

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



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

Administrative and financial matters

REPORT OF THE CHAIRS OF THE
ANIMALS AND PLANTS COMMITTEES

1. This document has been submitted by the Chairs of the Animals Committee and Plants Committee.*

Introduction

2. Activities carried out by the Animals and Plants Committees following the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Geneva, 2019) were reported to the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting (SC73, online, May 2021) in documents [SC73 Doc. 8.1](#) and [SC73 Doc. 8.2](#) respectively.
3. The 31st meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31) and the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC25), including two joint sessions of both Committees, took place in an online format between 31 May to 24 June 2021. Meeting documents, executive summaries and summary records of the meetings can be found on the CITES website. [AC](#) and [PC](#)
4. This report summarizes the outcomes of AC31 and PC25 as they concern the Standing Committee.

Outcomes from AC31 requiring inputs from Standing Committee

5. The issues discussed at AC31 that are relevant to the Standing Committee and subject of a separate agenda item for its current 74th meeting (SC74) are indicated in the table below. The reference document for each item is indicated in the second column. Other issues that need to be reported to the Standing Committee but are not the subject of a standalone agenda item for SC74 are detailed in the paragraphs below.

AC31 agenda item	SC74 Document
Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	SC74 Doc. 30.1
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
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
Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.)	SC74 Doc. 64.2
Precious corals (Order Scleractinia and family Scleractinidae)	SC74 Doc. 65
Marine turtles (<i>Cheloniidae</i> spp. and <i>Dermochelyidae</i> spp.)	SC74 Doc. 66.2

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

AC31 agenda item	SC74 Document
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
Quotas for leopard hunting trophies	SC74 Doc. 53

Nomenclature [Decisions 18.309 to 312 and Decision 17.312 (Rev. CoP18)]

6. Document AC31 Doc. 37 and its addendum provide an overview of the implementation of Decisions on nomenclature for fauna. The outcomes of the discussions are detailed in the summary record of AC31 and based on document AC31 Com. 4 and its Annex, the Committee adopted a number of recommendations, including the following:
 - i) The Committee requested its Chair to propose to the Chair of the Standing Committee that the Standing Committee's working group on electronic systems and information technologies be asked to consider within its existing mandate, the recording of species nomenclature changes in electronic CITES permit systems.
7. Following AC31, the Working Group on electronic systems and information technologies discussed the matter in its two virtual meetings in 2021 and reviewed the use by Parties of the API system that is available to update the species lists in a virtual manner. The various experiences and uses Parties have been making with this API system allowed the group to make recommendations to WCMC in order improve the current system (see document SC74 Doc. 41).

African elephant nomenclature

8. The Animals Committee considered whether African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) should be considered as one or two separate species (*L. africana* and *L. cyclotis*) and agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the following draft decisions:

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.

- 9. The Standing Committee is invited to review the proposed draft decisions in paragraph 8 and provide its comments to the Animals Committee before the decisions are submitted to the CoP for its consideration, as there are implications for the work of the Standing Committee post CoP19.

Listing of pangolins in the Appendices [Decision 18.315]

- 10. Document AC31 Doc. 38 contained a draft listing proposal to streamline the current listing of pangolins in the Appendices for consideration. Noting that the intersessional working group on zoological nomenclature had not been able to reach consensus on a way forward, with some members expressing concern about potential alterations of the scope and stability of the listing, it was suggested that further work be done on this issue in general after CoP19. The Animals Committee agreed to seek the views of the Standing Committee on the matter of benefits and impacts of higher taxon listings in the Appendices, taking into account document AC31 Doc. 38 with its Annex and its addendum, as well as the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), Annex 3, as part of its work on Guidance for publication of the Appendices, or another process.
- 11. The Standing Committee is invited to provide advice to the Animals Committee on the potential benefits and impacts of higher taxon listings in the Appendices, taking into account document AC31 Doc. 38 with its Annex and its addendum, as well as the provisions of Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II, as part of its work on Guidance for publication of the Appendices, or another process.

Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II

- 12. The AC chair reports on this to SC74 in compliance with paragraph 5 of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*, which “directs the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees to keep the Standing Committee informed about the conduct of periodic reviews, noting that Standing Committee approval is not required to initiate the process”;
- 13. The Animals Committee discussed periodic reviews of the following species undertaken by Mexico: *Cynomys mexicanum* (AC31 Doc. 41.2); *Terrapene coahuila* (AC31 Doc. 41.3) and *Aphopelma pallidum* (AC31 Doc. 41.4). Mexico recommended the transfer of *Cynomys mexicanum* from Appendix I to Appendix II, the retention of *Terrapene coahuila* in Appendix I, and the retention of *Aphopelma pallidum* in Appendix II. The Animals Committee supported these recommendations. The Animals Committee also discussed periodic reviews of the following species undertaken by the United States of America: *Branta canadensis leucopareria* (AC31 Doc. 41.5) and *Phoebastria albatrus* (AC31 Doc. 41.6). The United States of America recommended the transfer of *Branta canadensis leucopareria* and *Phoebastria albatrus* from Appendix I to Appendix II. The Animals Committee supported these recommendations.
- 14. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the update presented in paragraph 13.

Review of Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) on use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade

- 15. Resolution 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) on the “Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade” tasks the Animals Committee to monitor developments in microchip-implant technology and application techniques and to advise the Secretariat about such developments, for the information of the Parties. The

AC Chair was made aware by an expert that the official recommendations would need an update as the technologies and standards have changed significantly. Furthermore, there are several specific recommendations in Resolutions concerning the marking of specimens in trade (crocodiles, snakes or timber just to name a few). The AC Chair will therefore, in collaboration with the Secretariat, seek a mandate at CoP19 for the Secretariat and the Scientific Committees to consider this matter further.

16. The Standing Committee is invited to note the information presented in paragraph 15 above.

Outcomes from PC25 requiring inputs from Standing Committee

17. The issues discussed at PC25 that are relevant to the Standing Committee and subject of a separate agenda item for its current 74th meeting (SC74) are indicated in the table below. The reference document for each item is indicated in the second column. Other issues that need to be reported to the Standing Committee but are not the subject of a standalone agenda item for SC74 are detailed in the paragraphs below.

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
Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)] [Decision 18.236]	SC74 Doc. 72
Annotation #15	SC74 Doc. 83
Annotations for Appendix-II orchids	SC74 Doc. 84

Specimens grown from wild collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated [Decisions 18.179 to 18.181]

18. Document PC25 Doc. 23 by the Chair of the Plants Committee and its addendum (PC25 Doc. 23 Add.) outline progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.179 to 18.181. The Annex to document PC25 Doc. 23 Add. consists of a report commissioned by the Secretariat to UNEP-WCMC on this matter. The report is based on consultations with range States that registered nurseries of Appendix-I listed species that take a long time to reach reproductive age.

19. Based on the recommendations contained in relevant PC25 documentation, as well as on the recommendations of an in-session working group (see PC25 Com. 10), 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.
20. In accordance with Decision 18.181, the Standing Committee is invited to consider the recommendations of the Plants Committee made in accordance with Decisions 18.179 and 18.180, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at CoP19.

Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II

- 21. The PC chair reports on this to SC74 in compliance with paragraph 5 of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*, which “directs the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees to keep the Standing Committee informed about the conduct of periodic reviews, noting that Standing Committee approval is not required to initiate the process”;
- 22. The Plants Committee discussed periodic reviews of the following species undertaken by Mexico: *Ariocarpus retusus* (PC25 Doc. 39.2) and *Ceratozamia hildae* (PC25 Doc. 39.3). Mexico recommended the retention of both these species in Appendix I. The Plants Committee supported these recommendations.
- 23. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the update presented in paragraph 22 above.

Outcomes from AC31 and PC25 joint sessions requiring inputs from Standing Committee

CITES Strategic Vision [Decision 18.25]

- 24. Document AC31 Doc. 8/PC25 Doc. 9 contains a mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision’s objectives against valid CITES Resolutions and Decisions in Annex 1 and a list of reporting requirements in Annex 2. The document also provides an overview of the process used and the results of the mapping exercise.
- 25. The Committees endorsed the mapping of the *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030* objectives against the CITES Resolutions and Decisions, as presented in Annex 1 to document AC31 Doc. 8/ PC25 Doc. 9 with the addition of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual* and Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* under objectives 2.2 and 2.3, and in particular the placement of the species-specific Resolutions and Decisions under objective 2.5 and objective 3.5. The Committees requested the Secretariat to submit Annex 1 as revised above and Annex 2 to document AC31 Doc. 8/PC25 Doc. 9 to the Standing Committee for its consideration at its 74th meeting (see document SC74 Doc. 17.2).

Capacity-building [Decision 18.40]

- 26. Document AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc. 11 provides an overview of the implementation of the Decisions on capacity-building and updates on the Master’s course on Management and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework; the CITES website; the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP); and the work of the Standing Committee’s intersessional working group on capacity-building, where the Animals and Plants Committees are represented by four members. The addendum by the Secretariat presents an analysis of the information collected in support of the implementation of Decision 18.46, which includes information from other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their capacity-building efforts, the responses to the questionnaire in Notification to the Parties No. 2020/027, and information on capacity-building needs provided by Parties.
- 27. 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.

