

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

SUMMARY

THURSDAY 10 MARCH
MORNING

Adoption of Executive Summaries

The executive summary of the first session in document SC74 Sum. 1 was adopted.

The executive summary of the second session in document SC74 Sum. 2 was adopted with the following amendment:

- Under agenda item 15, in the fourth line, replace “a resolution on CITES and forests” with “any resolution on CITES and forests”; and
- Under agenda item 15, in the fifth line, insert “on behalf of the North American region” after “Canada”.

The executive summary of the third session in document SC74 Sum. 3 was adopted with the following amendment:

- Under agenda item 6, draft decision 19.BB on higher taxon listings should be directed to the Standing Committee.

64. Eels (*Anguilla anguilla*)

64.1 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 64.1

and

64.2 Report of the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 64.2

The Committee invited 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 on illegal trade for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 75th meeting.

The Committee agreed to submit to CoP19 the following amended draft decisions:

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

- a) consider the report prepared by the Secretariat and any other available information relating to illegal trade in European eel and make recommendations as appropriate;
- b) review any advice and recommendations coming from the Animals Committee concerning Decision 19.CC and make recommendations as appropriate; and
- c) with the assistance of the Secretariat, engage with the World Customs Organization to examine the feasibility of harmonizing customs codes relevant to trade in all *Anguilla* species and report to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

70. Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.)

70.1 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 70.1

and

70.2 Report of the Animals Committee SC74 Doc. 70.2

The Committee noted document SC74 Doc. 70.1. and SC74 Doc. 70.2 and agreed to submit to CoP19 the following draft decisions:

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.

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

The Committee:

- a) noted the information contained in document SC74 Doc. 79;
- b) reminded 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; and
- c) directed the Secretariat to submit to CoP19 those elements of Decisions 18.275 to 18.280 on queen conch that have not yet been implemented.

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

The Committee agreed to submit to CoP19 the recommendations in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the Annex 2 to document AC31 Doc. 23 Addendum in its report to CoP19.

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

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

and

80.1 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 80.1

The Committee noted documents SC74 Doc. 80.1 and SC74 Doc. 80.2.

The Committee:

- a) welcomed the work undertaken and initiatives ongoing in Madagascar to respond to and address wildlife crime, including illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles;
- b) noted the ongoing nature of poaching and trafficking in tortoises and freshwater turtles affecting Madagascar, and encouraged 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) requested 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) agreed that Decisions 18.286 and 18.287 have been implemented.

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

and

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

The Committee voted on a motion to accept the 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*, taking into account the commitments made by Mexico. The motion was approved by 9 votes in favor and 5 against, with one abstention.

The Committee requested Mexico to include information on the activities of the registered facility in its next report to the Secretariat under Decision 18.293.

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

The Committee noted document SC74 Doc. 59.2 and further noted that Uzbekistan will provide further information to respond to the concerns raised in the document.

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

The Committee encouraged 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. The Committee requested the Secretariat to invite the Animals Committee to review the app and provide feedback.

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

The Committee agreed to submit to CoP19 the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity* in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 56.

The Committee requested Canada to submit as an in-session document its proposed edits to draft decisions 19.AA and 19.BB in paragraph 11 of document SC74 Doc. 56.

The Committee agreed that it will consider this issue later in the meeting.

49. Specimens produced through biotechnology: Report of the working group..... SC74 Doc. 49

The Committee agreed to submit to CoP19 the following amendment to Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives*:

2. *RECOMMENDS that:*

- a) *Parties consider all products of ranching operations to be readily recognizable; and*
- b) *Parties consider all specimens produced through biotechnology that meet the criteria in paragraph 1 to be readily recognisable unless specifically exempted from the provisions of the Convention; and*

The Committee requested the Secretariat to work with the Standing Committee Chair to draft new decisions to submit to CoP19 in order to continue this work, taking into account the proposal in paragraph 13 of document SC74 Doc. 49, the issues addressed in paragraphs 14 and 15, the need for general guidance and the need to identify which issue, if any would warrant further discussion.

20. Engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities

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

and

20.2 Report of the Secretariat SC74 Doc. 20.2

The Committee requested the Secretariat to work with the Standing Committee to propose to CoP19 the renewal of Decisions 17.57 (Rev. CoP18), 18.31 and 18.32.