

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3 - 8 February 2025

ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat in relation to all the agenda items.
2. This annotated agenda indicates the paragraph number of each document where the recommendations can be found. It is a compilation of all the recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.
3. In order to provide an accurate overview of the draft decisions, draft resolutions and revisions to Resolutions that will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties, the full text of the draft decisions and resolutions is included. Where the recommendations cross-refer to paragraphs in the document, those cross-referenced paragraphs are inserted for ease of reference.

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1. Agenda - SC78 Doc. 1

The Committee will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in document SC78 Doc. 1.

2. Working programme - SC78 Doc. 2

The Committee will be invited to adopt its working programme as set out in document SC78 Doc. 2.

3. Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee - SC78 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 SC78 Doc. 3 remain valid for each of its meetings.

4. Credentials - *No document*

The Secretariat will provide an update on the number of credentials received, in particular from Members of the Standing Committee, noting that only Members having submitted credentials can vote.

The Committee will be invited to note the oral report of the Secretariat.

5. Admission of observers - SC78 Doc. 5

The Committee will be invited to note the list of observer organizations attending the meeting as set out in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 5.

6. Report of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees - SC78 Doc. 6

Recommendations in paragraph 92:

92. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the recommendations adopted by the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee on the items discussed in document SC78 Doc. 6 as contained in the summary records of the meetings ([PC27 SR](#) and [AC33 SR](#));
- b) request the Secretariat to, in consultation with the Chairs of the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee to revise the text, if required, on the CITES complementary actions presented in draft revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* agreed by the Plants Committee and contained in Section A) in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 6;
- c) regarding the *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'*, note the matters in paragraph 46 raised by the representatives of Oceania, Australia and Germany relating to transit / re-exports, the need for consultation with the Management and Scientific Authorities of exporting countries and on the possible need for clarification of the footnote in paragraph 1 in relation to provisions in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Resolution Conf.11.20 (Rev. CoP18);

46. The representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), Australia and Germany raised several questions that may not be accurately covered in the guidance. Does 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' requirements apply to transit countries for quarantine purposes? Shouldn't the guidance also encourage the importing Parties to ask for support, views and advice from the Management and Scientific Authorities of exporting Parties? Does the guidance also apply to re-exports, especially in cases where both exporter and importer are non-range States? Does the footnote in paragraph 1 of the Resolution also apply to paragraph 2?

- d) regarding *Aquatic species listed in the CITES Appendices* consider the report of the workshop (see information document [AC33 Inf. 13](#)), note the recommendations in paragraph 51 a) and b) and agree that Decisions 19.189 to 19.191 have been implemented and can be deleted;

51. The Animals Committee agreed to the following recommendations in paragraph 10 a) through c) of document AC33 Doc. 30:

- a) The Animals Committee noted the background document prepared by the Secretariat *Variability of life history parameters and productivity in elasmobranchs and other commercially exploited aquatic species*.
- b) The Animals Committee invited the Secretariat to consider including information on the application of footnote 2 to commercially exploited aquatic species when developing general capacity-building materials on Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*.

- e) note the draft decisions and amendments to resolutions that the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee agreed to submit for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties contained in Annexes 1 and 2 to document SC78 Doc. 6:

Item under consideration	
<i>Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)] (Decision 19.245)</i>	i. new draft decisions in section D) of Annex 1;
<i>Conservation of amphibians (Amphibia spp.) (Decision 19.199)</i>	ii. new draft decisions in section D) of Annex 2;
<i>Queen conch (Strombus gigas) (Decision 19.236)</i>	iii. renewal of Decisions 19.233 to 19.236 on <i>Queen conch (Strombus gigas)</i> ;
<i>Periodic review of the Appendices (Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19)) – flora and fauna</i>	iv. deletion of criterion D in paragraph 3 b) ii) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II</i> ; and

<i>Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) (Decision 19.133)</i>	v. new draft decisions in Section B) of Annex 2.
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- f) review and submit the draft decisions and amendments to resolutions proposed by the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee, referred to in the table below and contained in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 to document SC78 Doc. 6, for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

Item under consideration	Proposed recommendation to the Standing Committee
<i>Identification of timber and other wood products (Decision 19.148)</i>	i. new and revised draft decisions in section B) of Annex 1;
<i>Agarwood-producing taxa (Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.) (Decision 19.240)</i>	ii. proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on <i>Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa</i> in Section C) of Annex 1;
<i>Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (Decision 19.25)</i>	iii. proposed amendment to paragraph 1 b) of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on <i>Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)</i> in Section A) i. of Annex 2; iv. new draft decisions in Section A) ii. of Annex 2;
<i>African lions (Panthera leo) (Decision 19.207)</i>	v. draft revised decisions in Section B) of Annex 2;
<i>Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' (Decision 19.166)</i>	vi. renewal of Decisions 19.164 to 19.166 on <i>Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'</i> ;
<i>West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.) (Decision 19.196)</i>	vii. draft revised decisions in in Section C) of Annex 2;
<i>Review of Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) on Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade</i>	viii. new draft decisions in section E) of Annex 2; and
<i>Countrywide Significant Trade Reviews (Decision 18.72)</i>	ix. new draft decisions in Section A) of Annex 3;

- g) agree that the following Decisions directed to the Standing Committee relating to the items in document SC78 Doc. 6 have been implemented and can be deleted:
- i) Decision 19.240 on *Agarwood-producing taxa (Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.)*;
 - ii) Decision 19.245 on *Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]*
 - iii) Decision 19.256 on *African tree species*
 - iv) Decision 19.260 on *Neotropical tree species*
 - v) Decision 18.258 (Rev.CoP19) on *Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes spp.)*

Text of the recommendations:

Due to the length of the draft decisions and resolutions to be considered, the Secretariat is including Annexes 1, 2 and 3 to document SC78 Doc. 6 at the end of this annotated agenda.

7. Financial matters (*Resolutions Conf. 19.1 and 18.2*) - SC78 Doc. 7

Recommendations in paragraph 17:

17. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) approve the reports on the costed programme of work for the full year of 2023 and for the period up to 30 September 2024;
- b) approve the request to transfer the amount of USD 40,500 budgeted for year 2024 (under Standing Committee - conference staff - interpretation) to year 2025 to cover the actual SC78 meeting in February 2025; and
- c) take note of other information provided in the report.

8. Report on proposed budget scenarios for 2026-2028 - SC78 Doc. 8

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider this report; and
- b) provide feedback to the Secretariat on the proposed budget scenarios and the preparation for the budgetary discussions during the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2025.

9. Administrative matters

9.1 Report of the Secretariat - SC78 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1)

Recommendations in paragraph 92:

19. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of this report on administrative matters.

9.2 Report of the United Nations Environment Programme on administrative matters - SC78 Doc. 9.2

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of document SC79 Doc. 9.2.

10. Emerging operational matters of the committees (*Decision 19.3*) - SC78 Doc. 10

Recommendations in paragraph 24:

24. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) request the Secretariat to continue using the risk matrix for convening CITES meetings contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 10;
- b) agree that online Committee meetings be organized based on the following modalities:
 - i) The length of the meeting will be two to three times longer than an in-person meeting, i.e., over two to three weeks, with one three-hour session every day. The Secretariat will aim to ensure that the timing of any online or hybrid meeting be equitable for all regions.
 - ii) The plenary would break for two to three weeks in order to organize, hold and conclude the work of possible in-session working groups.
- c) agree to use the *Guidance on the application of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee in an online or hybrid meeting* as amended in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 10 when exceptional circumstances warrant the organization of an online or hybrid meeting and request the Secretariat to publish it on the CITES website;
- d) submit to the Conference of the Parties the amendments to Resolution Conf. 18.2 on *Establishment of Committees* as collated in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 10;
- e) agree that Decisions 19.1 to 19.3 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion; and
- f) consider the proposal for an intersessional decision-making procedure for the organization of intersessional work as outlined in paragraphs 9 and 10 and request the Secretariat to develop a proposal for amending Rule 20 of its Rules of procedure taking into account the comments made at the present meeting for its consideration at its 81st meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
RESOLUTION CONF. 18.2 ON *ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES*
(new text is underlined; additional text following SC77 is shown as double underline)

Regarding exceptional circumstances

9. DECIDES that:

- a) should a meeting of a Committee be postponed due to circumstances that are either global or at the location of the meeting preventing its organization, the postponed meeting should take place no later than six months after its original date. If no alternative location is found within two months of its original date, the meeting is to be organized fully online (possibly with an adapted agenda and working programme and ensuring an equitable timing for all regions);
- b) should exceptional circumstances prevent Committee Members from several regions from being present in person at a meeting and thereby affecting the quorum, the meeting of that Committee should be held in a hybrid format. The scientific committees' Members who are unable to travel to the location of the meeting would be connected online. The Standing Committee Members who are unable to travel to the location of the meeting and who do not have a diplomatic representation available at the location of the meeting would be connected online; and

Annex 1 Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties

13. During meetings of the Committee, if so requested by the Management Authority of a Party of its region not present at the meeting, a regional Member may read a short statement presenting concise information on their behalf when a specific agenda item directly affects the absent Party. In exceptional circumstances, when an observer Party directly affected by compliance procedures cannot ensure in-person participation,

~~its remote participation could be considered~~ **the observer Party can request the Secretariat to arrange for their remote participation** when the agenda item is discussed as an opportunity to present additional information and answer questions from the Committee. However, decision-making by the Committee should not be delayed due to technical problems preventing affected Parties from making online statements.

Annex 2 Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees of the Conference of the Parties

Functions

2. The Animals and Plants Committee shall, in accordance with instructions from and authority delegated by the Conference of the Parties in its resolutions and decisions:

[...]

- h) during meetings of the Committee, if so requested by the Management or Scientific Authority of a Party of its region not present at the meeting, the Member may read a short statement presenting concise information on their behalf when a specific agenda item directly affects the absent Party; In exceptional circumstances, when an observer Party directly affected by compliance procedures cannot ensure in-person participation, ~~its remote participation could be considered~~ **the observer Party can request the Secretariat to arrange for their remote participation** when the agenda item is discussed as an opportunity to present additional information and answer questions from the Committee. However, decision-making by the Committee should not be delayed due to technical problems preventing affected Parties from making online statements.

11. Access to funding (*Decision 19.9*) - SC78 Doc. 11

Recommendations in paragraph 91:

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the update provided by the Secretariat on access to funding;
- b) propose to incorporate Decisions 18.4, and Decisions 19.4 through 19.7 in Resolution 19.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium* contained in Annex to document SC78 Doc. 11 for consideration by the Conference of Parties at its 20th meeting (CoP20); and
- c) agree that, with the amendments to Resolution 19.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium*, Decisions 18.4, and Decisions 19.4 through 19.7 can be proposed for deletion.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 19.1 ON
*FINANCING AND THE COSTED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECRETARIAT
FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2023-2025*

(new text is underlined)

After paragraph 19, insert the following new paragraphs:

- X. INVITES Parties to provide non-reimbursable loan of personnel services to the CITES Secretariat, noting that the salary and administrative fee of non-reimbursable loan personnel shall be covered by the Party, with such personnel remaining under the administrative authority of the sending Party. Non-reimbursable loan personnel shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the mandate of the CITES Secretariat;
- X. ENCOURAGES Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities to provide financial or technical assistance for ensuring the effective implementation of the Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. In providing financial assistance, consideration shall be made for 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;
- X. REQUESTS the Secretariat to:
 - a) continue to participate in the Program Steering Committee of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Programme and other GEF mechanisms as appropriate, to ensure that GEF projects under the program are, as far as possible, aligned with CITES Resolutions and Decisions 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 as appropriate;

12. Arrangements for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (*Resolution Conf. 19.1*)

12.1 Preparations for CoP20 - No document

The Standing Committee is invited to note the progress made by Uzbekistan in the preparations for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

12.2 Draft provisional agenda - SC78 Doc. 12.2

Recommendations in paragraph 5:

5. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) provide its comments on the draft provisional agenda in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 12.2; and
 - b) approve that document, with any amendments made during the present meeting, as the basis for the preparation of the provisional agenda for CoP20.

12.3 Draft provisional working programme - SC78 Doc. 12.3

Recommendations in paragraph 7:

7. The Standing Committee is invited to approve the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 12.3, with any amendments made during the present meeting, as the basis for the preparation of the provisional working programme for CoP20.

12.4 Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties [*Decision 18.1 (Rev. CoP19)*] - SC78 Doc. 12.4

Recommendations in paragraph 24:

24. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) take note of the progress made in implementation of Decision 18.1 (Rev. CoP19);
 - b) provide any advice or comments on the document or process;
 - c) consider proposing to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties amendment to Rule 25.6 presented in paragraph 22; and

If two or more proposals including proposals amended in accordance with Rule 24, paragraph 2 or 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 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 restrictive effect on the trade and then on the proposal with the next least restrictive effect on the trade, and so on until all proposals have been submitted to decision. **If any proposal to reduce the restrictive effect on the trade in the taxon is adopted, then no further decision will be made on proposals to add restrictions on the same trade for the same taxon. After this stepwise process, if more than one proposal is adopted to add restrictions for the same taxon, then the last proposal adopted will be the decision of the Conference for the taxon. When however if, in relation to the same taxon, 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 other taxon remaining in the latter proposal. Nothing in the procedure stipulated in this paragraph is intended to affect the procedure in the other paragraphs of Rule 25.**

*** E.g., if the effect of one proposal is to reduce the restrictive effect on the trade and the effect of another proposal is to increase the restrictive effect on the same trade for the same taxon, then adoption of one necessarily implies rejection of the other for the taxon.**

A clean version of the proposed new Rule 25.6 follows:

If two or more proposals including proposals amended in accordance with Rule 24, paragraph 2 or 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 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 restrictive effect on the trade and then on the proposal with the next least restrictive effect on the trade, and so on until all proposals have been submitted to decision. If any proposal to reduce the restrictive effect on the trade in the taxon is adopted, then no further decision will be made on proposals to add restrictions on the same trade for the same taxon. After this stepwise process, if more than one proposal is adopted to add restrictions for the same taxon, then the last proposal adopted will be the decision of the Conference for the taxon. If, in relation to the same taxon, the adoption of one proposal necessarily implies the rejection of another proposal,* the latter proposal shall nevertheless be submitted to decision in relation to any other taxon remaining in the latter proposal. Nothing in the procedure stipulated in this paragraph is intended to affect the procedure in the other paragraphs of Rule 25.

* E.g., if the effect of one proposal is to reduce the restrictive effect on the trade and the effect of another proposal is to increase the restrictive effect on the same trade for the same taxon, then adoption of one necessarily implies rejection of the other for the taxon.

- d) request the Secretariat to prepare detailed reference material and guiding examples for the benefit of future Chairs and the Parties as described in paragraph 23.

23. The WG agreed that the reports from this and the previous working group provide explanatory examples that can be used by the Secretariat to develop detailed reference material and guiding examples for the benefit of the future Chairs and the Parties.

12.5 Selection of nominees for Committee Chairs - No document

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

12.6 Sponsored delegates project and CoP20 sponsored delegates (Decision 18.12) - SC78 Doc. 12.6

Recommendations in paragraph 12:

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:
- a) take note of the update provided by the Secretariat on the Sponsored Delegates Project;
 - b) propose to the CoP20 to incorporate Decision 18.12, paragraph a) and Decision 19.10, paragraph a) in Resolution Conf. 17.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Sponsored Delegates Project* as contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 12.6; and
 - c) agree that, with the amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.3 (Rev. CoP19), Decisions 18.12 and Decision 19.10 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the CoP20.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 17.3 (REV. COP19) ON *SPONSORED DELEGATES PROJECT*

- a) Insert the following paragraph after the sixth preambular paragraph:

NOTING that the Secretariat prioritizes its support for developing country Parties based on the following criteria:

- the Human Development Index (HDI) ranking of a Party for the given year,
- the status as a Least Developed Country (LDC) and/or Small Island Developing States (SIDS),
- the number of delegates present at the previous Conference of the Parties (CoP),
- the Standing Committee membership,
- Parties that are subject to compliance processes,
- Parties that submitted working documents or (co-) proposals for amendments for the upcoming CoP,
- Parties that recently joined the Convention, and
- categories determined by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD DAC), if specified by donor Parties as a condition.

b) Insert the following paragraph after the eighth operative paragraph, as follows:

8bis.ENCOURAGES Parties from developing countries that are subject to an Article-XIII process to request financial support for the participation of a maximum of two delegates in meetings of the Standing Committee and of the Conference of the Parties;

c) Insert the following paragraph after the tenth operative paragraph, as follows:

10bis REQUESTS the Secretariat to apply clear selection criteria, taking into account the various possible options for the selection criteria and additional ways to prioritize beneficiary Parties, including the guidelines of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC) and the prioritization of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries;

13. Arrangements for meetings of the Conference of the Parties (*Resolution Conf. 19.1*) - SC78 Doc. 13

Recommendations in paragraph 17:

17. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) acknowledge with appreciation Panama's offer to host CoP21;
- b) request the Secretariat to include a new budget line in the operational budget under the CITES Core Trust Fund (CTL) for the triennium 2026-2028; and
- c) review and submit to the Conference of the Parties draft decisions 20.AA to 20.CC on *Arrangements for meetings of the Conference of the Parties* contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 13.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES*

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are encouraged to consider hosting future meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as in providing financial and in-kind support to the logistical organization of the meeting hosted by other Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.BB The Standing Committee shall:

- a) request its Finance and Budget Subcommittee to continue the consideration of improved financial preparedness for the future meetings of the Conference of the Parties; and
- b) provide inputs to the Secretariat on the guidance and additional information and tools described in Decision 20.CC, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC With inputs from the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall:

- a) prepare a guidance on raising funds in support of the logistical organization of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties and on reducing costs of the organization of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in cases when an offer from a potential host country is not forthcoming;
- b) in implementing of paragraph a) above, take into consideration procedural elements including timelines and required documents for receiving proposals from potential host countries, as well as the roles of the Standing Committee Members in advising and assisting the interested Parties;
- c) prepare additional information and tools that would support the guidance to ensure preparedness and transparency in the process of the logistical organization of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) submit them for the consideration and approval of the Conference of the Parties.

14. CITES Strategic Vision (*Decisions 19.13 and 19.14*) - SC78 Doc. 14

Recommendations in paragraph 22:

22. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) in order to ensure the long-term contribution of CITES to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework, review and submit to the Conference of the Parties the amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.4 on *Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions* contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 14;
- b) review the areas of alignment between the *CITES Strategic Vision* and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework as contained in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 14 and request the Secretariat to publish this mapping on the CITES website;
- c) request the Secretariat to monitor the development of additional indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and bring to the attention of the Standing Committee any indicator that could be relevant for the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030*;
- d) consider the merit or not of continuing work on an additional indicator for objective 1.4 and therefore propose to renew or delete Decision 19.14 to the Conference of the Parties;
- e) review and submit to the Conference of the Parties the amendments to Resolution Conf. 18.3 on *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* contained in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 14; and
- f) agree that Decisions 19.11 to 19.13 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 16.4 ON
COOPERATION OF CITES WITH OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

(new edits compared to document SC77 Doc. 16 are shown in grey)

RECOGNIZING the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2012*, developed and adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its 40th 15th meeting in Nageya, Japan/Montreal, Canada;

STRESSING that effective implementation of CITES is needed to support the implementation of [United States of America] the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework* [United States of America] *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2012* and to achieve the Aichi targets;

UNDERLINING the commitment of the Convention CITES [United States of America] to demonstrate how the effective implementation of CITES contributes to the implementation of the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework* [United States of America] *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and the relevant Aichi targets;

RECOGNIZING the already existing significant cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions;

COMMENDING the ongoing and important cooperation among the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, such as through the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the Environmental Management Group, and in particular through its Issue Management Group on Biodiversity;

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, and Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*, and Resolution Conf. 18.5 on *Cooperation and synergy with the World Heritage Convention*, as well as Decision 15.19 and Resolution Conf. 18.3 on *CITES Strategic Vision: 200821-20130*;

WELCOMING the decisions taken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals on cooperation, coordination and synergies with CITES and other biodiversity-related conventions;

RECOGNIZING the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *The Future We Want*, that recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and encouraging the Parties to MEAs to consider further measures to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance cooperation and coordination amongst MEAs;

CONVINCED of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to enhance coherent national level implementation of each of the conventions, as appropriate [United States of America];

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ENCOURAGES Parties to consider further opportunities to strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels; ~~and~~
2. RECOMMENDS that Parties further strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and other partners at the national level, as appropriate, [United States of America] to enhance coherent national-level implementation of the Convention;
3. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to contribute to the monitoring framework of the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* by providing to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) any relevant data it has collected on the indicators for the *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030*, if so requested by the CBD Secretariat; and
4. ENCOURAGES Parties, through their CITES and CBD focal points, to take into account the information gathered for the development of non-detriment findings when reporting to CBD.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 18.3 ON *CITES STRATEGIC VISION: 2021-2030*

(new text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strike through~~)

~~NOTING that the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at their 15th Conference of the Parties in 2020;~~

RECOGNIZING that the *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030* can make an important contribution to the ~~post 2020~~ *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its 15th meeting;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the findings in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the 2022 Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species to the work of CITES; and

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of global cooperation to address the threats posed by illegal trade in wildlife as recognized in, among others, Resolution ~~69/314~~ 77/325 of the United Nations General Assembly on *Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife* and the important role of the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime in this regard;

[...]

Annex

CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030

Introduction

[...]

With this new Strategic Vision, the Conference of the Parties to CITES outlines the Convention's direction for the 2021-2030 timeframe in fulfilment of its mandate. It is additionally recognized that Parties' efforts to implement the Convention may also provide benefit to, and draw strength from, efforts being undertaken in other fora, and in this sense highlights the linkages between CITES and, *inter alia*, the processes and actions listed below:

- the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and targets relevant to CITES, including those for terrestrial and marine wildlife;
- the ~~Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the post-2020 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework being developed~~ adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the 2022 Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species; and
- relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

[...]

Objective 4.2 The importance of achieving CITES' aim as a contribution to achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the ~~post-2020~~ Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, is recognized.

15. Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade (*Decision 19.17*) - SC78 Doc. 15

Recommendations in paragraph 16:

16. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) acknowledge the following:
 - i) the [Memorandum of Understanding between the CITES Secretariat and WOAHA](#) signed in March 2024;
 - ii) the [Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade](#) released by WOAHA in May 2024;
 - iii) the [Global Action Plan for Biodiversity and Health](#) which was approved recently by the Convention on Biological Diversity at its 16th Conference of the Parties (Cali, Colombia; November 2024).
- b) agree that there is no need for the establishment of a CITES advisory body to provide guidance based on best available science to Parties, in their efforts to reduce the risk of zoonotic pathogen spillover and transmission from wildlife trade and associated wildlife supply chains, including markets;
- c) note that no consensus was reached by the working group on the matter of a new Resolution on One Health;
- d) establish an in-session working group at SC78 to review the recommendations from AC33 presented in [Annex 1](#) of this report, for approval by the SC; and
- e) agree that paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 19.17 have been implemented by the Standing Committee and propose renewal of paragraphs c) and d) of the Decision by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

16. Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international organizations [Decisions 19.21 and 17.56 (Rev. CoP19)] - SC78 Doc. 16 and SC76 Doc. 16 Add.

Recommendations in paragraph 32:

32. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review and submit the draft Partnership Strategy for approval by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting and encourage Parties to consider the strategy, as appropriate, to inform the way they partner on CITES matters;
- b) propose to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of Decisions 19.20 and 19.21 as they have been implemented;
- c) note the update provided by the Secretariat in order to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies with other Multilateral Environment Agreements and international organizations;
- d) agree that, with the amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.4 on *Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions* proposed in document SC78 Doc. 14 on the *CITES Strategic Vision*, Decision 17.56 (Rev. CoP19) has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the CoP;
- e) propose to the CoP to incorporate Decision 17.55 (Rev. CoP19) into Resolution Conf. 16.4 as shown below (new text is underlined and deleted text is shown in ~~strike through~~) and subsequently delete Decision 17.55 (Rev. CoP19):

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ENCOURAGES Parties to consider further opportunities to strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related agreements ~~conventions~~ at all relevant levels, including at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity-building activities; [text from Decision 17.55 (Rev. CoP19)]

- f) request the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, to finalize a response to the letter received from the Chair of the 20th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF20) using as a basis addendum SC78 Doc. 16 Add., as well as any relevant feedback received at the present meeting.

17. Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - IPBES Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species (Decision 19.29) - SC78 Doc. 17

Recommendations in paragraph 11:

11. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the Annexes to document SC78 Doc. 17;
- b) review and submit the draft decisions in paragraph 9 for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties
- c) agree that Decision 19.28 and 19.29 have been implemented and can be deleted.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.XX The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the Resolutions and specific aspects relating to drivers of sustainable use and knowledge gaps, challenges and research priorities identified by the Animals and Plants Committees in document PC27 Doc. 10 / AC33 Doc. 11 and the Standing Committee in document SC78 Doc. 17 on the IPBES Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species relevant to the implementation of the Convention;
- b) propose amendments to the Resolutions, as appropriate, to incorporate aspects that will enhance the implementation of the Convention;
- c) submit the results of the review and proposed amendments as they relate to scientific aspects for consideration to the Animals and Plants Committee; and
- d) consider the inputs received from the Animals and Plants Committee and finalize proposed amendments to the Resolutions for consideration to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

20.YY The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the results of the review conducted by the Standing Committee and proposed amendments as they relate to scientific aspects and provide inputs to the Standing Committee to finalize the review.

18. World Wildlife Trade Report (*Decision 19.31*) - SC78 Doc. 18 (Rev. 1)

Recommendations in paragraph 15:

15. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review the comments from Parties, other stakeholders and the Animals and Plants Committees summarized in document SC78 Doc. 18 (Rev. 1);
- b) consider the way forward presented in paragraphs 10 to 14 of document SC78 Doc. 18 (Rev. 1);

10. Views expressed by Parties in response to the Notifications and the feedback provided by the Animals and Plants Committees on the future production of a World Wildlife Trade Report are diverse and divergent, although there appears to be a general recognition of the merit of such a report. The difference in opinion largely lies on the scope of the report and the frequency of the production, as well as the human and financial resources associated with the production of the report. Furthermore, Parties refer to different uses of the Report, ranging from a source for national briefing materials on global trade in taxa/commodity of national interest, a communication tool on the trade trends to a wider audience in an accessible manner, a visibility material for demonstrating the impact of CITES to a tool that can contribute to informed decision-making.
11. Based on an analysis of the feedback and inputs received from Parties and observers and taking into account the human and financial resource constraints of the CITES Secretariat as well as of Parties, the Secretariat would like to propose a two-pronged approach for the next two intersessional periods. The idea would be to prepare two different types of reports serving different purposes and with a different content as follows:
 - a) For CoP21 (2028), the Secretariat proposes that a short Overview Report providing an **overview of CITES trade** be prepared. This could include an overview of the routes, trends and patterns of the trade change over time from a global perspective, and potentially also some analyses of regional trends and trade trends in major taxa. Such information would help Parties to the Convention and other stakeholders to keep track of the trends in global trade in CITES-listed species. There appear to be no other report that serves this purpose. In this context, information provided earlier in a similar report showed a new trend with a significant shift from wild-sources towards sources from captive-breeding or artificially propagation. The analysis of data records showing this shift has been very useful in raising awareness on the characteristics of trade in CITES-listed species and in better informing policy-making. The preparation of the Overview Report could be led by UNEP-WCMC with support of partners when necessary and in consultation with the Secretariat. Such a Report would be based on CITES trade data. In the past, UNEP-WCMC has produced similar reports such as [information document CoP16 Inf.32](#) in 2013.
 - b) Prior to CoP22 (2031), the Secretariat proposes that a **comprehensive World Wildlife Trade Report** be prepared for publication in 2030 on the occasion of the final year of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030. In addition to the content of the Overview of CITES Trade, the Comprehensive Report would aim to provide insights on both the positive and negative impacts of international trade in CITES-listed species on the conservation of species and landscapes/habitats. The Report could also consider broader issues related to the positive and negative impacts on livelihoods, as well as the role such trade may play in providing incentives for habitat conservation, thereby reducing the risks to wildlife from alternative forms of land use. It would also consider the contribution of CITES to achieving the goals in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG), in particular to stimulate investment in biodiversity conservation and provide incentives for achieving such goals. The preparation of the Report could be coordinated by the Secretariat with contributions from partner organizations on the parts of the Report that are most relevant to their areas of expertise and mandates, using the experience from the preparation of the pilot World Wildlife Trade Report.
12. The Secretariat proposes to alternate between an Overview Report and a Comprehensive World Wildlife Trade Report in the future, if Parties so agree. In view of the diversity of the comments and inputs provided on the pilot World Wildlife Trade Report, the Secretariat would consult with the Standing Committee on the scope and content of both reports, including by presenting an outline of the reports at the relevant meeting(s).
13. To help decide whether the monetary value of legal trade in CITES-listed species could be included in the long-term Comprehensive Report, the Secretariat proposes that Parties be invited to provide feedback on

the feasibility and challenges in providing price data on a voluntary basis. Importantly, the Secretariat notes that price data will only be used to demonstrate the aggregate monetary value of the trade at a global level and not to be tied to individual transactions, Parties or taxa.

14. The Secretariat would also endeavor to raise funds from external sources to support the preparation of both the Overview Report and the comprehensive World Wildlife Trade Report, noting that the pilot World Wildlife Trade Report was prepared with extrabudgetary resources.

c) review and submit the draft decisions in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 18 (Rev. 1) to the Conference of the Parties; and

c) agree that Decisions 19.30 and 19.31 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON
WORLD WILDLIFE TRADE REPORT

Directed to Parties

20.AA On voluntary basis, Parties are invited to:

- a) explore the feasibility of collating and compiling information at the national level on the conservation and socio-economic impacts of trade in CITES-listed species and of including price data of CITES specimens in trade in annual reports; and
- b) share with the Secretariat their experience on the feasibility and challenges in collecting and sharing the above-mentioned information.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.BB The Standing Committee shall

- a) review and provide feedback on the outline of an Overview Report, the initial outline of a comprehensive World Wildlife Trade report, submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.CC, paragraph a);
- b) review the report by the Secretariat prepared under Decision 20.CC, paragraph c); and
- c) make recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) prepare an outline of the Overview Report and an initial outline of the comprehensive World Wildlife Trade Report for publication at CoP21 and CoP22 respectively with explanations on the content, authorship and methodology to be used for the preparation of the reports for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- b) prepare an Overview Report providing information on global trade in CITES-listed species, covering the trends and patterns of global trade in CITES-listed species as observed during the reporting period, and submit it as an information document to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP21); and
- c) compile Parties' inputs from Decision 20.AA and share the findings with the Standing Committee.

19. CITES and forests (*Decision 19.34*) - SC78 Doc. 19

Recommendations in paragraph 12:

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) in accordance with Decision 19.34 paragraph a), consider progress made in the implementation of Decisions 19.32 and 19.33 as reported in document SC78 Doc. 19;
- b) in accordance with Decision 19.34 paragraphs b) to d), provide preliminary feedback on the draft of the *Report on the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests* as of 5 December 2024 contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 19, particularly where it relates to the development of recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Convention with respect to CITES-listed forest species;
- c) request the Secretariat to share a revised *Report of the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests* with all completed Chapters for comment by the Plants and Standing Committees, through their Chairs, in advance of CoP20; and
- d) request the Secretariat to submit a final *Report of the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests*, incorporating the outcomes of the post-SC78 intersessional consultations [see recommendation c) above], an assessment of the implementation of Decisions 19.32 to 19.34, and recommendations relating to revised or new decisions on CITES and forests, for consideration at CoP20.

20. Language strategy for the Convention (*Decision 19.39*) - SC78 Doc. 20

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the Secretariat's update on the implementation of Decisions 19.38 and 19.39;
- b) encourage Parties to bring to the attention of the Secretariat any issues linked to the harmonization of CITES terminology in the Resolutions; and
- c) agree to submit to the Conference of the Parties the revision of Decisions 19.38 and 19.39 as presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 20.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON LANGUAGE STRATEGY FOR THE CONVENTION
(new text is underlined; deleted text is in ~~strike through~~)

Directed to the Secretariat

19.38 (Rev. CoP20) *The Secretariat shall, subject to extrabudgetary contributions,:*

- a) ~~provide for the translation of all~~ new and revised valid Resolutions and Decisions into the three additional languages (Arabic, Chinese and Russian) drawing on available informal and official translations; ~~and~~*
- b) ~~arrange for the translation of the CITES website into these additional languages.~~*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.39 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall, ~~at its 77th meeting,~~ consider the future approach to the language strategy of the Convention in order to provide interpretation in all six languages at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, with emphasis on the interpretation at the 21st ~~20th~~ meeting of the Conference of the Parties, subject to extrabudgetary contributions.*

21. Capacity-building framework [*Decisions 19.41 and 19.43*] - SC78 Doc. 21

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Standing Committee is invited to propose the renewal of Decision 19.40 and the revisions of Decisions 19.41 to 19.43 as contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 21 to the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS 19.40 AND 19.41 (REV. COP20) TO 19.43 (REV. COP20) ON *CAPACITY-BUILDING FRAMEWORK*

(new text is underlined; deleted text is in ~~strike through~~)

Directed to Parties

- 19.40** Parties are invited to share ideas, experiences, and information related to the development of an integrated capacity-building framework aiming to guide Parties, the Secretariat and external partners, as appropriate, to identify capacity-building needs and to prioritize, plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and review the benefit of their capacity-building efforts for more effective implementation of the Convention.

Directed to the Standing Committee, with inputs from the Animals and Plants Committees, the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, and the Secretariat

- 19.41 (Rev. CoP20)** The Standing Committee shall establish an intersessional working group on the development of an integrated capacity-building framework to:

- a) continue the development of an integrated capacity-building framework, including a common language and clear definitions, to improve the implementation of the Convention, with inputs from the Animals and Plants Committees, the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, and the Secretariat;
- b) in doing so, ensure the representation of perspectives and contexts of different regions and stakeholders (including from Parties that fund and Parties that receive capacity-building support) and consider developing a mechanism for Parties to identify the specific needs that, if met, would allow them to achieve full capacity to implement CITES; and
- c) provide a draft integrated capacity-building framework (which may include conceptual models, tools and guidance), along with its recommendations, for consideration of the Standing Committee and onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its ~~20th~~ 21st meeting.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 19.42 (Rev. CoP20)** The Animals and Plants Committees shall engage in consultations with the Standing Committee, as called for in Decision 19.41 (Rev. CoP20); and with the Secretariat as called for in Decision 19.43 (Rev. CoP20).

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees

- 19.43 (Rev. CoP20)** The Secretariat shall provide input to the Standing Committee and, subject to the availability of external funding and in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, as well as the Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, organize technical workshops and regional consultations that would facilitate the implementation by the Standing Committee of Decision 19.41 (Rev. CoP20).

22. Implementation of Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building* - SC78 Doc. 22

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the update provided by the Secretariat on capacity-building.

23. Compliance Assistance Programme (*Decision 19.46*) - SC78 Doc. 23

Recommendations in paragraph 61:

61. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) acknowledge the commitment of Parties benefiting from the CAP to improve their compliance status, and welcome the results obtained through the CAP by the respective Parties;
- b) encourage Parties facing multiple and long-term compliance issues to express interest in benefiting from the CAP;
- c) take note of the overall findings of the Secretariat relating to the implementation of the CAP and invite the Secretariat and concerned Parties to take them into consideration in the design and implementation of future activities;
- d) review and submit the draft decisions contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 23 for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
- e) agree that Decisions 19.44 to 19.46 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Directed to the Parties

20.AA 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. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*, including through the Compliance Assistance Programme to meet the needs of eligible Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) continue assisting Parties through the Compliance Assistance Programme, and extend the CAP to other eligible Parties;
- b) support Parties' mainstreaming of gender in the development, implementation and monitoring of CAP activities, in line with the forthcoming CITES Gender Action Plan;
- c) in consultation with the International University of Andalucía which hosts the Master's Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade – The International Framework' and other relevant universities, encourage the participation of Management and Scientific Authorities of CAP beneficiary Parties in the Master's Course, and consider enriching it with a module on project management; and
- d) report to the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of the CAP and submit for its consideration any proposal for its further development.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of the CAP and report its findings and recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

24. CITES Tree Species Programme (*Decision 19.50*) - SC78 Doc. 24

Recommendations in paragraph 12:

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review and submit the draft decision contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 24 for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
- b) agree that Decisions 19.49 and 19.50 can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISION ON *CITES TREE SPECIES PROGRAMME*

Directed to the Secretariat, the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee

20.XX The Secretariat shall:

- a) report to the Plants and Standing Committees on the implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme as appropriate, bringing to the attention relevant technical and scientific results;
- b) seek advice and guidance from the Plants and Standing Committees to assess the potential for the CITES Tree Species Programme to be made a permanent programme; and
- c) report on the implementation of this Decision at the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

25. CITES Global Youth Network - SC78 Doc. 25

Recommendations in paragraph 9:

9. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) support the efforts of Singapore and participating Parties in the development of the CITES Global Youth Network (CGYN);
 - b) encourage Parties and observers to support the efforts and to nominate youths affiliated with their organization to attend the CITES Global Youth Summit in May 2025;
 - c) request the Secretariat to continue to provide advice and assist the development of the CITES Global Youth Network; and
 - d) review and provide feedback on the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.5 (Rev. CoP18) on *Youth engagement* in **Annex 2** to document SC78 Doc. 25.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 17.5 (REV. COP180 ON *YOUTH ENGAGEMENT*)

NB: Proposed new text is underlined and proposed deletions are indicated by a ~~strike~~through.

NOTING that the ~~United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 as youth~~ CITES Global Youth Network accepts member nominations up to 30 years of age without prejudice to other definitions by the United Nations and its Member States;

ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth ~~will one day be in decision-making positions~~ represent future decision-makers and that CITES Parties ~~have a responsibility to~~ must engage, educate and empower young these people now to equip them to be stronger leaders in the future;

RECOGNIZING that by welcoming today's youth into species conservation and wildlife trade conversations, our decision makers will add ~~a rich diversity~~ enrich the dialogue with a diverse array of ideas and solutions;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth have come of age in a generation very different than those before it, including great technological advancement, and that the skills held by younger colleagues can be valuable tools to ensure that wildlife trade is legal and sustainable;

WELCOMING ~~the designation of youth engagement as the theme of World Wildlife Day 2017~~ initiatives undertaken in line with this Resolution, at the national, regional and global level; and

FURTHER WELCOMING efforts in the establishment of the CITES Global Youth Network (CGYN), which aims to build a platform for youths to be equipped with the capacity to understand and manage the intricacies of sustainable wildlife trade; and

FURTHER NOTING that the engagement and empowerment of the youth is high on the agenda of the United Nations and that this objective is being achieved through the youth programmes of various UN system organizations as well as the dedicated UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. INVITES Parties, the Secretariat and observer organizations to acknowledge the CITES Global Youth Network serves as an important mechanism for global youth engagement efforts relating to CITES and sustainable wildlife trade;
2. ENCOURAGES Parties to explore opportunities to engage today's youth in CITES and other wildlife conservation issues, for example through internship or mentoring programmes, and where practical extend these opportunities internationally to youths from different Parties in coordination with the CITES Global Youth Network;

3. INVITES Parties and observer organizations to include youth delegates on official delegations, and provide learning opportunities at CITES meetings, and participate in activities of the CITES Global Youth Network and any other youth-focused side events, when practical;
4. INVITES Parties and the Secretariat to collaborate, when practical, with the CITES Global Youth Network, to facilitate the creation of regional and/or national youth networks of engaged participants/members to implement/achieve the vision of the global network at these levels;
5. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to liaise with the CoP host country to facilitate the donation of a space within the CoP venue for networking of youth delegates and for youth-focused side events organized by the CITES Global Youth Network, Parties and observer organizations, when possible;
46. INVITES the Secretariat to collaborate with relevant UN organizations and conventions as well as the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth engagement initiatives;
57. ENCOURAGES Parties to use the annual World Wildlife Day as an opportunity to incentivise wildlife conservation awareness among younger generations and to provide platforms for them to engage with one another on conservation and sustainable use issues; and
68. ENCOURAGES Parties to establish long term youth engagement and empowerment strategies to ensure the participation of youth in wildlife conservation issues and CITES decision-making processes.