28. The Committees invite the Standing Committee to consider the views of the Animals and Plants Committees in its discussions through the continued participation of their four representatives in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on capacity-building (see document SC74 Doc. 22).

Countrywide Significant Trade Reviews [Decision 18.72]

29. Decision 18.71, paragraph c), envisaged that the Secretariat would prepare a report on its findings and recommendations, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees at their 32nd and 26th meetings respectively, and subsequently for the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting. However, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, there was only be a single meeting of the Animals and Plants Committee during the current intersessional period. The progress updates on the CAP and capacity-building activities through the SC working group on capacity-building would only take place at SC74, which would take place after AC31 and PC25.
30. At the joint meeting of AC31 and PC25, document AC31 Doc. 13.5/PC25 Doc. 15.6 presented parallels between the work on country-wide Significant Trade Reviews, capacity-building (Decisions 18.38 to 18.46) and the Compliance Assistance Programme (Decisions 18.68 to 18.70)
31. The Animals and Plants Committees considered it was premature for them to evaluate whether or not the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar can be addressed through the CAP, or whether a new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties in relation to RST at a national level.
32. The Animals and Plants Committees agreed to request that the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees consult their Members and the leads on Decision 18.72 as per their respective workplans (AC31 Doc. 7.2 and PC25 Doc. 7.2) represent the views of the Committees on these issues through the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on capacity-building and at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and to work with the Secretariat to develop recommendations on country-wide Significant Trade Reviews and present the outcomes of this work to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source [Decisions 18.172 and 18.173]

33. Document AC31 Doc. 19.3/PC25 Doc. 21 provides an overview of work implemented under Decision 18.172 and the ongoing work by the intersessional working group of the Standing Committee under Decision 18.173. Implementation of "Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source" is ongoing through an intersessional working group of the Standing Committee and will be brought to the attention of the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, when the working group concludes its work.
34. The Animals and Plants Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 19.3/PC25 Doc. 21 and agreed to propose to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting the extension of Decision 18.172 for further work beyond the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see document SC74 Doc. 56).

Specimens produced through biotechnology [Decision 18.148]

35. Document AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc. 20 presents the study "Wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA" in its Annex. Work on specimens produced through biotechnology is ongoing through an intersessional working group of the Standing Committee and any matters that require scientific advice will be brought to the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, when the working group concludes its work.
36. The Animals and Plants Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc. 20 and agreed that the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committee, in consultation with their members, would represent the views of the scientific committees at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and provide input to the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on specimens produced through biotechnology (see document SC74 Doc. 49).

Identification materials [Decision 18.137]

37. The report of the Animals and Plants Committee on identification materials is presented as a separate agenda item (see document SC74 Doc. 46).

Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings [Decision 18.313]

38. Document AC31 Doc 39/PC25 Doc. 33 and its addendum present an outline of the scope of the problem with regard to nomenclatural changes to species listed in Appendix III. Further deliberations on this complex topic were considered necessary, including close engagement with the Standing Committee and the Secretariat to further define the scope and focus of the documentation to be prepared for the Standing Committee by the Plants and Animals Committees.
39. As deliberations will likely need to continue after the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 18.313 and 18.314 to the Standing Committee as follows:

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.

40. The Standing Committee is invited to review the draft decisions in the paragraph above. and consider submitting them for consideration at CoP19.

Recommendations

41. Concerning matters referred from the AC31, the Standing Committee is invited to:
- note the information in paragraphs 5 to 16 above concerning matters relating to fauna;
 - review the proposed draft decisions in paragraph 8 and provide its comments to the Animals Committee before the draft decisions are submitted to the CoP for its consideration; and;
 - provide guidance on the matter of benefits and impacts of higher taxon listings in the Appendices, as outlined in paragraph 10, 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.
42. Concerning matters referred from PC25, the Standing Committee is invited to:
- note the information in paragraphs 17 to 23 above concerning matters relating to flora; and
 - consider the recommendations of the Plants Committee made in accordance with Decisions 18.179 and 18.180, as presented in paragraph 19 and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at CoP19.
43. Concerning matters referred jointly from AC31 and PC25, the Standing Committee is invited to:
- note the information in paragraphs 24 to 40 above concerning matters relating to fauna and flora; and
 - review the draft decisions presented in paragraph 39 and consider submitting them to CoP19.