

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

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

Strategic matters

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM  
ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

1. This document has been submitted by the Chairs of the Standing Committee, Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation the Secretariat.\*
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 18.4 on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, which *inter alia* instructed the Standing Committee, working with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to:
  - a) *ensure that there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES, as well as a contributor to IPBES;*
  - b) *ensure that communication between CITES and IPBES is effective;*
  - c) *promote the needs of national Scientific and Management Authorities in the work of IPBES to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings, and related trade resolutions and decisions;*
  - d) *ensure that CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines; and*
  - e) *ensure that any inputs are conveyed to IPBES, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee;*
3. In its paragraph 4, the Resolution further instructed the Standing Committee to report at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.
4. On 28 September 2020, the Standing Committee agreed by correspondence that the Chairs of the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees would maintain oversight of intersessional opportunities to submit comments to IPBES. In view of the need for the Standing Committee to approve its report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19), required under paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 18.4, the Chairs have worked together to prepare a draft of the report for the consideration of the Committee. This draft report

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is found in the Annex to the present document. For completeness, information from the Secretariat pertinent to relations with IPBES has also been included.

5. As described in the Annex to the present document, the adoption of an IPBES Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species is expected to be an event of significance for CITES. The adoption is expected to occur at the 9th meeting of the IPBES Plenary, scheduled for 3-9 July 2022. The Chair of the Animals Committee has been approached to see if CITES would wish to be involved at the launch of the report. The intention would be not to comment on the report itself, but to highlight its relevance to the implementation of the Convention and offer to engage with IPBES further on the follow-up to it.
6. 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 the present document to CoP19, including the draft decisions to consider the results of the thematic assessment and provide recommendations.

Draft report of the Standing Committee to CoP19 on its work  
under Resolution Conf. 18.4 on Cooperation with the Intergovernmental  
Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee in consultation with the Secretariat.\*
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 18.4 on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES), which *inter alia* instructed the Standing Committee, working with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to:
  - a) *ensure that there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES, as well as a contributor to IPBES;*
  - b) *ensure that communication between CITES and IPBES is effective;*
  - c) *promote the needs of national Scientific and Management Authorities in the work of IPBES to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings, and related trade resolutions and decisions;*
  - d) *ensure that CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines; and*
  - e) *ensure that any inputs are conveyed to IPBES, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee;*
3. The Resolution further instructed the Standing Committee to report at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work. This report therefore covers developments since CoP18 when the Committee and the Secretariat reported on work with IPBES under Decision 16.14 (Rev. CoP17) and Decision 16.16 (Rev. CoP17) respectively in document [CoP18 Doc. 15.4](#).
4. The Memorandum of Cooperation which the Secretariat signed with the Secretariat of IPBES to strengthen linkages between the two bodies expired at the end of 2019 and consequently a [first modification](#) to the Memorandum of Cooperation was signed on 25 November 2019. The modification makes reference to IPBES' rolling work programme up to 2030 and the adoption of CITES Resolution Conf. 18.4 and amends the Memorandum of Cooperation so that it remains effective until 31 December 2030.
5. At the request of the IPBES Secretariat, the Secretariat provided a resource person for a workshop on biodiversity and pandemics which it convened online from 27-31 July 2020. The Secretariat also issued Notification to the Parties No. 2020/060 on 5 October 2020 drawing attention of Parties to the opportunity to review the draft report of the workshop. The report of the workshop can be found [here](#). The Secretariat also joined a meeting on the scoping process for an IPBES methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people ("business and biodiversity assessment") in March 2021.
6. The Secretariat issued a number of Notifications to the Parties encouraging their engagement in IPBES processes:
  - a) No. 2019/048 on the external review for the first order draft of the chapters of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species

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- b) No. 2020/063 on the opportunity to nominate experts to participate in IPBES' workshop on modelling Nature Futures scenarios.
  - c) No. 2020/060 inviting comments on the draft report of the IPBES workshop on biodiversity and pandemics; and
  - d) No 2021/036 on the external review of the second order draft of the chapters and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species.
7. Concerning IPBES meetings, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committee were invited to participate as observers at the 14th (January 2020), 15th (September 2020), 16th (February 2021) and 17th (October 2021) meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of IPBES. They participated for items relative to CITES and gave updates on CITES activities. They reported on these activities at the joint sessions of the Committees (AC31 and PC25) in June 2021. The Secretariat was a registered participant at the eighth IPBES plenary session held online between 14 and 24 June 2021 and attended as an observer to keep abreast of developments of relevance to CITES. The 9th meeting of the IPBES Plenary is scheduled to take place from 3-9 July 2022 and, subject to external funding if the meeting is held face-to-face. The Secretariat will participate.
  8. As detailed in document CoP18 Doc. 15.4, the IPBES activity of principle relevance to CITES at present is the Thematic Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species. The terms of reference (scoping report) for the assessment can be found in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 15.4. The assessment considered various approaches to the enhancement of the sustainability of the use of wild species and to strengthen related practices, measures, capacities and tools for their conservation through such use. The overall aim was to identify challenges and opportunities to establish or strengthen measures and conditions that ensure and promote the sustainable use of wild species.
  9. A first order draft of the chapters of the assessment were made available for external review from 27 August to 20 October 2019. As mentioned in paragraph 6, the Secretariat issued a Notification to the Parties on 6 September 2019 inviting Parties to contribute to this review, with special attention to issues of interest to CITES. Further, in line with paragraph 3 e) of Resolution Conf. 18.4, the Secretariat conveyed comments on the first order draft of the chapters to IPBES with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee and are shown in Annexes 1 and 2 of document [AC31 Inf. 4/PC25 Inf. 5](#).
  10. A second order draft of the chapters and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers of the assessment was released for external review in April 2021. As mentioned in paragraph 6, the Secretariat issued a Notification to the Parties drawing attention to this external review.
  11. The review period coincided with the AC31 and PC25 and the fact that drafts of the assessment are treated as confidential and cannot be shared with others who have not registered and been accepted as reviewers meant that drafting comments from CITES collectively was difficult. In the circumstances, the Committee Chairs agreed that the Secretariat should prepare comments to address the accuracy of the specific references to the Convention, rather than the report as a whole. These draft comments were shared with the three Chairs and approved for submission by the Chair of the Standing Committee on 9 June 2021.
  12. The final report on the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species is expected to be submitted to the Ninth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services scheduled for 3-9 July 2022. As this is after the submission for documents for the present meeting, the Standing Committee will report orally on this matter
  13. The IPBES thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species is likely to contain many references to CITES and will be of relevance to the implementation of the Convention. Consequently, the Standing Committee proposes that the Conference of the Parties adopts the self-explanatory draft decisions in the Annex to the present document.

**19.AA *Directed to the Animals and Plants Committee***

The Animals and Plants Committee shall review the scientific aspects of the IPBES thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species; consider their relevance to the implementation of the Convention; and provide the results of their review and any associated recommendations to Standing Committee.

**19.BB *Directed to the Standing Committee***

The Standing Committee shall consider the review of the IPBES thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species and associated recommendations prepared by the Animals and Plants Committees; make additional recommendations as appropriate; and submit the resulting conclusions and recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.