26. CITES gender action plan (*Decision 19.52*) - SC78 Doc. 26

Recommendations in paragraph 9:

9. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) review the revised outline contained in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 26 for the finalization of the outline; and
 - b) propose to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting to maintain Decisions 19.51 and 19.53, and revise Decision 19.52 as contained in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 26.

REVISED DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE CITES GENDER ACTION PLAN

(suggested deletion in ~~strike through~~, suggested new text in underline. Text for further consideration of the Standing Committee in grey shading.)

1. Introduction

- Background and mandates
- Linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda
- Linkages to the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030
- Linkages to the Global Biodiversity Framework

2. Rationale

- The role of gender, particularly women and girls, in the international trade of wild flora and fauna, both legal and illegal
- The role of gender, particularly women and girls in all their diversity, in the conservation and sustainable use of wild fauna and flora
- Challenges of gender-blind approaches and opportunities for gender-aware strategies for the implementation of CITES

3. Objectives of the Action Plan (from resolution Conf. 19.3)

- Enhance Parties' understanding of gender, particularly women and girls and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora
- Contribute to making Parties' research, programming, and monitoring activities and demand reduction efforts related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora become gender-aware, and gender-responsive and culturally relevant.
- Contribute to ensuring that Parties and relevant organizations, including women's and indigenous peoples' organizations that promote indigenous women's participation, include gender-specific indicators in their strategic planning for CITES implementation
- Enhance the representation and participation of people of all genders, particularly women and girls, in conservation the implementation, enforcement, and engagement of the Convention and address issues relating to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora
- Increase public awareness about gender, particularly women and girls, and conservation in wild species of fauna and flora and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora
- Share information about gender-based violence in wild flora and fauna international trade chains

4. Strategies and Interventions

- Data collection broken down by gender, age and other demographic factors as appropriate
- Representation in CITES meeting delegations
- Capacity-building
- Research on the role of gender in legal and illegal wildlife trade

- Incorporation of ~~PLC~~ the perspectives, ~~and~~ knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women and girls as transmitters of knowledge, with their free, prior and informed consent
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Extrabudgetary resource mobilization
- Etc.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Development of gender-specific indicators with cultural relevance
- Reporting
- Periodic progress review

6. Conclusions and recommendations

7. Annexes

- Case studies, shared experiences, and other relevant information collected for the development of the Action Plan

DRAFT DECISIONS ON CITES GENDER ACTION PLAN

(new text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strike through~~)

Directed to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee

19.51 The Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee, subject to available resources, shall draw on the available body of knowledge, lessons and experiences on gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to legal and illegal international trade of wild flora and fauna, to develop a draft gender action plan for submission to the Standing Committee. The draft gender action plan should:

- a) consider the needs of indigenous and local peoples of all genders, especially women and girls, as well as how to incorporate their perspectives, skills and talents at all ages, and local and traditional knowledge;
- b) aim to ensure that women and girls in all their diversity have equal access to, ownership and/or control over the use of wild flora and fauna, can fully and effectively engage in international trade of species of wild fauna and flora, and receive a fair and equitable share of benefits arising from the use and trade of such wildlife; thus reducing poverty and gender gaps through the promotion of economic and decision-making freedom;
- c) aim to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in wild flora and fauna international trade chains;
- d) promote gender equality and increase and strengthen the participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making and participation in processes related to international wild flora and fauna trade;
- e) enhance the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of all genders, in particular women, in the implementation of the Convention, including through the engagement of civil society organizations, women's groups and women delegates, and provide opportunities for building their capacities; and
- f) identify specific actions to advance the objectives above, across international trade chains for sustainable and legal wild flora and fauna, including parts and derivatives, as well as associated activities, including harvesting, law enforcement, and policy-making.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.52 (Rev. CoP20) The Standing Committee shall consider any draft gender action plan received from the Secretariat under Decision 19.51 and, if considered appropriate, submit a final version of that action plan, as an annex to the Resolution on Gender and international trade in wild fauna and flora, for approval by the Conference of the Parties at its ~~20th~~21st meeting.

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

19.53 Parties and relevant stakeholders, are encouraged to:

- a) support the preparation of the “CITES Gender Action Plan” by sharing knowledge, case studies and other relevant experiences with the Secretariat;
- b) strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the gender-differentiated impacts of sustainable use and international trade in species of wild flora and fauna, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing; and
- c) provide financial support towards the development and implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

27. Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities [Decisions 17.57 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.31 (Rev. CoP19)] - SC78 Doc. 27

Recommendations in paragraph 19:

19. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) regarding Decision 17.57, decide on use of standardized terminology that refers to “Indigenous Peoples, and local communities”;
- b) request the Secretariat review all relevant resolutions with reference to “Indigenous Peoples” “local communities” or “rural communities” and propose an approach or amendments to standardize the text;
- c) regarding Decision 18.31, review the *non-binding guidance on consulting Indigenous Peoples, and local communities on proposals to amend the Appendices* found in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 27 and submit it for approval to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- d) submit the following draft decision to CoP20:

Directed to the Parties

20.AA Parties are invited to:

- a) use the *non-binding Guidance on consulting with Indigenous Peoples, and local communities on proposals to amend the Appendices*, as appropriate to their national circumstances, when preparing for CITES CoP21;
- b) consider funding, facilitating or otherwise supporting the consultation taking place within the range State, including supporting the cost of translation and interpretation to local languages; and
- c) share their views and experiences in using the *non-binding guidance on consulting Indigenous Peoples, and local communities on proposals to amend the Appendices*.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.BB Taking into consideration document SC78 Doc. 27, the Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider approaches to seek and review Party experiences in using the *non-binding guidance on consulting Indigenous Peoples, and local communities on proposals to amend the Appendices* in their preparations for CoP 21 in order to adjust the non-binding guidance, as appropriate;
 - b) consider whether and how to incorporate the ideas on engagement of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities at the national level proposed in document SC78 Doc. 27 into Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods* in a manner that avoids duplication;
 - c) further explore the merits and drawbacks of the ideas on engagement with Indigenous Peoples, and local communities in CITES processes at the international level presented in document SC78 Doc. 27; and
 - d) make recommendations regarding Decision 20.BB, paragraphs a), b) and c) to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- e) decide that Decision 17.57 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.31 (Rev. CoP19) have been completed and can be deleted.

NON-BINDING GUIDANCE ON
CONSULTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES
ON PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE APPENDICES

Objective

The objective of this guidance is to support Parties in meaningfully engaging with Indigenous Peoples, and local communities during the development and submission of proposals to amend the Appendices. The guidance is aimed at supporting range State consultations in the consideration of proposals to amend the Appendices. The guidance could also be used for consultations prior to including species in Appendix III.

Guiding Principles of Consultation

To be meaningful, consultation is most effective when it is:

- Bi-directional and reciprocal: consultation should be two-way, with feedback provided to the consultees on how their views were addressed
- When engaging with Indigenous Peoples, consultations should be undertaken to obtain free, prior and informed consent as stated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)
- Timely and predictable: engagement should begin early and follow a clear timeline, allowing sufficient time for meaningful feedback and input
- Accessible: consultation should be undertaken in clear jargon-free language, ideally in the language of the consultee
- Honest, transparent, respectful and gender responsive: the process should be unbiased and conducted with integrity and sensitivity to cultural norms
- Inclusive: the consultation process should reflect the diversity of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities and involve a diverse range of communities and community members

Identifying audience

National CITES Authorities are best placed to undertake the relevant consultations. These Authorities are able to identify relevant Indigenous Peoples, and local communities for consultations, including established national representative networks that may exist or other unique cultural context. Additionally, Parties may have provisions in national laws, regulations or policies that govern when and how to undertake consultations with Indigenous Peoples, and local communities within their borders.

Timing of consultation

Parties are encouraged to initiate engagement (if they are a range State) or contact the national CITES Authorities of the range State(s) as soon as they begin considering preparing a proposal to amend the CITES Appendix I or II. Early consultation with Indigenous Peoples, and local communities at the proposal development stage will better allow for meaningful, substantive, relevant and timely consultation. Building on the guidance provided in Resolution Conf. 8.21 (Rev CoP16) on *Consultation with range States on proposals to amend Appendices I and II*, Parties should aim to begin consultations 182 – 250 days before the next scheduled Conference of the Parties.

Structure of a consultation

Each consultation process should be tailored to and respect the distinct characteristics of the Indigenous Peoples, and local communities being consulted. Some key elements of a consultation would include:

- Informed – the consultation clearly explains the CITES context and the relevance, implications and consequences of the proposal(s), including both its benefits and potential impacts, in a language and format that allows it to be understood in sufficient detail
- Deliberate – the consultation process provides Indigenous Peoples, and local communities relevant information with sufficient time for their review and for their holding independent discussion
- Respectful – the consultation acknowledges, honours, and respects any traditional knowledge being shared, and enables that knowledge to inform decision-making
- Documented – a detailed record of the consultation process, including participants, discussions and outcomes, is made available in the language of the consultee
- Feedback – the consultees are provided with clear and timely communication on how the information and views shared were used in the proposal development

Documentation

Proponent Parties should include comprehensive details of the consultation process, such as whether consultations with Indigenous Peoples or with local communities took place, who was consulted, and the feedback received, including any views, concerns, or support expressed on the proposal. This information should be included in Section 10 of the supporting statement, in line with Annex 6 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*.

28. Livelihoods [Decision 18.34 (Rev. CoP19)] - SC78 Doc. 28

Recommendations in paragraph 11:

11. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) note the Secretariat's ongoing work on the compilation of case studies on CITES and livelihoods in accordance with Decision 18.35 (Rev. CoP19);
 - b) review the draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods* that are contained in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 28 and submit them for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting;
 - c) review the draft decisions in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 28 and submit them for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
 - d) agree that Decisions 18.33 (Rev. CoP19) to 18.35 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 16. 6 (REV. COP18) ON *CITES AND LIVELIHOODS*

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~striketrough~~.

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13), adopted at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2004), where the Conference recognized that implementation of CITES-listing decisions should take into account potential impacts on the livelihoods of the poor;

~~RECALLING ALSO Decision 15.5 requesting the Standing Committee to continue the operation of its Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods and to finalize the toolkit for the rapid assessment at the national level of the positive and negative impacts of implementing CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor, as well as voluntary guidelines for Parties to address the negative impacts;~~

~~NOTING that these two documents were prepared by the Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods (information document CoP16 Inf. 21);~~

RECOGNIZING that CITES-listing decisions are neither the sole cause of nor the sole solution to the livelihood problems of the rural communities¹, but that the effective implementation of such decisions can form part of a strategy to provide sustainable livelihoods for rural communities, consistent with paragraph 203 of the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference *The Future We Want*;

WELCOMING the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution on *Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife*, which, among other things, strongly encourages Member States to support the livelihoods of rural communities through “the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use, enhancing the rights and capacity of the members of such communities to manage and benefit from wildlife”;

WELCOMING also the adoption of *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals*, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with target adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit (New York, September 2015). Many of the 17 Goals and 169 Targets in the SDGs are relevant to CITES, but in particular, 15.c aimed to “enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities” and Target 15.7 to “take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products”, mindful of the integrated and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;

¹ For the purpose of this Resolution, rural communities include indigenous and local communities.

WELCOMING further United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 1/3 and 2/14 on illegal trade in wildlife;

RECOGNIZING that poor rural communities may attach economic, social, cultural and ceremonial importance to some CITES-listed species;

RECOGNIZING that the implementation of CITES is better achieved with the engagement of rural communities, especially those which are traditionally dependent on CITES-listed species for their livelihoods;

RECOGNIZING that the implementation of CITES listings may enhance livelihoods by delivering long-term species conservation and reducing unsustainable and illegal trade;

NOTING the six strategies highlighted in the [Guidance on maximizing benefits to Indigenous peoples and local communities from trade in CITES-listed species](#);

RECOGNIZING ALSO that implementation of some listings (particularly Appendix-I listings) may impact livelihoods of rural communities by restricting access to income, employment and other resources, such as food, materials and medicines, but that it need not always do so if appropriate implementation strategies are adopted; and

RECOGNIZING that livelihoods issues and the present Resolution do not pertain to the criteria for the amendment of the Appendices or the requirement to make non-detriment findings;

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *LIVELIHOODS*

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are invited to:

- a) initiate or strengthen participatory policy at national level, recognizing the rights of Indigenous and local communities to either own or access and manage wildlife resources, and benefit equitably, for both men and women, from legal and sustainable management and trade in CITES-listed species, taking advantage of their traditional knowledge as appropriate, and subject to national legislation; and
- b) share experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the use of certification and labelling systems for products of CITES-listed species from indigenous peoples and local communities, document best practices as case studies, and share such experiences with other Parties and the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) compile and analyse information received from Parties under Decision 20.AA, paragraph b).
- b) support the development of case studies on the use of certification and labelling systems for products from Indigenous peoples and local communities in international trade to explore feasibility and identify best practices;
- c) organize a technical workshop to review case studies on the use of the certification and labelling systems for products from Indigenous peoples and local communities; and
- d) report to the Standing Committee on progress made with regard to the implementation of paragraphs a), b) and c) and make recommendations on possible next steps, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall:

- a) establish an intersessional working group on livelihoods to:

- i) review case studies on the use of certification and labelling systems for products from Indigenous peoples and local communities and make recommendations to the Standing Committee;
 - ii) review new case studies on CITES and livelihoods, if available and
- b) review the report of the working group on livelihoods and the report of the Secretariat on progress made under Decision 20.BB and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

29. Demand reduction to combat illegal trade (*Decision 19.56*) - SC78 Doc. 29

Recommendations in paragraph 14:

14. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the progress made in implementing Decision 19.55;
- b) review and submit the draft decisions on demand reduction to combat illegal trade contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 29 to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
- c) agree that Decisions 19.55 to 19.57 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON DEMAND REDUCTION TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TRADE

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are invited to:

- a) share their experience in using the [*Guidance for CITES Parties to develop and implement demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species*](#) with other Parties and the Secretariat;
- b) communicate to the Secretariat information on priority species for potential pilot projects that require extrabudgetary resources; and
- c) promote the use of the *Guidance* by organizing pilot projects and providing support to the potential pilot projects mentioned in paragraph b) above.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) collect and analyse the experiences in using the *Guidance* shared by Parties;
- b) subject to extrabudgetary resources, and in consultation with donors and potential target Parties, organize pilot projects to promote the use of the *Guidance* for priority species and Parties with necessary adaptation to suit local context;
- c) subject to extrabudgetary resources, support interested Parties in implementing demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species; and
- d) report on the progress made in the implementation of this Decision to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 20.BB and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

30. Review of Resolutions and Decisions - SC78 Doc. 30

Recommendations in paragraph 7:

7. The Standing Committee is invited to:
- a) review and agree to the proposed corrections of the non-substantive errors outlined above in paragraph 2 above and instruct the Secretariat to republish the Resolutions concerned with the necessary corrections;
 - b) review and agree to submit the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species* as contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 30 to the Conference of the Parties;
 - c) review and agree to submit the amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)* as contained in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 30 to the Conference of the Parties;
 - d) review and agree to submit the amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants* as contained in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 30 to the Conference of the Parties;
 - e) review and agree to submit the draft decisions on *Review of Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa principles and guidelines* as contained in Annex 5 to document SC78 Doc. 30 to the Conference of the Parties; and
 - f) comment on any further consolidations or corrections that are needed.

AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10.13 (REV. COP18) ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR TREE SPECIES

(new text is underlined; deleted text is shown in ~~strikethrough~~)

Regarding parts and derivatives

- c) the following definitions be applied with respect to annotations in the CITES Appendices:
- i) Logs

All wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared, for processing, notably into sawn wood, pulpwood or veneer sheets (HS code 44.032²);

² HS refers to the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization describing and coding goods in trade. The codes referred to in this document for timber include the following:

44.03 Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared

44.06 Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood

44.07 Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or fingerend-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm

44.08 ~~Veneer sheets and sheets for plywood (whether or not spliced) and other wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed, of a thickness not exceeding 6 mm~~ Sheets for veneering (including those obtained by slicing laminated wood), for plywood or for similar laminated wood and other wood, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded, spliced or end-jointed, of a thickness not exceeding 6 mm.

44.12 Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood.

~~44.12.13 Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, each ply not exceeding 6 mm in thickness, and with at least one outer ply of tropical wood specified in Subheading Note 1 below[†]~~

~~44.12.14 Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, each ply not exceeding 6 mm in thickness, and with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood~~

ii) Sawn wood

Wood simply sawn lengthwise or produced by a profile-chipping process. Sawn wood normally exceeds 6 mm in thickness (HS code 44.06², HS code 44.07²);

iii) Veneer sheets

Thin layers or sheets of wood of uniform thickness, usually 6 mm or less, usually peeled or sliced, for use in making plywood, for veneering furniture, veneer containers, etc. (HS code 44.08²); and

iv) Plywood

Consisting of three or more sheets of wood glued and pressed one on the other and generally disposed so that the grains of successive layers are at an angle (HS code 44.12.13², ~~HS code 44.12.14², and HS code 44.12.22²~~); and

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 13.3 ON
COOPERATION AND SYNERGY WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)

(new text is underlined)

1. DIRECTS the Standing Committee to keep under regular review the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the Secretariats of CITES and CMS on 18 September 2002, in particular with a view to:

[...]

- b) ensuring that CITES initiatives in respect of the following species or taxonomic groups complement, reinforce and, as far as possible, benefit from the regional collaboration already being undertaken or envisaged in the framework of CMS:

[...]

- v) cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), lions (*Panthera leo*) and leopards (*Panthera pardus*); and [text proposed by the Animals Committee]
- vi) CITES-listed species of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea in collaboration with the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS);

44.12.22 ~~Other (meaning one ply, or more, that is greater than 6 mm in thickness), with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood, and with at least one ply of tropical wood specified in Subheading Note 1 below[†]~~

[†] ~~Subheading Note 1: For the purposes of subheadings 44.03.41 to 44.03.49, 44.07.24 to 44.07.29, 44.08.31 to 44.08.39, and 44.12.13 to 44.12.99, the expression 'tropical wood' means one of the following types of wood:~~

~~Abura, Acajou d'Afrique, Afrormosia, Ako, Alan, Andiroba, Aningré, Avodiré, Azobé, Balau, Balsa, Bossé clair, Bossé foncé, Cativo, Cedro, Dabema, Dark Red Meranti, Dibétou, Doussié, Framiré, Freijo, Fromager, Fuma, Geronggang, Homba, Imbuia, Ipé, Iroko, Jaboty, Jelutong, Jequitiba, Jongkong, Kapur, Kempas, Keruing, Kosipo, Kotibé, Koto, Light Red Meranti, Limba, Louro, Maçaranduba, Mahogany, Makoré, Mandioqueira, Mansonia, Mengkulang, Meranti Bakau, Merawan, Merbau, Merpauh, Mersawa, Moabi, Niangon, Nyatoh, Obeche, Okoumé, Onzabill, Orey, Ovengkol, Ozigo, Padauk, Paldao, Palissandre de Guatemala, Palissandre de Para, Palissandre de Rio, Palissandre de Rose, Pau Amarelo, Pau Marfim, Pulai, Punah, Quaruba, Ramin, Sapelli, Saqui-Saqui, Sepetir, Sipo, Sucupira, Suren, Teak, Tauari, Tiama, Tola, Virola, White Lauan, White Meranti, White Seraya, Yellow Meranti.~~

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 11.11 (REV. COP18) ON
REGULATION OF TRADE IN PLANTS
(deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~)

Regarding flasks seedlings of Appendix-I orchids

8. RECOMMENDS that flasks seedlings of orchid species included in Appendix I obtained *in vitro*, ~~in solid or liquid media~~, and transported in sterile containers, be interpreted as being exempt from CITES control only if they have been artificially propagated in accordance with the definition provided above, taking into account the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 4, and Article I, paragraph (b) (iii), and agreeing to a derogation from Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP19)² for this exemption;

DRAFT DECISION ON *REVIEW OF RESOLUTION CONF. 10.4 (REV. COP14) ON
COOPERATION AND SYNERGY WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
AND RESOLUTION CONF. 13.2 (REV. COP14) ON
SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY: ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES*

Directed to the Standing Committee, with the support of the Secretariat

20.AA The Standing Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, shall:

- a) review Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity* and Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines* to reflect the most recent developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant intergovernmental bodies; and
- b) submit new or revised Resolutions to the Conference for the Parties.

² Corrected by the Secretariat following the 16th and 19th meetings of the Conference of the Parties: originally referred to Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev.).

31. National laws for implementation of the Convention (*Decisions 19.60 and 19.61*)

31.1 Report of the Secretariat - SC78 Doc. 31.1

Recommendations in paragraph 49:

49. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) commend Andorra, Botswana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sierra Leone and Tunisia for the efforts leading to their legislation being placed in Category 1 and other Parties or territories 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 trade in all CITES-listed species for commercial purposes with Comoros, Lebanon, and Mongolia. 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 a Notification to the Parties informing them of the recommendations to suspend commercial trade taking effect from that date;
- c) request the Secretariat to issue a formal warning to the Parties that have not reported any legislative progress for more than three years, requesting them to immediately take steps to ensure progress before SC81 and to report such progress to the Secretariat 90 days before the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee. At the time of writing, this includes:
 - Afghanistan: first formal warning;
 - Antigua and Barbuda: first formal warning;
 - Cabo Verde: first formal warning;
 - Chad: first formal warning;
 - Eritrea: first formal warning;
 - Iraq: first formal warning;
 - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: first formal warning; and
 - the Syrian Arab Republic: first formal warning.
- d) consider the preliminary elements of a draft guidance on the implementation of the Convention (e.g., issuance of permits and certificates) in the event of exceptional circumstances that impede the proper functioning of CITES at the national level; and
- e) request the Secretariat, taking into account any comments made by the Standing Committee, to make this Guidance available on the CITES website before the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

50. 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.

Recommendations in paragraph 6:

6. Oman requests the Standing Committee a balanced approach that supports Oman's efforts while ensuring that necessary compliance measures are in place within a reasonable timeframe as to consider the exemption request and approve the lifting of the suspension of international trade with the condition of Oman commits to the following:
- a) submitting periodic reports to the Secretariat on the progress made towards adopting the executive regulations every three months; and
 - b) adhering to the final deadline of October 2025, as per the timeline for issuing the executive regulations

The Standing Committee reserves the right to reassess the situation and take additional measures if necessary.

Steps	Period	Deadline
Preparing a draft of the executive regulations and sending to the CITES Secretariat	1 month	Approved
Sending the draft to relevant authorities for review	2 months	February 2025
Sending the draft to the Ministry of Finance for comments	2 months	April 2025
Sending the draft to the State Financial and Administrative Control Authority for review	2 months	June 2025
Submitting the draft to the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs	3 months	September 2025
Submitting the final draft to the Chairman of the Environment Authority for approval	October 2025	

32. National reports

32.1 Submission of annual reports - SC78 Doc. 32.1

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Secretariat recommends that, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19), and on the basis of the present report and any updated information received by the beginning of the present meeting, the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to determine whether Parties mentioned in paragraph 7 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 78th 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.

32.2 Revised Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports - SC78 Doc. 32.2

Recommendations in paragraph 13:

13. In accordance with paragraphs 1 and 3 of Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19), the Standing Committee is invited to approve the amendments to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and the amendments to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports* in paragraphs 3, 7 and 8 of document SC78 Doc. 32.2 and in the Annexes to document SC78 Doc. 32.2.

Paragraph 3:

Description	Trade term code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
Body	BOD	no.	kg.	substantially whole dead animals, including whole fish, stuffed turtles, preserved butterflies, reptiles in alcohol, whole stuffed hunting trophies, etc. If referring to specimens of sharks and rays (<i>Elasmobranchii</i> spp.) and seahorses (<i>Hippocampus</i> spp.), the preferred unit is kg.

Paragraph 7:

Description	Trade term code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
carving – ivory (worked ivory)	IVC	kg	no.	ivory carvings, including e.g. smaller worked pieces of ivory (knife handles, chess sets, marjoram sets, etc.). N.B. <u>Worked ivory means ivory that has been carved, shaped or processed, either fully or partially, but shall not include whole tusks in any form, except where the whole surface has been carved.</u> Whole carved tusk should be reported as carving – ivory (IVC) not as tusks (see “TUS” below). Jewellery made from carved ivory should be reported as ‘jewellery – ivory’ (see IJW below).

Paragraph 8:

Description	Trade term code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
powder	POW	kg		A dry, solid substance in the form of fine or coarse particles. <u>NB: Exhausted powder from agarwood-producing taxa (<i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp.) is exempted in annotation #14: “All parts and derivatives except: [...] e) exhausted agarwood powder, including compressed powder in all shapes.”</u>

Annex 1 contains a Proposed new section on **Specific instructions for reporting on specimens taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction** to be included in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*.

Annex 2 contains updated Sample Report Formats.

33. Compliance matters

33.1 Implementation of Article XIII and Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on CITES compliance procedures [Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) - SC78 Doc. 33.1]

Recommendations in paragraph 74:

74. The Standing Committee is invited to:

Regarding the implementation of Article VII, paragraph 4 of the Convention by the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- a) note the progress made by the United Kingdom and the European Union and its Member States in ensuring that facilities that are breeding specimens of Appendix-I listed species for commercial purposes be registered with the CITES Secretariat in accordance with the procedures established in Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*;
- b) invite the European Union and the United Kingdom to provide a further update on the implementation of Article VII, paragraph 4 and the registration of captive breeding facilities to the Secretariat 90 days before SC81;
- c) recall paragraph 8 a) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) and invite Parties to restrict imports for primarily commercial purposes of captive-bred specimens of Appendix-I species to those produced by operations included in the CITES Register and to reject any permit or certificate if the specimens concerned do not originate from a registered facility;

Regarding potential compliance matters related to trade in Amazona imperialis, A. arausiaca and Cyanopsitta spixii

- d) note that no further information or response has been provided by Dominica regarding the export of two specimens of *Amazona imperialis* and ten specimens of *A. arausiaca*;
- e) note the information provided by Brazil and Germany regarding the trade in *Cyanopsitta spixii* from Germany to Qatar, Singapore and India and invite Brazil and Germany to engage on a way forward, including with regard to the specimens of *C. spixii* held at the Greens Zoological Rescue & Rehabilitation Center (GZRRC) in India, and to report back to the Standing Committee at its 79th meeting;

Regarding trade in live animals to India

- f) note the information provided by India, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Mexico regarding the trade in live animals with purpose code Z to the facility of the Greens Zoological Rescue & Rehabilitation Center (GZRRC) in India;

Regarding trade in live birds from Suriname

- g) request the Secretariat to continue its close communication and strengthened cooperation with Suriname on a potential compliance matter related to trade in birds and other species and to seek an invitation from Suriname to provide, subject to the availability of external and human resources, in-country assistance, conduct a technical assessment and a verification mission to understand how the CITES Authorities ensure that live bird specimens are legally acquired and traded in full compliance with CITES; and present its findings and recommendations to a forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee;

Regarding exports of Macaca fascicularis from Cambodia

- h) request the Secretariat to continue its close communication and strengthened cooperation with Cambodia to ensure that any trade in wild caught *Macaca fascicularis* and captive breeding of this species is conducted in compliance with the provisions of the Convention, in particular Articles IV and VII and seek an invitation from Cambodia to provide, subject to the availability of external and human resources, in-country assistance, conduct a technical assessment and a verification mission to understand how the CITES authorities ensure that trade and captive-breeding of *M. fascicularis* are

compliant with the Convention; the Secretariat shall present its findings and recommendations to the forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee;

- i) urge Parties importing live specimens of *M. fascicularis* to exercise due diligence in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement* to ensure that no imports are accepted in violation of the Convention, in particular Articles IV and VII;

Regarding trade reported from Guyana by importing Parties

- j) urge Parties to liaise with the CITES Management Authority for Guyana to verify the validity of any export permit or re-export/captive breeding certificate attributed to Guyana;
- k) request Bangladesh, Cyprus, Indonesia, Oman and Sri Lanka to support the CITES Management Authority of Guyana in verifying any necessary information in instances of trade of live specimens reported as imports from Guyana; and
- l) request the Secretariat to support the CITES Management Authority of Guyana to clarify the matters and follow-up with relevant Parties regarding the cases identified by Guyana, as needed;

Regarding guidance on the scope and application of recommendations to suspend trade

- m) consider and agree on the draft decision on the scope and application of a recommendation to suspend trade, contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 33.1; and request the Secretariat to submit this for consideration by the Conference of the Parties; and

Regarding the development and adoption of a compliance action plan template

- n) consider and agree on the draft template of a compliance action plan contained in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 33.1 and request the Secretariat to submit it for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, together with amendment to paragraph 29 h) of Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*, also contained in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 33.1.

DRAFT DECISION ON
SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF A RECOMMENDATION TO SUSPEND TRADE

Directed to the Standing Committee, with the support of the Secretariat

20.XX With the support of the Secretariat, the Standing Committee shall consider the scope and application of a recommendation to suspend all trade (or trade for commercial purposes) in specimens of all CITES-listed species with a Party subject to a compliance procedure agreed in accordance with paragraph 30 of Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures* and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 21st meeting.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO
RESOLUTION CONF. 14.3 (REV. COP19) ON *CITES COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES*

New text is underlined.

Insert in Annex 1, paragraph 29:

- h) request a compliance action plan to be submitted to the Standing Committee by the Party concerned identifying appropriate steps, a timetable for when those steps should be completed and means to assess satisfactory completion. The template contained in Annex 2 may be used as a basis for the compliance action plan to be submitted.

Insert a new Annex 2:

ANNEX 2
COMPLIANCE ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

Introduction

Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*, in the section on *Measures to achieve compliance*, provides as follows in paragraph 29 of Annex 1:

If a compliance matter has not been resolved, the Standing Committee decides to take one or more of the following measures:

- h) *request a **compliance action plan** to be submitted to the Standing Committee by the Party concerned identifying **appropriate steps**, a **timetable** for when those steps should be completed and **means to assess satisfactory completion**.*

The following template is a guiding tool for Parties that are subject to an Article-XIII compliance process for which the Standing Committee has agreed on a set of recommendations for the Party to achieve compliance. The Action Plan is first and foremost intended to be a tool for the Party itself to ensure that the recommendations of the Standing Committee to the Party with regard to the compliance matter will be considered and addressed in an adequate and timely manner. The Action Plan will also assist Parties in monitoring progress and preparing progress reports to the Secretariat for onward reporting to the Standing Committee.

Any Party subject to an Article-XIII process is therefore invited to use the Action Plan template even if the Standing Committee has not requested the submission of an action plan in accordance with paragraph 29 of Annex 1 to the Resolution. It is important to keep in mind that the recommendations of the Standing Committee are addressed to the Party concerned, i.e. the Government of the State that is a Party to the Convention. They are not addressed to the CITES Management Authority. Therefore, the CITES Management Authority may need to consult with other entities of the Government on the actions to be taken to implement the recommendations as such entities need to be engaged and committed to achieve the goals of the action plan.

It is also important that relevant actors and stakeholders are consulted on the draft action plan before it is finalized and submitted to the CITES Secretariat, if so required.

The Action Plan template can be modified by the Party if additional fields are required to fit the circumstances of a particular Party. For instance, Parties that are also subject to a separate process under the Review of Significant Trade (RST) in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* may incorporate the recommendations by the Animals or Plants Committee into the Compliance Action Plan, if appropriate.

Guidance

The following explanations are offered to assist in the development of a Compliance Action Plan.

Terminology in the Compliance Action Plan template	Explanation
Header	It is important to refer to the Summary Record of the meeting in which the Standing Committee agreed to the recommendations. If the recommendations are amended/updated at subsequent meetings, the references in the Action Plan may need to be updated as well.
Area of work	The recommendations of the Standing Committee are often structured around certain areas of work, e.g. <i>Regarding national legislation; Regarding issuance of export permits; Regarding national coordination; Regarding law enforcement;</i> etc. These areas of work can be used to structure the elements of the Compliance Action Plan.
Recommendation of the Standing Committee	The text of each recommendation agreed by of the Standing Committee can be included in full in the Action Plan, if considered helpful. The recommendation can also be reformulated into a more concise goal if that will help the Party navigate

	the actions and the steps required to implement the recommendation of the Standing Committee – as long as the goal achieves the recommendation.
Steps/actions	With respect to each recommendation of the Standing Committee, Parties may identify several actions or steps to be taken to respond to the recommendation.
Timeline for implementation	It is important to provide a timeline for implementing the steps. Realistic timeframes (month and year) should be set for each element needed to complete the step/action corresponding to the Standing Committee recommendation
Means to assess satisfactory completion (milestones and indicators)	The means to assess satisfactory completion should follow naturally from the recommendations and the steps/actions devised to implement them. They can be formulated as indicators and in essence must provide a way to determine whether the step/action has been completed. If the achievement of a recommendation requires several steps, several milestones may be set with associated indicators to determine that the milestone has been met.
Leading national entity and other involved entities	The national entity (CITES Management Authority, Scientific Authority, customs, Ministry of Justice etc.) that will lead on and take responsibility for the implementation of the action should be identified. Where appropriate, additional involved entities should be included as well.
Costs, funding source	The estimated cost for implementation of each action as well as the funding source if external funding has been identified. The recommendations of the Standing Committee should ideally be possible to implement with existing means but, if external resources are required, this can be indicated here and in the next column. Identification of budget needs and gaps for implementation of selected actions is an important component for potential mobilization of external resources.
Comments (risks, assumptions, mitigation measures)	If there are certain assumptions or risks related to the completion of the action/steps, it should be noted in this column. With regard to the risks, a short explanation on how such will be mitigated should be included as well.

Recommendations in paragraph 67:

67. The Standing Committee is invited to review the information provided and to consider the following recommendations:

Progress in the implementation of Article XIII recommendations for range States of *P. erinaceus* subject to a recommendation to suspend trade, including those also undergoing RST recommendations

Gambia (The)*:

- a) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) maintain the recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from The Gambia under the expedited application of Article XIII until the conditions of paragraph 10 of Notification to the Parties No. 2022/045 are met;
 - ii) with regards to RST, note that some progress has been made by the Gambia towards the implementation of short-term recommendation b) and the long-term recommendation c), however this progress remains in its early stages; and
 - iii) agree to retain the RST short-term and long-term recommendations.

Guinea-Bissau*:

- b) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) maintain the recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Guinea-Bissau under the expedited application of Article XIII until the conditions of paragraph 10 of Notification to the Parties No. 2022/045 are met;
 - ii) with regards to RST, note that some progress has been made by Guinea-Bissau towards the implementation of short-term recommendation b) and the long-term recommendation c), however this progress remains in its early stages; and
 - iii) agree to retain RST short-term and long-term recommendations.

Mali*:

- c) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) agree that the RST short-term recommendations a) and b), and long-term recommendation c) have been implemented through the Plants Committee's acceptance of the quota for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* of 55,384.8 m³ in round wood equivalent;
 - ii) agree to retain long-term recommendation d), provided that Mali would wish to make any increase to the quota approved by the Plants Committee at PC26;
 - iii) acknowledge the significant progress made by Mali in implementing recommendations under the expedited application of Article XIII and long-term RST recommendations, particularly concerning the submission of evidence of legal acquisition findings for a volume of 39,950.4 m³ of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in accordance with Notification No. 2024/057 of 29 April 2024, thus achieving a partial withdrawal of the recommendation to suspend trade in *P. erinaceus*;
 - iv) note the progress made by Mali in the preparation of the legal acquisition findings for *P. erinaceus*;
 - v) acknowledge the efforts made by Mali, with the support of Senegal, in preparing an inventory of any specimens or stockpiles of timber originating from Mali and possibly present on Senegal's

territory, invite Mali to continue liaising with the Secretariat and with Senegal to ensure that these specimens are managed in accordance with the provisions of the Convention; and

- vi) maintain the recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species *P. erinaceus* from Mali under the expedited application of Article XIII until Mali finishes providing the evidence of adequate legal acquisition findings to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee for the remaining 15,434.4 m³ of the quota accepted at PC26 as required under Notification to the Parties No. 2022/045.

Nigeria*:

- d) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) acknowledge the progress made by Nigeria in implementing recommendations under the expedited application of Article XIII and long-term RST recommendations in the context of the compliance assistance programme;
 - ii) encourage Nigeria to continue implementing these recommendations;
 - iii) maintain the recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Nigeria under the expedited application of Article XIII until the conditions of paragraph 10 of Notification to the Parties No. 2022/045 are met; and
 - iv) agree to retain the RST short and long-term recommendations.

Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, and Togo:

- e) The Standing Committee is invited to maintain the recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, and Togo under the expedited application of Article XIII until the conditions of paragraph 10 of Notification to the Parties No. 2022/045 are fully met;

Progress in the implementation of RST recommendations for range States of *P. erinaceus* subject to a voluntary zero export quota

Benin*

- f) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) agree that the RST short-term recommendation a) has been implemented by confirming the maintenance of a zero export quota for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* for 2024 and 2025; and
 - ii) agree to retain RST short-term recommendation b) and the long-term recommendations c) and d).

Burkina Faso*

- g) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) request Burkina Faso to confirm a voluntary zero export quota for 2024 and 2025 for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*; and
 - ii) agree to retain the short and long-term RST recommendations.

Ghana*

- h) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) agree that the RST short-term recommendations a) and b), have been implemented through the Plants Committee's acceptance at PC27 of the 40,000 m³ quota in round wood equivalent for the off-reserve underwater (Volta Lake) operations;

- ii) note that the long-term recommendations c) and d) are in process of implementation, pending the Plants Committee's review of the additional quota for 18,719.93 m³ living stands of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*; and
- iii) remind Ghana that the next step to follow in implementing the PC27-accepted quota is the presentation of LAF to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19).

Sierra Leone*

- i) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) agree that the RST short-term recommendations a) and b), and long-term recommendation c) have been implemented through the Plants Committee's acceptance of the quota for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* of 76,324.5m³ in round wood equivalent;
 - ii) agree to retain long-term recommendation d), provided that Sierra Leone would wish to make any increase to the quota approved by the Plants Committee at PC27; and
 - iii) remind Sierra Leone that the next step to follow in implementing the PC27-accepted quota is the presentation of LAF to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19).

With regards to Parties with voluntary zero export quotas not subject to further specific recommendations (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Senegal)

- j) The Standing Committee is invited to note that no further recommendations with regard to Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Senegal are required.

CITES regional workshop on non-detriment findings (NDF) and legal acquisition findings (LAF) for West African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*)

- k) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) take note of the elements provided in Section 3 of document SC78 Doc. 33.2 and the report of the workshop contained in Annex 3; and
 - ii) encourage Parties to continue sharing experiences and best practices concerning NDFs and LAFs for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in order to share knowledge and build capacity in the implementation of the Article XIII and RST recommendations for this species.

Reflections on the simultaneous implementation of the expedited application of Article XIII and RST for *P. erinaceus*

- l) The Standing Committee is invited to consider and provide views on the proposal that, when Article XIII and RST processes are running concurrently, the RST recommendations be included within the Article XIII recommendations to facilitate reporting.

33.3 Application of Article XIII in Bangladesh - SC78 Doc. 33.3

Recommendations in paragraphs 48 to 50:

48. The Standing Committee is invited to acknowledge the initial progress made by Bangladesh in addressing the compliance matters leading to recommendations agreed at its 77th meeting.

49. The Standing Committee is further invited to consider the following recommendations:

Regarding management of trade in specimens of CITES-listed birds

- a) The Standing Committee recommends that Parties continue to suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed birds with Bangladesh until the Party is in a position to adequately regulate and monitor trade in CITES-listed birds notably through the establishment of a reliable and efficient system for maintaining records of trade in specimens of species included in Appendix I, II and III in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 6 of the Convention.

Specifically, the Committee recommends that Bangladesh:

- i) operationalize and further develop the online permitting system “CITES Permit/Certificate and NOC System” to facilitate the management and issuance of CITES permits and certificates and the verification of the legal acquisition of specimens in trade;
- ii) further develop the database of all registered pet bird farms and traders to ensure that it includes all relevant information and is maintained up-to-date and to integrate it with the “CITES Permit/Certificate and NOC System” as soon as possible to facilitate control, communication and collaboration; and
- iii) explore linkages with and possible integration of the online permitting system with the national single window or other similar national systems, including health and veterinary certifications, or customs declarations.

