18) deleting those directives that have been accomplished, and to submit a revised Decision to CoP19, proposing its adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

82. Mechanisms and information system for the review of existing and proposed annotations: Report of the Secretariat..... SC74 Doc. 82

The Secretariat proposes for the consideration of the Standing Committee the establishment of an Annotations Periodic Review (APR). The APR would operate as a single mechanism to undertake both a periodic review of existing annotations and an *a priori* review of annotations to be proposed for consideration at meetings of the CoP. The aim of the APR would be to support the consistent implementation of the guidance on annotations provided in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*.

The Secretariat further reports on the initial requirements and feasibility for developing an information system for the purpose of processing data on the regulated international trade in CITES-listed species of tree species. The expected outputs of an information system would include an in-depth analysis of international trade in CITES-listed tree species for review by the Parties at each meeting of the CoP; a data-driven, interactive and graphic presentation of the results of this analysis, including images, charts and infographics; and the submission and publication of a tree-species trade report to the Conference of the Parties in both digital and printed formats.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) provide comments on the draft proposal for the establishment of an Annotations Periodic Review (APR) set out in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 82;
- b) consider submitting a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting to establish an Annotations Periodic Review and to amend Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II* to reflect this;
- c) provide comments on the initial considerations for the feasibility and requirements for developing an information system for trade in CITES-listed trees; and
- d) propose to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the partial renewal of Decision 18.317 and adoption of Decision 19.AA as follows:

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.317 (Rev. CoP19) *The Standing Committee shall explore the feasibility and requirements for developing an information system for the purpose of processing trade data associated with transactions in specimens of CITES-listed tree species authorized under the provisions of the Convention and submit any relevant recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall commission a study exploring the feasibility and requirements for developing an information system as proposed and provide its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee.*

83. Annotation #15: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 83

The Secretariat informs the Standing Committee that it has recently secured the necessary funding for the study to assess the effect on *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species in international trade of the exemptions contained in Annotation #15 for finished musical instruments, parts and accessories, and the conservation implications thereof, called for in Decision 18.321 and therefore proposes the renewal of Decisions 18.321 and 322.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the renewal of Decisions 18.321 and 18.322 on *Annotation #15* as follows:

18.321 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to available resources, undertake a study to assess the effect on *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species in international trade of the exemptions contained in annotation #15 for finished musical instruments, parts and accessories, and the conservation implications thereof;
- b) bring any scientific or technical issues to the attention of the Plants Committee and seek its advice; and
- c) report the results of its evaluation along with its recommendations to the Standing Committee.

18.322 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall in the context of its work on annotations under the relevant Decisions, consider any report by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.321 (Rev. CoP19), undertake additional evaluation if necessary and report to the ~~49th~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. If warranted, the Standing Committee may work with relevant Parties in preparing an amendment proposal for the ~~49th~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- b) undertake an additional evaluation if necessary and report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

84. Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids:
Report of the Plants Committee SC74 Doc. 84

The Plants Committee reports on its implementation of Decisions 18.327 to 330, noting that further research on potential conservation impact of exempting orchid products and derivatives (wild and artificially propagated) from CITES controls is needed and future areas of research could focus on food and medicinal plants, but the scope of the research should be appropriately narrowed. The Plants Committee recommended that future work on orchid annotations be undertaken in close collaboration with any Standing Committee discussions related to annotations. The Plants Committee further requested the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations to consider the proposal by Switzerland in the

context of its currently ongoing discussions and provide its observations/recommendations to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) agree that future work on orchid annotations be undertaken in close collaboration with any Standing Committee discussions related to annotations, as per the recommendation of the Plants Committee contained in paragraph 5, subparagraphs f) and g) of document SC74 Doc. 84 and outlined above;
- b) consider the following draft decisions and advise whether Decisions 18.327 to 18.330 on *Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids* can be considered completed:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) consult with Parties and stakeholders and undertake a study to compile an overview of Appendix-II orchid taxa that are particularly affected by wild harvest for international trade to inform the following assessments:
 - i) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting artificially propagated Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations, including as articulated in footnote annotation 10 of the CITES Appendices, including identification challenges and look-alike issues; and
 - ii) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting derivatives and/or finished products of certain Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations through amendments to annotation #4; and
- b) report to the Plants Committee.