Regarding legislation and law enforcement

- b) Bangladesh strengthen the regulatory framework in relation to management of and trade in birds and marine species, to ensure that the national legislation meets the CITES minimum requirements as set out in Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on *National laws for the implementation of the Convention*, including ensuring appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention, prohibit trade in violation of the Convention, and penalize offences related to wildlife crime (Art. VIII, paragraph 1).

Specifically, the Committee recommends that Bangladesh:

- i) as soon as possible and within a set deadline adopt and implement the amendments to the Pet Bird management rules (2020) and the Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation & Security) Act, 2012, to bridge gaps and close any loopholes that may be generated by the distribution of competences between different divisions, lack of adequate enforcement powers, the No Objection Certificates (NOC) system, lack of adequate penalties for offences related to wildlife crime and the final disposal of confiscated live specimens;
- ii) finalize the review and adoption of necessary amendments to the regulatory framework in relation to CITES-listed marine species and the implementation of the shark listings as soon as possible and within a set deadline;
- iii) implement appropriate measures to further strengthen capacity among law enforcement agencies to reinforce CITES controls, using risk-based management approaches, in particular container controls at airports and seaports, as well as control of mailed parcels and of air cargo. Additional measures should be considered to address the weakness that scanning machines in use at the ports of entry and exit are unable to detect biological products, that only suspicious products are examined, and that containers are opened in a very limited number of cases; and

- iv) take measures to further strengthen criminal intelligence, exchange of intelligence, controlled delivery, mapping of organized crime groups, wildlife crime investigation and prosecution. The newly established National CITES Enforcement Committee could be an important forum for the definition of measures of implement in this context and monitoring of their implementation.

Handling of live animals and disposal of seized live specimens

- c) Bangladesh take measures to ensure strict implementation of Article VIII, paragraph 4 of the Convention, taking into account the recommendations and all management options contained in Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*, and of Article VIII, paragraph 3 of the Convention, taking into account the recommendations in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*.

Specifically, the Committee recommends that Bangladesh:

- i) expand the inventory of all seized live specimens of CITES-listed birds, and include all pertinent data to obtain a complete view of all seizures of illegally traded specimens of CITES-listed birds and the disposal method used regarding confiscated live specimens, in accordance with Article VIII and Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19);
- ii) develop and implement a strategy with monitorable control and management measures for seized live specimens of CITES-listed birds, including measures to manage the species in the short-term, and to reduce the risk of injury, mortality or theft from the rescue centres, taking into consideration Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19), and adopt and implement the *Protocol on Identifying, Recording, Processing, and Compounding Exotic Live Birds*; and
- iii) ensure that a border control strategy is in place to continue the efforts taken in this regard in line with paragraph 13 of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19).

Scientific Authority and surveys

- d) Bangladesh take measures to strengthen its Scientific Authority by building capacity on wildlife issues and allocating sufficient resources to undertake population surveys that can be used in the making of the non-detriment findings and the setting of annual export quotas for any CITES-listed species, when required, taking into account recommendations contained in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* and the preliminary *CITES Guidance on Non-Detriment Findings*, prior to authorizing exportation of CITES-listed species of fauna and flora.
50. The Secretariat finally recommends that the Standing Committee request Bangladesh to submit a report on the implementation of the above recommendations to the Secretariat 90 days before the 79th meeting of the Standing Committee for the Secretariat to report on the application of Article XIII in Bangladesh and provide its recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Recommendations in paragraph 50:

50. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the progress made by Cameroon in the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting and congratulate the country for this;
- b) determine that there are no longer any compliance matters regarding trade in CITES-listed tree species from Cameroon, including *Pericopsis elata*; and
- c) encourage Cameroon to continue strengthening the implementation of the Convention regarding specimens of CITES-listed species in transit through Cameroon, specifically by:
 - i) submitting an annual report on illegal trade, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 3;
 - ii) continuing to develop the SIGIF2 information system, particularly the creation of the CEMAC (Central African Economic and Monetary Community) module to record timber from third countries, particularly the Central African Republic and the Congo, thus enabling a better monitoring of statistics, volumes and timber species from neighbouring countries and a better traceability of specimens during their entire transit through Cameroon, considering the Convention and the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Transit and transshipment*; and
 - iii) promptly conducting an evaluation of the role and methods of work of the Société d'Exploitation des Parcs à Bois du Cameroon (SEPBC) for the management of stocks of timber at the ports of shipment, ensuring a clear and strict separation between stocks of specimens from Cameroon and those of specimens from neighbouring countries, and between the different types of specimens traded.

Recommendations in paragraphs 26 and 27:

26. The Secretariat proposes that the Standing Committee renew the recommendations adopted at SC77, with certain modifications considering the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Regarding the management of trade in Psittacus erithacus

- a) The Parties maintain the recommendation to suspend trade in specimens of the species *Psittacus erithacus* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo pending compliance with the following recommendations:
- i) on the basis of the reservation entered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the species *Psittacus erithacus*, this State is considered as a non-Party with respect to trade in this species. However, Resolution Conf. 4.25 (Rev. CoP14) states that a State not a Party to the Convention for a species included in Appendix I (*Psittacus erithacus*) should treat that species as if it were included in Appendix II for all purposes, including obligatory documents and controls, and suspend the issuance of export permits for commercial and non-commercial trade in specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* of wild origin until it is in a position to make scientifically based non-detriment findings;
 - ii) the Standing Committee notes again the moratorium announced by the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC69; Geneva, November 2017) to suspend trade in *Psittacus erithacus* and its announcement that it will not implement its reservation on the listing of the species in Appendix I, and it invites the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to implement the moratorium;
 - iii) the Democratic Republic of the Congo take steps to implement Decision 17.256 (Rev. CoP19) on African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*); in this context, the Standing Committee takes note of the commitment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to undertake population surveys and develop a management plan for *Psittacus erithacus* and encourages the country to continue its efforts launched in this regard; and
 - iv) the Democratic Republic of the Congo not establish experimental export quotas as part of scientific surveys of the species in the country.

Regarding illegal trade and enforcement

- b) The Democratic Republic of the Congo should continue its efforts to collect all the relevant data on illegal trade and on the action of the criminal groups operating in the country, to develop a register to collect all these data, and to continue to work in close collaboration with all the authorities concerned, including at the local level in the areas identified as most important, so as to conduct operations and investigations based on the intelligence obtained, focusing particularly on the trafficking of *Psittacus erithacus* (African grey parrots), *Manis* spp. (pangolins), great apes and other species of primates, and elephant ivory;
 - c) The Democratic Republic of the Congo should consider developing and launching a strategy to fight corruption linked to wildlife crime at all levels, including anti-corruption policies, and step up efforts to ensure the full implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention*. The strategy should include recommendations aimed at protecting officials in charge of the implementation of CITES from undue pressures, obstructions and threats;
 - d) The Democratic Republic of the Congo should continue to report on the implementation of its National Ivory Action Plan, in accordance with the guidelines in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*.
27. The Democratic Republic of the Congo should report to the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations 90 days before the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC81), in order for the Secretariat to consider it in its report to the Standing Committee on the application of Article XIII in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

33.6 Application of Article XIII in Ecuador and Peru - SC78 Doc. 33.6

Recommendations in paragraph 80:

80. The Standing Committee is invited to consider the information contained in document SC78 Doc. 33.6 and the following recommendations. The Standing Committee is invited to recommend that:

Regarding management of trade in sharks and rays specimens

- a) Parties continue to suspend trade in specimens of sharks and rays from Ecuador for *Carcharhinus falciformis*, *Alopias* spp. and *Isurus* spp. until Ecuador fully implements Article IV by establishing sustainable export quotas for these species to the satisfaction of the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee and inform the Secretariat of the timeline for implementation, and monitoring methodology, of by-catch limits and other mitigation measures, as appropriate;
- b) Ecuador share the information on the implementation of by-catch limits and other mitigation measures, as appropriate, to the 35th meeting of the Animals Committee;
- c) Ecuador take steps to conduct further work on population assessments in cooperation with Peru and/or other organizations such as the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, to gather additional information for non-detriment findings (NDFs) on shark species;

Regarding legislation

- d) Ecuador finalize the revision of its national legislation to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements of CITES set out in Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on *National laws for the implementation of the Convention* and in accordance with the guidance provided by the Secretariat under the National Legislation Project;
- e) Peru, with the support of the Secretariat, as appropriate, ensure that its national legislation allows for the implementation of rules governing introduction from the sea, in accordance with Articles III and IV of the Convention;

Regarding controls, inspections and the fight against fraud

- f) Ecuador and Peru continue to develop and use innovative technologies, and encourage companies to use such technologies, to track and monitor vessels and smaller boats to ensure that the catch location of specimens of CITES-listed species is known, thus allowing for the full implementation of Articles III and IV of the Convention, and to prevent illegally fishing, illegal exploitation or illegally traded catch from entering their supply chains;
- g) Ecuador and Peru continue to strengthen the capacities and mandates of their Management Authorities and of other authorities competent in the fight against illegal trade, in order to strengthen the control of illegal trade in CITES-listed hydrobiological species and the fight against transnational organized crime;
- h) Ecuador and Peru operationalize the binational platform for cooperation and coordination among the competent authorities involved in the fight against crime, in order to strengthen the monitoring of trade in CITES-listed species and to combat transnational organized crime in fishing activities, in accordance with paragraphs 9 a) and b), and Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*; and

Regarding reporting

- i) Ecuador and Peru report to the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations 90 days before the 79th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC79), for the Secretariat to report on the application of Article XIII in Ecuador and Peru to the Standing Committee.

33.7 Application of Article XIII in Guinea - SC78 Doc. 33.7

Recommendations in paragraphs 39 and 40:

39. In light of the above, the Secretariat proposes that the Standing Committee revise and update its recommendations adopted at SC77 as follows:

Regarding the recommendation to suspend trade

- a) The Committee recommends that Parties continue to suspend all trade in CITES-listed species with Guinea for commercial purposes until the following recommendations have been met to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee:

Regarding the proceeds from the export of the stockpile of Pterocarpus erinaceus

Guinea should:

- b) provide to the Secretariat evidence of the transfer of the 40% of the proceeds obtained from the sale of the *Pterocarpus erinaceus* pre-Convention stockpile or any income from legal proceedings (i.e. an amount equivalent to at least USD 144,716) to a separate subaccount of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and the establishment of a budget for the use of the funds in support of CITES implementation and conservations of fauna and flora in Guinea;

Regarding national legislation

Guinea should:

- c) as a matter of priority adopt and ensure the application of the revised legislative measures that meet the minimum requirements of CITES 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 Management and Scientific Authorities;

Regarding management and issuance of CITES permits and certificates

Guinea should:

- d) validate the protocol for the making of non-detriment findings by the CITES Scientific Authority prior to the issuance of export permits;

Regarding compliance and law enforcement

Guinea should:

- e) under the aegis of the Advocate General of the Conakry Court of Appeal (Focal Point for Wildlife Crime of the Ministry of Justice), and in accordance with national law, continue to conduct criminal and financial investigations, through specialized agencies such as INTERPOL's National Central Bureau, the National Financial Information Processing Unit (*Cellule Nationale de traitement des Informations Financières*), the National Anti-corruption and good governance promotion agency, and the National Wildlife and Forest Crime Brigade; and undertake judicial prosecutions against all individuals and entities involved in alleged offences associated with the illicit trafficking of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, including the members of the National Commission, irrespective of their position;
- f) continue its efforts to investigate and collect information on the transnational organized syndicates operating in the country so that they can be brought to justice and avoid that only small perpetrators are targeted;
- g) continue to investigate and prosecute other 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 the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report*;

- h) consider developing and implementing a strategy to counter corruption linked to wildlife crime at all levels, including anti-bribery policies, and intensify efforts to ensure full implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention*. The strategy should include recommendations to protect officials responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES from undue pressure, obstruction and threats;
 - i) validate and implement the formal agreement between the CITES Management Authority and the Customs Service on collaboration, coordination and exchange of information;
 - j) validate and implement the developed 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 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*;
 - k) continue taking action to address the gaps identified through the implementation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Indicator Framework.
40. The Standing Committee is further invited to request that Guinea prepare a comprehensive report on the implementation of these recommendations, including the budget and the use of the funds mentioned in recommendation b) and any progress in the criminal investigations mentioned in recommendations e) to g) and any other pertinent information and evidence needed to confirm implementation by the Secretariat. Guinea shall submit the report to the Secretariat 90 days before the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee so that the Secretariat can in turn submit its report and recommendations to the Standing Committee at that meeting.

Recommendations in paragraphs 70 to 72:

70. The Standing Committee is invited to acknowledge the initial progress made by the Lao People's Democratic Republic in implementing the recommendations issued at its 77th meeting. At the same time, the Standing Committee is invited to note that several compliance matters remain, in particular with regard to relations between the CITES authorities, capacity-building of the SA, enforcement, and the captive-breeding of and trade in tigers, macaques, and Asian elephants.
71. The Standing Committee is further invited to consider making the following recommendations:
- a) Parties shall continue to suspend trade with the Lao People's Democratic Republic in specimens of all CITES-listed species for commercial purposes until the Lao People's Democratic Republic has substantially achieved the following recommendations:
 - b) The Lao People's Democratic Republic should consider whether the Prime Minister Order No. 5 of 2018 has been superseded by more recent legislation and if so, consider promulgating a new Prime Minister's Order to mandate the effective implementation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic's obligations as a Party to the Convention

Regarding CITES Authorities

The Lao People's Democratic Republic should:

- c) with the support of the CITES Secretariat, continue to address the need for strengthening capacity and training of staff of the CITES Management and Scientific Authority on the effective implementation of the Convention, and organize regular training for the staff of the CITES Scientific Authority;
- d) take measures to improve the collaboration between national CITES authorities *inter alia* by developing a standard operating procedure for the two authorities and finalizing the development of the national CITES permit database.

Regarding law enforcement

The Lao People's Democratic Republic should:

- e) continue to investigate and prosecute cases involving organized and transboundary illegal trade activities, such as those identified by international partners; and provide to the Secretariat the results (including arrests) of any investigations conducted by competent national authorities and the results of any legal proceedings against alleged perpetrators, in the annual illegal trade report format;
- f) continue to work with the law enforcement agencies from Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, including within the context of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement, the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime, and other relevant networks, to improve the practical, on-the-ground cooperation between enforcement authorities, including justice, police and customs, on the issues of illegal wildlife trade and tourism;
- g) implement all of the recommendations of the Wildlife and Forest Crime Toolkit of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), report on the full implementation, and request support from ICCWC to conduct a follow-up implementation of the ICCWC indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime to monitor performance over time and to identify areas for improvement; and
- h) continue to report on the implementation of its National Ivory Action Plan, in accordance with the guidelines contained in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*.

Regarding monitoring of wildlife farms and related trade

The Lao People's Democratic Republic should:

- i) complete the evaluation of the utilization of the “TigerBase” and introduce regular monitoring inspections and samplings to ensure that it is maintained up-to-date to assist with identification of individual specimens;
- j) takes steps to identify, if possible, any pure specimens of tigers referable to the mainland Southeast Asian lineage (also known as *Panthera tigris corbetti*) and encourage facilities to engage in coordinated conservation breeding of such animals, if identified;
- k) implement and enforce measures to limit the number of tigers to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers by:
 - i) restricting the breeding of tigers in captivity (sterilizing, separating male and female specimens), except for specimens of tigers referable to the mainland Southeast Asian lineage (also known as *Panthera tigris corbetti*);
 - ii) not authorizing any further import of tiger live specimens, except for specimens of tigers referable to the mainland Southeast Asian lineage (also known as *Panthera tigris corbetti*) for conservation breeding purposes; and
 - iii) prohibiting the establishment of any new tiger facilities;
- l) implement stringent regulations for tiger husbandry standards to improve care and discourage expansion of captive-breeding facilities;
- m) develop standard operating procedures for inspections and disposal of dead tiger specimens (including destruction of carcasses after verification of the dead individual) and train officials to undertake inspections and monitor the disposal of carcasses;
- n) consider and implement [relevant outcomes of the Big Cat Task Force Meeting](#) with specific reference to section 2: Strengthen regulation of facilities breeding big cats in captivity to prevent and detect any illegal trade from such facilities and deploy strengthened enforcement measures;
- o) take measures to reduce the demand for tiger parts and derivatives through the implementation of campaigns and strategies taking into consideration the guidance in [Resolution Conf. 17.4 \(Rev. CoP19\) on Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species](#).

Regarding trade in live Asian elephants

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic should:

- p) take measures 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. CoP19) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*; and
- q) continue to take substantive steps to manage captive Asian elephant populations by strengthening its system for registration, marking and tracing Asian elephants held in captivity in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

Regarding captive breeding and trade in Macaca fascicularis

- r) The Lao People’s Democratic Republic should not issue export permits for *Macaca fascicularis*, including for captive bred specimens of *Macaca fascicularis*, until it proves the legal acquisition of original breeding stocks for captive-breeding facilities, as well as for additional wild caught specimens added to these breeding stocks, where relevant, to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee.

Regarding trade in Dalbergia spp.

- s) The Lao People’s Democratic Republic should continue not to issue export permits for *Dalbergia* spp. until it develops a non-detriment finding indicating that it would be sustainable to resume trade and submits a corresponding export quota.

72. The Secretariat finally recommends that the Standing Committee request that the Lao People's Democratic Republic:
- a) prepare a Compliance Action Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretariat within 60 days following the present meeting, detailing how it will address these recommendations, using the template provided by the Secretariat with actions, milestones and timelines; and
 - b) report on the implementation of the above recommendations/Compliance Action Plan to the Secretariat 60 days before the 79th meeting of the Standing Committee for the Secretariat to take into account in its report on the application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Standing Committee.

Recommendations in paragraphs 37 to 39:

37. In light of the above, the Secretariat proposes that the Standing Committee revise and update its recommendations adopted at SC77 as follows:

Regarding trade in specimens of Pterocarpus erinaceus

- a) The Standing Committee recommends that Parties continue to suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Nigeria under Article XIII until the following conditions are met:
 - i) The Party concerned makes a scientifically based non-detriment finding for trade in the species to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* and based on the outcomes of the Review of Significant Trade process for this species; and
 - ii) The Party provides evidence of adequate legal acquisition findings to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings*.

Regarding legislation and law enforcement

- b) Nigeria should ensure the adoption of the Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill, 2024 and continue to improve the regulatory framework in relation to forestry management, including forestry legislation at the State level, to close any loopholes created by the distribution of competences between Federal and State levels.
- c) Nigeria should continue implementing its national Strategies aiming 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 (Rev. CoP19) on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption* and reporting on results achieved through implementation. Measures implemented in the framework of these strategies should protect officials responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES from undue pressure, obstruction and threats.
- d) Nigeria should maintain and strengthen inter-agency coordination to control trade in CITES-listed species and to combat transnational organized wildlife crime, through the National Stakeholders Forum on Combating Wildlife Crime in Nigeria and the Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force, in line with relevant paragraphs of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*, and report on results achieved through this coordination.
- e) Nigeria should scale up efforts to map out organized crime groups involved in illegal wildlife trade and operating in the country. Nigeria should continue convening multidisciplinary investigative teams involving all relevant authorities to perform intelligence-driven operations and investigations, and report on the activities conducted and results achieved.
- f) Nigeria should continue to report on the implementation of its NIAP, in accordance with the guidelines contained in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*.

Regarding issuance of export permits and information systems

- g) Nigeria should scale up efforts towards establishment and functioning of 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, including with support from the CAP.
- h) Nigeria should 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.

Handling and disposal of seized stockpiles CITES-listed species

- i) Nigeria should continue to implement adequate control measures to secure storage facilities for seized stocks of CITES-listed species, including for pangolins and ivory, and dispose of confiscated specimens in line with recommendations contained in Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*.
38. The Secretariat should remain in close contact with Nigeria, monitor the Party's progress in the implementation of the above recommendations of the Standing Committee, and bring any matters of concern to the attention of the Committee.
 39. The Standing Committee should request Nigeria to report on progress made in the implementation of recommendations a) to i) 90 days before SC81, in order for the Secretariat to convey this report and its comments, as well as recommended follow-up measures, if any, to the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee.

Recommendations in paragraphs 67 to 70:

67. In light of the above, the Standing Committee may wish to commend the significant efforts made by Viet Nam and agree with the conclusion of the Secretariat that there is currently no evidence of compliance issues to be addressed under Article XIII of the Convention concerning Viet Nam.
68. In order to enhance the implementation and enforcement of the Convention, the Standing Committee may wish to recommend that Viet Nam:

Concerning the management of imports

- a) assess its national procedures concerning imports of CITES-listed species to ensure that the Management Authority has adequate time and capacity to conduct appropriate due diligence verifications;
- b) continue to build the capacities of the Scientific Authority and law enforcement authorities, in particular with regard to species identification and forensic analysis, with an emphasis on timber species;

Concerning the disposal of confiscated specimens illegally traded or possessed

- c) assess its national procedures concerning the confiscation of specimens illegally traded or possessed, taking into account paragraph 1 of Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*;
- d) assess its national procedures and the roles of the different institutions involved in the management of stockpiles, taking into account Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19), and take any necessary measure to ensure the proper management and recording of such stockpiles;
- e) conduct an inventory of all existing stockpiles of CITES-listed specimens, and report on such stockpiles in accordance with relevant resolutions, as appropriate;
- f) submit a response to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/096 on *Request for information on pangolins (Manis spp.) and pangolin stocks* by 31 March 2025;

Concerning enforcement

- g) review its annual illegal trade reports and include any relevant data on seizures related to CITES-listed species of flora, particularly timber species;
 - h) take additional measures to combat transnational organized wildlife crime by strengthening criminal intelligence, exchange of intelligence, controlled delivery, wildlife crime investigation and prosecution, and financial investigations linked to wildlife crime;
 - i) take further action to develop and implement strategies to reduce the demand for ivory, rhino horn, pangolin, and big cats specimens and products;
 - j) strengthen international collaborations with international organizations and other CITES Parties to strengthen the control of trade in CITES-listed species, exchange information and combat transnational organized wildlife crime;
 - k) further support the capacity of law enforcement agencies in combatting wildlife crime; and
 - l) submit its implementation report covering 2021 to 2023, in accordance with Article VIII of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev CoP19) on *National reports*.
69. The Standing Committee may further wish to recommend that the Secretariat continue to provide technical support to Viet Nam in implementing these recommendations, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, including in the context of the compliance support provided by the Secretariat and initiatives conducted under ICCWC.

70. Finally, the Standing Committee may wish to invite Viet Nam to submit a report to the Secretariat on any action taken to implement these recommendations 90 days before SC81.

Recommendations in paragraphs 12 and 13:

12. Madagascar recommends that the Standing Committee take note of this document and of the progress mentioned.
13. Madagascar requests Parties and relevant partners, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to provide technical and financial assistance in support of the implementation of Decision 19.71.

33.12.1 Report of the Secretariat - SC78 Doc. 33.12.1

Recommendations in paragraph 35:

35. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the information provided in document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1, the reports of the Secretariat on its missions to China, Mexico and the United States of America, the study on totoaba and vaquita, as well as the report from Mexico on progress with implementation of its compliance action plan on totoaba and the Secretariat's assessment of progress with compliance action plan implementation available in Annexes 4 to 9 to the document;
- b) request China, Mexico and the United States of America to take into consideration the recommendations resulting from the Secretariat's missions on totoaba as outlined in Annexes 4, 5 and 6 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1;
- c) welcome the continued progress made by Mexico with implementation of its compliance action plan and request Mexico to:
 - i) take into consideration the observations of the Secretariat as presented in Annex 9 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1;
 - ii) submit a report to SC79, focusing exclusively on progress with achievement of the milestones of targets in the compliance action plan for which the Secretariat concluded that they have either been progressed but not yet achieved or that activities have not yet progressed to achieve them, in Annex 9 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1;
 - iii) continue to implement activities regarding all milestones of targets in the compliance action plan for which the Secretariat concluded that they are of an ongoing nature or should regularly occur and therefore must continue in Annex 9 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1; and
 - iv) submit its report to the Secretariat 90 days in advance of SC79, for it to be made available to the Committee for consideration;
- d) request the Secretariat to continue monitoring Mexico's implementation of its compliance action plan and share the report to SC79 submitted by Mexico with the Committee together with any recommendations the Secretariat may have;
- e) agree to review Mexico's progress with the implementation of its compliance action plan at SC79 and consider if any further compliance actions or measures are needed;
- f) consider and agree draft decisions 20.AA to 20.HH presented in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1 for onward submission to CoP20; and
- g) recommend to CoP20 that Decisions 18.292 (Rev. CoP19) to 18.295 (Rev. CoP19) and 19.74 to 19.76 on Totoabas (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) be deleted, as they have been implemented or are replaced by the draft decisions proposed in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *TOTOABAS* (*TOTOABA MACDONALDI*)

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

20.AA In their implementation of measures and activities to conserve and protect totoaba and vaquita and address poaching and illegal trade affecting these species, Parties and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to:

- a) take into consideration the information contained in the study on totoaba and vaquita available in Annex 7 to document SC78 Doc. 33.12.1;
- b) support efforts related to the recovery and monitoring of wild populations of totoaba and vaquita;
- c) support efforts to eliminate supply of and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba; and
- d) make every effort to support Mexico in the implementation of Decision 20.DD.

Directed to Parties affected by illegal fishing and trafficking of totoabas

20.BB Parties affected by illegal fishing and trafficking of totoabas are encouraged to:

- a) fully implement the measures and activities outlined in the online [Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba agreed outcomes document](#), as relevant to them, applying strict enforcement measures to prevent and combat this illegal trade and prosecute the criminals involved;
- b) draw upon the secure law enforcement communication channels and tools provided by INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization to share information on seizures and arrests associated with totoaba specimen trafficking; and
- c) engage in awareness-raising activities on the illegal trade in totoaba, and its severe implications for the conservation of vaquitas (*Phocoena sinus*), including demand reduction campaigns, as well as activities to eliminate supply and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba, taking into consideration the measures and activities outlined in the *Meeting of Range Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba* agreed outcomes document under the heading *Opportunities to eliminate supply and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba*.

Directed to China

20.CC China is encouraged to:

- a) strengthen information and intelligence gathering regarding individuals within the country managing and organizing illegal trade involving totoaba specimens, analyze data gathered to map out their criminal networks, and target their activities through intelligence-driven investigations and operations to facilitate their arrest and prosecution; and
- b) report to the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee on activities conducted and any associated results achieved.

Directed to Mexico

20.DD Mexico is requested to:

- a) pursue the urgent implementation of all aspects of the *Agreement regulating gears, systems, methods, techniques and schedules for the performance of fishing activities with smaller and larger vessels in Mexican Marine Zones in the Northern Gulf of California and establishing landing sites, as well as the use of monitoring systems for such vessels* (“the Agreement”), or any new or revised version of “the Agreement”;
- b) continue implementation of measures to effectively prevent fishers from using gillnets in the Vaquita Refuge Area (VRA) and vessels from entering the Vaquita Zero-Tolerance Area (Zo) and to maintain these areas completely gillnet-free, including by:
 - i) ensuring surveillance on a full-time basis drawing upon all systems at its disposal;
 - ii) implementing a strict zero-tolerance policy concerning unauthorized fishing and fishing gear in these areas and imposing strict penalties where irregularities are detected, including the seizure of both vessels and unauthorized fishing gear combined with administrative or criminal penalties as applicable;

- iii) deploying authorities with legal powers of seizure and arrest, together with the Navy, to effectively prevent, disrupt and put an end to the illegal fishing activities;
- iv) maintaining resources to ensure uninterrupted gillnet removal and to take all necessary measures to destroy confiscated nets;
- c) scale up activities in support of selective fishing gear development and use, including by implementing dedicated programmes in this regard, in consultation with stakeholders to ensure inclusivity and acceptance;
- d) maintain strict control over the activities of vessels to which fishing permits with alternative gear were granted to ensure that only the alternative gear is used as authorized by the permits and that strict action is taken when any irregularities are detected;
- e) continue delivering activities through awareness and sensitization programmes in pursuit of behaviour change regarding the use of alternative fishing gear that does not pose a threat to the vaquita and to deter illegal activities;
- f) take measures to address illegal totoaba fishing displaced elsewhere due to strengthened measures deployed at the Zo and VRA;
- g) further strengthen intelligence gathering and analyses of information and data to map out the criminal groups in Mexico involved in illegal fishing and totoaba specimen trafficking, and to address them through intelligence-driven enforcement operations; and
- h) submit a report on the implementation of Decision 20.DD to the Secretariat 90 days in advance of the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee, for it to be made available to the Committee for consideration.

Directed to the United States of America

20.EE The United States of America is encouraged to:

- a) strengthen information and intelligence gathering regarding individuals within its territory facilitating the transit of illegal totoaba specimen consignments through its territory, their *modus operandi* to receive, store and export such illegal consignments, and to target their activities through intelligence-driven investigations and operations, including by sharing information with authorities in Mexico and China, as appropriate, in support of follow up investigations across the illegal trade chain;
- b) in its implementation of measures and activities to address totoaba specimen trafficking, consider the risk of commercial seafood shipments transiting its territory being used to conceal and smuggle illegal totoaba swim bladder consignments and to apply strict inspection measures to such shipments originating from and destined to Parties known to be affected by totoaba specimen trafficking, as well as review related national practices to ensure that the measures in place are effective and adapted as may be needed to respond to any newly identified trends; and
- c) report to the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee on the activities conducted and any associated results achieved.

Directed to China, Mexico, and the United States of America

20.FF China, Mexico, and the United States of America are requested to jointly submit, through the Chair of the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group (TECG), a report to the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee on the activities conducted in accordance with the TECG terms of reference, as well as associated results achieved, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.GG The Secretariat shall:

- a) seek information from Parties on their implementation of Decisions 20.AA and 20.BB;

- b) report to the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee on its implementation of Decision 20.GG together with any recommendations it may have.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.HH The Standing Committee shall review the reporting submitted by Parties and the Secretariat in accordance with Decisions 20. CC to 20.GG and make recommendations as appropriate.

33.12.2 Report of the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group - SC78 Doc. 33.12.2

Recommendations in paragraph 8:

- 8. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) take note of this report; and
 - b) welcome the trilateral efforts of Mexico, China, and the United States to combat illegal trade of totoaba, urge the continuation of these efforts, and invite the three Parties to report to the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee on the progress of the TCEG.

33.13 National ivory action plan process

33.13.1 Report of the Secretariat -SC78 Doc. 33.13.1

Recommendations in paragraph 23:

23. Based on the above considerations and on the assessments of the progress reports submitted for consideration at the present meeting, the Standing Committee is invited to:
- a) urge all Parties included in the NIAP process to step up efforts as a matter of urgency to achieve their NIAP goals by the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*; and
 - b) agree to consider application of appropriate measures in accordance with Step 4 paragraph f) of the *Guidelines* on Parties in Categories A and B that remain in these categories after SC78 and fail to achieve their NIAP goals by the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee, unless otherwise well justified.
24. The Standing Committee is also invited to agree on the following recommendations with respect to each individual Party that is included in the NIAP process, grouped by category:

Category A Parties

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- c) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) agree an overall rating of “partial progress”, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
 - ii) welcome the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo since SC77 and encourage the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals.

Nigeria

- d) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) agree an overall rating of “partial progress”, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
 - ii) welcome the progress made by Nigeria since SC77 and encourage the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals.

Togo

- e) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note that the progress report submitted by Togo does not demonstrate sufficient progress made;
 - ii) agree an overall rating of “limited progress” in line with Step 4, paragraph e) of the *Guidelines*;
 - iii) request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines to the NIAP process*, to issue on its behalf a written caution requesting Togo to submit a progress report to the Secretariat confirming how satisfactory progress has been made towards achievement of its NIAP goals; and
 - iv) urge Togo to step up its effort with a sense of greater urgency to advance achievement of its NIAP goals and provide sufficient details on the activities delivered to justify the self-assessment progress ratings.

Viet Nam

- f) The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i) agree an overall rating of “partial progress”, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
- ii) commend Viet Nam for the progress made in achieving the goals of its NIRAP and request the Party to revise and update its NIRAP and continue its implementation.

Category B Parties

Cambodia

- g) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) agree that Cambodia exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines*;
 - ii) encourage Cambodia to complete the implementation of any NIAP actions that have not yet been ‘achieved’; and
 - iii) request the Secretariat, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, to continue to monitor illegal trade in ivory as it relates to Cambodia, and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee.

Gabon

- h) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) agree an overall rating of “partial progress”, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
 - ii) welcome the progress made by Gabon since SC77 and encourage the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals.

Malaysia

- i) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) agree that Malaysia exit the NIAP process in accordance with Step 5 of the *Guidelines*;
 - ii) encourage Malaysia to complete the implementation of any NIAP actions that have not yet been ‘achieved’; and
 - iii) request the Secretariat, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19), to continue to monitor illegal trade in ivory as it relates to Malaysia, and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Committee.

Mozambique

- j) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) agree an overall rating of “partial progress”, in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
 - ii) welcome the progress made by Mozambique since SC77 and encourage the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals.

Category C Parties

Angola

- k) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) welcome the progress made by Angola since SC77 and encourage the Party to build upon this to achieve its NIAP goals; and
 - ii) encourage Angola to conduct risk assessments to develop risk profiles for illegal trade in ivory and reach out to the World Customs Organization for support as needed.

Cameroon

- l) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note the limited progress made by Cameroon in implementing its NIAP and encourage the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP and provide sufficient details on the activities delivered to justify the self-assessment progress ratings; and
 - ii) agree an overall rating of “limited progress” for Cameroon, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;

Congo

- m) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note that the progress report submitted by the Congo does not demonstrate sufficient progress made;
 - ii) agree an overall rating of “limited progress” in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
 - iii) request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, to issue a written caution on its behalf requesting the Congo to submit a progress report to the Secretariat confirming how progress has been made towards achievement of its NIAP goals; and
 - iv) urge the Congo to submit information on seizures of elephant ivory to the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) in advance of the next assessment.

Lao People’s Democratic Republic

- n) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) welcome progress made by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic in achieving its NIAP goals and encourage the Party to step up efforts to progress implementation of its NIAP; 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*.

Qatar

- o) The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - i) note that the progress report submitted by Qatar does not demonstrate sufficient progress made;
 - ii) agree an overall rating of “partial progress” in line with Step 4, paragraph e), of the *Guidelines*;
 - iii) request the Secretariat, in accordance with Step 4, paragraph f), of the *Guidelines*, to issue a written caution on its behalf requesting Qatar to submit a progress report to the Secretariat confirming how progress has been made towards achievement of its NIAP goals; and
 - iv) urge Qatar to step up its effort with a sense of greater urgency to advance implementation of its NIAP and provide sufficient detail of the activities delivered to justify the self-assessment progress ratings.

Recommendations in paragraph 26:

26. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC78 Doc. 33.13.2, the *Review of the National Ivory Action Plan Process in CITES* in Annexes 2 and 3 to document SC78 Doc. 33.13.2, and the progress made in implementing Decision 19.68;
- b) review the draft amendments to Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 33.13.2 and submit them for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
- c) agree that Decisions 19.68 to 19.70 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX 3 OF RESOLUTION CONF. 10.10 (REV. COP19) ON
TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS

Text proposed to be deleted is in ~~strike through~~. Proposed new text is underlined.

Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plan Process

Step 1: Identification of Parties to participate in the National Ivory Action Plan Process

- a) The foundation for identifying Parties to participate in the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) Process, is the ~~ETIS~~ report of the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) submitted to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) under this Resolution.

[...]

Step 2: Development of a NIAP

- a) Upon the request by the Standing Committee, the Party concerned will develop an 'adequate' NIAP, ~~which is a NIAP~~ that:
 1. Addresses the specific issues (or gaps) identified in Step 1.
 2. Is structured along the following five pillars, as required:
 - i) Legislation and regulations;
 - ii) National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration;
 - iii) International and regional enforcement collaboration;
 - iv) Outreach, public awareness, ~~and~~ education and targeted demand reduction; and
 - v) Reporting.

[...]

Step 3: Assessment of the adequacy of a NIAP

[...]

- e) If new or emerging elephant poaching or ivory trafficking trends or related matters so require, the Secretariat shall recommend to the Standing Committee that the Party updates its NIAP to incorporate new critical actions needed to respond to such trends or related matters. If agreed by the Standing Committee, the Party

shall prepare and submit an updated NIAP to the Secretariat within 60 days following the meeting of the Standing Committee.

- ef) The Secretariat shall assess the adequacy of any revised and updated NIAP received from a Party, in accordance with Step 3, paragraphs a) - c), above.
- fg) The Secretariat shall make any new, revised or updated NIAP accepted as 'adequate' publicly available on the NIAP webpage.

Step 4: Monitoring of implementation

[...]

- c) The Secretariat will evaluate the reports, based on the self-assessments and in cooperation with experts, if needed, submit the reports to the Standing Committee at each of its regular meetings, make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and also make the reports publicly available on the NIAP webpage as soon as they are received.
- d) The Secretariat will determine where insufficient information was available to conduct an evaluation of progress or actions against set milestones ~~or~~ objectives and indicators to assess both the achievement and impact of the actions taken.
- e) Upon the overall assessment by the Secretariat of a Party's progress report, the Standing Committee should consider the following ratings:
 - 1. *Achieved* – a minimum of 80% of NIAP actions have been assessed as 'achieved' or 'substantially achieved', and any remaining actions have been self-assessed as 'on track' for achievement. The progress report submitted by the Party provides sufficient detail of the activities delivered to justify the allocated progress ratings.

[...]

Step 5: Completion of a NIAP and exit from NIAP Process

- a) Parties should inform the Secretariat when they have assessed 80% of their NIAP actions as 'achieved' or 'substantially achieved' and all remaining NIAP actions as 'on track'. Subject to acceptance by the Secretariat, such progress ratings are a prerequisite for eligibility to be considered to exit from the process in conjunction with factors as described in paragraphs b) and c).
- b) The Secretariat will evaluate the progress reported by the Party concerned, and consider if sufficient detail is provided on the measures and activities implemented for each action in the NIAP to justify the allocated self-assessment progress ratings. The Secretariat is encouraged to engage relevant experts or conduct a country mission, to assist in this process, and formulate recommendations with the rationale informing the recommendation for consideration by the Standing Committee on whether:
 - i) there is a need for the Party to revise and update the NIAP and continue implementation;
 - ii) any other measures need to be taken; or
 - iii) the Party has 'achieved' its NIAP and can exit the NIAP Process.
- c) In formulating recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee in accordance with Step 5, paragraph b) above, the Secretariat should take into consideration the following elements, when relevant and appropriate, with a view to assess the achievement of the actions and the impact of the actions taken of a NIAP against set milestones and indicators:
 - i) the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19);
 - ii) if the ETIS analysis continues to identify the Party as requiring attention;
 - iii) any significant measures implemented or policy developments effected by the Party to address, as applicable, elephant poaching and illegal trade in ivory; and

- iv) any other information that may be available, for example a marked reduction in, as applicable, elephant poaching and illegal trade in ivory as it affects the Party, or any continued, new or emerging trends that may be of concern.

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

34.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade - SC78 Doc. 34.1 (Rev. 1)

Recommendations in paragraph 26:

26. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note this report;
- b) encourage Parties subject to the Review of Significant Trade process to volunteer as case studies to be included in the RST module on the CITES Virtual College; and
- c) agree that Decision 17.110 (Rev. CoP19) can be proposed for deletion at the next meeting of Conference of the Parties, pending the launch of the RST module on the CITES Virtual College.