19.BB Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall consider the study as per Decision 19.AA, and make recommendations on how to improve CITES implementation for Appendix-II listed orchids to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review any recommendations of the Plants Committee, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

- c) make recommendations to CoP19.

85. Guidance for the publication of the Appendices:

Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 85

The Secretariat presents a draft *Guidance for the publication of the Appendices*. Parties and stakeholders have been able to comment on several drafts of this guidance, through Notification to the Parties No. 2020/067 of 5 November 2020 and document SC73 Doc. 26 (Rev. 1). 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. The Secretariat 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 is invited to:

- a) provide any additional comment on the draft *Guidance for the publication of the Appendices* in the Annex to document SC74 Doc. 85 before its publication on the CITES website;

- b) in order to provide for the use and possible update of the *Guidance*, propose to the Conference of the Parties that the following sub-paragraph 4 f) be inserted in Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*:

f) to take account of the *Guidance for the publication of the Appendices*, as may be amended in consultation with the Standing Committee, when revising the Appendices after a meeting of the Conference of the Parties

- c) agree to refer the issues outlined in this document, *inter alia* the possibility of harmonizing references to “zero quotas” in the Appendices and 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*, to a mechanism for undertaking a periodic review of existing annotations, should it be established.

86. Reservations entered after the 18th meeting
of the Conference of the Parties: Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 86

The Secretariat addresses the issue of reservations entered after the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Geneva, 2019) and the practical legal questions that have arisen in relation to the update of references to Resolutions in the new Appendices that the Secretariat published after CoP18. It also explains the rationale of the Secretariat for doing so and addresses related communications from several Parties in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2019/052. These were published by the Secretariat in Notification to the Parties No. 2019/077 of 20 December 2019.

In order for the Parties and the Secretariat to be better prepared to manage similar issues that might arise in the future, the Secretariat intends to bring to the attention of the Conference of the Parties at CoP19 the matters explained above, that could be summarized as follows:

- a) avoiding inclusion of references to Resolutions and Decisions in the Appendices via their annotations: CoP19 to consider amending Resolution 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II* to reflect that;
- b) ensuring that definitions of terms used in the Appendices are not included in annotations but rather in the Interpretation section of the Appendices or any other appropriate location: CoP19 to consider amending Resolution 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) to this effect;
- c) in relation to updating references to Resolutions:
- i) clarifying what should be done with references to Resolutions in annotations when such Resolutions are amended at the CoP;
 - ii) clarifying any procedures to be followed for their updating if such updating is considered necessary; and
 - iii) amending, if appropriate, Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) to confirm or provide new guidance on the practice of updating Resolutions contained in substantive annotations.
- d) in relation to the communications made by several Parties in response to Notification to the Parties No.2019/052 of 3 October 2019: CoP19 to consider appropriate changes to Resolution Conf. 4.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Reservations* with the aim of:
- i) clarifying their legal nature and scope, in particular whether they are reservations; and
 - ii) clarifying their validity, permissibility and effects, if any.

The Secretariat would appreciate receiving any comments from the Standing Committee on the content of document SC74 Doc. 86, particularly on the questions identified, the legal principles invoked and the possible amendments to be considered. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to take note of the intention of the Secretariat to submit a document with recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting (CoP19).

Concluding items

87. 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.

88. Determination of the time and venue of the 75th and 76th meetings *No document*

The Standing Committee is invited noted that its 75th meeting would take place in Panama City, Panama, on 13 November 2022, and that its 76th meeting would be held immediately after the close of CoP19, on 25 November 2022.

89. Closing remarks *No document*

Following the remarks by Members of the Committee, observers representing Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the Secretary-General, the Chair will thank France for its warm welcome, all participants for their cooperation and will thanked the Secretariat, the interpreters and the Russian volunteers for their work, and will close the meeting.