34.2 Implementation of the recommendations of the Animals Committee - SC78 Doc. 34.2

Recommendations in paragraph 23:

23. In accordance with paragraph 1 m) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) and based on the present report and its Annexes, the Standing Committee is invited to consider the following:

With regards to Section 1 and Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 34.2

- a) Concerning *Anguilla anguilla* / Algeria,
 - i) commend Algeria for the progress made;
 - ii) agree that recommendations i) and j) have been implemented;
 - iii) invite Algeria to provide an update on the FAO-General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) project to the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC34); and
 - iv) invite Algeria to implement recommendation l) through the preparation of a non-detriment finding for *A. anguilla* taking into consideration the preliminary CITES NDF guidance materials and present this to AC34.
- b) Concerning *Anguilla anguilla* / Tunisia,
 - i) commend Tunisia for the progress made;
 - ii) agree that recommendations g) to k) have been implemented;
 - iii) invite Tunisia to provide an update on the FAO-General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) project to the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC34); and
 - iv) invite Tunisia to implement recommendation l) through the preparation of a non-detriment finding for *A. anguilla* taking into consideration the preliminary CITES NDF guidance materials and present this to AC34.
- c) Concerning *Hippocampus algiricus* / Senegal,
 - i) agree that recommendation a) has been implemented;
 - ii) invite the Secretariat and the Animals Committee to work with Senegal and relevant experts to advise Senegal on the development of a non-detriment finding for *H. algiricus*; and
 - ii) urge Senegal to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations b) to g) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- d) Concerning *Pandinus imperator* / Togo,
 - i) withdraw the recommendation to suspend trade in *Pandinus imperator* from Togo;
 - ii) remove *Pandinus imperator* / Togo from the Review of Significant Trade, subject to the publication of an annual export quota of 20,000 live specimens, including a size restriction of a maximum total length of 10 cm (or maximum body length, excluding the tail, of 5 cm) for live specimens of source code R to be exported, which should be published with the export quota; and
 - iii) remind Togo that any increase in the quota above 20,000 live specimens should be communicated to the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat for their agreement in advance of any trade taking place, with a non-detriment finding, including a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable offtake that make use of best available scientific information.

- e) Concerning *Varanus oranatus* / Togo,
 - i) commend Togo for its progress in implementing the recommendations of the Animals and Standing Committees;
 - ii) invite Togo to undertake a comprehensive non-detriment finding assessment to justify their proposed quota; and
 - iii) submit the updated non-detriment finding to the Secretariat by 31 July 2025 for consideration by the Animals Committee ahead of the 79th meeting of the Standing Committee.

With regards to Section 2 and Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 34.2

- f) Concerning *Carcharhinus longimanus* / Kenya,
 - i) request the Secretariat to publish a zero export quota for *C. longimanus* until Kenya provides information to justify a higher quota to be agreed with the AC Chair; and
 - ii) invite Kenya to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations b) to g) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- g) Concerning *Carcharhinus longimanus* / Yemen,
 - i) request the Secretariat to publish a zero export quota for *C. longimanus* until Yemen provides information to justify a higher quota to be agreed with the AC Chair; and
 - ii) invite Yemen to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations b) to h) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- h) Concerning *Kinixys homeana* / Ghana,
 - i) agree that recommendations a) and b) have been implemented; and
 - ii) invite Ghana to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations c) to j) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- i) Concerning *Mobula* spp. / Sri Lanka,
 - i) request the Secretariat to publish a zero export quota for *Mobula* spp. until Sri Lanka provides information to justify a higher quota to be agreed with the AC Chair; and
 - ii) invite Sri Lanka to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations b) to g) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- j) Concerning *Python regius* / Benin,
 - i) agree that recommendations a) and b) have been implemented; and
 - ii) invite Benin to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations c) to j) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- k) Concerning *Python regius* / Ghana,
 - i) agree that recommendations a) and b) have been implemented; and
 - ii) invite Ghana to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations c) to k) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- l) Concerning *Python regius* / Togo,
 - i) acknowledge the progress that Togo has made in the implementation of the Animals Committee recommendations;

- ii) request Togo to establish, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat, an interim conservative annual export quota for source codes W and R within 90 days for *Python regius* and communicate the quota to the Secretariat; and
 - iii) invite Togo to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations b) to g) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- m) Concerning *Sphyrna lewini* / Kenya,
- i) request the Secretariat to publish an annual export quota of 50 live specimens for *S. lewini* until Kenya provides information to justify a higher quota to be agreed with the AC Chair; and
 - ii) invite Kenya to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations b) to g) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- n) Concerning *Sphyrna lewini* / Mexico,
- i) agree that recommendations a) and b) have been implemented; and
 - ii) invite Mexico to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations c) to g) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- o) Concerning *Sphyrna lewini* / Nicaragua,
- i) agree that recommendations a) and b) have been implemented; and
 - ii) invite Nicaragua to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations c) to g) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- p) Concerning *Sphyrna lewini* / Sri Lanka,
- i) request the Secretariat to publish a zero export quota for *S. lewini* until Sri Lanka provides information to justify a higher quota to be agreed with the AC Chair; and
 - ii) urge Sri Lanka to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations b) to g) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- q) Concerning *Sphyrna lewini* / Yemen,
- i) request the Secretariat to publish a zero export quota for *S. lewini* until Yemen provides information to justify a higher quota to be agreed with the AC Chair; and
 - ii) invite Yemen to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations b) to g) 90 days before the documentation deadline for SC77.
- r) Concerning *Sphyrna mokarran* / Mexico,
- i) agree that recommendations a) and b) have been implemented; and
 - ii) invite Mexico to provide an update on the implementation of recommendations c) to f) 90 days before the documentation deadline for AC34.
- s) Concerning *Testudo horsfieldii* / Uzbekistan,
- i) remove *Testudo horsfieldii* from Uzbekistan from the Review of Significant Trade; and
 - ii) remind Uzbekistan that any increase in the quotas for W or R should be communicated to the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat for their agreement in advance of any trade taking place, with a non-detriment finding, including a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable offtake that make use of best available scientific information.

34.3 Implementation of the recommendations of the Plants Committee - SC78 Doc. 34.3

Recommendations in paragraphs 19 and 20:

With regards to Section 1 to document SC78 Doc. 34.3

19. In accordance with paragraph 1 m) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) and based on the present report and its annexes, the Standing Committee is invited to do the following:
- a) Congo/*Pericopsis elata*: note that recommendations a) to e) remain outstanding and reconsider its determination of implementation based on any update from the Secretariat at the present meeting;
 - b) Equatorial Guinea/*Guibourtia tessmannii*: note that recommendation a) has been implemented, and that recommendations b) to d) remain ongoing;
 - c) Indonesia/*Aquilaria malaccensis*: note that recommendations a) and b) have been implemented, and that recommendation c) remains ongoing;
 - d) Malaysia/*Aquilaria malaccensis*: consider any update from the Secretariat at the present meeting resulting from the determination of implementation of recommendation a); and note that recommendations b) and c) remain ongoing;
 - e) Mozambique/*Dalbergia melanoxylon*: consider any update from the Secretariat at the present meeting resulting from the determination of implementation of recommendations a) and b); and note that recommendations c) to g) remain ongoing;
 - f) Nicaragua/*Dalbergia retusa*: note that recommendations a) and b) have been implemented, and that recommendations c) and d) remain outstanding;
 - g) United Republic of Tanzania/*Dalbergia melanoxylon*: consider any update from the Secretariat at the present meeting resulting from the determination of implementation of recommendations a) to d); and
 - h) United Republic of Tanzania/*Osyris lanceolata*: note that recommendation a) has been implemented and agree that this species/country combination can be removed from the RST process.

With regards to Section 2 to document SC78 Doc. 34.3

20. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the Secretariat's report as contained in paragraph 17 d) of document SC78 Doc. 34.3, and to request Mozambique to implement adequate control measures and inspection procedures to detect and intercept illegal shipments of specimens of *Dalbergia melanoxylon* and to report on this matter to the 79th meeting of the Standing Committee.

17. The following specific matters were identified through the RST at PC27. The Plants Committee asked the Secretariat to consult with relevant Parties and to report any issues to the Standing Committee. The issues identified can be broadly grouped in the following five categories:

- d) **Enforcement matters** were identified for *Dalbergia melanoxylon*/Mozambique. At PC27, the Plants Committee agreed to recommend the Standing Committee to task Mozambique to implement adequate control measures and inspection procedures to detect and intercept illegal shipments of specimens of *Dalbergia melanoxylon*. The timeframe proposed for the implementation of this recommendation is 90 days prior to the 79th meeting of the Standing Committee.

35. Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity

35.1 Implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) - SC78 Doc. 35.1

Recommendations in paragraph 25:

25. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the status of implementation of the cases selected for the two iterations of the review under Resolution 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) and the list of 14 current ongoing cases provided in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively;
- b) concerning *Centrochelys sulcata* from Benin, Mali and Togo, urge Benin, Mali and Togo to provide a response to the Secretariat by 31 July 2025 so that the matter can be considered at SC79, noting that failure to provide a response may potentially result in a recommendation to suspend trade in *Centrochelys sulcata* at SC79;
- c) concerning *Agalychnis callidryas* from Nicaragua:
 - i) retain *Agalychnis callidryas* from Nicaragua in the review, until it provides:
 - A. further clarifications on when the prohibition on taking this species from the wild came into force; when the three registered facilities were established; whether there are additional captive-breeding facilities that do not export and how they sourced their founder stock; and
 - B. information on the current stock, production and mortality rates; and
 - ii) encourage Nicaragua to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- d) concerning *Chlamydotis macqueenii* from Kazakhstan:
 - i) retain *Chlamydotis macqueenii* from Kazakhstan in the review, until it responds to the Animals Committee's questions; and
 - ii) encourage Kazakhstan to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- e) concerning *Dendrobates auratus* from Nicaragua:
 - i) retain *Dendrobates auratus* from Nicaragua in the review, until it provides:
 - A. further clarifications on when the prohibition on taking this species from the wild came into force; when the three registered facilities were established; whether there are additional captive-breeding facilities that do not export and how they sourced their founder stock; and
 - B. information on the current stock, production and mortality rates; and
 - ii) encourage Nicaragua to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- f) concerning *Macaca fascicularis* from Cambodia:
 - i) recommend that all Parties suspend trade in specimens of *Macaca fascicularis* from Cambodia until such time as it:
 - A. provides clarification on how breeding stocks are replaced and if they are experiencing a reduction in reproductive output when breeding with F1 and subsequent generations;

- B. provides information to address the main observations that productivity in 5 of the 6 registered facilities is disproportionately high relative to what is considered as biologically possible; and
 - C. indicates what measures have been implemented to ensure that laundering of wild specimens does not occur through any of the facilities;
- ii) encourage Cambodia to implement proper logbook keeping, including all births and deaths as well as relations (pedigree), and preferably combined with genetic parenthood tests, where appropriate, in order to monitor reproduction rates and to identify cases of potential incorrect application of source code C; and
 - iii) encourage Cambodia to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- g) concerning *Macaca fascicularis* from the Philippines:
- i) retain *Macaca fascicularis* from the Philippines in the review, until it clarifies whether:
 - A. the collection quota of 8,000 wild individuals is a one-off or an annual quota;
 - B. the collection is done under a wildlife permit; and
 - C. how it has been determined that these offtakes are not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and
 - ii) encourage the Philippines to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- h) concerning *Macaca fascicularis* from Viet Nam:
- i) retain *Macaca fascicularis* from Viet Nam in the review, until it provides clarification on the following:

Regarding satellite farms (additional domestic breeding facilities that supply stocks to the four facilities that export M. fascicularis):

 - A. the number of additional domestic breeding facilities (satellite farms) in Viet Nam apart from the four that are specifically mentioned in the response to the questions posed by the Animals Committee;
 - B. the capacity of these satellite farms in terms of volume of off-spring produced,
 - C. information relating to when they were established and if the founder stock were sourced from the wild (if before 2006);
 - D. whether these satellite farms only breed to supply exporting facilities; and
 - E. whether these satellite farms are registered and inspected in the same manner as the four facilities breeding for export and whether they follow the same rules (including logbook keeping);

Regarding all facilities keeping and breeding M. fascicularis referred to by Viet Nam:

 - F. measures implemented to ensure that laundering of wild specimens does not occur through any of the facilities; and
 - ii) encourage Viet Nam to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- i) concerning *Oophaga pumilio* from Nicaragua:
- i) retain *Oophaga pumilio* from Nicaragua in the review, until it provides:

- A. further clarifications on when the prohibition on taking this species from the wild came into force; when the three registered facilities were established; whether there are additional captive-breeding facilities that do not export and how they sourced their founder stock; and
 - B. information on the current stock, production and mortality rates; and
 - ii) encourage Nicaragua to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- j) concerning *Testudo graeca* from Jordan:
 - i) retain *Testudo graeca* from Jordan in the review, until it provides details of:
 - A. the current breeding stock and production rates, and
 - B. the shift in source codes and the ages and sizes of animals exported; and
 - ii) encourage Jordan to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- k) concerning *Testudo horsfieldii* from Uzbekistan:
 - i) retain *Testudo horsfieldii* from Uzbekistan in the review, until it provides clarifications on:
 - A. the productivity of each breeding facility/nursery; and
 - B. the founder stock of each facility, including when each one was established and what supplementation from the wild has occurred; and
 - ii) encourage Uzbekistan to:
 - A. consider paragraph 21 in Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas* that provides guidance on *Quotas not fully utilized in a particular year*; and
 - B. provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- l) concerning *Testudo kleinmanni* from Egypt:
 - i) retain *Testudo kleinmanni* from Egypt in the review, until further clarifications on the non-detriment finding for the establishment of the founder stock are provided;
 - ii) request the Secretariat to publish a zero-quota for trade in *T. kleinmanni* for commercial purposes (all source codes);
 - iii) request Egypt to register its breeding facilities for *T. kleinmanni* if it intends to export this Appendix-I species for commercial purposes; and
 - iv) encourage Egypt to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- m) concerning *Testudo kleinmanni* from the Syrian Arab Republic,
 - i) retain *Testudo kleinmanni* from the Syrian Arab Republic in the review, until it provides clarification on:
 - A. the identification of the species (*Testudo kleinmanni* or *Testudo graeca*, the latter of which is native to the Syrian Arab Republic);
 - B. the founder stock (information relating to legal acquisition and non-detriment findings, if it is confirmed to be *Testudo kleinmanni*);

- C. supplementation from the wild, if applicable; and
- D. annual production and retention rates;
- ii) request the Syrian Arab Republic to register its breeding facilities for *T. kleinmanni* if it intends to export this Appendix-I species for commercial purposes; and
- iii) encourage the Syrian Arab Republic to provide a response to the Secretariat by 30 January 2026 so that the matter can be considered at AC34;
- n) review and agree to submit the Animals Committee's proposed amendment to paragraph 2 h) of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* as outlined in paragraph 11 to CoP20 (also shown below for convenience):

The Secretariat shall also commission, if requested by the Animals Committee, a short review of the species concerned, in consultation with relevant countries and specialists, to compile and summarise known information relating to the breeding biology and captive husbandry, as well as on the conservation status and threats to the species in the respective countries of origin of the founder stock to facilitate an assessment of any impacts, if relevant, of removal of founder stock from the wild.

- o) review and agree to submit the draft decision in paragraph 12 to CoP20 (also shown below for convenience):

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to external funding and available Secretariat resources, the Secretariat shall develop, test and maintain a Captive Breeding tracking and management database as an essential tool for the effective implementation and transparency of the process under Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*.

Recommendations in paragraph 13:

13. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the analysis of the objectives and processes outlined in Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* and Resolution Conf 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* contained in document [AC33 Doc. 15.3](#) and the comments in paragraph 9;

9. At AC33, the representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) noted that there was potential for improvements of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19), but that those could wait considering the existing workload of the Animals Committee. The representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and the United States of America agreed with the conclusions of the Secretariat and noted that the two processes in the two resolutions were different. Germany also agreed and noted that the difference in selection criteria was logical since the scope of the two resolutions differ. As a consequence, no further streamlining was needed. Germany further informed the Committee that it was working on species specific factsheets for reptiles. The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species suggested that the criteria for the selection of species for the review should consider whether or not a species is under Appendix I of CMS since take from the wild is not allowed for those species.

- b) agree to the recommendations from the Animals Committee;

AC recommendations

- a) agreed to propose to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to amend paragraph 2 d) of Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* as outlined above;
- b) agreed that Decisions 19.63 and 19.64 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20; and
- c) noted the comments made in plenary and invited the Secretariat to take those comments into consideration in its report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

- c) make its own recommendations, for consideration at CoP20; and
- d) agree that Decisions 19.63 to 19.65 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

36. Possession of specimens of species included in Appendix I (*Decision 19.67*) - SC78 Doc. 36

Recommendations in paragraph 16:

16. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) remind Parties whose legislation is in Category 2 and Category 3 under the National Legislation Project that possession of illegally traded specimens of CITES-listed species is one of the areas being analyzed by the Secretariat in the context of the review of national legislation;
- b) invite Parties whose legislation is in Category 1 under the National Legislation Project to identify potential loopholes in their national CITES-implementing legislation, in particular with regard to the possession of illegally traded specimens of CITES-listed species, and to adopt any necessary amendments;
- c) review and submit to the Conference of the Parties the amendments to Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on *National laws for implementation of the Convention* as contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 36; and
- d) agree that Decision 19.67 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 8.4 (REV. COP19) ON
NATIONAL LAWS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

RECALLING that Article VIII requires all Parties to take appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention and to prohibit trade in specimens in violation thereof, including measures to penalize trade in, or possession of, such specimens, and to provide for the confiscation or return to the State of export of such specimens;

RECALLING ALSO that Article IX requires that each Party designate at least one Management Authority and one Scientific Authority;

RECALLING FURTHER that Article VIII, paragraph 3, requires each Party, as far as possible, to ensure that specimens pass through any formalities required for trade with a minimum of delay;

ACKNOWLEDGING the adoption of Resolution Conf. 44.218.3 on the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013/2021-2030*, particularly Objective 1.1 that Parties comply with their obligations under the Convention through appropriate policies, legislation and procedures;

RECOGNIZING that the CITES National Legislation Project was established in 1992 and has provided legislative analyses and assistance to Parties since that time;

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000) and amended at its 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 18th and 19th meetings (Bangkok, 2004; The Hague, 2007; Doha, 2010; Johannesburg, 2016; Geneva, 2019; Panama City, 2022), which expresses the Parties' conviction that enforcement of the Convention must be of constant concern to the Parties if the objectives of the Convention are to be fulfilled;

NOTING that substantial progress has been achieved, but that ~~approximately half~~ one third of the Parties have not yet taken the appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. DIRECTS the Secretariat, within available resources:

- a) to identify those Parties whose domestic measures do not provide them with the authority to:
 - i) designate at least one Management Authority and one Scientific Authority;

- ii) prohibit trade in specimens in violation of the Convention;
 - iii) penalize ~~such~~ trade in, or possession of, such specimens, or both; or
 - iv) confiscate specimens illegally traded or possessed;
- b) to seek from each Party so identified information indicating the procedures, action and time- frames that are envisaged in order to adopt, as a matter of the highest priority, the measures necessary for effective implementation of the Convention; and
- c) to report its findings, recommendations or progress to the Standing Committee and at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
2. URGES all Parties that have not adopted appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention to do so and inform the Secretariat when such measures have been adopted;
3. INVITES Parties that have adopted domestic measures to implement the Convention to identify potential loopholes in their national CITES-implementing legislation, and to adopt any necessary amendments;
4. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to determine which Parties have not adopted appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention and to consider appropriate compliance measures, which may include recommendations to suspend trade, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*;³
5. DIRECTS the Secretariat to seek external funding to enable it to provide technical assistance to Parties in the development of their measures to implement the Convention; and
6. INVITES all Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources to provide financial and/or technical assistance for the development and effective implementation of such measures.

³ Corrected by the Secretariat following the 18th and 19th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

37. Review of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement (Decision 19.66) - SC78 Doc. 37

Recommendations in paragraph 35:

35. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the progress made in implementation of Decision 19.66 on *Review of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement*;
- b) agree to include reference in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) to professional bodies to; raise awareness of the importance of members of professional bodies complying with CITES, encourage Parties to consider the relevance of the issue in their own context when drafting or reviewing national legislation, and to encourage professional bodies to provide CITES training to members;
- c) agree to amend Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 23 b), to retain the overall 6 month time frame for Parties involved in compliance measures to respond to a request from the Secretariat, but requiring the justification for a lack of response to be provided at three months, with the Party then being required to provide the response within the next three months. Parties would therefore still have six months to respond, with the emphasis on a justification for delay at three months and providing the information within the six months;
- d) note that matters raised as potential “further gaps” are not specifically compliance and enforcement matters appropriate for inclusion in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19);
- f) consider whether Decision 19.66 has been implemented and can be deleted, or whether a new mandate is required for the working group to enable the consideration of marine species, stocks and stockpiles, One Health and electronic systems following CoP20 and the outcomes of ongoing discussions and guidance developed in other CITES working groups on those topics; and
- g) submit the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf 11.3 (Rev.CoP19), contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 37 and the observations and conclusions of the working group for consideration by the 20th Meeting of the Conference of Parties.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 11.3 (REV. COP19) ON
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Note: new text is underlined and text proposed for deletion is in ~~strikethrough~~

[...]

AWARE that a wide range of professional bodies are closely associated with the implementation of CITES, and their members possess the knowledge and expertise to better understand the importance of compliance with the Convention (for example: commercial traders, brokers, transporters, trade groups, veterinarians; zoological and aquarium facilities; universities and researchers; museum and antique collection organizations; bodies overseeing auction houses, conservation societies and rescue groups/emergency care facilities, taxidermists/hunting organizations and legal or accountancy accreditation bodies) and the importance of their members complying effectively with the Convention; and

[...]

V. Regarding coordination at national level

10. RECOMMENDS that:

- a) Parties establish inter-agency mechanisms for coordination and communication at the national level, bringing together Management Authorities and all governmental agencies responsible for the enforcement of CITES, including customs and the police;

- b) Parties that have not already done so consider nominating officials from relevant national enforcement and prosecuting agencies to participate in the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group;
- c) Parties put in place, or further enhance, national measures and communication channels to ensure that the required level of real-time support can be provided to park rangers, and other wildlife and enforcement personnel who are confronted by heavily armed groups and exposed to serious risk of attack;
- d) Parties raise awareness amongst military personnel to sensitize them to the negative consequences of poaching and consumption of illegal fauna and flora; ~~and~~
- e) Parties raise awareness among professional bodies in their national jurisdiction of the need for members to comply with CITES; and encourage professional bodies to provide CITES training for their members, and, where appropriate, to develop codes of conduct relating to trade in and management of CITES-listed species; and
- ef) Parties remind their diplomatic missions, their delegates on mission in foreign countries and their troops, including those serving under the flag of the United Nations, that they are not exempted from the provisions of the Convention;

[...]

13. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that Parties:

[...]

- g) in developing or reviewing national legislation consider the role of professional bodies involved in CITES processes and the appropriate enforcement standards for the members of professional bodies regarding whether certain professional bodies should be held to higher standards than the general public if they are acting in contravention of the Convention;

[...]

IX. Regarding application of Article XIII

23. RECOMMENDS that:

- a) when, in application of Article XIII of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19), the Secretariat requests information on a potential compliance matter, Parties reply within one month or, if this is not possible, provide an approximate date by which they consider it will be possible to provide the requested information;
- b) when, within six months, three months, the information requested has not been provided, Parties provide the Secretariat with justification for why they have not been able to respond and provide the response within the following three months ~~the information requested has not been provided, Parties provide the Secretariat with justification for why they have not been able to respond;~~

38. Enforcement matters

38.1 Report of the Secretariat [Resolutions Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19); Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17); Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19); Decision 19.83] - SC78 Doc. 38.1

Recommendations in paragraph 39:

39. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider and agree for onward submission to CoP20 the proposed:
 - i) amendments to paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention*, as presented in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 38.1;
 - ii) amendment to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*, by adding a new sub-paragraph d) to paragraph 9 under *Regarding enforcement at national level*, as presented in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 38.1; and
 - iii) draft decisions 20.AA to 20.CC on *Wildlife crime linked to the Internet*, presented in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 38.1;
- b) take note of the information provided on activities conducted in accordance with the Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties as outlined in paragraphs 2 to 8 of document SC78 Doc. 38.1;
- c) welcome the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy 2022 – 2032, launched by SADC Member States; and
- d) recommend to CoP20 that:
 - i) Decision 19.77 be incorporated in Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19) and Decision 19.78 be incorporated in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) and can be deleted; and
 - ii) Decisions 19.81 to 19.83 on *Wildlife crime linked to the Internet* be deleted and replaced with the proposed new set of draft decisions.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 17.6 (REV. COP19)
ON PROHIBITING, PREVENTING, DETECTING AND COUNTERING CORRUPTION,
WHICH FACILITATES ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN VIOLATION OF THE CONVENTION

New text is underlined and deleted text is in strikethrough.

4. ENCOURAGES Parties, and especially CITES Management Authorities to:
 - a) ensure that corruption risk mitigation policies and strategies are in place to address corruption risks associated with wildlife crime;
 - b) ~~to~~ work closely with existing national anti-corruption commissions, and like bodies, law enforcement agencies, judicial authorities, as well as with relevant civil society organisations, in the design and implementation of integrity policies, which might also include deterrence initiatives, such as mission statements, codes of conduct and 'whistle-blower' schemes, taking into account the relevant provisions of the UNCAC; and
 - c) ensure that collaboration mechanisms are in place between CITES management and anti-corruption authorities to facilitate swift and decisive action where corrupt activities are detected;

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 11.3 (REV. COP19)
ON COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

New text is underlined and deleted text is in strikethrough.

9. RECOMMENDS that Parties:

[...]

- c) empower officials who have the responsibility to investigate crime involving fauna and flora with appropriate training, authority and resources to effectively carry out their responsibilities to address such crimes;
- d) as appropriate, integrate financial crime investigations into the investigation of crimes involving wildlife, and increase the use of financial investigation techniques to identify criminals involved in wildlife crime and their networks and address associated illicit financial flows from these crimes;
- ~~e~~) address the role of corruption in facilitating crime involving fauna and flora, as recognized in Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19), through implementation of effective anti-corruption measures; and
- ~~e~~f) conduct outreach to and support training for regulated industry to ensure understanding of CITES and national requirements in order to enhance compliance and support the legal trade;

DRAFT DECISIONS ON WILDLIFE CRIME LINKED TO THE INTERNET

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) make available to the Standing Committee, once they are published, the two regional studies identifying the CITES-listed species most frequently involved in illegal trade on digital and online platforms, and examining the relevant national laws and best practices implemented by Parties to combat wildlife crime related to the Internet;
- b) subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, conduct further studies in at least two additional regions to identify the CITES-listed species most frequently involved in illegal trade on digital and online platforms. The studies should also examine the relevant national laws and best practices implemented by Parties to combat wildlife crime related to the Internet; and
- c) based on the findings of these studies, prepare recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.

20.BB The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee, and subsequently the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting, on the implementation of Decision 20.AA.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall review the Secretariat's report called for in Decision 20.AA and make recommendations, as appropriate.

Recommendations in paragraph 48:

48. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the information provided in document SC78 Doc. 38.2 (Rev. 1) on the efforts of Parties to combat wildlife crime and the support provided by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC);
- b) encourage Parties to actively engage in ICCWC initiatives and activities and to reach out to the Consortium for support, where needed; and
- c) welcome the generous contributions from donor Parties towards the ICCWC Vision and its associated Strategic Action Plan, as anticipated by Decision 19.27 and Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*, paragraph 20.

Recommendations in paragraph 34:

34. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the information provided by Parties in their responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/079;
- b) propose the renewal of Decision 19.89 as presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 38.3 (Rev. 1) to the Conference of the Parties;
- c) review and submit draft decisions 20.AA and 20.BB as presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 38.3 (Rev. 1), to the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) agree Decisions 19.90 and 19.91 can be deleted.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON
TASK FORCE ON ILLEGAL TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED TREE SPECIES

Directed to Parties

19.89 Parties are encouraged to fully implement the measures and activities outlined in the [*Outcome document of the CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species*](#), as relevant to them, to prevent and combat illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, and to report on the implementation of this Decision to the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) organize a workshop on illegal trade in timber species to facilitate the exchange of experiences, promote collaboration, and advance the implementation of the measures and activities outlined in the outcome document of the *CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species*;
- b) work with the UNODC and the World Customs Organization to provide training in regions affected by illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species, on physical inspection of timber shipments and to support the undertaking of risk assessments to develop national risk indicators specific to this illegal trade; and
- c) report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of Decisions 19.89 and 20.AA, together with any recommendations the Secretariat may have.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.BB The Standing Committee shall consider the report and recommendations of the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.AA and make recommendations to the Parties or the Secretariat, as appropriate.

39. Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa (*Decision 19.88*)

39.1 Report of the intersessional working group - SC78 Doc. 39.1

Recommendations in paragraph 14:

14. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the conclusions reached by the working group as presented in paragraph 9 a) and b) of document SC78 Doc. 39.1, as well as the limited participation of Parties as members of the working group, in working group discussions;

9. The working group reaffirmed points a) to d) as presented in paragraph 11 of document SC77 Doc. 39.4, in particular that additional funding is needed to support the implementation of existing activities and programmes and Parties efforts to comply with CITES rules and regulations. The working group also agreed on the need to organize a forum (workshop or a similar endeavor), with involvement of key initiatives and donors that focused on how to access funds. The working group further highlighted that more information on funding opportunities should be made available to Parties. The conclusions reached are summarized as follows:

- a) Regarding Decision 19.88, paragraph b) and SC77 recommendation b), the working group agreed to endorse the conclusions reflected in paragraph 11 a) to d) of document SC77 Doc. 39.4. The working group propose that the CITES Secretariat reach out to potential donors and encourage that they increase the funding to be mobilized for combating wildlife crime and that further research be conducted on the needs of Parties in order to be able to continue discussions.
- b) Regarding SC77 recommendations c) and d), the working group agreed that a questionnaire was not needed, and therefore it did not request the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties. The working group proposes that research on existing initiatives and specific funding needs could be conducted by the Secretariat prior to a potential meeting or workshop to help identify existing access to finance mechanisms for CITES enforcement as appropriate.

b) consider and agree draft decisions 20.AA to 20.CC as presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 39.1; and

c) agree that Decision 19.88, paragraph b), has been implemented and can be deleted.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *WILDLIFE CRIME ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA*

Directed to Parties and donor organizations

20.AA Parties and donor organizations are encouraged to:

- a) notify the Secretariat of any funding opportunities that should be included on the CITES website in accordance with Decision 20.BB paragraph a); and
- b) explore the possibility to make available additional funding for activities to support Parties with CITES implementation and efforts to combat wildlife crime.

Directed to the Secretariat:

20.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) make information available on the CITES website about initiatives, projects and funding opportunities, to bring to the attention of Parties available funding sources they can reach out to for support in their efforts to implement CITES and combat wildlife crime; and
- b) organize a forum, in collaboration with relevant initiatives, partners and donors, focused on how Parties can access funds in support of their efforts to implement CITES and combat wildlife crime.

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

20.CC Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations and other entities are encouraged to support CITES Parties in their efforts to implement the Convention and combat wildlife crime, in particular with the implementation of CITES Decisions relevant to them, national or regional strategies developed and being implemented by Parties and, as appropriate, consider such support in the development of work programmes or initiatives.

Recommendations in paragraph 42:

42. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) welcome the activities undertaken by Parties in West and Central Africa and the support provided to these Parties as outlined in document SC78 Doc. 39.2;
- b) review and submit draft decision 20.AA in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 39.2 to the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) recommend to the Conference of the Parties that:
 - i) Decisions 18.90 (Rev. CoP19), 19.84, 19.85, 19.86, 19.87 and 19.88 can be deleted as they have been implemented or are already incorporated in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*; and
 - ii) Decision 18.91 (Rev. CoP19) can be deleted, as it has been incorporated in the draft decisions prepared by the Standing Committee working group on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*.

DRAFT DECISION ON
WILDLIFE CRIME ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall work with its ICCWC partners to continue providing targeted support to Parties in West and Central Africa, to combat wildlife crime.

40. Illegal trade in cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) (Decision 19.106) - SC78 Doc. 40

Recommendations in paragraph 28:

28. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/097, and that these responses were limited;
- b) encourage Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, and donors, to take note of the need for support to Somalia and Yemen and, where possible, to provide assistance based on identified needs of these Parties;
- c) review and submit draft decisions 20.AA to 20.CC in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 40 to the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) agree that Decisions 19.104 to 19.106 can be deleted.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *ILLEGAL TRADE IN CHEETAHS (ACINONYX JUBATUS)*

Directed to Parties affected by illegal trade in cheetahs

20.AA Parties affected by illegal trade in cheetahs are encouraged to pursue the recommendations outlined in the [CITES Big Cats Task Force outcome document](#), particularly to:

- a) if they have not already done so, review their national legislation, taking into consideration the relevant provisions in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev.CoP20) on *Compliance and enforcement* and, where needed, revise such legislation to ensure that it adequately addresses illegal wildlife trade, including illegal trade in cheetahs;
- b) ensure that adequate resources and capacities to enforce legislation addressing illegal trade in cheetahs are in place;
- c) strengthen regional and international collaboration to address illegal trade in cheetahs;
- d) scale up activities to address illegal online trade in cheetah specimens, including by drawing upon the support available through INTERPOL, the [Wildlife Crime Linked to the Internet: Practical Guidelines for Law Enforcement Practitioners](#), and as appropriate, reviewing their implementation of the provisions under "Regarding wildlife crime linked to the Internet", in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP20); and
- e) report to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of Decision 20.AA, together with any recommendations it may have.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.BB and make recommendations to the Parties by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

41. Marine turtles (*Cheloniidae* spp. and *Dermochelyidae* spp.) [Decision 18.217 (Rev. CoP19); Resolution Conf. 19.5] - SC78 Doc. 41

Recommendations in paragraph 12:

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider and agree to the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 19.5 on *Conservation of and trade in marine turtles*, as presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 41, for submission to CoP20 for consideration; and
- b) recommend to CoP20 that Decision 18.217 (Rev. CoP19) has been implemented and can be deleted.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 19.5 ON
CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN MARINE TURTLES

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strike through~~.

RECOGNIZING that marine turtles face significant threats, including bycatch in commercial and recreational fisheries; loss and degradation of nesting and foraging habitats; climate change; entanglement in marine debris; vessel strikes; and illegal take and trade for their meat, shells, and eggs;

RECOGNIZING that the conservation and recovery of marine turtles require international cooperation to ensure the survival of these highly migratory species;

RECALLING that all species of marine turtles are included in CITES Appendix I, and as such, international trade for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited for these species;

RECALLING that these species are included in Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (except for *Natator depressus*, which is only in Appendix II), which requires CMS Parties to strictly protect these species by prohibiting take and controlling other factors that endanger them, and enhance their conservation status;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles promotes the protection, conservation, and recovery of populations of six marine turtle species (all except *N. depressus*) in the Western Hemisphere;

RECALLING that the Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the Cartagena Convention) prohibits the taking of and commercial trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts or products;

RECALLING the Indian Ocean–South-East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a non-binding intergovernmental agreement that aims to protect, conserve, and recover sea turtles and their habitats in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia;

RECALLING also that Resolution Conf. 17.4 (Rev. CoP19) on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* urges Parties where there is a significant market for illegally traded wildlife products to develop strategies to reduce the demand for illegal products of wild animals and plants through demand reduction campaigns and to enhance, as appropriate, policy, legislation and law enforcement in this regard, and EMPHASIZING the importance for Parties to develop such plans for illegally taken marine turtles parts, products and derivatives;

CONCERNED that the illegal take and trade of marine ~~turtles~~ turtle parts and derivatives is contributing to their decline and poses a significant threat to their survival;

WELCOMING studies commissioned by CITES, IAC, and IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU to help determine the extent of illegal take and trade in marine turtles and provide recommendations on needed actions;

WELCOMING the Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region, developed under the auspices of CMS and its IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU;

WELCOMING projects aimed at uncovering illegal trade routes from source through to end user, and factors driving marine turtle use, supply, and demand, which can be used to inform policies aimed at marine turtle conservation; and

FURTHER WELCOMING initiatives to help combat the illegal trade in marine turtles by transferring genetic techniques, technologies, and building greater capacity for marine turtle genetic studies;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. RECOMMENDS Parties collaborate ~~and assist in building~~ strengthening their financial and technical capacity in developing countries to implement and enforce CITES and other related international obligations that apply to protect marine turtles, including protection from unsustainable use and illegal trade;
2. INVITES Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities to provide financial or technical assistance for, *inter alia*:
 - a) training and capacity-building of relevant authorities at the national and regional level, including on the implementation and enforcement of national regulations and international measures that apply to marine turtles, identification, monitoring, reporting, and wildlife and fisheries enforcement; and
 - b) building community and political awareness on the conservation status of marine turtles and the importance of compliance with CITES at the national level to promote conservation of these species;
3. URGES Parties to:
 - a) if not yet in place, develop and enact legislation to prevent and address unsustainable harvest of and trade in marine turtles;
 - b) conduct a thorough review of existing domestic legislation that protects marine turtles to ensure its effectiveness and implementation of relevant international obligations and commitments;
 - c) actively seek to strengthen national legislation and international obligations and commitments to protect marine turtles across their full life history;
 - d) regularly conduct a review of national measures that protect marine turtles to ensure that they remain effective and are adapted as needed, to respond to any newly identified trends; and
 - e) actively pursue enforcement of all provisions regulating the take and trade of marine turtles;
24. RECOMMENDS Parties affected by illegal trade in marine turtles; ~~provide capacity-building interventions,~~
 - a) take all necessary actions to prevent the illegal trade in marine turtles, including through addressing its drivers and developing and implementing evidence-based strategies, in engagement with indigenous peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders;
 - b) provide capacity-building assistance for national enforcement agencies and the judiciary, including (as appropriate) identification manuals or contact information for experts to identify marine turtle species in trade, raise awareness about the importance and benefits of addressing and preventing the illegal trade in marine turtles, and integrate training on illegal wildlife trade into national enforcement curricula of relevant training academies as appropriate;
 - c) ascertain key illegal trade routes, methods, volumes, and 'hot-spots' of marine turtles, and scale up efforts to address illegal harvest and other illegal activities at key locations in domestic markets associated with illegal trade, and take action to decrease consumer demand for illegal marine turtle parts, products and other derivatives;
 - d) take action to decrease consumer demand for illegal marine turtle parts, products, and other derivatives; and

e) promote public understanding (including among vendors, tourists, and others) of the legal provisions and implications of engaging in the illegal take, use, and trade of marine turtles;

35. RECOMMENDS Parties improve:

a) enhance monitoring, detection, and law enforcement activities efforts at all key transaction points (e.g., including markets, online platforms, ports) to help and landing sites to combat the illegal take and trade of marine turtles; and enhance

b) strengthen cooperation and collaboration in the control of trade in marine turtles amongst between wildlife-law enforcement agencies at national and international levels to address illegal take and trade in marine turtles, including in-through the exchange of information and actionable intelligence regarding the illegal take and trade of marine turtles;

46. URGES Parties whose national legislation is not sufficient to control put in place mechanisms to collect data on the unsustainable harvest of and illegal trade in marine turtles, to enact legislation in a standardized manner from different governmental agencies to protect and manage these species appropriately facilitate comprehensive and accurate submissions of data on illegal trade in marine turtles by Parties in their annual illegal trade reports to the Secretariat;

57. RECOMMENDS Parties collect samples from seized marine turtles for scientific genetic analysis to determine the species involved and populations of origin, and as appropriate provide these to, collaborate with forensic and research institutions capable of reliably determining the species and geographic origin of the samples in support of research, investigations, and prosecutions;

68. RECOMMENDS Parties develop and follow best practice protocols for safe handling, care and rehabilitation, and release back into the wild of confiscated live marine turtles and marine turtles caught as bycatch;

9. URGES Parties to coordinate efforts at the regional level, including working closely with Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other relevant regional bodies organizations, to identify and address illegal trade, use, and other threats, including to marine turtles, such as fisheries bycatch, use, and illegal trade;

710. URGES RECOMMENDS Parties to address the fisheries related threats that contribute to illegal trade in marine turtles by working with fisheries fishing communities and fisheries bodies RFBs to ensure effective fisheries management measures are in place, and capture in fisheries is not undermining efforts to tackle the illegal trade, including by: implementing best practice such as:

a) measures to reduce and document sea-catch of marine turtles catches whether (targeted or bycatch; assessing) and improve post release survival rates;

b) measures requiring documentation of fisheries interactions with marine turtles;

c) measures to assess assessing catch rates and mortality based on reported interactions and the best scientific data available, continuing improving the;

d) measures that continue to strengthen observer programme programmes through the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)/RFB's framework in Organization (RFMO)/RFB frameworks to increase data collection in fisheries and improve our understanding of fisheries where bycatch of related impacts on marine turtles is not adequately addressed; and

e) measures that are enforceable and effectively addressing address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing that is a threat to threatens marine turtles.

811. ENCOURAGES Parties to share information and provide training to fishers on bycatch mitigation strategies, such as turtle exclusion devices, selective fishing gear, and safe handling and release practices, that have proven effective at reducing bycatch or bycatch and associated mortality;

912. ENCOURAGES Parties to undertake, as appropriate, research that can support the development of protection and conservation measures for the protection of marine turtle foraging, nesting and migratory areas;

~~103.~~ ENCOURAGES Parties, where marine turtles-turtle hatchery establishments exist, to develop science-based operational protocols for marine turtle hatchery establishments to and ensure that they provide conservation value to marine turtle populations;

~~144.~~ RECOMMENDS that:

- a) any Party seeking to allow international trade in products of sea turtle ranches satisfy all the requirements of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) on *Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II*;
- b) any Party seeking to transfer a marine turtle population from Appendix I to Appendix II pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) provide information in accordance with the guidelines contained in Annex to the present Resolution; and
- c) any Party whose population of marine turtle is transferred to Appendix II pursuant to the present Resolution and Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) ensure that procedures for regular adequate reporting to the Secretariat exist and are implemented. Failure to satisfy this requirement and to demonstrate conservation benefit to the population or compliance with other requirements of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) may result in the application of paragraph 5 d) of that Resolution.

~~125.~~ ENCOURAGES Parties to share holistic regional marine turtle survival probability models and their output and other information to assess the sustainability of current harvest and bycatch levels while taking into account other threats to the populations across their range (number of turtles of different age classes taken from populations), reproductive success (number of turtles recruited per year), natural survival probabilities, and marine turtle biology; and for any Party that intends to engage in sustainable use of marine turtles, develop robust frameworks for the sustainable use of marine turtles that are based on the best scientific advice available taking into consideration the advice, resolutions, conservation and management measures of relevant bodies including competent fisheries authorities and experts, as appropriate;

~~136.~~ DIRECTS the Secretariat to maintain close collaboration with RFBs, ~~CMS, its the CMS Secretariat and the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU, and the IAC~~ on the management and conservation of marine turtles to ensure the compatibility of activities, optimization of resources, promotion of research to address information gaps, and enhancement of synergies;

~~147.~~ DIRECTS the Secretariat, ~~subject to support available resources, to provide capacity-building assistance to Parties, especially developing countries and small island developing states, upon request, with the CITES-relevant aspects of the development and/or implementation of the Convention for marine turtles, including building financial and technical capacity the development, review, or revision of national legislation to help ensure compliance with CITES obligations for the conservation and regulation of international trade in marine turtles;~~

~~18.~~ DIRECTS the Secretariat to, based on analyses of annual illegal trade reports, bring to the attention of the Standing Committee, as appropriate, any significant changes in the illegal trade of marine turtles;

~~159.~~ DIRECTS the Animals Committee to make recommendations, if necessary, to ensure the conservation of marine turtles;

~~1620.~~ DIRECTS the Standing Committee to provide guidance on compliance with and enforcement of the marine turtle listings in Appendix I, including but not limited to, use of forensic sampling of seized specimens and exchange of information on the illegal trade in marine turtles;

~~1721.~~ DIRECTS the Animals Committee and Standing Committees to report progress on the conservation of marine turtles at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate; and

~~1822.~~ REPEALS Resolution Conf. 9.20 (Rev.) on *Guidelines for evaluating marine turtle ranching proposals submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)*.

NOTE: No amendments are proposed to the Annex on
*Guidelines for evaluating marine turtle
ranching proposals submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)*

42. CITES Big Cats Task Force (Felidae spp.) (Decision 19.93) - SC78 Doc. 42

Recommendations in paragraph 11:

11. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) agree not to pursue, at this time, the development of a resolution on illegal trade in big cats, nor to consider revising Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* to extend its applicability to all big cat species;
 - b) submit draft decisions 20.AA to 20.CC presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 42 to CoP20 for consideration; and
 - c) recommend to CoP20 that Decisions 19.92 and 19.93 on the *CITES Big Cats Task Force* have been implemented and can be deleted.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON ILLEGAL TRADE IN BIG CATS

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties affected by illegal trade in specimens of big cat species are encouraged to make every effort to fully implement the strategies, measures and activities outlined in the [CITES Big Cats Task Force outcome document](#), as relevant to them, and to report on the implementation of this Decision to the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of Decision 20.AA, together with any recommendations it may have.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report and recommendations of the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.BB and make recommendations to the Parties or the Secretariat as appropriate; and
- b) report on the implementation of the present Decision to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties together with any recommendations it may have.

43. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.) [Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19); Decision 18.109 (Rev. CoP19)]

43.1 Report of the Secretariat - SC78 Doc. 43.1

Recommendations in paragraph 28:

28. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the information provided by Parties in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/086;
- b) recommend to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of Decisions 18.100, 18.101, 18.103 (Rev. CoP19), 18.105, 18. 106, and 19.109, as they are incorporated in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*, the CITES Big Cats Task Force outcome document and the draft decisions proposed in document SC78 Doc.42; and
- c) recommend to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of Decisions 18.107 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.109 (Rev. CoP19), as they have been implemented.

Recommendations in paragraph 59:

59. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the report provided by Czechia relating to the inspection of the facility that the Secretariat could not visit during its mission;
- b) note the recommendation by the Animals Committee that the IUCN SSC [Guidelines on the use of ex situ management for species conservation](#) provide guidance to Parties on how to evaluate the conservation aspects of tiger captive-breeding facilities;
- c) review and submit the draft decisions in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 43.2 to the Conference of the Parties;
- d) encourage **China** to consider:
 - i) granting a special exemption for the transport of individual live South China tigers (*Panthera tigris amoyensis*) identified as part of the conservation breeding programme, facilitating their transfer to respective facilities based on proposed pairings;
 - ii) developing standardized procedures for the handling of tiger carcasses, maintaining registers, and reporting to relevant authorities to further strengthen the existing provisions;
 - iii) establishing a central database to consolidate information from all facilities keeping tigers in captivity, including standardized data reported to the relevant authorities (provincial and the National Forestry and Grassland Administration) covering births, deaths and secured carcasses/stockpiles of tiger specimens); and
 - iv) developing standard operating procedures for inspections and audits of facilities keeping tigers in captivity to ensure all relevant aspects are comprehensively inspected, particularly stockpile management and reconciliations of records of deaths and number of carcasses (that could include conversion factors to ensure all bones are kept secure).
- e) encourage the **United States of America** to consider:
 - i) establishing a central database containing information on facilities keeping tigers in captivity;
 - ii) developing standardized registers based on a minimum or standardized set of information, including marking, sex and age classes, births and deaths, and disposal;
 - iii) developing standardized procedures for the handling of carcasses, including their destruction;
 - iv) addressing the concerns raised regarding the interim regulations published to implement the Big Cat Public Safety Act, as outlined in paragraph 50; and
 - v) conducting a follow-up inspection at the facility that could not be visited by the Secretariat.
- f) agree that Decisions 18.102 (Rev. CoP19), 18.108 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.109 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *TIGERS (PANTHERA TIGRIS) IN CAPTIVITY*

Directed to Parties in whose territories there are facilities that breed large numbers of tigers and facilities housing large numbers of tigers

20.AA All Parties in whose territories there are facilities that breed large numbers of tigers and facilities housing large numbers of tigers to consider taking the following methodical approach regarding these facilities to improve their conservation and educational value, as well as to put an end to the activities

of facilities that do not have conservation or educational value, fail to comply with regulations and pose a risk regarding parts and derivatives from these animals entering illegal trade:

- a) identify facilities keeping tigers of genetic and conservation value and engage these facilities in coordinated conservation breeding for such animals;
- b) identify facilities keeping tigers in captivity that are suitably located to ensure public access and that meet husbandry and welfare conditions based on national and international guidelines, and implement support programmes where needed (for example providing guidance on development of educational materials, signs and posters), for these facilities to fully transform into facilities with educational value that are raising awareness benefitting conservation of tigers in the wild, including bringing the attention of the public to illegal trade and the need to combat it;
- c) implement and enforce measures to reduce the number of tigers in facilities that are not contributing to conservation of wild tigers or have limited educational value, by restricting breeding of tigers (e.g., by separating male and female tigers, sterilization or other disposal measures, including euthanasia) within these facilities, as well as restricting these facilities from acquiring any new animals;
- d) taking into consideration Decision 14.69 that directs Parties to restrict the captive population to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers and that tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives, prohibit the establishment of new facilities keeping tigers in captivity with narrow exemptions where warranted;
- e) assess the need for rescue centres, sanctuaries, or other disposal measures, including euthanasia, etc. as may be required due to the phase-out of intensive tiger operations;
- f) review management practices and controls to regulate activities of facilities keeping tigers in captivity to ensure that they are adequate to prevent tiger specimens from entering illegal trade from or through such facilities, including licensing of such facilities, accurate record keeping of individual tigers, regular inspections and well-regulated disposal of tigers that die in captivity; and
- g) report on the implementation of this approach in their response to the Notification to the Parties issued by the Secretariat on Asian big cats (*Felidae* spp.) to facilitate reporting as required in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*.

Directed to governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies, and non-governmental organizations

20.BB All governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies, and non-governmental organizations to urgently provide funds and other assistance to Parties with facilities that breed large numbers of tigers and those housing large numbers of tigers to support the implementation of Decision 20.AA.

44. Jaguars (*Panthera onca*) (Decisions 19.113 and 19.114)

44.1 Report of the intersessional working group - SC78 Doc. 44.1

Recommendations in paragraph 38:

38. The working group invites the Standing Committee to:

- a) take note of this report;
- b) consider preparing a specific draft resolution on jaguars, including the recommendations made by the working group.

Recommendations in paragraph 22:

22. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of this report on the implementation of Decisions 19.111 to 19.114 and the recommendations of SC77;
- b) advise if the draft "Programme of Work for a range-wide Jaguar initiative" contained in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 44.2 could serve as a building block for the development of an Intergovernmental Platform foreseen by the CoP19 Decisions;
- c) invite the Secretariat to seek feedback from jaguar range State Parties and other partners on the draft situational analysis, as well as the draft proposal on the modular monitoring system when it becomes available; and
- d) request the Secretariat to incorporate the recommendations of the Standing Committee in its report to be prepared and submitted for the consideration of the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20).

45. Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.) (Decision 19.121) - SC78 Doc. 45

Recommendations in paragraph 70:

70. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) request the Parties to which Decisions 19.117, 19.118 and 19.119 are directed to take the observations and conclusions of the Secretariat into consideration in their implementation of these respective Decisions;
- b) encourage Angola and Viet Nam to strengthen their engagement and to pursue information and intelligence exchange, as well as joint operations, to address rhinoceros specimen trafficking affecting them;
- c) request Namibia to continue reviewing trends associated with the illegal killing of rhinoceroses and illegal trade in rhinoceros specimens affecting it, and the measures and activities being implemented to address these crimes, to ensure they are effective and adapted to respond to any newly identified trends;
- d) request Parties to actively scale up efforts to collect samples from rhinoceros horn seized within their territories for forensic analysis and to fully implement Decision 19.115;
- e) request the Secretariat to take into consideration the outcomes of the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force to be convened in its report to CoP20; and
- f) recommend to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of Decisions 19.121 and 19.122, as they have been implemented.

46. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (*Testudines spp.*) (Decision 19.127) - SC78 Doc. 46

Recommendations in paragraph 22:

22. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider and agree draft decisions 20.AA to 20.EE presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 46, for onward submission to CoP20; and
- b) recommend the deletion of Decisions 19.125, 19.126 and 19.127.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES (TESTUDINES SPP.)*

Directed to Madagascar

20.AA Madagascar is requested to:

- a) provide an update on its Global Action Plan for the Conservation of Madagascar's endemic tortoises and freshwater turtles, including species-specific strategies, for the critically endangered tortoise and freshwater turtle species (*Astrochelys radiata*, *A. yniphora*, *Pyxis arachnoides* and *P. planicauda*);
- b) report on recent activities undertaken to implement the Global Action Plan and to finalize and implement the species specific strategies, taking into consideration the multifaceted threats of collection for local consumption and international trade compounded by habitat loss; and
- c) submit a report covering the aspects in sub-paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 20.AA to the Secretariat 90 days in advance of the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee, for it to be made available to the Committee.

20.BB Madagascar is requested to:

- a) report on recent activities undertaken to:
 - i) gather information and intelligence on the criminal networks operating within and from the Madagascar and pursue investigations targeting those individuals managing and organizing the illegal activities;
 - ii) 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 criminals involved across the illegal trade chain to justice;
 - iii) strengthen enforcement of existing laws and regulations, as well as any activities that might be undertaken to consider reviewing and amending Madagascar's legislation as needed, taking into consideration paragraphs 6. c), d) and f) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) 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) inform and sensitize the public about endemic tortoise and freshwater turtle species of Madagascar and the importance of their conservation and protection, as well as to sensitize and raise awareness among its national law enforcement agencies regarding illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles and the importance of scaling up law enforcement efforts to address this illegal trade and analyse the outcomes of these activities.
- b) submit a report to the Secretariat 90 days in advance of the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee, for it to be made available to the Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC The Secretariat shall review the reports from Madagascar in accordance with Decisions 20.AA and 20.BB and make them available to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, respectively, together with any recommendations the Secretariat may have.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.DD The Animals Committee shall review the report from Madagascar and any recommendations the Secretariat may have in accordance with Decision 20.AA, and submit its recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.EE The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report from the Animals Committee in accordance with Decision 20.DD and the report from Madagascar and any recommendations of the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.CC, and agree recommendations directed to Madagascar, as appropriate; and
- b) report at the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of Decision 20.EE.

47. Legal acquisition findings (Decision 19.131) - SC78 Doc. 47Recommendations in paragraph 22:

22. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the work conducted by the Secretariat in the implementation of Decision 19.130;
- b) encourage Parties to implement Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) and use the *Rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings* when preparing their LAFs;
- c) review and submit the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 47 for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting;
- d) review and submit to the Conference of the Parties the amendments to Annexes 1 and 3 to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) as contained in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 47; and
- e) consider the suggested draft *Guidance on the chain of custody required for demonstrating the legal acquisition of the parental breeding stock*, as well as the suggested draft elements for guidance on situations where the parental breeding stock was acquired before the species was listed on CITES or before the Party concerned joined the Convention, included in the draft guidance provided in Annex 3 to this document, and request the Secretariat to make this guidance available after any amendments on the CITES webpages on legal acquisition findings and captive-breeding, as appropriate;
- f) agree that Decisions 19.128 to 19.131 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON LEGAL ACQUISITION FINDINGS

Directed to Parties

- 20.AA** Parties are invited to continue using 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.
- 20.BB** Parties are requested to provide observations and feedback to the Secretariat following their tested use of the '*Rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings*' and, where possible, to share examples of legal provisions, guides, or standard operating procedures developed at the national level for the making of LAFs, as well as examples of LAFs as appropriate, to build knowledge, experience and share best practices regarding the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP20).

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to extrabudgetary resources, and taking into consideration the information gathered under Decision 20.BB on experiences with using the Rapid Guide, continue to work with partners for the further development of digital solutions to automate relevant parts of the '*Rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings*', including the CITES-LEX platform developed in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, inviting Parties to provide input on the development of these digital solutions, 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 extrabudgetary resources, continue to organize workshops and other capacity-building activities related to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP20) 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 (Rev. CoP20) on the basis of information, experiences and examples submitted by Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP20), assess any reports submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 20.CC and, where appropriate, make recommendations for improving the verification of legal acquisition by the Parties for submission to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 18.7 (REV. COP19) ON
LEGAL ACQUISITION FINDINGS**

Annex 1

Guidance for making legal acquisition findings

4. Practical tools

- a) For the purpose of establishing the chain of custody, the Parties may make use of information systems and traceability tools.
- b) In verifying legal acquisition, Parties may wish to consult existing international legal databases such as CITES-LEX, ECOLEX, FAOLEX, and the World Legal Information Institute.
- c) Where Parties consider that more certainty is required to establish that a specimen was legally acquired, Parties may have recourse to request verification by the applicant using forensic tools such as DNA testing, stable isotope analysis, and radiocarbon dating.
- d) Management Authorities may use for their convenience the rapid guide for verifying legal acquisition below.

(...)

Annex 3

Rapid guide for making legal acquisition findings

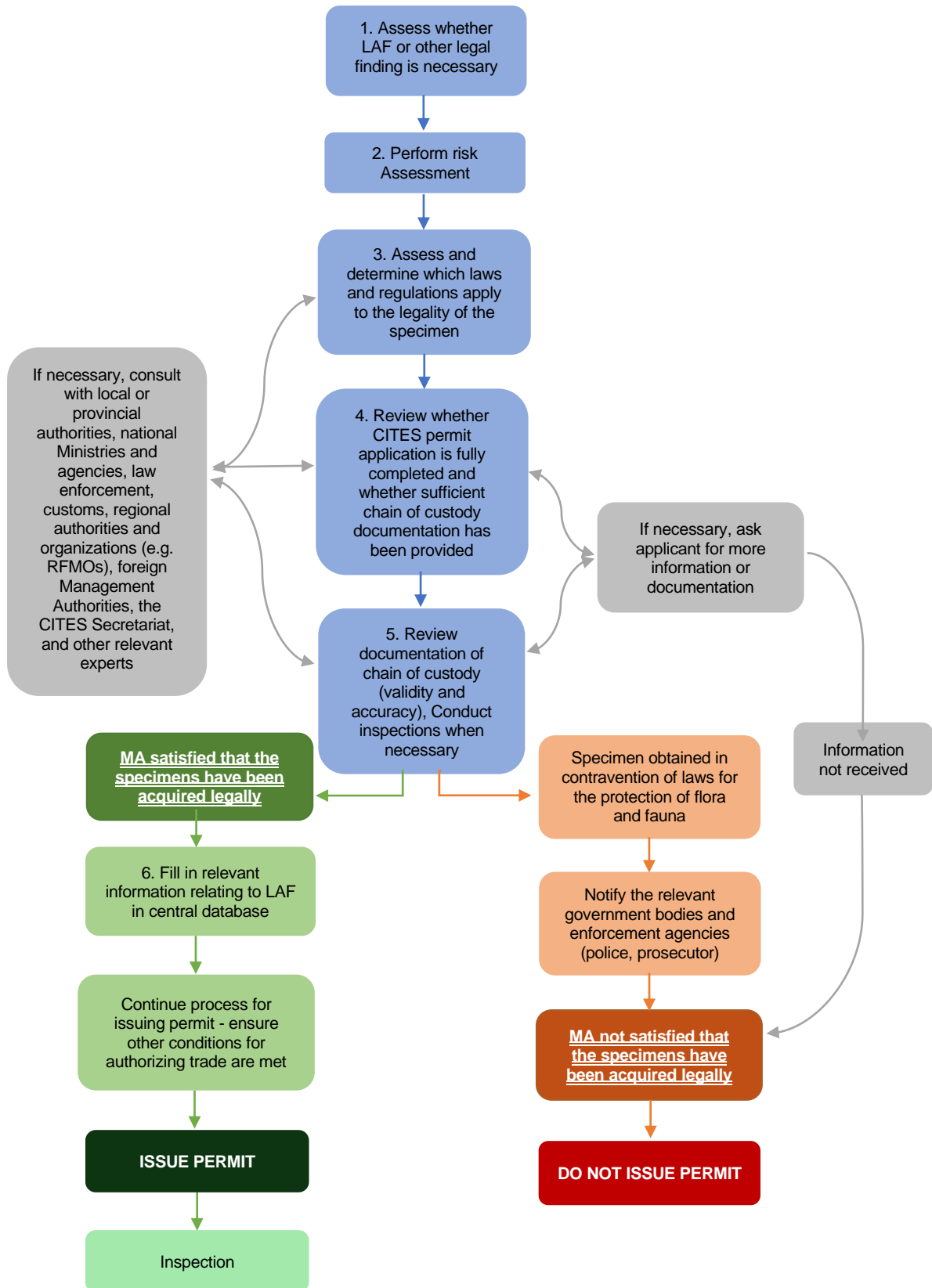
3. What laws and regulations apply to the legality of the specimen?

Identify, review and assess national laws, regulations, policies, and management plans for the protection of flora and fauna to determine the relevant rules governing activities along wildlife supply chains. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and building upon FAOLEX, has developed the database "CITES-LEX" to provide a catalogue of instruments and resources aimed at facilitating Parties' access to legislation and related information relevant to CITES implementation, and materials and resources to support the making of legal acquisition findings~~is collaborating with FAO to design a tool to assist the CITES Management Authorities and the regulated community in responding to this question.~~

(...)

7. Framework for making a Legal Acquisition Finding

(see proposed amendments in the next page)



48. Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction (*Decision 19.138*) - SC78 Doc. 48

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the report of the Animals Committee including the recommendations in paragraph 7; and

7. At AC33, in accordance with Decision 19.137, the Animals Committee reviewed the recommendations in the following paragraphs and agreed to submit them for consideration by the Standing Committee:

- a) agree that NDFs should ideally be made at a stock level – e.g., a single NDF covering the stock as a discrete unit irrespective of whether catch / harvest is taking place in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) or in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ);
- b) agree that distinct stocks / distinct populations, if defined, should require separate NDFs or a single NDF clearly describing findings for each distinct stock / population;
- c) clarify that ‘international scientific authorities’ are not designated bodies and are separate from CITES Scientific Authorities. The interpretation of ‘international scientific authorities’ should remain inclusive and flexible to facilitate the use of information from various sources and engagements with a range of relevant bodies, organizations and experts (allow flexibility for CITES Scientific Authorities to identify the information sources they require to develop NDFs, as appropriate);
- d) consider what biological and capture location information could be included as a traceability element to help inform the making of an NDF for specimens taken from ABNJ;
- e) consider submitting relevant implementation matters raised at this workshop to the Standing Committee for its consideration, as appropriate;
- f) encourage Parties to ensure engagement and collaboration between fisheries management authorities and CITES Authorities on matters relating to NDF for specimens taken from ABNJ;
- g) encourage Parties to engage with RFBs, including RFMOs, where possible, to access and use data / information to inform NDFs for specimens taken from ABNJ;
- h) encourage Parties to collaborate regionally, including with CITES Parties not Party to RFMOs, to share information, including information to understand stock status and trends, stock assessments, NDFs, quotas, and capacity-building initiatives;
- i) invite Parties to consider, where possible, establishing regional networks of CITES Scientific Authorities and international scientific authorities such as RFBs to share information, experiences, best practice and build capacity for the making of NDFs for specimens taken from ABNJ;
- j) invite Parties to consider using stock assessment data from RFBs, including RFMOs, in addition to national information and other relevant sources of information, as appropriate, in informing the making of NDFs for specimens taken from ABNJ; and
- k) invite the Secretariat to append the outcomes of the workshop on *Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction* and the Animals Committee’s deliberations to the CITES NDF guidance for aquatic species, and integrate it into any updated versions of the guidance, as appropriate.

- b) agree that the draft decisions on *Introduction from the sea* in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 49 will allow the Standing Committee to address the relevant implementation matters raised at the technical workshop on *Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction*.

49. Introduction from the sea (*Decision 19.141*) - SC78 Doc. 49

Recommendations in paragraph 24:

24. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the report provided by the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 19.140 on *Introduction from the sea*;
- b) take note of the updated status and detailed analysis of the synergies between CITES and the Agreement 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;
- c) take note of the updated set of most frequently asked questions and responses to introduction from the sea available on the CITES website;
- d) review and submit the draft decisions contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 49 for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
- e) agree that Decisions 19.140-141 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *INTRODUCTION FROM THE SEA*

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea* and report as appropriate to the Standing Committee;
- b) issue a Notification to the Parties asking them to submit information on the legislation and regulations in place, and relevant applicable procedures to implement Resolution Conf.14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea*, as well as any important challenges faced, and ways used to overcome them; and
- c) support Parties which are active in the trade in CITES marine species, particularly from areas beyond national jurisdiction, and assist them to effectively implement the Convention.

Directed to the Standing Committee, with support from the Secretariat,

20.BB With support from the Secretariat, the Standing Committee shall:

- a) prepare a revision of Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea* with the aim to provide clarifications where required, as well as to integrate, as appropriate, additional elements, including:
 - i) reflection of the Agreement 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, in the preambular part;
 - ii) responses to implementation challenges noted at the technical workshop on non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction, and contained in document SC78 Doc. 48;
 - iii) key elements derived from the document on most frequently asked questions on introduction from the sea; and
- b) submit the proposed amendments to the Resolution for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

50. Purpose-of-transaction codes (*Decision 19.149*) - SC78 Doc. 50

Recommendations in paragraph 14:

14. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review the progress made by the working group and offer its comments and suggestions on the draft definition for purpose-of-transaction code 'P'.

Purpose code 'P' (personal) should be used for the non-commercial movement of personal property of the person trading the specimen, not intended for commercial trade after the import/export/reexport. Not for the initial movement of personal property sold, purchased, or otherwise transferred outside the individual's State of usual residence.

Including for cross-border movement of a musical instrument in accordance with Resolution Conf. 16.8 (Rev. CoP17) on Frequent cross-border non-commercial movements of musical instruments or for cross border movement of personally owned live animals in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.20 on Frequent cross-border movement of personally owned live animals.

- b) offer its comments and recommendations on the interpretation of paragraphs 3. k) iv) & 3. k) v) of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev CoP19) that the default purpose-of-transaction code is 'T', unless another purpose-of-transaction code clearly predominates. Therefore, a definition for purpose-of-transaction code 'T' may not be required once all other purpose-of-transaction codes are defined.
- c) based on the outcomes of discussions under paragraph a) and b) above, revise and submit amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) for purpose-of-transaction code 'P' as new paragraph 3. r) to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) consider that Decision 19.149 has been implemented but further work on purpose-of-transaction code should focus on defining, removing, or replacing the following 4 codes: 'Q', 'B', 'G', and 'S'. The Annex to document SC78 Doc. 50 has a draft for a decision that could be brought forward to the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISION ON *PURPOSE-OF-TRANSACTION CODES*

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.XX The Standing Committee shall re-establish an intersessional joint working group to review the use of purpose-of-transaction codes by Parties, with the following terms of reference:

- a) the working group shall be composed of Parties from as many of the six CITES regions as possible, and appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with expertise in the issuance of CITES documents and use of purpose-of-transaction codes for evaluation within the permit issuance process and trade data analysis;
- b) the working group shall, communicating through electronic media, focus on clearly defining purpose-of-transaction codes, other than those adopted as of CoP20, to encourage their consistent use, and consider the possible elimination or amendment of current codes or the inclusion of new ones. In particular the working group shall continue the discussions on purpose codes 'Q', 'B', 'G', and 'S';
- c) the working group shall also consider any Resolution related to or affected by purpose-of-transaction codes, to ensure coherent interpretation; and
- d) the working group shall submit a report and any recommendations for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Permits and certificates*, or to any revision thereof, and recommendations for amendments to any other Resolution identified under paragraph c) above to the 82nd meeting of the Standing Committee, which shall report, with its recommendations, at the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

51. Electronic systems and information technology (*Decision 19.151*) - SC78 Doc. 51 (Rev. 1)

Recommendations in paragraph 32:

32. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the progress made in the implementation of Decisions 19.151 and 19.152;
- b) agree that Decisions 19.150 to 19.152 have been implemented, and can be proposed for deletion to the Conference of the Parties, noting that Decision 19.151, paragraph g), which has been integrated into the new draft decisions contained in Annex 1;
- c) review and submit the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 51 (Rev. 1) to the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) agree on the *Guidelines on the use of two-dimensional (2D) barcodes on CITES permits/certificates* contained in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 51 (Rev. 1).

DRAFT DECISIONS ON ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Directed to Parties

20.AA 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*, and the *Guidelines on the use of two-dimensional (2D) barcodes on CITES permits/certificates* 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. CoP19) 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;
- g) submit to the Secretariat information on the use of HS codes for risk-based control procedures;
- h) maintain reliable back-up systems for ensuring continuity of electronic permits systems;
- i) plan the electronic permitting system in a holistic manner considering the interoperability and integration between the CITES systems and other national, regional or global solutions, as

appropriate; in particular explore opportunities for integrating National Single Windows systems in their respective countries;

- j) follow a phased approach for implementation of the e-permitting systems;
- k) consider designating specific ports of entry and exit for streamlining trade controls of CITES species;
- l) recognizing the importance of the requirement for endorsement of permits and certificates at export, consider implementing pilot projects on possible alternatives to the physical endorsement of CITES permits/certificates based on the *Guidelines on the use of 2D barcodes on CITES permits/certificates*; and
- m) notify the Secretariat when QR codes are used in electronic permits and certificates, the security features implemented and the standards being used in them.

Directed to the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat

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

- a) work with relevant partners and Parties 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;
- b) recognizing the importance of the requirement for endorsement of permits and certificates at export, monitor Parties' pilot projects on possible alternatives to the physical endorsement of CITES permits/certificates based on the *Guidelines on the use of 2D barcodes on CITES permits/certificates*;
- c) 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;
- d) continue to monitor the use of HS codes in implementing risk-based control procedures in different Parties;
- e) support building capacity of Management Authorities, especially those with the greatest needs, in line with the guidance developed, to electronically collect, secure, maintain, and transmit data, using e-permitting systems compatible with the technical specifications of the Secretariat and other Management Authorities;
- f) consider ways in which electronic CITES permitting systems can simplify procedures for the non-commercial movement of musical instruments; and
- g) submit reports on activities undertaken under paragraphs a) to f) of the present Decision and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) finalize the 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 20.BB through the organization of workshops, consultations, preparation of studies and guidance materials on relevant topics as identified by the Standing Committee;

- d) provide capacity-building and advisory services including feasibility studies 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;
- e) 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 advance the implementation of the electronic permitting systems that comply with CITES requirements and where appropriate are aligned with international trade standards and norms;
- f) continue to exchange information with relevant partners and participate in relevant fora for contributing to the use of HS codes in implementing risk-based control procedures.
- g) in accordance with the *Guidelines on the use of 2D barcodes on CITES permits/certificates*, continue to work with Parties and relevant partners to advance the use of 2D bar codes, in particular with the view of ensuring security aspects to prevent fraudulent use of electronic permits and certificates and developing standards for their use; and
- h) report to the Standing Committee on the activities undertaken under paragraph a) to g) of the present Decision.

**52. Risk assessment and analysis for border control of CITES-listed species (*Decision 19.155*)
- SC78 Doc. 52**

Recommendations in paragraph 5:

5. The Standing Committee is invited to:
- a) take note of document SC78 Doc. 52;
 - b) encourage Parties to participate in the online consultation for the finalization of the guidance on risk assessment and inspections for CITES trade controls; and
 - c) consider proposing to the Conference of Parties the renewal of Decisions 19.153 to 19.155.

Directed to Parties

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

Directed to the Secretariat

19.154 *The Secretariat shall, subject to available resources, work with the World Customs Organization and other partners to develop guidance, including a specific guidance for a risk-based analysis related to the process of analysis and inspection under CITES permit issuing systems, and elements for a national policy on physical inspections and present its report and recommendations to the Standing Committee.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

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

53. Stocks and stockpiles [Decision 17.170 (Rev. CoP19)] - SC78 Doc. 53

Recommendations in paragraph 29:

29. The Standing Committee is invited to

- a) note the work conducted in past intersessional periods as summarized in paragraphs 3 to 11 above;
- b) note the review of existing provisions on stocks/stockpiles in Resolutions and Decisions and the information on their implementation contained in paragraph 12 above;
- c) consider and agree on the suggested definition of stockpiles contained in paragraph 22 of document SC78 Doc. 53 to assist Parties with implementation (also included below for ease of reference) and request the Secretariat to include it in the [CITES Glossary](#);

In the context of CITES, 'stockpiles' refer to any quantity of accumulated dead specimens, including parts and derivatives, of CITES-listed species held by public or private entities. Specimens included in permanent collections held by museums, scientific institutions, or individuals for non-commercial purposes, are excluded from the definition. In general, provisions related to stockpiles in CITES Resolutions and Decisions are intended to ensure that these are secured, managed and disposed of in such a way that the specimens would not enter or re-enter illegal trade.

- d) agree to not use the term stock in the context of accumulated dead specimens as defined and therefore agree to submit the amendments to the five Resolutions as set out in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 53 for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- e) encourage Parties to use the [Practical Guidance](#) and [Ensuring Effective Stockpile Management: A Guidance Document](#) as needed for the management of stockpiles of rhino horn, elephant ivory, pangolin scales and saiga horn, as well as stockpiles of other species where the guidance can be applied and provide feedback to the Secretariat on the use of the guidance; and
- f) agree that Decision 17.170 (Rev. CoP19) has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE AMENDED TO REFER TO "STOCKPILES" INSTEAD OF "STOCKS"
(new text is underlined; deleted text is in ~~strike~~through)

Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP19) on Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses

Preambular paragraph

CONCERNED that threats to rhinoceros populations and demand for rhinoceros horns and other parts and derivatives still exist, and that the cost of ensuring adequate security for rhinoceroses and rhinoceros horn ~~stocks~~ stockpiles is increasing and cannot easily be met by many range States;

Operative paragraphs 2, 7 and 9:

2. URGES

- a) all Parties that have ~~stocks~~ stockpiles of rhinoceros horn to identify, mark, register and secure such ~~stocks~~ stockpiles, and declare these to the Secretariat each year before 28 February, in a format to be defined by the Secretariat;
- b) the Secretariat and other appropriate bodies, where possible, to assist those Parties with inadequate legislation, enforcement, or control of ~~stocks~~ stockpiles, by providing them technical advice and relevant information;

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:

[...]

- c) ~~stocks~~ stockpiles of specimens of rhinoceros and ~~steck~~ stockpile management,

9. DIRECTS the Secretariat to:

- a) make an aggregated summary of the rhinoceros horn ~~steck~~ stockpile declarations of Parties available to the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC for analysis and inclusion in their reporting to the Secretariat pursuant to the Resolution;

**Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP 19) on
Trade in elephant specimens**

Preambular paragraph

RECOGNIZING also that the theft of ivory, including from inadequately secured government ~~stocks~~ stockpiles, further adds to illegal trade and wildlife crime;

Paragraph 7:

7. FURTHER URGES those Parties in whose jurisdiction there is an ivory carving industry, a legal domestic trade in ivory, an unregulated market for or illegal trade in ivory, or where ivory stockpiles exist, and Parties designated as ivory importing countries, to ensure that they have put in place comprehensive internal legislative, regulatory, enforcement and other measures to:

[...]

- c) introduce recording and inspection procedures to enable the Management Authority and other appropriate government agencies to monitor the movement of ivory within the State, particularly by means of:
 - i) compulsory trade controls over raw ivory; and
 - ii) comprehensive and demonstrably effective ~~steck~~ stockpile inventory, reporting, and enforcement systems for worked ivory;

[...]

- e) maintain an inventory of government-held stockpiles of ivory and, where possible, of significant privately held stockpiles of ivory within their territory, and inform the Secretariat of the level of this ~~steck~~ stockpile each year before 28 February, inter alia to be made available to the programme Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) for their analyses, indicating the number of pieces and their weight per type of ivory (raw or worked); for relevant pieces, and if marked, their markings in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution; the source of the ivory; and the reasons for any significant changes in the stockpile compared to the preceding year;

**Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17) on
Conservation of and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope**

Paragraph 1

1. RECOMMENDS that

- d) all Parties and non-Parties in whose territory ~~stocks~~ stockpiles of Tibetan antelope parts and raw materials exist, adopt a registration system and national measures to prevent such ~~stocks~~ stockpiles from re-entering into trade;

**Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on
Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species**

Paragraph 1

1. URGES

[...]

- i) those Parties and non-Parties on whose territories there exist ~~stocks~~ stockpiles of parts and derivatives of tiger and other Asian big cat species (such as tiger bone ~~stocks~~ stockpiles), but not including pre-Convention specimens, to consolidate and ensure adequate control of such ~~stocks~~ stockpiles, and where possible destroy the same, with the exception of those used for educational and scientific purposes;

**Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on
*Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species***

Annex 2 CITES guidelines for the disposal of confiscated live plants

OPTION 1 – MAINTENANCE IN CULTIVATION, last paragraph

Where plants are transferred by the confiscating authority but not sold, ownership by the Management Authority should be specified as one of the terms and conditions of the transfer. Where the country of origin may desire return of the plants, this desire should be respected, so long as the condition of the plants is such that they will survive the return voyage. The custodian (botanic garden or other organization) of confiscated plants should only move confiscated ~~stocks~~ plants to another facility for legitimate propagation purposes with the authorization of the administrative authority.

**Resolution Conf. 17.10 (Rev. CoP19) on
*Conservation of and trade in pangolins***

Paragraph 3

3. ENCOURAGES Parties on whose territories ~~stocks~~ stockpiles of parts and derivatives of pangolins exist, to take urgent steps to establish and apply, where not yet done, strict control measures to secure and monitor these ~~stocks~~ stockpiles, and inform the Secretariat of the level of ~~stocks~~ stockpiles each year, indicating the type and number of specimens, the species, the source of the specimens, management measures, and the reasons for any significant changes in the stockpile compared to the preceding year;

54. Stocks and stockpiles (elephant ivory) [Decision 18.185 (Rev. CoP19)] - SC78 Doc. 54 (Rev. 1)

Recommendations in paragraph 28:

28. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) encourage Parties, in particular African elephant range States, to step up their efforts to implement paragraph 7 e) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* concerning stockpiles, with a view of submitting the required information to the Secretariat every year;
- b) invite its regional Members and Alternate regional Members, as part of their regular contact with Parties in their region, to remind Parties of the obligations of paragraph 7 e) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19);
- c) review and submit the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 51.1 (Rev. 1) to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting;
- d) review and submit the draft decisions on contained in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 51 (Rev. 1) to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting;
- e) agree that Decisions 18.184 (Rev. CoP19), 18.185 (Rev. CoP19), 19.156 and 19.157 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion;
- f) invite the Secretariat to include the Elephant Protection Initiative's [Gold Standards Assessments](#); [Procedures for the Transfer of Wildlife Products](#); and [Storeroom Management Procedures for Wildlife Products](#) in the "Practical guidance on ivory stockpile management" and publish it on the [Elephants page of the CITES Website](#); and
- g) request the Secretariat to continue to engage with Burundi on the status of its ivory stockpile and, if invited, conduct a technical mission to verify the current status of the Burundi stockpile and to report to the Committee on its findings.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10.10 (REV. COP19) ON
TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS

7. FURTHER URGES those Parties in whose jurisdiction there is an ivory carving industry, a legal domestic trade in ivory, an unregulated market for or illegal trade in ivory, or where ivory stockpiles exist, and Parties designated as ivory importing countries, to ensure that they have put in place comprehensive internal legislative, regulatory, enforcement and other measures to:

[...]

- e) maintain an inventory of government-held stockpiles of ivory and, where possible, of significant privately held stockpiles of ivory within their territory, and inform the Secretariat of the level of this stock each year before 28 February, *inter alia* to be made available to the programme Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) for their analyses, indicating the number of pieces and their weight per type of ivory (raw or worked); for relevant pieces, and if marked, their markings in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution; the source of the ivory; and the reasons for any significant changes in the stockpile compared to the preceding year; and
- f) ensure that adequate funding, capacity building and training are available to ensure ivory stockpiles are inventoried, secured, and when appropriate, disposed of properly; [text from Decision 19.156]

8. DIRECTS the Secretariat to annually publish updated summary data based on the inventories submitted by Parties disaggregated to regional but not country level, including the total ivory stockpiles by weight; [text from Decision 18.184 (Rev. CoP19)]

DRAFT DECISIONS ON
MANAGEMENT OF STOCKPILES

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are encouraged to inform the Secretariat if they need training support in managing and securing their stockpiles of CITES-listed specimens.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB Subject to extrabudgetary resources and upon request, the Secretariat shall:

- a) provide training support to Parties for the secure management of stockpiles of CITES-listed specimens; and
- b) inform the Standing Committee of any lessons learned on stockpile management, as appropriate.

55. Transport of live specimens (*Decisions 19.158 and 19.159*) - SC78 Doc. 55

Recommendations in paragraph 5:

5. The Standing Committee is invited to agree that Decision 19.159 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the Conference of the Parties.

**56. Rapid movement of wildlife diagnostic samples and musical instruments
(Decision 19.160) - SC78 Doc. 56**

Recommendations in paragraph 27:

27. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) submit the draft decisions in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 56 for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- b) agree that Decision 19.160 has been implemented and should be deleted.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *RAPID MOVEMENT OF WILDLIFE DIAGNOSTIC SAMPLES
AND OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS*

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, requesting that Parties:
 - i) describe their individual implementation arrangements (including relevant website links) for existing exemptions and simplified procedures for the rapid movement of wildlife samples for diagnostic and/or conservation purposes, and the rapid non-commercial movement of musical instruments for purposes of performance, display or competition;
 - ii) identify and describe any specific challenges facing Parties in implementing the existing exemptions and rapid movement arrangements available to them under Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP18) on *Non-commercial loan, donation or exchange of museum, herbarium, diagnostic and forensic research specimens*, Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Permits and certificates* and Resolution Conf. 16.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Frequent cross-border non-commercial movements of musical instruments*;
 - iii) advise, for Parties that are not implementing the existing exemptions and rapid movement arrangements, why that is the case;
 - iv) consider providing updated or more detailed information on registered scientists and scientific institutions for inclusion in the Register of scientific institutions published on the CITES website in advance of the 5-yearly request by the Secretariat called for under Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP18); and
 - v) invite other affected stakeholders to comment on specific challenges faced when trying to access or utilise existing implementation arrangements.
- b) make the results available to the Standing Committee for their information and consideration in undertaking Decision 20.DD.

20.BB The Secretariat shall, taking into account the responses received to the Notification issued under Decision 20.AA, develop for publication on the CITES website

- a) a new 'rapid movement of wildlife samples for diagnostic and/or conservation purposes' webpage to bring together information on relevant exemptions and special trade provisions for the rapid movement of wildlife samples, including the scientific exchange arrangements under Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP18) and the simplified procedures under Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19), and including hyperlinks to relevant Resolutions, meeting documents and guidance materials.
- b) a register of individual Parties' existing rapid wildlife sample movement arrangements and links to further information.

- c) a new 'rapid non-commercial movement of musical instruments for purposes of performance, display or competition' webpage to bring together information on relevant exemptions and special trade provisions for the rapid movement of musical instruments, including the arrangements under Resolution Conf. 16.8 (Rev. CoP17), musical instrument certificates and travelling exhibition certificates, and personal and household effects arrangements, and including hyperlinks to relevant Resolutions, meeting documents and guidance materials.
- d) a register of individual Parties' existing rapid musical instrument movement arrangements and links to further information.

20.CC The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding and in consultation with Parties and stakeholders, develop 'one-page' or simplified guidance materials on the rapid movement of wildlife samples for diagnostic and/or conservation purposes, and the rapid non-commercial movement of musical instruments for purposes of performance, display or competition, for review, appropriate amendment and endorsement by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 20.AA; and
- b) review the 'one-page' or simplified guidance materials on the rapid movement of wildlife samples and of musical instruments prepared under Decision 20.CC, agree appropriate amendments, and request publication of endorsed guidance on the relevant CITES webpage.

57. Specimens produced through biotechnology (Decision 19.161) - SC78 Doc. 57

Recommendations in paragraph 57:

7. The Standing Committee is invited to propose the renewal of Decisions 19.161 to 19.163 to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

Directed to the Standing Committee, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees

19.161 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees, shall:*

- a) *continue to discuss trade in products of biotechnology, which might potentially affect international trade in CITES-listed specimens in a way that would threaten their survival, including enforcement of CITES provisions. The Committee's discussion shall consider the need for new guidance material or updates to existing guidance material on the following issues, in relation to trade in specimens produced through biotechnology:*
 - i) *whether an update is needed in the Guidance on the use of the scientific exchange exemption and the simplified procedures to issue permits and certificates, endorsed by the Standing Committee at SC73 (online, May 2021), to include a section on specimens produced through biotechnology;*
 - ii) *whether there is a need for additional guidance on making legal acquisition findings in relation to specimens produced through biotechnology;*
 - iii) *whether there is a need for guidance on the application of source codes to specimens produced through biotechnology;*
 - iv) *whether guidance is needed to improve permitting and enforcement of trade in specimens produced through biotechnology in order to address the risk of natural specimens of illegal origin being passed as synthetic and thereby entering the market with a valid CITES permit;*
 - v) *whether guidance is needed on traceability issues to improve permitting and enforcement of trade in specimens produced through biotechnology in order to ensure a clear link (e.g., marking, other means of identification) between a specimen produced through biotechnology and CITES documentation in order to prevent misuse;*
 - vi) *whether biotechnology issues concerning animals and plants should be addressed distinctly; and*
 - vii) *any emerging issues or cases not considered in the document AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc. 20, such as hirudin and squalene;*
- b) *continue to communicate to the Animals and Plants Committees any matters that may require scientific advice and guidance, as appropriate; and*
- c) *make recommendations for consideration at the 20th 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including appropriate updates to existing guidance materials, the development of new guidance materials on trade in specimens produced from biotechnology or changes to any pertinent Resolutions.*

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

19.162 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals and Plants Committees shall inform implementation of Decision 19.161 (Rev. CoP20) and provide any relevant scientific advice and guidance on matters relevant to international trade in specimens produced through biotechnology and communicate it to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.163 (Rev. CoP20) *Subject to the availability of external funds, the Secretariat shall convene and organize a meeting to facilitate the discussions mentioned in Decision 19.161 (Rev. CoP20) and develop guidance on the implementation of the amendment to Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP19) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives. The Secretariat shall extend invitations to concerned Parties as well as relevant entities, including the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant organizations as appropriate.*

58. Disposal of confiscated specimens (*Decisions 19.173 and 19.174*) - SC78 Doc. 58

Recommendations in paragraph 12:

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) submit to the Conference of the Parties the two amendments of Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species* as contained in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 58;
- b) propose to maintain Decisions 19.169, 19.171 and 19.173 to the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) propose the deletion of Decisions 19.170, 19.172 and 19.174 as they have been implemented.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 17.8 (REV. CoP19) ON DISPOSAL OF ILLEGALLY TRADED AND CONFISCATED SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~.

New paragraph 5 under ***Regarding the disposal of confiscated live specimens:***

5. ENCOURAGES Parties to make use of the information and materials on the disposal of live confiscated specimens made available on the CITES website;

Annex 1 CITES guidelines for the disposal of confiscated live animals.

Question 7: Is there a commercial facility breeding this Appendix-I species, is that facility interested in the specimens, and are there no grounds for concern that transfer will stimulate further illegal or irregular trade?

As discussed above, captive-bred offspring of Appendix-I species offer the potential for commercial breeders to breed animals in captivity to replace wild-caught animals as a source for trade. These breeding programs must be carefully assessed and approached with caution. It may be difficult to monitor such programs, and they may unintentionally, or intentionally, stimulate trade in wild animals. ~~The conservation potential of this transfer, or breeding loan, must be carefully weighed against even the smallest risk in stimulating trade which would further endanger the wild population of the species. Answer: Yes: Execute agreement and transfer. No: Destroy and dispose of carcass as described above. In all circumstances, the confiscating authority should be satisfied that:~~ 1) those involved in the illegal or irregular transaction that gave rise to confiscation cannot obtain the animals or their offspring; 2) the transfer does not compromise the objective of confiscation; and 3) the transfer will not increase illegal, irregular or otherwise undesired trade in the species. The conservation potential of this transfer, or breeding loan, must be carefully weighed against even the smallest risk in stimulating trade that would further endanger the wild population of the species. As in the preceding instances, such transfer should be subject to terms and conditions agreed with the confiscating authority; in addition to those already suggested, it may be advisable to include terms that stipulate the types of record keeping the authority considers permissible.

Answer: Yes: Execute agreement and transfer, if legally permitted.
No: Destroy and dispose of carcass as described above.

Directed to Secretariat

19.169 *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 (Rev. CoP19) 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 and relevant stakeholders.

19.171 *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.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.173 *The Standing Committee shall consider the report submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 19.169 and make recommendations, as appropriate.*

59. Labelling system for trade in caviar (*Decision 19.176*) - SC78 Doc. 59

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note this report;
- b) encourage Parties interested to use the QR codes to carry out a pilot to test the use of QR codes for caviar labelling and present the information on the results to the Standing Committee at its 81st meeting to facilitate further discussions; and
- c) agree that Decisions 19.175 and 19.176 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

60. Trade in stony corals (*Decision 19.178*) - SC78 Doc. 60

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider proposing the amendments to Resolution Conf 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Trade in stony corals* outlined in Annex 1 to this document, and the consequential amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives* in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 60 for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- b) agree to the amendments to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report* as outlined in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 60; and

In section 3 “**Regarding stony corals**” of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, add a final paragraph as follows:

Live corals should be reported as ‘LIV’ with the unit ‘number of specimens’. Coral rock (as live rock) and dead corals should be reported using the trade term code ‘COR’ with the unit kilograms (kg). Coral rock (as substrate) should be reported as ‘COR’ with the unit ‘number of specimens’.

In section 6a) of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*, and section 4 a) of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report*, update the explanations of ‘live’ and ‘corals (raw)’ in the terminology table:

Description	Trade term code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
Live	LIV	no.	kg	live animals and plants, excluding live fingerling fish – see FIG. <u>NB: live stony corals should be recorded as ‘number of specimens’; all coral rock (live rock and substrate) should be reported as ‘COR’.</u>
coral (raw)	COR	no. <u>kg (for live rock and dead corals); no. (for substrate)</u>	kg	raw or unworked coral and coral rock (also live rock and substrate) [as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15)]. Coral rock (live rock and substrate) should be recorded as ‘Scleractinia spp.’ NB: the trade should be recorded by number of pieces only if the coral specimens are transported in water. <u>Live rock (transported moist-in-boxes) and dead corals should be reported in kg; coral substrate should be reported as number of pieces (since these are transported in water as the substrate to which non-CITES corals are attached).</u>

- c) consider proposing the revised draft decisions in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 60 for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO
RESOLUTION CONF. 11.10 (REV. COP15) ON *TRADE IN STONY CORALS*

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~striketthrough~~.

Conf. 11.10

Trade in stony corals

(Rev. CoP15)

AWARE that stony corals (in the orders Scleractinia, as well as non-scleractinian corals within the genera Distichopora, Heliopora, Millepora, Stylaster and Tubipora, Helioporacea, Milleporina, Scleractinia, Stolonifera, and Stylasterina) are in international trade as live or dead specimens ~~intact specimens for aquaria and as curios~~;

RECOGNIZING that coral rock, skeleton fragments, sand and other coral products are also traded;

NOTING the unique nature of corals, namely that their skeletons are persistent, that they may become mineralized in time and that they are the foundation of reefs, and that, following erosion, fragments of coral may form part of mineral and sedimentary deposits;

NOTING also that coral rock may act as an important substrate for the attachment of live corals and that the removal of rock may have a detrimental impact on coral reef ecosystems;

AWARE, however, that coral rock can ~~not~~ only be readily identified ~~other than~~ to the order Scleractinia, or in the case of non-scleractinian corals, to the genus level (*Distichopora*, *Heliopora*, *Millepora*, *Stylaster* or *Tubipora*), and that accordingly non-detriment findings under Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention cannot be readily applied;

NOTING however, that for practical purposes of implementing the Convention, all coral rock can be reported in trade as “*Scleractinia* spp.” irrespective of whether the coral rock contains scleractinian corals, non-scleractinian corals, or a mixed composition, for ease of identification and reporting.

NOTING that Article IV, paragraph 3, requires the monitoring of exports of specimens of each species in Appendix II, in order to assess whether the species is being maintained at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem;

NOTING that assessments under Article IV, paragraph 3, of the impacts of harvesting corals on the ecosystems from which they are derived cannot be adequately made by monitoring exports alone;

ACCEPTING that coral skeleton fragments and coral sand cannot be readily recognized;

RECOGNIZING also that it is ~~frequently~~ usually difficult to identify live or dead corals to the species level owing to the lack of a standard nomenclature and the lack of comprehensive and accessible identification guides for the non-specialist;

RECOGNIZING that stony corals that are fossilized are not subject to the provisions of the Convention;

NOTING that it has been difficult to apply and enforce the provisions of the Convention to trade in corals;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ADOPTS the working definitions of coral sand, coral skeleton fragments, coral rock, live coral and dead coral provided in the Annex to this Resolution;
2. RECOMMENDS that Parties give much greater emphasis to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 3, when permitting the export of corals and that they adopt the principles and practice of an ecosystem approach, rather than relying on the monitoring of exports alone; and
3. URGES:
 - a) interested Parties and other bodies from range and consumer States to collaborate and provide support, coordinated by the Secretariat, to produce as a priority accessible and practical guides to recognizing corals and coral rock in trade and to make these widely available to Parties through appropriate media; and
 - b) Parties to seek synergy with other multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives to work for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems.

Annex

Definitions

Coral sand – material consisting entirely or in part of fine sediments ~~finely crushed fragments~~ of dead coral origin no larger than 2 mm in diameter and which may also contain, amongst other things, the remains of Foraminifera, mollusc and crustacean shell, and coralline algae. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives, coral sand is not considered readily recognizable, and is therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Coral skeleton fragments (including gravel and rubble) – unconsolidated fragments of ~~broken finger-like~~ dead coral and other material between 2 and 30 mm measured in any direction, which is not identifiable to the level of genus. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives, coral skeleton fragments are not considered readily recognizable, and are therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Coral rock¹ ~~is (the collective term used for also live rock and substrate)~~ – hard consolidated material, >3 cm in diameter, formed of fragments of dead coral and which may also contain cemented sand, coralline algae and other sedimentary rocks. The term ‘coral rock’ should not be used on permits; which should instead refer to ‘live rock’ and ‘substrate’.

‘*Live rock*’ is the term given to large pieces of coral rock (usually > 0.5 kg each) to which are attached live specimens of invertebrate species and coralline algae not included in the CITES Appendices. Live rock should not have live specimens of CITES-listed coral species attached. Live rock is used as decoration and habitat in aquariums and is usually and which are transported in moist condition, but not in water, in crates. Live rock is subject to the provisions of the Convention and should be reported as *Scleractinia* spp.

‘*Substrate*’ is the term given to small pieces of coral rock (usually < 0.5 kg each), to which are attached invertebrates (of species not included in the CITES Appendices). Substrate is used as pedestal (base) for attached invertebrates, such as sea anemones or soft corals and is therefore and which are transported in water to keep these organisms alive, like live corals. Substrate should not have live specimens of CITES-listed coral species attached. Coral rock is not identifiable to the level of genus but is recognizable to the level of order. The definition excludes specimens defined as dead coral. Substrate, when readily recognizable as coral, is subject to the provisions of the Convention and should be reported as *Scleractinia* spp.

Dead coral – pieces of coral that are dead when exported, but that may have been alive when collected, and in which the structure of corallites (the skeleton of the individual polyp) is still intact; specimens are therefore identifiable to the level of species or genus.

Live coral – pieces of live coral transported in water and that are identifiable to the level of species or genus.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO
RESOLUTION CONF. 9.6 (REV. COP19) ON
TRADE IN READILY RECOGNIZABLE PARTS AND DERIVATIVES

New text is underlined.

RECALLING Resolutions Conf. 1.5, paragraph 3⁴, Conf. 1.7⁵, Conf. 2.18², Conf. 4.8, Conf. 4.24², Conf. 5.9, Conf. 5.22, paragraph c), Conf. 6.18², Conf. 6.22, last paragraph, and Conf. 7.11², adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first, second, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh meetings (Bern, 1976; San José, 1979; Gaborone, 1983; Buenos Aires, 1985; Ottawa, 1987; Lausanne, 1989), relating to readily recognizable parts and derivatives;

¹ Rock that does not contain any corals or in which the corals are fossilized is not subject to the provisions of the Convention.

⁴ Note from the Secretariat: repealed by Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev.), itself replaced by Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18).

⁵ Note from the Secretariat: repealed by the adoption of document Com. 9.14.

RECOGNIZING that Article I of the Convention defines a 'specimen' as including readily recognizable parts and derivatives of animals and plants but does not define the term 'readily recognizable', which is therefore subject to differing interpretations by the Parties;

NOTING that the trade in parts and derivatives regulated by one Party is therefore not always subject to regulation in others;

ACKNOWLEDGING that, under Articles III, IV and V of the Convention, Parties may allow import of CITES specimens from other Parties only upon presentation of CITES documentation;

CONSIDERING that proper monitoring of and reporting on trade in ranched specimens are only possible if all importing countries consider all products of the operation to be readily recognizable;

RECOGNIZING that the species or genera of coral from which coral sand and coral skeleton fragments [as defined in the Annex of Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15)⁶] are derived cannot be readily determined;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. AGREES that the term 'readily recognizable part or derivative', as used in the Convention, shall be interpreted to include any specimen which appears from an accompanying document, the packaging or a mark or label, or from any other circumstances, to be a part or derivative of an animal or plant of a species included in the Appendices, unless such part or derivative is specifically exempted from the provisions of the Convention;
2. RECOMMENDS that:
 - a) Parties consider all products of ranching operations to be readily recognizable;
 - 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
 - c) importing Parties that require that CITES export permits or re-export certificates accompany imports of parts and derivatives do not waive that requirement when such parts and derivatives are not considered to be readily recognizable by the exporting or re-exporting Party;
3. AGREES also that:
 - a) coral sand and coral skeleton fragments [as defined in the Annex of Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15)³] are not considered readily recognizable and are therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention; and
 - b) urine, faeces and ambergris that has been naturally excreted are waste products and are therefore not covered by the provisions of the Convention; and
4. REPEALS the Resolutions, or parts thereof, listed hereunder:
 - a) Resolution Conf. 4.8 (Gaborone, 1983) – *Treatment of Exports of Parts and Derivatives without Permit from a Party to Another which Deems them Readily Recognizable*;
 - b) Resolution Conf. 5.9 (Buenos Aires, 1985) – *Control of Readily Recognizable Parts and Derivatives*;
 - c) Resolution Conf. 5.22 (Buenos Aires, 1985) – *Criteria for the Inclusion of Species in Appendix III – recommendation c*); and
 - d) Resolution Conf. 6.22 (Ottawa, 1987) – *Monitoring and Reporting Procedures for Ranching Operations – the paragraph under RECOMMENDS*.

⁶ Corrected by the Secretariat following the 12th, 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties: originally referred to Resolution Conf. 11.10, later corrected to Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP12), then to Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP14).

DRAFT DECISIONS ON TRADE IN STONY CORALS

Text proposed to be deleted is indicated with ~~strikethrough~~. Proposed new text is underlined.

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.177 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals Committee shall:*

- a) ~~taking into account document CoP19 Doc. 46 and its Annex, provide advice on possible amendments to Resolution Conf 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Trade in stony corals, in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts, and report with recommendations to the Standing Committee;~~
- a) taking into account the progress made at AC33, make further recommendations, as necessary, to revise the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report, to ensure that they provide sufficient clarity on the use of appropriate terms and units for trade in stony corals; and
- b) consider the information in the Annex to document AC33 Doc.24 and in consultation with coral reef nations and coral reef experts, provide advice on the conversion factors used to analyse trade in corals for the CITES Review of Significant Trade process and report to the 21st20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.178 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) ~~review any proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Trade in stony corals from the Animals Committee; and~~
- b) review any recommendations from the Animals Committee with regard to Decision 19.177 (Rev. CoP20), paragraph a), and make its own recommendations, as appropriate.

61. Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

61.1 Review of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) (*Decision 19.181*) - SC78 Doc. 61.1

Recommendations in paragraph 25:

25. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note this report of the working group;
- b) consider whether the work under Decision 19.181 is complete;
- c) consider the amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) as contained in paragraphs 18-23 to document SC78 Doc. 61.1 (and in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 61.1 for ease of reference); and
- d) submit its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 20th meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 12.10 (REV. COP15) ON REGISTRATION OF OPERATIONS THAT BREED APPENDIX-I ANIMAL SPECIES IN CAPTIVITY FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~

5. RESOLVES that:

[...]

- g) the Management Authority, in collaboration with the Scientific Authority, shall monitor the management of each registered captive-breeding operation under its jurisdiction and advise the Secretariat in the event of any major change in the nature of an operation (e.g., major change in breeding stock; change in marking methods; major change in breeding methods; etc.) or in the type(s) of products being produced for export;
- h) the Secretariat shall publish the Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes on the CITES website including the following information: code; name of operation; contact details reported by the Management Authority consistent with domestic law; date of establishment; date of CITES registration for each Appendix-I species registered; Appendix-I species registered; type(s) of products being produced for export reported by the Management Authority; any exclusions of products from the registration for the operation by the Management Authority or Standing Committee; origin of breeding stock; and marking methods;
- hi) any Party within whose jurisdiction an operation is registered may unilaterally request the removal of that operation from the Register or amendment to exclude products from the registration for that operation without reference to other Parties by so notifying the Secretariat, and, in this case, the operation shall be removed or amended immediately;
- j) the Secretariat shall note in the Register updated information received from a Management Authority pursuant to paragraph 5 g);
- ik) any Party believing that a registered operation does not comply with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) or the original conditions for registration of the operation may, after consultation with the Secretariat and the Party concerned, propose to the Standing Committee that the operation be deleted from the Register or amended to exclude or amend the type(s) of products from the registration for the operation, based on documented, evidence-based concerns. At its following meeting, the Standing Committee shall, considering the concerns raised by the objecting Party, any other relevant information (documented evidence), and any comments from the Registering Party and the Secretariat, determine whether the operation should be deleted from the register or amended to exclude or amend the type(s) of products from the registration for the operation, if the objection is justified; or whether to

reject the objection. If so deleted or amended, such an operation may only be reinstated in the Register or re-amended by satisfying the procedure outlined in Annex 2; and

- j) the Management Authority shall satisfy itself that the captive-breeding operation will make a continuing meaningful contribution according to the conservation needs of the species concerned;

[...]

Annex 1 Information to be provided to the Secretariat by the Management Authority on operations to be registered

1. Name and address of the owner and manager of the captive-breeding operation.
2. Date of establishment.
3. Appendix-I species proposed for registration.
4. Numbers and ages (if known or appropriate) of males and females that comprise the parental breeding stock.
5. Evidence that the parental stock has been obtained in accordance with relevant national measures and the provisions of the Convention (e.g. dated capture permits or receipts, CITES documents, etc.).
6. Current stock (numbers, by sex and age, held in addition to the parental breeding stock above).
7. Information on the percentage mortalities, if possible reported by age and sex.
8. Documentation showing either:
 - a) that the operation has bred at least two generations of the species and a description of the method used; or
 - b) if the operation has only bred one generation of the species, that the husbandry methods used are the same as, or similar to, those that have resulted in second-generation offspring in other operations.
9. Past, current and expected annual production of offspring and, where possible, information on:
 - a) the number of females producing offspring each year; and
 - b) unusual fluctuations in the annual production of offspring (including an explanation of the probable cause).
10. An assessment of the anticipated need for, and source of, additional specimens to augment the breeding stock to increase the genetic pool of the captive population in order to avoid any deleterious inbreeding.
11. Type of product exported (e.g. live specimens, skins, hides, other body parts, etc.) and any products specifically excluded from export for the operation.
12. Detailed description of the marking methods (e.g. bands, tags, transponders, branding, etc.) used for the breeding stock and offspring and for the types of specimens (e.g. skins, meat, live animals, etc.) that will be exported.
13. Description of the inspection and monitoring procedures to be used by the CITES Management Authority to confirm the identity of the breeding stock and offspring and to detect the presence of unauthorized specimens held at or exported by the operation, or being exported.
14. Description of the facilities to house the current and expected captive stock, including security measures to prevent escapes and/or thefts. Detailed information should be provided on the number and size of breeding and rearing enclosures, tanks, ponds, egg incubation capacity, food production or supply, availability of veterinary services and record-keeping.
15. Description of the strategies used or activities conducted by the breeding operation to contribute to the conservation of wild population(s) of the species.

16. Assurance that the operation shall be carried out at all stages in a humane (non-cruel) manner.

61.2 Implementation of paragraph 5 j) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) - SC78 Doc. 61.2

Recommendations in paragraph 15:

15. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review and submit the following draft amendment to paragraph 5 j) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes* supported by the Animals Committee to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting:
 - j) *the Management Authority, in collaboration with the Scientific Authority, shall satisfy itself that the captive-breeding operation will make a continuing meaningful contribution according to the conservation needs of the species concerned;*
- b) agree that the following provide guidance to Parties to implement the requirement stated in paragraph 5 j) of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) that Management Authorities shall satisfy itself that the captive-breeding operation will make a continuing meaningful contribution to the conservation needs of the species concerned:
 - i) the seven conservation strategies referred to in registration applications received to date: reduction of the pressure on wild populations; contribution to the genetic diversity of the captive-bred population; potential reintroduction into the wild; contribution to research on the species; financial contribution to a conservation fund; public awareness; and contribution to capacity building);
 - ii) the *IUCN Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations*;
 - iii) Resolution Conf. 13.9 on *Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes*;
 - iv) *Non-binding best practice guidance on how to determine whether “the trade would promote in situ conservation”*; and
 - v) the IUCN/SSC *Guidelines on the Use of Ex Situ Management for Species Conservation*; and
- c) encourage Parties to implement Resolution Conf. 13.9 on *Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes*.

61.3 Registration of the operation Radiatas Paradise (Spain) breeding *Astrochelys radiata* - SC78 Doc. 61.3 (withdrawn)

62. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source (*Decision 19.179*) - SC78 Doc. 62

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the report of the working group and relevant background documents;
- b) take note of the analysis and conclusions from the Animals and Plants Committee as found in document PC27 Doc. 21 / AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1) including those referenced in paragraph 5 of document SC78 Doc. 62; and

5. In line with the mandate, the Animals and Plants Committees provided their scientific advice, which can be found in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 21 / AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1). The advice concludes that “the consensus seems to lean towards a potentially lower conservation risk [in trade in specimens of non-wild source] when robust systems and practices are in place, but with some caution against generalizing this across all species and circumstances. While there are successful examples of reduced risks through trade in specimens from non-wild sources, challenges such as legal origin of parental / breeding stock, potential laundering, unsustainable stock supplementation, inadequate regulatory frameworks, and varying impacts depending on the species and local conditions make it necessary to evaluate each case individually.” The Committees provided detailed thoughts on the factors that influence conservation risk and also noted that there can be benefits to trading in non-wild specimens, but the actual impact varies widely depending on the specific circumstances and management practices. These conclusions also suggest that the factors that influence conservation risk are not inherently different between flora and fauna; but rather the particular species biology and specific circumstances are more relevant indicators of risk.

- c) in consideration of the outstanding issues and the key questions that remain on the implementation of Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5, agree to submit to CoP 20 new draft decisions found in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 62 to replace Decision 19.179 and 19.180 and which request, subject to availability of external funding, to convene a workshop building on the work done to date, to undertake the activities remaining from Decision 19.179 b) to d) regarding reviewing the application of the Convention for trade in non-wild specimens and forming recommendations.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON REVIEW OF CITES PROVISIONS RELATED TO TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS NOT OF WILD SOURCE

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and taking into consideration documents SC74 Doc. 56, PC27 Doc. 21 / AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1), SC78 Doc. 62, Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*, Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*, as well as any other Resolutions concerning provisions on trade in specimens of both CITES-listed animals and plants not of wild source, and relevant committee reports, the Secretariat shall:

- a) consult the Chairs of the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees and develop specific terms of reference and a *modus operandi* for a technical workshop on the review of trade in specimens of both CITES-listed animal and plants not of wild source in order to address the following:
 - i) possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) and Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP19), as well as any amendment to other Resolutions concerning provisions on trade in specimens of both 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;
 - ii) review issues and challenges in the application of the Convention for trade in non-wild specimens of both CITES-listed animal and plant species, in particular key elements that may

contribute to the uneven application of Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5, and consider the scientific advice and guidance from the Animals and Plants Committees in document PC27 Doc. 21 / AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1) and the summary records of the meetings on the need for implementing these Articles differently for either animal specimens from species bred in captivity or plant specimens that are artificially propagated; and

- iii) develop draft recommendations for addressing these issues and challenges, including draft amendments to existing Resolutions or development of a new Resolution or Decisions to address these issues and challenges, for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- b) prepare workshop documents and organize the technical workshop taking into consideration regional and gender representation; and
- c) submit findings and recommendations of this workshop to the Standing Committee for their consideration.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.BB The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the workshop referred to in Decision 20.AA and submit recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

63. Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade (Decision 19.186) - SC78 Doc. 63

Recommendations in paragraph 8:

8. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC78 Doc. 63;
- b) propose to CoP20 that Decisions 19.186-19.188 can be deleted and replaced with the draft decisions in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 63, subject to any amendment agreed at SC78; and
- c) consider whether to communicate the amendment to Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building* included in paragraph 7 to CoP20 for its consideration.

2. *INVITES Parties to:*

- d) upload to and update the CITES website, either directly or through the Secretariat, with relevant studies, analyses, other sources and methods to identify species that are or may be affected by international trade, are at risk of extinction and are either not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON SPECIES
AT RISK OF EXTINCTION AFFECTED BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are invited to:

- a) submit information for inclusion on the dedicated page described in Decision 20.BB paragraph b) relating to methodologies, information or analyses on species or other taxonomic groups at risk of extinction that are or may be threatened by international trade, plus their look-alikes; and
- b) recognise and prioritise the best available scientific data and technical information, including peer-reviewed materials or publications, government reports or reports from other official bodies and relevant stakeholders and state whether the information has been peer-reviewed. Parties are encouraged to consider utilising the IPBES four-box model for the qualitative communication of confidence or other appropriate methods where possible.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall, subject to external resources:

- a) update and expand the materials in the Virtual College relating to the preparation and submission of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices.
- b) develop a dedicated page with a link to a restricted section on the CITES website accessible to Parties to make the following information submitted by Parties, by non-Party observers through Parties, and by the United Nations and its specialized agencies through either a Party or the Secretariat available to Parties:
 - i) methodologies used for identifying and / or selecting species at risk of extinction that might merit consideration to be included in the CITES Appendices;
 - ii) information or analyses on the status of species (or other taxonomic groups) not yet included in the Appendices which might merit such an inclusion; and
 - iii) information in regards Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), specifically in Annex 2.b, on species (or other taxonomic groups) that may be considered as look-alikes of taxa referenced in paragraph b)ii.

- c) update the page described in paragraph b) with information:
 - i) provided by Parties, including the name of the Party(s) that submitted the information and the date of submission; and
 - ii) derived from activities implemented by the Secretariat based on Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
- d) assess the feasibility of developing a functionality for Parties to upload material directly to the page described in paragraph b).

Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other experts

20.CC Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other experts are invited to work with Parties to identify, develop or submit the information referred to in Decision 20.AA.

Directed to the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees

20.DD The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, is requested to:

- a) review the implementation and effectiveness of Decisions 20.AA to 20.CC;
- b) consider any other actions or mechanisms that may be necessary to identify species at risk of extinction that are or may be threatened by international trade and develop listing proposals; and
- c) provide any recommendations relating to paragraphs a) and b) to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration.

64. Spix's macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) - SC78 Doc. 64

Recommendations in paragraph 32:

32. Based on the above, the Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the information provided in document SC78 Doc. 64;
- b) request the Secretariat to report to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 20) on the progress made by the European Union in adopting measures ensuring the full implementation of Resolution Conf 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*;
- c) determine a revision of CITES purpose-of-transaction code "B" in light of its potential misuse as a way to produce offspring for future commercial purposes from specimens of Appendix-I species originally transacted to breed in captivity exclusively for non-commercial purposes; and
- d) establish an *in-session* working group whereby affected Parties can discuss measures to rectify non-compliance of operations with *Cyanopsitta spixii* to the Brazilian government's official Spix's macaw conservation programme and to enable the import of more birds to the reintroduction into the wild program for the species, submitting such recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20).

65. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

65.1 Report on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) [Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19); Decision 19.37] - SC78 Doc. 65.1

Recommendations in paragraph 67:

67. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the downward PIKE trend in Africa and commend the efforts of African elephant range States and other Parties and partners, in supporting actions to maintain this positive trend;
- b) take note of the increase in the number and total weight of ivory seizures reported compared to 2022 and urge Parties to maintain their enforcement efforts as well as anti-poaching measures to sustain the positive downward trend observed in previous years;
- c) review and agree the proposed changes to the ETIS data collection form as contained in Annex 1 d) to document SC78 Doc. 65.1;
- d) take note of the funding needs for ETIS as indicated by TRAFFIC and the reduced budget allocated to the MIKE component under the new project funded by the European Union, which will limit the MIKE Programme ability to maintain the same level of support to MIKE sites as in previous years;
- e) note the new project funded by the European Union that will include a feasibility study and voluntary testing of data collection and reporting methods to monitor illegal killing for other CITES-listed species in Africa; and future funding from the European Union would be contingent on the inclusion of data collection and reporting of multiple species; and
- f) take note of the new elected African Elephant Fund Steering Committee, which will serve for the period 2024-2026, with Zimbabwe as Chair and Zambia as Vice-Chair.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ETIS DATA COLLECTION FORMS

This Annex provides a proposed revised ETIS data collection form which contains the following changes:

- a) an opportunity for Parties to indicate whether or not trade route information is known (question 6);
- b) more detailed quantity information fields to allow differentiation between raw and worked ivory types, as well as to assess which quantity is an estimate (question 10); and
- c) additional fields (questions 19 – 21) to enhance the interoperability between ETIS and the CITES Secretariat's Annual Illegal Trade Report and allow for data sharing as per paragraph 27.g of Res. Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) and paragraph 4 of Res. Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19).

Proposed new data collection form (to be reflected similarly on ETIS Online) for consideration by MIKE-ETIS Subgroup and the Parties:



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



Please fill in one form for each individual seizure. Completed forms should be returned to
etis@traffic.org or info@cites.org

This seizure case will be reviewed and entered to the ETIS database by TRAFFIC. For guidance on the ETIS data collection form please consult the Explanatory Notes available with the latest CITES Notification for ETIS data collection. For any further questions or to request training, please contact TRAFFIC at: etis@traffic.org

Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) Data Collection Form

Please tick with an "x" to indicate if the seizure record should **not** be made available to the members of the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC) for global research and analysis (this applies only to this seizure record).

** Required information*

1. **Date of Report to ETIS:** Day_____ Month_____ Year _____

2. **Data Provider's reference code**_____

3. **Source of data*** _____

Other sources _____

4. **Date of seizure*** Day_____ Month_____ Year*_____

5. **Agency(ies) responsible for the seizure*** _____

Other Agency(ies) _____

6. **Location of discovery***
Place _____
City, Province, State _____ Country* _____

7. **Trade route information:**

Is trade route known?* (NOTE: new question relating to trade routes)

Yes No

If Yes, please indicate:

A. **Country(ies) of origin** _____

B. **Country(ies) of export/re-export** _____

C. **Country(ies) of transit** _____

D. **Country of destination/import** _____

8. **Elephant species** (Please tick): oAfrican oAsian oUnknown

9. **Ivory type* and quantity*** (At least one, number of pieces or weight, is required) **NOTE: revised quantity information to better differentiate between types of raw and worked ivory and provide explicit "is this an estimate" question to each section - no. of pieces and weight (previously only one such question so could not differentiate if for pieces or weight)**

A. **Raw ivory:**

Whole tusk Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____

(TUS) Specify: o Estimate oActual oEstimate oActual

o Tusks present, but amount unknown

Cut pieces Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____

(IVP) Specify: oEstimate oActual oEstimate oActual

o Cut pieces present, but amount unknown

Mixed Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____
(TUS/IVP) Specify: Estimate Actual Estimate Actual
 Mixed pieces present, but amount unknown

B. Worked ivory:

Jewellery Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____
(IJW) Specify: Estimate Actual Estimate Actual
 Jewellery present, but amount unknown

Carving Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____
(IVC) Specify: Estimate Actual Estimate Actual
 Carving present, but amount unknown

Piano keys Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____
(KEY) Specify: Estimate Actual Estimate Actual
 Piano keys present, but amount unknown

Further comments on ivory seized _____

Forensic examination (Tick if undertaken)

10. Non-ivory elephant products* (At least one, number of pieces or weight, is required)

Elephant hide/skin: Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____

Manufactured hide products: Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____

Description of manufactured hide products _____

Other elephant products: Number of pieces _____ Weight (kg) _____

Description of other elephant products _____

11. Details of other contraband seized _____

12. Estimated value of seized elephant products in country of seizure _____

13. Type of activity(ies) (please tick)

Illegal killing Export Transit Import Offer for sale
 Sale Possession Other (Specify) _____

14. Mode of transport (Please tick) Air Sea Land Post Other (Specify)

15. Method of concealment _____

16. Method(s) of detection (Please tick) Routine inspection Targeting
 Investigation X-ray Intelligence Sniffer dog

Other (Specify) _____

17. Nationality of suspect(s) _____

(NOTE: Questions 18– 20 included to facilitate interoperability with AITR)

18. Law under which charges were brought _____

19. Sanction _____

20. Disposal of confiscated
specimens _____

21. Additional comments _____

Name and position of person completing this form _____

Name of organisation represented _____ Date _____

Recommendations in paragraph 32:

32. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the progress made with the implementation of the priority recommendations of the ETIS review, as well as the challenges identified;
- b) invite the Secretariat and TRAFFIC to formalize matters relating to data governance before CoP20, through an agreement as required in section 3 a) on *Oversight and accountability* in Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19);
- c) encourage TRAFFIC to prepare and make Standard Operating Procedures publicly available and to fully implement Section 5 on *Information, data analysis and interpretation* in Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) that requires TRAFFIC to make the statistical methodology, underlying code and supporting documentation, including how data is processed, bias-adjusted and then used in the ETIS analysis, available to all Parties;
- d) review and agree the protocol for ETIS data validation as contained in [Error! Reference source not found.](#) to document SC78 Doc. 65.2;
- e) consider the application of network models to ETIS data carried out as exploratory analysis and as presented in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 65.2 and advise on the use of this analysis to inform the ETIS report to be considered at CoP20 and the categorization of Parties requiring attention in the NIAP process;
- f) review and agree to submit the draft decisions contained in Annex 5 to document SC78 Doc. 65.2 for consideration at CoP20; and
- g) agree to recommend the deletion of Decisions 19.94 to 19.96 on the *Implementation of the priority recommendations from the review of the ETIS programme* to CoP20.

PROPOSED DRAFT PROTOCOL FOR ETIS DATA VALIDATION AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
RESOLUTION CONF. 10.10 (REV. COP19)

NOTE: The provision relating to data validation is contained in Section 2 c) in Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*:

Parties should validate seizure data relating to their country through ETIS Online or in response to a Notification to be issued by the Secretariat on an annual basis prior to the analysis of the data. TRAFFIC will include seizure data relating to their country in the analysis unless the Party indicates through ETIS Online or within the timeframe as specified in the Notification that the data should not be included.

The Secretariat would like to draw Parties attention to the provision above that states that a Party should indicate if seizure data **should not be included**. To make an informed decision relating to a specific seizure record / data, Parties may raise inquiries to obtain additional information. The draft protocol could assist in this regard.

The draft protocol aims to provide:

- a mechanism for Parties to submit inquiries and their responses using ETIS Online functionalities;
- further clarity on the information to be provided by Parties when submitting an inquiry relating to a seizure record;
- guidance for when records can be considered as 'grandfathered' into the ETIS database; and

- a process to resolve pending ETIS data validation inquiries to which Parties do not respond. It is proposed that this protocol be included as an Annex to the annual ETIS data validation Notification to the Parties.

DRAFT PROTOCOL FOR ETIS DATA VALIDATION

1. Submission of inquiries

- a) Parties should submit data validation inquiries using functionalities available on ETIS Online. If online access is not available to the Party, TRAFFIC staff can facilitate the submission of inquiries on behalf of Parties using a prepared Excel form template that is disseminated with the annual ETIS data validation Notification.
- b) In providing details for the inquiry, Parties should specify the information requested from the Management Authorities (MA) that submitted the record or the information requested from TRAFFIC if the data were collected by TRAFFIC staff from non-MA sources.
- c) If a Party is requesting the deletion of a record from the ETIS database, it is requested to provide a reason as to why the record should not be included / deleted if the record was submitted by another Party.

2. Records excluded from validation process

Based on the data included in the ETIS analysis to identify Parties requiring attention under NIAP, records submitted for the period spanning the analysis prior to the last report to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties or the Standing Committee are considered “grandfathered in” for the next reporting cycle, meaning that only records submitted after the last CoP or SC analysis remain open for validation. The cut-off for validation of data will be linked to the inputs data for subsequent CoP or SC cycles.

3. Archiving resolved inquiries

Once an inquiry is submitted as outlined in 1 above, Parties to which the inquiry is directed are requested to respond within the period specified in the Notification (currently three weeks) using functionalities in ETIS Online, which will archive the response for future reference and record keeping purposes. TRAFFIC’s ETIS staff will similarly respond to requests directed at data collected by ETIS also utilizing the same functionalities.

4. Timeframe to respond and status of records subject to inquiry

i. *MA-submitted data (Other Parties to respond to inquiry):*

When the inquiry is directed at another Party (owner of the data):

- a) If owner of the data (Party that submitted the record) provides information relating to the record and the inquiring Party does not respond; the data will be included in the analysis;
- b) If the owner of the data (Party that submitted the record) does not respond to the inquiry from another Party, the data will be excluded from the analysis until the matter is resolved bilaterally between the Parties.

ii. *Non-MA data (TRAFFIC to respond to inquiry):*

When the inquiry is directed at TRAFFIC (non-MA data) and TRAFFIC has provided all of the documentation and information at its disposal and followed up with the Party:

- If no response is received from the inquiring Party after one month of the relevant documentation and information at the disposal of TRAFFIC being provided to it, and after at least two written follow up attempts by TRAFFIC to which the enquiring Party does not respond, data could be included in the analysis.

- If the inquiring Party is not satisfied that the documentation and information at the disposal of TRAFFIC is sufficient to justify inclusion of the non-MA data, the data should not be included in the ETIS analyses and removed from the ETIS database.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON THE *IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ETIS REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS*

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to the availability of external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) finalize the feasibility assessment for alternative support mechanisms for the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS);
- b) review the terms of reference of the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group and propose amendments, as appropriate;
- c) in consultation with TRAFFIC and the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG):
 - i) identify and test covariates that could feature as country specific variables for bias-adjustment purposes or as explanatory factors to further enhance the interpretation of the ETIS results better and improve the understanding of the ETIS results;
 - ii) explore the feasibility of an integrated analysis using the Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE), ETIS and African Elephant Database data; and
 - iii) examine the relationship between ivory stockpiles and illegal ivory trade based on aggregated stockpile data; and
- d) report on the implementation of paragraph a) to c) and make recommendations as necessary to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.BB The Standing Committee shall review the report provided by the Secretariat and make recommendations, as necessary, for consideration at the 21st meeting of the Conference the Parties.

Recommendations in paragraph 20:

20. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review the draft criteria in paragraph 9 a) and b) of document SC78 Doc. 65.3 and agree whether to recommend the adoption of the draft criteria for the categorization of Parties at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

9. Based on the advice provided by the MIKE-ETIS TAG and after obtaining further clarification from TRAFFIC on the use of the key data elements, the Secretariat proposes the following draft criteria to be used by TRAFFIC in Step 1 paragraph a) of the *Guidelines to the NIAP Process*:

- a) *Exclusion criteria – countries NOT to be included in analysis (as established in the ETIS trend analysis):*

Parties that over a 10-year period scored less than 100 based on seizure-in or seizure-out data using the following formula:

1 x number of small-scale seizures (less than 10 kg) +

10 x number of medium seizures (between 10 kg and 100 kg) +

100 x number of large-scale seizure (at least 100 kg)

- b) *Categorization criteria – Based on ETIS data (Note: Thresholds per category are not specified):*

- i) *Categorization criterion 1): Measure of scale of trade based on seizure-in and seizure-out bias-adjusted variables summarized as:*

A. Number of seizures by ivory type and weight classes

B. Total weight

C. Percentage volume of trade

The above criterion will be used as follows to inform the three NIAP categories:

Category A: A Party with among the highest volume of illegal trade compared to others.

Category B: A Party with large volume of illegal trade compared to others.

Category C: A Party with medium volume of illegal trade that could potentially escalate and become of greater concern if not closely monitored and addressed.

- ii) *Categorization criterion 2): Illegal ivory trade links and measure of law enforcement effort [LE ratio of seizure-in/(seizure-in+seizure-out)⁷]*

The above criterion will be used as follows to inform the three NIAP categories:

Category A: Parties regularly associated with ivory seizures made elsewhere and that fail or often fail to detect illegal consignments originating from, transiting through or entering their territories (low law enforcement ratio).

⁷ LE ratio of seizure-in/(seizure-in+seizure-out) also abbreviated as LE ratio of sz-in/sz-in+sz-out. Seizures made within country or territory are referred to as seizure in and seizures in which the Party was implicated along the trade chain as a country or territory of origin, re-export, export, or destination are referred to as seizure out.

Category B: Parties occasionally associated with ivory seizures made elsewhere, and that successfully intercept most illegal ivory consignments originating from, transiting through or entering their territories (medium to high law enforcement ratio)

Category C: Parties that are implicated in ivory seizures for the first time or are part of an emerging trend in terms of implicated records and vary in terms of law enforcement (low or medium law enforcement ratio)

- c) review and agree the contextual information in paragraph 10 of document SC78 Doc. 65.3 used by TRAFFIC to inform the categorization of Parties; and

10. In addition to the draft criteria in paragraph 9 above, the following information is currently considered by TRAFFIC as contextual information:

- a) Corruption Perception Index (CPI) (proxy to measure law enforcement efficiency): A higher CPI indicates the country is perceived as having less corruption.
- b) Organized Crime Index (OCI) (a measure of the level of organized crime within each country or territory): A higher OCI indicates higher levels of organized crime.
- c) Published literature, CITES reports and peer-reviewed literature: Contextual information including special operations done in countries to curtail organized crime, notable court cases or legislation targeting illegal ivory or other illegal wildlife trade, information based on forensic analysis and trends in movement of ivory from origin and export countries, and other relevant information from CITES reports and peer-reviewed literature.

- c) review and agree the process proposed by the Secretariat in paragraph 13 of document SC78 Doc. 65.3 as part of the consultation process with Parties identified in the ETIS reports in the implementation of Step 1 b) and c) of the NIAP process.

13. The Secretariat proposes the following process in the context of Step 1 paragraphs b) and c) of the *Guidelines*:

- a) The Secretariat will prepare a compilation of the information in the ETIS report relevant to the Party concerned, highlighting the key issues, and formally inviting the Party to submit any additional information it deems relevant for determining its participation in the NIAP process.
- b) In its letter, the Secretariat will request the Party concerned to provide additional, targeted information focusing on key issues relevant to addressing illegal trade in elephant ivory. This includes legislation and regulations, national level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration; international and regional enforcement collaboration, and outreach, public awareness and education. The Party will be requested to provide corroborating documentation to the Secretariat in this regard.
- c) Should the Secretariat consider that further information is needed to make an informed decision, it will formally consult with the relevant entities and experts, and conduct country missions to assist in this process, as necessary.

Recommendations in paragraph 28:

28. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider and agree with the advice provided by the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group and the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup relating to the feasibility of the analysis proposed in Decision 19.99; and
- b) agree that Decisions 19.99 to 19.101 on *Ivory seizures and domestic ivory markets* and Decisions 18.117 (Rev. CoP19), 18.118 and 18.119 (Rev. CoP19) on *Closure of domestic ivory markets* have been implemented and can be deleted.

Recommendations in paragraph 9:

9. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider and agree the proposed amendments to paragraph 27 g) in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* and paragraph 4 in Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19) on *National reports*, presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 65.5, for submission to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) for consideration; and
- b) take note of the matters as contained in paragraph 6 of document SC78 Doc. 65.5, that went beyond the mandate of this working group, but could likely benefit from further discussion.

6. During the electronic exchanges as well as during the online meeting, several matters were raised that were outside the scope of the working group mandate. As there was sufficient time during the online meeting, and there was support for some preliminary exchanges on these matters, working group members exchanged views and identified key matters that could merit future discussion, as follows:

- a) Reporting deadlines: The deadline for submission of data to ETIS is 90 days after the occurrence of the seizure, or 31 March of the year following the seizure. The deadline for submission of the Annual Illegal Trade Report (AITR) is 31 of October each year. Members noted that the potential merger of the two reporting deadlines had already been discussed previously.
- b) Double reporting: Even if data can be exchanged between ETIS and the CITES Illegal Trade Database, Parties will still need to also report data submitted to ETIS in their annual AITR submission. The Secretariat clarified that the provisions in Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. Cop 19) as presently written does not provide for seizures of elephant specimens to be excluded from AITR reporting. It was also noted by the Secretariat that reporting on annual illegal trade is part of Art. VIII of the Convention text and is mandatory, but not subject to compliance procedures. However, elephant specimen seizure data reported by Parties in their AITR also fulfill the reporting obligation to ETIS, since this data can be made available to ETIS by the Secretariat, as provided for in paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19). Further discussion may be warranted to avoid Parties having to report the same data twice.
- c) Exchange of historical data: There may be a need to discuss how historical data can be exchanged between both databases. If at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20), there is agreement on the changes to the relevant resolutions (as presented in the Annex to the present document), future data can be exchanged between ETIS and AITR. However, for historical data, no mechanism is foreseen. It was confirmed that it would be beneficial to obtain and share this historical data so they can be taken into account in future analyses. A mechanism may need to be set-up to accommodate this exchange of historical data. If such an exchange of historical data would be foreseen, members of the working group highlighted that this should not go with an expectation of Parties to submit additional data nor an additional verification of the submitted data (beyond Parties having to give their explicit consent to agreeing or not to the sharing of this historical data).
- d) Data validation: under ETIS, a data validation process was put into place, allowing Parties to scrutinize the data used in the ETIS analysis that implicates their country. Currently, this ETIS validation process is in place for data that is officially submitted by CITES Management Authorities (MA) and for data coming from other sources. The data validation process takes time, both for the Parties involved as for TRAFFIC. Investments were made to the ETIS Online application to facilitate the data validation process, but nonetheless it requires precious time and resources. It was put into question if such a data validation process is required for all types of data. Some members of the working group suggested that data submitted by Parties through their CITES Management Authorities should not be put into question and should by default be considered as valid. In case of concerns about specific data, it was suggested that bilateral exchanges can be initiated. It was also suggested that data in the ETIS database originating from non-MA sources should still undergo the data validation process as it is currently foreseen. It was furthermore suggested by certain members that if a Party has submitted seizure information, this could be deemed sufficient, thus eliminating the need for additional data coming from

non-MA sources. Other members were of the opinion that all data needs validation by the implicated Parties.

- e) Cost-efficiency: Questions were raised about the cost-efficiency of maintaining two separate databases which include partially the same data.
- f) Data duplication: Concerns were raised about the potential duplication of data when data is shared between databases. This concern is partially linked to differences in the set-up of the CITES Illegal Trade- and ETIS databases.
- g) There was a common understanding that having up-to-date data is important. However, certain pieces of information (for example the information on the disposal of confiscated specimens) only becomes available after quite some time. When a Party wants to update information that was already submitted to the AITR, it needs to do this through the CITES Implementation Report (which is only to be submitted every 3 years). In practice this is rather difficult and a request was made to investigate also this element to see if this could be organised in a more practical and efficient manner.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10.10 (REV. COP19) ON *TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS* AND RESOLUTION CONF. 11.17 (REV. COP19) ON *NATIONAL REPORTS*

NB: Proposed new text is underlined.

Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 27. g)

- 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, the CITES Secretariat, 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 (ICWC) for global research and analysis purposes, unless otherwise specified by the reporting Party as provided for in paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19) on *National reports*, and data submitted by the reporting Parties will be shared annually with the CITES Secretariat to supplement the CITES Illegal Trade Database. The detailed data on individual seizure cases, elephant mortalities and law enforcement 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;

Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 4

AGREES that, unless otherwise specified by the reporting Party, data collected in the annual illegal trade report and included in the database under the responsibility of the CITES Secretariat, 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 (ICWC) for ICWC global research and analysis studies on wildlife and forest crime and any data related to seizures of elephant specimens (as prepared by the Secretariat) to ETIS, on an annual basis to supplement the ETIS database and to support the monitoring the illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens as provided for in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) ;

Recommendations in paragraph 33:

33. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/076 and invite Parties to draw upon the information provided in these responses to explore opportunities to further strengthen controls, oversight and monitoring of Asian elephants, including those in international trade, and to address illegal trade;
- b) regarding the *List of key elements to be considered regarding registering, marking and tracing systems for captive Asian elephants* presented in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 65.6:
 - i) consider if any additional elements might be needed and endorse the list, once finalized; and
 - ii) encourage Asian elephant range States where any of the elements in the list are not yet included in their national systems for registering, marking, and tracing captive Asian elephants to include such elements to facilitate strengthened controls and oversight regarding captive elephants, including those in international trade;
- c) request the Secretariat to monitor trade in Asian elephant specimens and to bring any matters of concern that may arise to the attention of the Standing Committee in its reporting as required by paragraph 19 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*;
- d) review and submit draft decision 20.AA, as presented in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 65.6, to the Conference of the Parties; and
- e) recommend to CoP20 that Decisions 18.226 (Rev. CoP19), 19.107 and 19.108 on *Trade in Asian elephants* (*Elephas maximus*) can be deleted, as they have been implemented or are already present in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* and Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*.

LIST OF KEY ELEMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED
REGARDING REGISTERING, MARKING AND TRACING SYSTEMS FOR CAPTIVE ASIAN ELEPHANTS

The Standing Committee at its 78th meeting (SC78, Geneva, 2025), endorsed the following *List of key elements to be considered regarding registering, marking and tracing systems for captive Asian elephants*. Asian elephant range States, when reviewing their existing national systems or considering the establishment of a new national system, are encouraged to where any of these elements are not yet included in their national systems for registering, marking, and tracing of captive Asian elephants, consider inclusion of these elements to facilitate strengthened controls and oversight regarding captive Asian elephants, including those in international trade.

1. National legislation or regulations making the registration of each individual captive Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) mandatory should be implemented.
2. A captive elephant registration database must be established and maintained by an appropriate governmental agency.
3. It should be compulsory to register and record in the database, any elephant born in captivity, within the first year from the date the animal was born.
4. An elephant identification document should be issued for each registered captive elephant, containing as a minimum, the following information:
 - i) a unique identification number;
 - ii) date of birth;
 - iii) sex

- iv) parentage;
- v) a detailed description of unique physical markings;
- vi) a detailed description of any unique identifying characteristics;
- vii) the weight and size of the elephant at the time of registration;⁸
- viii) photos of the animal;⁹ and
- ix) full details about the owner of the animal, including name, address and contact details, as well as records of any ownership transfer or translocation.

5. The following are elements that all Asian elephant range States should endeavour to include in their registration systems, if not yet done:

- i) microchipping of all captive elephants to facilitate identification through a unique microchip number; and
- ii) establishing a database containing the DNA profile of each elephant in captivity.

6. Registration systems should make it compulsory for elephant owners to report:

- i) change of ownership;
- ii) translocation of captive elephants;
- iii) change of physical characteristics;
- iv) change of unique markings;
- v) death of elephants, within one month of the date of death; and
- vi) for live elephants in international trade, the CITES permit information (purpose and source codes, importer, exporter, permit number, date of issuance and validity date).

7. Legislation or regulations should make provision for strict measures to be taken and penalties to be imposed on elephant owners that do not comply with any of the registration system requirements.

DRAFT DECISION ON *ASIAN ELEPHANTS* (ELEPHAS MAXIMUS)

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) work with its partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and relevant experts to provide training to authorities from Asian elephant range States on the identification of ivory and other elephant specimens, sample taking from ivory seizures and seizures of other elephant specimens for forensic analysis and associated chain of custody procedures; and
- b) develop a fact sheet to facilitate consistent interpretation of what constitutes a “captive bred” Asian elephant in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and relevant Resolutions and make the fact sheet available to Parties to draw upon and use as needed.

⁸ *It should be compulsory to update the registration database and elephant identification document if any significant changes occur, i.e. as the elephant matures.*

⁹ *It should be compulsory to update the registration database and elephant identification document with new photos if any significant changes occur, i.e. as the elephant matures.*

Recommendations in paragraph 40:

40. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the information and research results compiled regarding the trade in mammoth ivory as presented in document SC78 Doc. 65.7;
- b) encourage Parties exporting and importing mammoth ivory to strictly apply the domestic regulatory measures they have in place for trade in these specimens;
- c) encourage Parties where domestic ivory markets exist to closely monitor these markets to identify, prevent and address any attempts to launder or mislabel elephant ivory as mammoth ivory; and
- d) recommend to the Conference of the Parties that Decisions 19.102 and 19.103 on *Trade in mammoth ivory* have been implemented and can be deleted.

Recommendations in paragraph 12:

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) welcome the outcome of the African elephant range State Dialogue meeting as set out in the communiqué of the meeting and included in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 65.8;
- b) consider the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 65.8 and submit these for the consideration of the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- c) agree that Decision 19.167 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion; and
- d) also agree that Decision 19.168 can be proposed for deletion at CoP20 since the dialogue meeting process will be completed at that time.

**DRAFT DECISIONS ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCING
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS**

New text underlined, deleted text indicated in ~~strikethrough~~

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the African elephant range States and the Chair of the Standing Committee

20.AA Subject to the availability of external funds, the Secretariat, in consultation with the African elephant range States and the Chair of the Standing Committee, shall:

- a) develop the terms of reference and mobilise funding for engaging a consultant to consolidate the background technical information for the purpose of convening a technical workshop [see paragraph b) below];
- b) convene a technical workshop for African elephant range States to consider mechanisms for the sustainable management of elephants and ivory stockpiles, including the non-commercial disposal of ivory stockpiles and other means, for the purpose of mobilising the needed resources to support the conservation and management of elephants; and
- c) report the results of the workshop, including any recommendations, to the Standing Committee.

Directed to African elephant range States

20.BB African elephant range States are invited to provide the necessary background information needed for the workshop.

Directed to all Parties

20.CC All Parties are encouraged to report the status of stockpiles as of December 2024 pursuant to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) to facilitate the development of mechanisms for the sustainable management of elephants and ivory stockpiles.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD The Standing Committee shall consider the results of the technical workshop for African elephant range States to consider mechanisms for the sustainable management of elephants and ivory stockpiles, including any recommendations, and propose a way forward to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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

20.DDEE Parties, governmental organizations, intergovernmental, non-governmental donors and other entities are invited to provide the necessary financial support to implement Decision 20.AA~~undertake the consultancy.~~

66. Great apes (Hominidae spp.): Report on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18) - SC78 Doc. 66

Recommendations in paragraph 18:

18. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note this report prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 2e) of Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18);
- b) encourage all Parties to identify seized great ape specimens at species level and report the seizures at species level in their annual illegal trade reports in a timely manner following the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report* and, as appropriate, consider contributing to the GRASP Apes Seizure database and the IUCN SSC A.P.E.S. database as per Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP18); and
- c) encourage range States affected by illegal trade in great apes to address this issue as part of their implementation of the West Africa Wildlife Crime Strategy (WAWCS) adopted by the Economic Commission of West African States, as well as their respective National Wildlife Crime Strategies and action plans, where appropriate.

67. Pangolins (*Manis* spp.) (Decision 19.204)

67.1 Report of the Animals Committee - SC78 Doc. 67.1

Recommendations in paragraph 22:

22. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) support the recommendation by the Animals Committee relating to the use of the conversion parameters presented in the table in paragraph 12 for *M. gigantea*, *M. javanica*, *M. pentadactyla*, *M. tetradactyla* and *M. tricuspis* by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for law enforcement and court purposes;

12. An updated report, including revised conversion parameters for pangolins, was presented to AC33 in Annex 2 to document [AC33 Doc. 35](#). The revised data on scale mass for the eight pangolin species is presented in the table below, presented as means with 95% confidence intervals and medians:

Table 1. Scale mass estimates as conversion parameters for the eight species of pangolin, based on contributed data.

Species	Mean \pm SD (95% CIs) (g)	Range (g)	Median (g)
Giant pangolin <i>M. gigantea</i>	3853.01 \pm 617.22 (3815.12-3980.89)	2030 - 5448	3876.5
Temminck's pangolin <i>M. temminckii</i>	2020.1 \pm 935.72 (1582.17-2458.03)	342.25 - 3911	1928.88
Indian pangolin <i>M. crassicaudata</i>	1299.95 \pm 623.64 (923.08-1676.81)	56.25 - 2099.66	1096.89
Chinese pangolin <i>M. pentadactyla</i>	592.98 \pm 217.63* (518.22-667.73)	129.47 - 1121.07*	573.47*
Sunda pangolin <i>M. javanica</i>	367.54 \pm 161.48 (338.24-396.24)	27.19 - 824.54*	357.75
Philippine pangolin <i>M. culionensis</i>	368.28 \pm 79.84 (331.93-404.62)	275 - 553	341
Black-bellied pangolin <i>M. tetradactyla</i>	322.68 \pm 27.82 (320.97-324.38)	118 - 379	324
White-bellied pangolin <i>M. tricuspis</i>	184.02 \pm 50.61 (165.45-202.58)	115.5 - 322.06	184.31

*This estimate was first reported in Zhou *et al.* (2012).

- b) encourage Parties to use the following identification materials to support the identification of seized pangolin specimens at species level:

- https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/17352/eng_identification_sea_e.pdf and
- <https://www.usaidrdw.org/pangolin-guide/>; and

- c) review and submit the draft decisions in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 67.1 for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *PANGOLINS* (MANIS *SPP.*)

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, work with the Species Survival Commission Pangolin Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other relevant experts and in collaboration with the pangolin range States to further develop conversion parameters for all pangolin species, in particular *M. culionensis*, *M. crassicaudata* and *M. teminckii*, taking into account document AC33 Doc. 35. These conversion parameters should enable the reliable determination of the number of animals associated with any quantity of pangolin scales seized, that can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for court purposes.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the conversion parameters for all pangolin species, developed in accordance with the provisions of Decision 20.AA, 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 Parties and the Standing Committee.

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

20.CC Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support pangolin range States with resources, both financial and technical expertise, to implement *in-situ* pangolin conservation and management programmes developed in response to Decision 18.238.

Recommendations in paragraph 28:

28. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/096;
- b) request the Secretariat, in its implementation of paragraph 13 of Resolution Conf. 17.10 (Rev. CoP19), to develop recommendations based on the most updated information available, directed to Parties (range, transit, and consumer countries), as appropriate, for consideration at CoP20;
- c) consider and agree for onward submission to CoP20, the proposed amendments to paragraphs 3 and 13. a) in Resolution Conf. 17.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Conservation of and trade in pangolins*, as presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 67.2; and
- d) recommend to CoP20:
 - i) the deletion of Decisions 18.238 and 19.202, as the matter of *in situ* pangolin management and conservation programmes and stocks of pangolins specimens are already reflected in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Resolution Conf. 17.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Conservation of and trade in pangolins*; and
 - ii) the deletion of Decisions 18.239, 19.200 and 19.203, paragraphs a), b), e) and f), as they have been implemented.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 17. 10 (REV. COP19)
ON CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN PANGOLINS

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strike through~~.

3. ENCOURAGES Parties on whose territories stocks of parts and derivatives of pangolins exist, to take urgent steps to establish and apply, where not yet done, strict control measures to secure and monitor these stocks, and inform the Secretariat of the level of stocks each year before 28 February, in a format to be defined by the Secretariat, indicating the type and ~~number~~ quantity of specimens, the species, the source of the specimens, management measures, and the reasons for any significant changes in the stockpile compared to the preceding year;

[...]

13. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to:

- a) prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and pending external funding, prepare a report in consultation with the pangolin range States and Parties affected by illegal trade in pangolins, on the conservation status of pangolins in the wild, ~~and trade controls measures put in place by in Parties, using information provided by the range States on measures taken to comply with this Resolution and related relevant Decisions and to use an aggregated summary of the pangolin stock declarations of Parties and any other relevant additional information provided by relevant Parties to inform the report;~~ and

DECISIONS ON PANGOLINS (MANIS SPP.) THAT ARE STILL VALID

Directed to Parties

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

Directed to the Secretariat

19.203 (Rev. CoP20)

The Secretariat shall:

- ~~a) issue a Notification inviting Parties, international organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations that developed tools and materials that could assist Parties in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.10 (Rev. CoP19) or 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 paragraph a) of the present Decision to the attention of the Animals Committee or the Standing Committee, as appropriate, together with any recommendations it may have, and taking into account any subsequent recommendations from the Animals Committee or the Standing Committee, make such materials available to the Parties;~~
- ~~ae) subject to external funding, provide training to Parties on the identification of pangolin specimens;~~
- ~~bd) work with its partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) to initiate activities and support the efforts of Parties to address illegal trade in Pangolin specimens; and~~
- ~~e) report on the implementation of Decisions 18.238 and 18.239 to the Animals Committee, together with any recommendations it may have;~~
- ~~f) report on the implementation of Decision 19.202 to the Standing Committee, together with any recommendations it may have; and~~
- ~~cg) report to the ~~20th~~ 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the present Decision.~~

68. Saiga antelopes (*Saiga* spp.) (Decision 19.216)

68.1 Report by Kazakhstan - SC78 Doc. 68.1

Recommendations in paragraph 21:

21. Considering the above, the Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review the information in document SC78 Doc. 68.1;
- b) encourage range States of the saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.) and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives annually report to the CITES Secretariat the level/volume of stocks of saiga specimens and their sources in the format and within the deadline prescribed by the CITES Secretariat;
- c) in line with activity B15 of the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021-2025¹⁰, which establishes that the Secretariats of both Conventions should “Collaborate on the implementation of the Medium-Term International Work Programme under the Saiga MOU and its revisions”:
 - i) recommend that the CITES Secretariat prepares a draft of revised decisions 19.213, 19.217 in alignment with recommendations of SC77, SC78 and CMS MTWIP (2026-2030) to be adopted in 2025, for consideration and adoption by CoP20;
 - ii) recommend that the CITES Secretariat provides support in the revision of the Medium-Term International Work Programme under the CMS Saiga MoU to establish specific priorities and activities within the CITES mandate;
- d) establish an intersessional working group on saiga, with a following mandate:
 - i) review CITES decisions and their implementation, outcomes of the fifth meeting of CMS Saiga MOU signatories, the revised MTWIP, along with data on conservation of and legal and illegal trade in saiga across range states and trading countries. This is with the intention to guide long term vision for some range states in conservation and sustainable use of Saiga for the benefit of conservation and local communities. Working group mandate should consider precautionary safeguards, including market controls, stockpile management, legislation, law enforcement to be in place, and develop long-term recommendations that guide Parties and support a collaborative approach to Saiga conservation and trade, potentially including a resolution on Saiga and report it to CoP20 and the 79th meeting of the Standing Committee;
 - ii) request the CITES Secretariat to issue a Notification to invite Parties and observers to express an interest in participating in the Standing Committee’s intersessional working group on saiga and provide relevant information and data to be reviewed by the working group;
- e) request the CITES Secretariat to assess existing stockpile management for saiga in saiga Range, trading and consumer countries with a reference to the Guidance Document on Ensuring Effective Stockpile Management, provide assistance in ensuring effective stockpile management and monitoring, including the development of inventories and strengthening stockpile security;
- f) encourage range States of the saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.) and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives report the saiga parts and derivatives seizures in the annual illegal trade reports to the CITES Secretariat; and
- g) request the CITES Secretariat to prepare reports for each CoP based on reports by Parties, CITES trade database and outcomes of CMS Saiga MOU meetings and formulate draft decisions within CITES mandate.

¹⁰ https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_stc52_outcome-4_cms-cites-joint-work-programme_e.pdf

Recommendations in paragraph 19:

19. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the progress on the implementation of Decision 19.214; and
- b) on the basis of the outcome of the fifth meeting of the CMS Saiga MOU signatories and the status of implementation of Decisions 19.213 to 19.217 on *Saiga antelope* (*Saiga spp.*), invite the Secretariat to revise or draft new decisions on *Saiga antelope* (*Saiga spp.*) for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

69. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.) (Decision 19.221)

69.1 Report of the intersessional working group - SC78 Doc. 69.1

Recommendations in paragraph 20:

20. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document SC78 Doc. 69.1;
- b) propose the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 and the draft resolution contained in Annex 2, considering the points set out in paragraphs 16 and 17 of document SC78 Doc. 69.1, to CoP20;

16. Regarding ranching and the views of AC33 captured in paragraph 11 of AC33 Doc 40, the working group agreed that this should be included in the draft Resolution but was not able to agree specific wording for SC78 to consider. The points discussed by the working group are included below and the Standing Committee is invited to consider including language on ranching in the draft Resolution in Annex 2.

- a) Based on information available, ranching may not be generally appropriate for aquaculture of anguillid eels.
- b) There may be local circumstances or conditions which mean that the criteria for ranching set out in Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) can be met.
- c) The use of source code R (Ranching) for anguillid eels may be a beneficial way to differentiate in CITES trade data adult specimens produced in aquaculture from those that have been wild-caught.

17. The working group also supported the inclusion of a reference to the draft IUCN Conservation Translocation Specialist Group guidance on *Guidelines on Responsible Translocation of Displaced Organisms* under current paragraph 2 (with suggested text included below) in principle, however, considered it premature to reference this guidance while it is in draft and Parties have not had a chance to consider a final published version. SC78 or CoP20 are encouraged to consider including a reference to this guidance in any draft resolution if a final version has become available. If a reference to this guidance is added to the draft resolution by SC78 or CoP20, the necessity of paragraph a) of draft Decision 20.DD included in Annex 1, as recommended by AC33 and supported by the working group, should be considered.

2. *RECOMMENDS that Parties in which illegal harvest or trade of anguillid eels species occurs:*

[...]

x) *utilise the IUCN Conservation Translocation Specialist Group Guidelines on Responsible Translocation of Displaced Organisms for any planned reintroductions of seized live eels into the wild or any planned restocking projects that support harvest and/or trade;*

- c) propose to CoP20 that Decisions 19.218 to 221 can be deleted.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *EELS (ANGUILLA SPP.)*

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

20.AA Parties and relevant stakeholders are invited to provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 20.XX on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species* (*Anguilla* spp.).

Directed to Cuba, Egypt and Türkiye

20.BB Cuba, Egypt and Türkiye are requested to submit to the Secretariat up-to-date detailed information on trade in eels using the templates provided in Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018, to allow it to report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to extrabudgetary resources, develop a dedicated page on the CITES website to make relevant information on the trade and conservation of anguillid eel species or activities relating to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 20.XX on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species (Anguilla spp.)* provided by Parties or others, available; and
- b) bring any updated information received under Decision 20.BB and the results of activities under Resolution Conf. 20.XX on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species (Anguilla spp.)* to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, with recommendations, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.DD The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels to the wild;
- b) consider any information brought to its attention by the Secretariat under Decision 20.BB, paragraph b); and
- c) make recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee or the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.EE The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the comments and recommendations provided by the Animals Committee and the Secretariat under Decisions 20.AA to 20.DD; and
- b) prepare a report with any necessary recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention for anguillid eels, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 20.XX on *Trade, conservation and management of anguillid eel species (Anguilla spp.)*, for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON TRADE, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF ANGUILLIED EEL SPECIES (ANGUILLA SPP.)**

RECOGNIZING there is significant international demand for and trade in specimens of anguillid eels, and this can vary depending on the availability of certain species;

NOTING that anguillid eel species are traded internationally at several life stages, both live and processed - as juvenile/fingerling eels for consumption, restocking and aquaculture, as larger specimens both wild-caught and from aquaculture, and as processed products;

RECOGNIZING the important role anguillid eel species play in their ecosystems and in promoting the long-term conservation and restoration of these ecosystems;

RECOGNIZING that well managed anguillid eel species can support sustainable fisheries and contribute to sustainable livelihoods, food security and development;

RECOGNIZING the important role that sustainably managed anguillid eel species play in supporting the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities, and international trade that does not threaten the conservation status of anguillid eel species;

NOTING common threats to anguillid eel species, including unsustainable and/or illegal fisheries and trade, lack of appropriate domestic regulatory measures, habitat degradation or loss, barriers to migration including hydropower, disease and parasites, invasive species, pollution and oceanic and climate change;

CONCERNED that some anguillid eel species have poor conservation status, including low juvenile recruitment, and the aforementioned threats have contributed to this status;

CONCERNED ALSO that CITES-listed anguillid eel species are trafficked internationally as non-CITES-listed anguillid eel species contrary to the requirements of the Convention, undermining anguillid eel conservation;

RECOGNIZING that anguillid eels are semelparous and panmictic across their natural ranges with multiple life stages often migrating through different jurisdictions and therefore require international collaboration for successful conservation and management, including aligning domestic measures where appropriate;

RECOGNIZING the duty of all States to cooperate, either directly or through appropriate sub-regional or regional organizations in the conservation and management of anguillid eels;

RECALLING that coastal States in whose waters anguillid eel species spend the greater part of their life cycle have a responsibility for the management of this species in accordance with the paragraph 1, Article 67 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

RECALLING that European eel has been listed in CITES Appendix II since 2009 and in the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) Appendix II since 2015;

ACKNOWLEDGING the difficulties in identification among different anguillid eel species across life stages and specimen types, including parts and derivatives, notably where domestic trade, traceability, and management measures are insufficient to support such identification;

COMMENDING the efforts to date towards improved fisheries management and legal, traceable and sustainable trade of anguillid eels, including national or regional trade restrictions for particular species; and

WELCOMING the availability of updated CITES guidance on the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for trade in CITES specimens from the NDF workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya (December 2023), applicable to anguillid eel species;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. URGES Parties, especially range States of anguillid eel species and Parties involved in their trade, to:
 - a) strengthen sub-national, bilateral, and multilateral co-ordination and information sharing within and between countries involved in international trade in anguillid eels to improve traceability and the effectiveness enforcement measures;
 - b) identify knowledge gaps that contribute to uncertainty relating to population status and hinder effective conservation and management of anguillid eels, including prioritising species-specific research and data collection in all life stages, trade patterns and volumes and mitigation measures for addressing direct and indirect threats;
 - c) ensure appropriate monitoring of anguillid eel populations, including use of fishery-dependent and fishery-independent methods, and share the results and other relevant data on the status of anguillid eel populations with the appropriate regional fisheries bodies so that a current assessment of the state of anguillid eel stocks can be established and updated on a regular basis.
 - d) collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding any non-detriment finding or other sustainability studies and fisheries management best practice on anguillid eel species they have undertaken, especially where the Parties share catchments or water bodies, and explore the different approaches that might be taken for making non-detriment findings for species traded as fingerlings (FIG) compared with those traded as other live eels (LIV), seeking the review and advice from the Animals Committee or other suitable bodies on any non-detriment findings, where appropriate;
 - e) develop and/or implement adaptive eel management plans with defined and time-bound goals at national, sub-national, or catchment level to enhance collaboration between authorities and other

stakeholders with responsibilities for eel management both within and, where water bodies or catchments are shared, between States;

- f) provide the Secretariat with information regarding new or updated measures, including quotas, that have been implemented to restrict the trade in live anguillid eels or their parts and derivatives at any life stage; and
- g) report trade in CITES-listed anguillid eels at species-level and differentiated by life stage (as set out in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*) and consider modifying their national customs code system to differentiate between different eel products and life stages;

2. RECOMMENDS that Parties in which illegal harvest or trade of anguillid eels species occurs:

- a) if not yet in place, develop and enact legislation and other enforcement measures to address illegal harvest or trade in anguillid eel species;
- b) strengthen existing measures that safeguard the effective implementation of the Convention, ensuring that the trade in CITES-listed anguillid eels is legal, sustainable and traceable;
- c) collaborate with national and sub-national enforcement authorities and fisheries bodies to ensure that measures are in place to adequately address and tackle any illegal trade, such as evaluating the data and cases of illegal trade for anguillid eels and adapting, where appropriate, fisheries management and authorisations to reduce unsustainable and/or illegal harvest and eliminate opportunities for illegal trade; and
- d) identify opportunities to collaborate internationally amongst law enforcement agencies on investigative and prosecutorial best practice for addressing illegal trade of *Anguilla* species, to characterise illegal trade routes and share intelligence to support enforcement efforts;

3. ENCOURAGES Parties to improve coordination between the respective national focal points for other relevant international bodies or instruments, such as Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) or CMS, where appropriate, and work through the respective mechanisms to strengthen research, training and data collection and harmonize with activities under CITES;

4. ENCOURAGES Parties to engage with relevant stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in the development and/or implementation of conservation strategies and management plans for anguillid eel species.

5. INVITES Parties to share via the Secretariat any additional science-based conservation actions that have been implemented or are being considered to address non-harvest threats and improve the conservation status of anguillid eel species, such as altered hydrology, barriers to migration, habitat loss, pollution, parasites, disease, invasive species or climate change. This should include metrics used to assess the effectiveness of such measures.

6. INVITES Parties to share with other range States any lessons learned or best practices pertaining to the implementation of effective management and population monitoring of anguillid eels, and other relevant aquatic species.

7. INVITES Parties to provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Resolution to allow the Secretariat to provide recommendations to Parties via the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

8. REQUESTS the Secretariat to make relevant information on the trade and conservation of anguillid eel species provided by Parties or others, including any relevant information provided under paragraph 1 of this Resolution, available on the CITES website and provide recommendations to Parties via the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Recommendations in paragraph 22:

22. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the updates in document SC78 Doc. 69.2 and encourage Parties affected by illegal trade in eels to actively engage in any operations and targeted activities aimed at addressing this issue; and
- b) agree that Decisions 19.218 to 19.221 can be deleted.

70. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) (Decisions 19.226 and 19.227)

70.1 Report of the intersessional working group - SC78 Doc. 70.1

Recommendations in paragraphs 19 and 20:

19. The Standing Committee is invited to:
- a) review the intersessional working group's recommended amendments to the *Rapid Guide on the making of legal acquisition findings*, as found in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings* found in the Annex of document SC78 Doc. 70.1;
 - b) based on the outcomes of discussions under paragraph a) above, make any appropriate revisions and submit the proposed amendments to Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20);
 - c) recommend the Secretariat issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to provide information on their experience in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark and ray species, in particular challenges related to permitting process. In this regard, we recommend that the Standing Committee submit the draft decision 20.XX1, below, to CoP20 for consideration;
 - d) encourage the Secretariat, subject to external funding, to explore opportunities for information exchange between fisheries researchers, CITES permitting authorities, and CITES enforcement authorities;
 - e) recommend to CoP20 the renewal of Decision 19.226 with some amendments as captured in Decision 20.XX2 below (text proposed to be deleted from CoP19 Decision is in ~~strike through~~ 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; and
 - f) invite self-nomination from Parties, particularly those Parties that self-identify as key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) provided by Decision 20.XX2 paragraphs a) and b) to encourage further and broader participation in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision 20.XX2. In this regard, we recommend that the Standing Committee submit the draft decision 20.XX3, below, to CoP20 for consideration.
20. As indicated above, the working group recommends that the Standing Committee submit the following set of draft decisions for consideration at CoP20:

Directed to Secretariat

20.XX1 The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties inviting Parties to, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, share through the Secretariat their experience in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark and ray species, in particular:
 - i) challenges related to CITES permitting process including but not limited to the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings; and
 - ii) challenges related to transport of biological samples for research and data collection purposes in the context of fisheries management including the context of the provisions on introduction from the sea in Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16);
- b) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above; and
- c) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.

Directed to Standing Committee

20.XX2 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) ~~review the revised Rapid Guide on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments as they relate to trade in CITES listed sharks species caught in areas beyond national jurisdiction (including introductions from the sea), and determine if more specific guidance is needed for CITES listed shark species, including engagement with RFMOs and any capacity building which might support their role in the making of LAFs and related assessments;~~
- ab) consider if there is a need to 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;
- be) review the FAO's on-going guidance on Catch Document Schemes, Port State Measures and any other measures to reduce Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing;
- ce) in consultation with the Animals Committee, ~~discuss~~ review challenges and consider the need for the development of further appropriate mechanisms, including guidance, related to transport of biological samples for research and data collection purposes in the context of fisheries management including the context of the provisions on introduction from the sea in Resolution Conf 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) and make recommendations to CoP21 ~~CoP20~~; and
- de) report its findings under the present Decision to the ~~20th~~ 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties

20.XX3 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 20.XX1 and share their experience in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark and ray species, in particular current challenges; and
- b) consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) reviewed under Decision ~~19.226~~ 20.XX2, paragraphs a) and b); if so, these Parties are strongly encouraged to participate in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision ~~19.226~~ 20.XX2.

Recommendations in paragraph 9:

9. The Standing Committee is invited to:
- a) note the recommendations of the Animals Committee in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 70.2;
 - b) review and submit the draft decisions in Annexes 3 and 4 to document SC78 Doc. 70.2 for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON SHARKS AND RAYS (*ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.*)
AGREED BY THE 33RD MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE
FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, 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, including new or updated national plans of action for sharks, that prohibit commercial take or trade;
- b) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 20.BB including sharing any non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, and any other scientific information on sharks and rays;
- c) seek external funding for a dedicated marine species officer and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat;

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
 - i) in accordance with Resolution Conf 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, 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 NDFs;
 - B. the identification of CITES-listed shark-products in trade;
 - C. the monitoring of export data of CITES-listed shark, parts and derivatives, and any suitable remedial measures applied to limit the export of specimens in order to maintain each species throughout its range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem;
 - D. capacity-building needs; and
 - ii) share with the Secretariat their non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, and any other scientific information on sharks and rays, to post in the sharks and rays web portal;
- 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 at the shipment level;

- c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above;
- d) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall

- a) continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties, especially developing countries and small island developing states, upon request;
- b) liaise with relevant Regional Fishery Bodies (RFB) including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Arrangements (RFMO/As) to identify opportunities for capacity-building with the same organizations, possibly in the form of attending meetings (where the RFB 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;
- c) collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to 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;
- d) seek to collaborate with Parties and organizations to establish a repository to hold imagery under a Creative Commons license of wet and dried unprocessed shark, parts and derivatives (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of automated species identification development through a range of novel technologies; and
- e) bring the results of activities in this present Decision to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.DD The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the information collated by the Secretariat under Decision 20.BB and the results of activities described under Decision 20. CC; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.EE The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the comments and recommendations provided by the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat under Decisions 20.CC and 20.DD; and
- b) prepare a report with any necessary recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention for sharks and rays for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON THE *FEASIBILITY OF AN ADAPTED RST PROCESS FOR SHARKS AND RAYS*
PROPOSED BY THE CHAIR OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE
FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Directed to the Secretariat

20.FF Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) draft a report that envisions an adapted Review of Significant Trade process for sharks and rays, which would:
 - i) select high priority species in international trade in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*;
 - ii) determine the stocks that are affected for the selected species; then
 - iii) identify range and fishing States with significant trade for the relevant stocks of concerns; and
- b) provide the Animals Committee with the report with the implications and feasibility of implementing such a process and any amendments that may be necessary to Resolution Conf 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.GG The Animals Committee shall review the report by the Secretariat under Decision 20.FF and make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Recommendations in paragraph 53:

53. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the progress made on the implementation of Decisions 19.222, 19.223 and 19.224, which can be considered as fully implemented and therefore deleted;
- b) consider the two situations relating to reporting by a Party with specimens caught in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of another Party described in paragraph 25 b) and provide guidance on reporting requirements;

25b) A lack of clarity of the reporting requirements of Parties for their catch in the EEZ of another Party could be contributing to the lower amount of trade in shark and ray recorded in the CITES Trade Database in comparison to the expected trade (agreement and clarity on such situations would be important to account for all international trade of catches in CITES-listed species):

- i) In the situation where vessels fishing in the EEZ of other nations under bilateral agreements land specimens of CITES-listed species in their own country (i.e. the country where the vessels belong to), the Secretariat is of the opinion that such scenarios are international trade and that the coastal state is the State of export and the State in which the catch is landed is the State of import; and
- ii) In the situation where vessels fishing in the EEZ of other nations under bilateral agreements then land specimens of CITES-listed species in a third country, the Secretariat is of the opinion that such scenarios are international trade and that the coastal state is the State of export and the State in which the catch is landed (i.e., the third country) is the State of import.

- c) consider the two options for the inclusion of the eNDF tool on the CITES website described in paragraph 31 and determine whether its implementation would be beneficial and, if so, invite the Secretariat to submit draft decisions to CoP20;

31. As requested by the Animals Committee, the Secretariat explored options to make the shark eNDF tool available on the sharks and rays portal of the CITES website to facilitate wider use. The Secretariat worked with Blue Resource Trust (BRT) to identify two options, both of which have cost implications, and would require external funding:

- a) Convert the eNDF tool to be compatible with and housed in the CITES website. This would involve a one-time cost for the conversion and integration as well as additional work for the Secretariat each time BRT updates the eNDF tool. This option will require regular financial and human resources if chosen.
- b) Host the eNDF tool as an independent subdomain of the CITES website. This option would require a one-time cost for the establishment of the subdomain, which is comparable to the above option, plus monthly server maintenance costs. No edits to the current code of the eNDF tool will be required and changes made by BRT or other developers of NDF templates could be reflected on the eNDF tool without additional costs.

For both options, the generated data would be stored and hosted by the United Nations International Computing Centre for data security purposes.

- d) review and submit draft decision 20.AA in paragraph 34 to include provisions to address discrepancies and lack of reporting based on the recommendations of AC33 for consideration at CoP20; and

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) investigate mismatches and possible errors (e.g. differences in transactions reported by exporter/importer countries under the same permit; weights; species; etc.) in the CITES Trade Database and make corrections, where possible;

- b) communicate with Parties that do not appear to be reporting exports of sharks and rays despite available information showing otherwise (i.e., trade only reported by importing countries) to determine the reason for underreporting and provide necessary support to encourage reporting; and
- c) bring the results of activities in this present Decision to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

- e) consider the information in paragraphs 38-51 on the inclusion of catch locations and the Secretariat's approach to incorporate this work in draft decision 20.FF in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Chair of the Animals Committee.

Addendum

Recommendations in paragraph 3:

3. The Standing Committee is invited to either consider the draft decisions in each of the documents or to consider the consolidated draft decisions in this addendum.

CONSOLIDATED DRAFT DECISIONS ON SHARKS AND RAYS (*ELASMOBRANCHII SPP.*)

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on Conservation and management of sharks, 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, including new or updated national plans of action for sharks, that prohibit commercial take or trade [*draft decision 20.AA a) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];
- b) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 20.BB including sharing any non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, and any other scientific information on sharks and rays and share their experience in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark and ray species, in particular current challenges [*consolidation of draft decision 20.AA b) from document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee and draft decision 20.XX3 a) from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays*];
- c) consider if they are likely to be key beneficiaries from the guidance document(s) reviewed under Decision 20.EE, paragraphs a) and c); if so, these Parties are strongly encouraged to participate in any Standing Committee working groups established to address Decision 20.EE [*draft decision 20.XX3 b) from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays and Decisions renumbered due to consolidation of the decisions*]; and
- d) seek external funding for a dedicated marine species officer and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat [*draft decision 20.AA c) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*].

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
 - i) in accordance with Resolution Conf 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, 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 [*draft decision 20.BB a) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*]:
 - A. the making of NDFs;
 - B. the identification of CITES-listed shark-products in trade;
 - C. the monitoring of export data of CITES-listed shark, parts and derivatives, and any suitable remedial measures applied to limit the export of specimens in order to maintain each species throughout its range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem;
 - D. capacity-building needs; and
 - ii) share with the Secretariat their non-detriment findings (NDFs) and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade,

where available, and any other scientific information on sharks and rays, to post in the sharks and rays web portal [*draft decision 20.BB a) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];

- iii) share with the Secretariat their experience in implementing CITES provisions for listed shark and ray species, in particular [*draft decision 20.XX1 a) from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays*]:
 - A. challenges related to CITES permitting process including but not limited to the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings; and
 - B. challenges related to transport of biological samples for research and data collection purposes in the context of fisheries management including the context of the provisions on introduction from the sea in Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16);
- 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 at the shipment level [*draft decision 20.BB b) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];
- c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above [*draft decision 20.XX1 b) from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays and draft decision 20.BB c) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*]; and
- d) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate [*consolidation of draft decision 20.XX1 c) from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays and draft decision 20.BB d) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*].

20.CC Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties, especially developing countries and small island developing states, upon request [*draft decision 20.CC a) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];
- b) liaise with relevant Regional Fishery Bodies (RFB) including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Arrangements (RFMO/As) to identify opportunities for capacity-building with the same organizations, possibly in the form of attending meetings (where the RFB 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 [*draft decision 20.CC b) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];
- c) collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to 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 [*draft decision 20.CC c) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*];
- d) seek to collaborate with Parties and organizations to establish a repository to hold imagery under a Creative Commons license of wet and dried unprocessed shark, parts and derivatives (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of automated species identification development through a range of novel technologies [*draft decision 20.CC d) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee*]; and
- e) investigate mismatches and possible errors (e.g. differences in transactions reported by exporter/importer countries under the same permit; weights; species; etc.) in the CITES Trade Database and make corrections, where possible [*draft decision 20.AA from document SC78 Doc. 70.3 by the Secretariat*];
- f) communicate with Parties that do not appear to be reporting exports of sharks and rays despite available information showing otherwise (i.e., trade only reported by importing countries) to

determine the reason for underreporting and provide necessary support to encourage reporting [draft decision 20.AA from document SC78 Doc. 70.3 by the Secretariat]; and

- g) bring the results of activities in this present Decision to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate [draft decision 20.CC e) in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee and draft decision 20.AA c) from document SC78 Doc. 70.3 by the Secretariat].

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.DD The Animals Committee shall [draft decision 20.DD in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee]:

- a) review the information collated by the Secretariat under Decision 20.BB and the results of activities described under Decisions 20.CC; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to Standing Committee

20.EE The Standing Committee shall [draft decision 20.XX2 from document SC78 Doc. 70.1 by the intersessional WG on sharks and rays]:

- a) consider if there is a need to 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;
- b) review the FAO's on-going guidance on Catch Document Schemes, Port State Measures and any other measures to reduce Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing;
- c) in consultation with the Animals Committee, review challenges and consider the need for the development of further appropriate mechanisms, including guidance, related to transport of biological samples for research and data collection purposes in the context of fisheries management including the context of the provisions on introduction from the sea in Resolution Conf 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) and make recommendations to CoP21; and
- d) report its findings under the present Decision to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

20.FF The Standing Committee shall [draft decision 20.EE in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee]:

- a) review the comments and recommendations provided by the Parties, the Animals Committee and the Secretariat under Decisions 20.AA, 20.BB, 20.CC and 20.DD [amended to include all Decision numbers]; and
- b) prepare a report with any necessary recommendations for improving the implementation of the Convention for sharks and rays for consideration by the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF AN ADAPTED RST PROCESS FOR SHARKS AND RAYS

[Draft decision 20.FF and 20.GG in document SC78 Doc. 70.2 by the Animals Committee]

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) draft a report that envisions an adapted Review of Significant Trade process for sharks and rays, which would:

- i) select high priority species in international trade in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*;
 - ii) determine the stocks that are affected for the selected species; then
 - iii) identify range and fishing States with significant trade for the relevant stocks of concerns; and
- b) provide the Animals Committee with the report with the implications and feasibility of implementing such a process and any amendments that may be necessary to Resolution Conf 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB The Animals Committee shall review the report by the Secretariat under Decision 20.FF and make recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

71. Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.) (Decision 19.232)

71.1 Report of the Animals Committee - SC78 Doc. 71.1

Recommendations in paragraph 16:

16. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the outcome of the discussions on seahorses from AC33 as presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 71.1, including a new set of decisions and the intention of the Animals Committee to propose to the Conference of the Parties the renewal of Decision 19.229;
- b) agree that Decision 19.231 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion; and
- c) consider the recommendations referred to it by the Animals Committee in paragraph 12 and the comments from the Secretariat outlined in paragraphs 13 to 15.

OUTCOMES OF THE 33RD MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE CONCERNING SEAHORSES (EXTRACTED FROM AC33 SUMMARY RECORD)

The Animals Committee requested the Secretariat to publish a Notification inviting Parties, in collaboration with species experts and/or relevant stakeholders, such as the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group, to develop the following guidance and submit it to the Secretariat for publication on the CITES website:

- a) guidance on tracking extraction of wild broodstock for culture operations, and its implications for wild populations, whether source code F or C. This can be derived from existing guidance developed for Viet Nam (Project Seahorse 2015);
- b) guidance on how to distinguish between seahorses that are wild source, source code F and source code C, using recommendations from a previous CITES workshop as a starting point (Bruckner et al. 2005);
- c) identification guides for live trade and dried seahorses in multiple languages. These can be based on existing identification tools for seahorses (Project Seahorse 2021);
- d) guidance on the risks and benefits of aquaculture and releases to wild populations of seahorses. Guidance within CITES Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species* under Option 2 of Annex 1 provides a good starting point for such an effort;
- e) guidance on monitoring cryptic (small-sized, low-density and camouflaged) species like seahorses; and
- f) guidance on common metrics for monitoring seahorses that all Parties could use, using information document CoP17 Inf. 65 as a starting point.

To support Parties to implement the Convention in relation to seahorses, the Animals Committee requested the Secretariat to publish a Notification inviting Parties to consider the following actions/activities:

- a) use existing tools as appropriate for effective CITES implementation and enforcement that are relevant to seahorses, including, but not limited to, the tools available on the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon website (www.iucn-seahorse.org/cites-toolkit);
- b) inventory and assess seahorse aquaculture operations to determine their production capabilities, degree of reliance on wild populations, and any environmental concerns;
- c) ensure that any release of tank-bred seahorses only occurs in accordance with the best available scientific information to minimize negative impacts on wild populations and their habitat, including, but not limited

to, guidelines established by the IUCN (<https://iucn-ctsg.org/policy-guidelines/conservation-translocation-guidelines/>) and never release alien species;

- d) raise awareness of seahorse trade and its role in conservation of the species with all stakeholders: fishers, traders, consumers, policy makers, enforcement agencies, judiciaries etc., subject to available resources;
- e) explore novel techniques for detecting seahorses in trade, such as eDNA or detector dogs;
- f) develop monitoring programmes, such as fisheries monitoring programmes for fisheries that catch seahorses (including bycatch), to understand effectiveness of trade rules and any other relevant implementation and enforcement actions for seahorse conservation and management. These monitoring programmes can consider the following, *inter alia*:
 - i) adding seahorses to existing fisheries monitoring programmes for fisheries that catch seahorses (including bycatch), making specific records for seahorses instead of including them under generic categories such as “trash fish”, “miscellaneous fish” or “fish NES”;
 - ii) collaborating with external partners and information sources (e.g. academia, non-governmental organizations, industry, dive groups, citizen scientists) in monitoring seahorse populations and distributions;
 - iii) finding ways to analyse existing monitoring data and to disseminate their findings, perhaps through collaborations with external partners; and
 - iv) accessing up-to-date trade research in collaboration with species experts, on which to base adaptive management plans in support of CITES implementation; and
- g) share the design and initial results of these monitoring programmes to assist other CITES Parties.

The Animals Committee:

- a) reminded Parties that strict enforcement of existing laws can benefit the conservation of seahorses (e.g., capture bans, trawling bans in specific areas, Marine Protected Areas);
- b) reminded importing Parties of the provisions under “Regarding exercising due diligence” of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement* and remind Parties to:
 - i) request information on non-detriment findings (NDFs) and legal acquisitions findings (LAFs) when there are concerns about the validity of export permits; and
 - ii) verify species identification on import. Identification can be done on a subset of individuals if a shipment is sufficiently large to preclude identification of all individuals;
- c) invited Parties to take note of the IUCN Resolution WWC-2020-Res-095 on seahorses and of the offer of support of the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group; and
- d) agreed to refer to the Standing Committee the proposed update to the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports* so that dried seahorses are reported in weight.
- e) agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties:

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall create and publicize a webpage on seahorses on the CITES website as a repository for a wide range of materials to support CITES implementation for seahorses, including monitoring plans in support of adaptive management and any guidance developed by Parties and relevant stakeholders.*

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

20.BB Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic sector, industry and other stakeholders are invited to provide any relevant information to support CITES implementation for seahorses to be included by the Secretariat on the CITES seahorse webpage, as appropriate.

Directed to Parties

20.CC Parties are encouraged to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of AC33 Com. 4, in particular that in paragraph f) that invites Parties to develop monitoring programmes, such as fisheries monitoring programmes for fisheries that catch seahorses (including bycatch), to understand effectiveness of trade rules and any other relevant implementation and enforcement actions for the conservation and management of seahorses.

12. The Animals Committee agreed to refer the following recommendations (from paragraph 12 of document AC33 Doc. 42.2) to the Standing Committee for further consideration:

- a) The need to develop guidance on how to make Legal Acquisition Findings (LAFs) for wild and source code F live seahorse exports. Such guidance is needed for seahorse trade generally (dried and live);
- b) Inviting Parties to provide information on how they are making taxon-specific LAFs to be shared with other CITES Parties for their consideration. Parties could ask the Secretariat to create a depository for LAFs, similar to that they have created for sharing non-detriment findings (NDFs);
- c) The need to constrain the operations of both traditional and mechanized non-selective fishing gear to reduce the impacts on seahorses, and to constrain illegal target methods of fishing seahorses;
- d) Conducting research on the convergence of seahorse illegal wildlife trade (IWT) with that of other CITES-listed species, with the aim of understanding the potential for synergies with respect to improving CITES implementation at national and global levels;
- e) Updating the list of seahorse-relevant regulations in Table 7 of the report “Implementation of CITES Appendix II listing for seahorses in the context of export bans and suspensions”, which can be found in document [SC74 Doc. 70.1](#) to inform enforcement efforts and provide the basis for making LAFs should they re-open trade;
- f) Ways to improve data collection on and from seahorse seizures, particularly with respect to species identification, shipment routes and other wildlife in the shipment, subject to available resources. Parties are encouraged to share specimens and/or data with species experts, including the IUCN SSC SPS SG, for analysis;
- g) Developing toolkits for training enforcement bodies (including frontline officers), prosecutors, judges, etc. in detecting and prosecuting IWT for the oft overlooked marine taxa such as seahorses;
- h) Consider best practice approaches for dealing with seahorse stockpiles; and
- i) Review options for seahorse traceability systems.

Discussion of the recommendations referred to the Standing Committee

13. With regard to recommendations a), b), e) and i), the Secretariat notes that Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings*, and particularly the *Rapid guide for the making of legal acquisition findings* (Annex 3), contain detailed guidance to assist Management Authorities when establishing and following processes to make legal acquisition findings for different taxa. The ‘Rapid Guide’ also proposes a definition and guidance concerning traceability as the ability to follow the trail of specimens along the supply chain by monitoring and tracking the chain of custody. In Decisions 19.128 and 19.129 on *Legal acquisition findings*, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties to test the ‘Rapid guide’, to offer, upon request, peer assistance to other Parties for the improvement of their capacity to verify legal acquisition for different taxa, and to provide observations and feedback to the Secretariat following their tested use of the Rapid guide. At its 77th meeting, the Standing Committee also invited Parties to, where possible, share

their legal acquisition findings to build knowledge and share best practices regarding the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19). These matters are addressed in document SC78 Doc. 47 on *Legal acquisition findings*. In light of the above, the Secretariat considers that recommendations a), b), e) and i) are addressed in the existing work on legal acquisitions findings and considers that it is premature to propose species specific guidance for LAFs without having collected best practices regarding the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) (see proposed draft decisions in document SC78 Doc. 47).

14. With regard to recommendation h), the Secretariat notes that, under Decision 17.170 (Rev. CoP19), the Standing Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, is reviewing the existing provisions agreed by the Parties concerning controls on stockpiles of specimens of CITES-listed species. These questions are addressed in document SC78 Doc. 53 on *Stocks and stockpiles*. Guidance on management of stockpiles exists in the *Practical Guidance and Ensuring Effective Stockpile Management: A Guidance Document*. In its document, Parties are encouraged to use this guidance for the management of stockpiles of other species where the guidance can be applied and provide feedback to the Secretariat on the use of the guidance. With regard to recommendation h), the Secretariat considers that generic guidance for the management of stockpiles can be applied to seahorses.
15. Concerning recommendations c), d), f), g) and i), the Secretariat proposes to take these into consideration in the implementation of Decision 19.228, which also makes reference to the studies prepared in response to Decision 18.229 paragraph c) i), from which many of these recommendations were extracted. An update on the implementation of Decision 19.228 is presented in the report of the Secretariat on seahorses (document SC78 Doc. 71.2). With regard to recommendations c), d), f), g) and i), the Secretariat proposes that these be considered after completion of the report on global illegal trade in seahorses called for in Decision 19.228.

Recommendations in paragraph 8:

8. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review and submit to the Conference of the Parties revised Decisions 19.229 (Rev. CoP20) and 19.230 (Rev. CoP20), as well as new draft decisions 20.AA and 20.BB, as presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 71.2; and
- b) agree that Decisions 19.228 and 19.232 can be proposed for deletion.

Directed to source, transit, and consumer Parties for which there is evidence of illegal and/or unsustainable international trade in dried seahorses

19.229 (Rev. CoP20) To ~~effectively~~ implement effectively the ~~inclusion of regulation of international trade in seahorses in Appendix II of CITES~~, source, transit, and consumer Parties for which there is evidence of illegal and/or unsustainable international trade in dried seahorses are encouraged to:

- a) collaborate with key stakeholders and species experts to develop national or regional plans of action to improve ~~CITES~~ the implementation of CITES regulations for seahorses and should include, *inter alia*, the following, ~~inter alia~~:
 - i) encouraging collaboration and communication between key stakeholders at a national and regional level, including Environment, Fisheries and Enforcement agencies, with respect to CITES implementation and data gathering for the international trade in seahorses;
 - ii) improving monitoring, detection and law enforcement activities related to seahorses in coastal areas and at transaction points (e.g. in the marketplace, online, in maritime areas, and at air- and seaports);
 - iii) submitting comprehensive and accurate information on illegal international trade in seahorses in their annual illegal trade reports to the Secretariat, as required in compliance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19) on National reports; ~~and in support of Decision 19.228, paragraph a)~~
 - iv) addressing the main drivers of illegal and unsustainable trade by effectively regulating and constraining the operations of non-selective fishing gears, such as bottom trawls and gillnets, to reduce their impacts on seahorses, and combating illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing of seahorses by developing best practices for sustainable harvest; and
- b) share progress in developing and implementing these national or regional plans of action with the Secretariat for its report to the ~~33rd meeting of the Standing Animals Committee~~.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

19.230 (Rev. CoP20) Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance to Parties to implement Decision 19.229 (Rev. CoP20) and any further recommendations made by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) continue to work on and finalize the report on the global illegal trade in seahorses that includes an analysis of data from the CITES illegal trade database, illegal trade *routes*, *modus operandi*, seizures, information contained in the studies prepared by the Secretariat in previous intersessional

periods and information received through consultations with Parties, species experts and regional enforcement networks as applicable; and

- b) make the report available to the Standing Committee together with any recommendations the Secretariat may have.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.BB The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the report and any recommendations presented to it in accordance with Decisions 20.AA and 19.229 (Rev. CoP20) and develop recommendations as appropriate, to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement regarding international trade in seahorses; and
- b) report on the implementation of the Decisions on *Seahorses* (*Hippocampus spp.*) to the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting.

72. Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids (Orchidaceae spp.) (Decision 19.248) - SC78 Doc. 72 (Rev. 1)

Recommendations in paragraph 25:

25. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the study entitled *A Review of the Edible Orchid Trade* in Annex 1, the responses from Parties to [Notification to the Parties 2024/013](#) contained in Annex 2 and the synthesis of responses compiled by the Secretariat and contained in paragraphs 14 to 21 of document SC78 Doc. 72 (Rev. 1); and
- b) review and submit the draft decisions in Annex 3 for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and consequently recommend the deletion of Decisions 19.246 to 19.248.

Regarding trade volumes

14. Based on the responses received, some Parties are aware of harvest of or trade in tuberous orchids. The scale of harvest at national level was considered to be small by some Parties, but specific information was unavailable. Notably, of the key trading countries with possibly regionally depleted tuberous orchid populations¹¹ identified in the study in Annex 1 and 2 to document [PC26 Doc. 30](#), only the United Republic of Tanzania responded to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/013 despite efforts made in this regard by the Secretariat. The United Republic of Tanzania indicated that it does not have pertinent information due to inadequate regulatory instruments and monitoring systems.
15. Most responses to the Notification to the Parties refer to trade in live specimens of tuberous orchid taxa, plant parts or extracts. Trade in orchid tubers and finished products is not exempt from CITES regulation, and information compiled in document [PC26 Doc. 30](#) and Masters et al. (2020) suggest that trade in salep is global; multiple offers are readily accessible online without apparent reference to CITES documentation.
16. Noting discussions in the Plants Committee that information on trade volumes in tuberous orchids was unclear, the Secretariat compiled relevant information as follows:
 - Annual harvest volumes from the wild are estimated at 30-120 million tuberous orchids in Türkiye.
 - Circa 6 million specimens annually are reportedly harvested in Iran and exported to Türkiye.
 - Zambia reportedly imports around 5 million tubers from surrounding countries, with 2.2 - 4.1 million tubers imported from the United Republic of Tanzania alone.
 - Other sources suggest that 3,750-7,500kg (dry weight) of salep is harvested annually in Türkiye, and up to 28,000kg is annually exported.
 - Around a dozen production facilities in China self-report capacities to fulfil orders for wholesale powdered salep products exceeding 500-1,000kg. Some vendors claim a production capacity of >10,000Kg/month. China indicated that these wholesale products are largely derived from *Dendrobium* species that are artificially propagated.
 - Several smaller wholesale vendors were identified in Türkiye. It seems, however, unclear whether the entire wholesale production capacity is based on orchid tubers harvested in the wild.
 - The study indicates conversion factors of 1,000 to 4,000 tubers per kg of dried and ground tuber powder, depending on the species and the cited literature source.
17. Some responses to Notification No. 2024/013 mentioned seizures of salep products. The Secretariat notes that an in-depth analysis of the CITES database for trade in edible orchids would involve a large number of taxa and a variety of products. However, a quick scan of the CITES illegal trade database for the years 2016-2022 showed the following records of seizures that could relate to trade in tuberous orchids:
 - 1 seizure of Orchidaceae specimens described as bulbs (2 PKT);
 - 91 seizures of Orchidaceae specimens described as powder (254 items, 630kg, 10 BOX); and

¹¹ Document [PC26 Doc. 30](#) identified salep trade to predominantly originate from harvests in Albania, Greece, Iran and Türkiye, and chikanda trade to predominantly originate from harvests in Zambia, with important supplies from the United Republic of Tanzania, and Malawi.

- 405 seizures of Orchidaceae specimens described as roots (25,686 items, 1,629kg, 20 BOT, 9 BAG, 10 PKT¹²).

Regarding manuals and regulations relating to trade in tuberous orchids, including domestic trade

18. Many responses indicate that trade in tuberous orchid is regulated under general legislation that protects orchids and often prohibits most harvests. However, few, if any, materials or tools exist to guide implementation of trade in these taxa. Germany is considering the possibility of risk profiles for salep and Mexico has developed a risk profile for *Habenaria novemfida*. Some Parties report the availability of identification tools, though these seem to refer to live specimens rather than products dominating trade, such as tubers or dried powders. Sweden and one independent expert report the availability of manuals for wild harvest, assisted production and artificial propagation of tuberous orchids. Some useful approaches seem to also be available in academic literature, including a framework for identifying and improving sustainable harvest of wild orchids¹³. At the time of writing, the Secretariat has requested the authors of relevant submissions whether the mentioned identification guides, harvest and propagation manuals are available in English and can be shared for the benefit of other Parties.

Regarding enforcement challenges

19. Almost all responses highlight the identification of specimens as a key enforcement challenge. Other enforcement challenges include availability of inspection personnel along trade routes of tuberous orchid products, lack of detection of illegal trade, insufficient cross-border cooperation, lack of professional knowledge and skills among enforcement personnel, traceability of specimen contents, origin and supply chain, and lack of public awareness.

Regarding other relevant information related to trade in tuberous orchids, including any capacity-building needs

20. Overall, materials and capacities for specimen identification were most commonly reported to be lacking, especially for the higher processed specimens, such as the dried powders on which salep and chikanda products are based. The United Republic of Tanzania noted a need to develop various manuals, guidelines and regulations, resource assessments, non-detriment findings and methods for artificial propagation, and suggested the development of a regional strategy on orchids. Mexico suggests that a workshop on the *modus operandi* of illegal trade in edible orchids could be useful. The enforcement authorities of the United States of America noted the need to increase capacity to identify illegal trade in products containing tuberous orchids (and other orchid taxa), especially for trade in traditional Chinese medicine.
21. China raised concerns relating to nomenclature issues that require verification. The Secretariat consulted the specialist on botanical nomenclature relating to these matters and the following clarification was provided:
- a) The spelling of the species epithet of *Calanthe alismifolia*: This name was originally published with the spelling 'alismaefolia' (with a ligature æ). This is often spelled as 'alismifolia' or 'alismaefolia';
 - b) "Gymnadenia latifolia": This combination does not seem to exist. It likely refers to *Gymnadenia conopsea* var. *latifolia* Schltr., which is now included in the synonymy of *Gymnadenia conopsea* (L.) R.Br.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON TRADE IN EDIBLE TUBEROUS ORCHIDS

Draft decisions recommended by the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC27 SR):

¹² The Secretariat notes that the units BAG, BOT, BOX, PKT are unclear. The [Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade reports](#) indicate that "the quantity should always be recorded as number of specimens and never in non-standard units such as 'boxes', 'cartons,' 'containers' or 'bales'. Where possible, all seizures reported should include both quantity and weight/volume for each specimen and species type seized during an incident".

¹³ Ticktin et al. (2023): *Wild orchids - A framework for identifying and improving sustainable harvest*. *Biological Conservation* 277, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2022.109816>

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are encouraged to enhance their efforts to regulate the trade in edible tuberous orchids as required under the Convention and to combat illegal trade in edible tuberous orchids, in particular by raising awareness with relevant stakeholders, making non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings for edible tuberous orchids, building enforcement capacity and enhancing cooperation across borders with a focus on combatting illegal trade in edible tuberous orchids, including modus operandi of trade networks, species identification and the development or update of risk profiles.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to availability of external resources, 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 of Appendix-II listed orchid taxa for international trade to inform the following:
 - i) the conservation impacts of exempting artificially propagated Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations, including as articulated in footnote annotation P3 of the CITES Appendices, including identification challenges and look-alike issues;
 - ii) 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) present the study and formulate recommendations for consideration at the 28th meeting of the Plants Committee; and
- c) subject to external funding,
 - i) compile identification tools and methods for specimens of edible tuberous orchids that are in international trade, as well as to distinguish look-alike specimens, and, in consultation with the Plants Committee, develop an identification guide to assist Parties in applying these;
 - ii) identify implementation challenges and capacity needs of Parties to regulate international trade in Appendix-II listed edible tuberous orchids;
 - iii) upon request, provide support to key exporting range States, and other key exporting States of edible tuberous orchids, to carry out non-detriment findings for edible tuberous orchids, in consultation with relevant Members of the Plants Committee;
 - iv) upon request, support Parties with the implementation of Decision 20.AA, by including illegal trade in edible tuberous orchids in ongoing activities in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, or through other appropriate means; and
- d) report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Plants Committee

20.CC The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider the report and the Secretariat's recommendations in response to Decision 20.BB, paragraph a);
- b) provide inputs to the Secretariat when developing an identification guide and when providing support to carry out non-detriment findings for edible tuberous orchids resulting from the implementation of Decision 20.BB, paragraph c) i) and iii); and
- c) report its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report and the Secretariat's recommendations in response to Decision 20.BB, paragraph b); and
- b) report its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

73. Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) (Decision 19.253) - SC78 Doc. 73

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) provide feedback to the draft report contained in the Annexes 1 and 2 to document SC78 Doc. 73;
- b) consider the pertinence of submitting the draft decisions in paragraph 9 for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at CoP20.
- c) agree that Decisions 19.249 to 19.253 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

Directed to Parties, in particular source, transit and destination Parties for Paubrasilia echinata

20.AA Parties, in particular source, transit and destination Parties for *Paubrasilia echinata* are invited to,

- a) consider the findings of the report "Paubrasilia echinata bows: Fine Tuning Traceability Solutions" (CITES Secretariat, 202X);
- b) collaborate, as appropriate, with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and entities to develop voluntary marking or identification systems for *Paubrasilia echinata* musical instruments to enhance traceability mechanisms for individual bows;
- c) establish a mechanism to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles; and
- d) provide the Secretariat with information relating to the voluntary marking or identification systems developed for bows and the mechanism used to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles.

Directed to Brazil as the only range State of Paubrasilia echinata

20.BB Brazil is invited to:

- a) consider the findings of the report "Paubrasilia echinata bows: Fine Tuning Traceability Solutions" (CITES Secretariat, 202X), and its linkages or implications for national policies, conservation strategies, and trade regulations; and
- b) assess information on plantation-grown *Paubrasilia echinata* stocks to meet current and future market demand for musical instruments, and share this information with the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) consolidate information relating to:
 - i) the voluntary marking or identification systems developed by source, transit and destination Parties for *Paubrasilia echinata*;
 - ii) the mechanisms used to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles; and
 - iii) make the information available to Parties on request; and
- b) submit a report to the Standing Committee relating to the information received from Parties in terms of Decisions 20.AA and 20.BB.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD The Standing Committee shall consider the report submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.CC and make recommendations for consideration by:

- a) the source, transit and destination Parties for *Paubrasilia echinata*; and
- b) the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting, as appropriate.

74. Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species (*Decision 19.264*) - SC78 Doc. 74

Recommendations in paragraph 15:

15. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) agree that Decisions 19.261 to 19.264 can be replaced by the draft decisions recommended by the Plants Committee for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 74; and
- b) invite the Secretariat to, after consultation with the Chair of the Plants Committee, submit a final *CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant (MAP) species in international trade* report to the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *TRADE IN MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS*
AGREED BY THE 27TH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 20TH
MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) finalize the study developed under Decision 19.261, paragraph c), and summarized in document PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add. for the consideration of the Plants Committee;
- b) work with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to consider the identified discrepancies listed in Annexes 2 to 4 of document PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add, and identify whether corrections or improvements to the nomenclature in CITES databases are necessary;
- c) subject to external funding, implement cross-references between CITES databases and the Medicinal Plant Names Services for CITES-listed MAPs, taking into account the technical advice of the Plants Committee agreed at its 26th meeting (see summary record PC26 SR); and
- d) report to the Plants Committee.

Directed to the Plants Committee

20.BB The Plants Committee shall

- a) review the study and the report submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.AA;
- b) continue to consider the draft Resolution on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants contained in the Annex to document PC27 Com. 3, including taking into account the report submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA, and make any recommendation as appropriate; and
- c) report to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

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

75. An assessment of the practicalities of the CoP12 decision that the Convention should apply to fungi - SC78 Doc. 75

Recommendations in paragraph 16:

16. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the issues raised in document SC78 Doc. 75;
- b) provide its views of the implications for implementation of the CoP12 decision relating to the application of the Convention to fungi, in particular the practical considerations outlined in paragraphs 9-14;

9. **Committees:** The CoP12 decision that fungi are in scope of CITES impacts some of the assumptions under which the Convention currently operates, in particular the division of technical intersessional responsibilities between the Animals and Plants Committees. The mandate and terms of reference for CITES Committees is set out in [Res. Conf. 18.2](#) on *Establishment of Committees*, where paragraph 3 establishes the Animals and Plants Committees and Annex 2 sets out their terms of reference.
10. In order to implement the CoP12 decision on fungi, Parties could consider the establishment of a fungi-specific body equivalent to the Animals and Plants Committees to provide relevant technical expertise. However, this is likely disproportionate when weighing the technical input required at this time against the resourcing implications of establishing a new Committee. A more proportionate approach would be to consider fungi within the scope of one or both of the existing technical Committees. Although fungi are genetically closer to animals, for reasons of historic taxonomic association and workload, the Plants Committee appears to be the stronger candidate to take on this function. However, the regular joint sessions of the Animals and Plants Committees presents an opportunity for any fungi matters to be discussed in a way that allows for input from both technical Committees.
11. Such a decision has implications for the agenda and capacity of the Animals and Plants Committees. Parties are invited to consider and comment on the governance and administrative changes necessary to facilitate the technical Committee(s) fulfilling this function, and on the capacity of the Committee(s) and its members to do so.
12. **Party and Secretariat expertise:** Decision-making under CITES relies on Parties and the Secretariat being able to draw on appropriate expertise, for example, in evaluating proposals to amend the Appendices or to consider measures or activities necessary to address implementation difficulties, e.g. via Decisions or Resolutions. Currently, Parties and the Secretariat have expertise in a wide range of scientific, operational, taxonomic, enforcement and legal domains, and industry bodies, Non-Governmental Organisations or independent experts provide additional specialist input or capacity building to Parties and the Secretariat. Parties and the Secretariat should consider their ability to access the appropriate expertise in regards fungi as envisaged in the CoP12 decision, and any logistical or practical considerations deriving from that.
13. **Nomenclature specialist:** The role of an *ex-officio*, non-voting Nomenclature Specialist on each of the technical Committees with specialisms in zoological nomenclature and botanical nomenclature respectively is set out in paragraph 5 c) of Annex 2 of [Res. Conf. 18.2](#). These Nomenclature Specialists attend meetings as needed to support discussions on specific nomenclature issues. Fungal taxonomy and methods may be considered too different to be sufficiently covered by the existing Nomenclature Specialist roles. It may therefore be necessary to establish separate means for the Committees to access specialist advice fungal nomenclature, for instance by appointing an *ad hoc* expert to advise the Committee(s), by considering an Alternate with fungi specialism for one of the existing Nomenclature Specialists, or by establishing an additional *ex-officio*, non-voting fungi Nomenclature Specialist role in one of the technical Committees.
14. **Budgetary considerations:** Facilitating the explicit consideration of fungi will have budgetary implications which must be considered in light of the existing budgetary constraints on Convention activities. Assuming a relatively low number of proposals to include fungi species on the CITES Appendices in the short term, the level of funding and technical input would likely be relatively small. The input from CITES Committees would largely consist of the activities set out in paragraph 2 of Annexes 2 and 3 to [Res. Conf. 18.2](#) *Establishment of Committees* and be “*in accordance with instructions from and authority delegated by the Conference of the Parties*”. The Conference of Parties may wish to consider whether activities beyond the core functions of the Secretariat relating to fungi-specific issues could be subject to external funding to support the sustainability of core budgets.

- c) provide its views on the utility of developing Resolution text relating to the application of CITES to fungi as described in paragraph 15; and,

15. Given the potential for several fungi-specific decisions being put to CoP20 to address the points raised in paragraphs 9-14, it may be beneficial to consider the need for a specific Resolution that draws together an agreed approach. It will be helpful to understand Parties' views on the merits or drawbacks of developing a new Resolution on the application of CITES to fungi or incorporating text into an existing Resolution to capture decisions of future CoPs relating fungi under CITES.

- d) consider the analysis of the impact of trade on fungi species in paragraph 8 and in an information document for the present meeting and provide any views of the appropriateness of a potential CITES listing proposal for any of these species.

8. The accompanying information document includes an analysis of fungal species in trade, including the potential threat to the species that current trade represents. This provides context for determining the practical measures that CITES may need to take prior to any listing proposals being submitted. Similar to previous assessments for other taxa, e.g. [snakes](#), or [analyses](#) of Red List data, this analysis is intended to provide Parties with a preliminary assessment rather than a suggestion of where listing proposals should be developed. It remains for Parties to develop robust proposals for any potential amendments to the CITES Appendices as set out in Article XV and in line with the criteria set out in [Res. Conf. 9.24](#) (Rev. CoP17).

76. Annotations [Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP19)] - SC78 Doc. 76 and SC78 Doc. 76 Add.

Recommendations in paragraph 20:

20. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the report and the advice provided by the working group in paragraphs 7 through 18 of document SC78 Doc. 76;
- b) endorse the amendments proposed by the working group to annotation #4 as described in paragraph 16 of document SC78 Doc. 76;

16. The minor amendment proposed pertains to align text in paragraph f) with paragraph g), for readability purposes as follows:

f) *finished products ~~packaged and ready for retail trade~~ of Aloe ferox and Euphorbia antisiphilitica ~~packaged and ready for retail trade~~;*

- c) request feedback from range States of *Aniba rosaeodora* and *Bulnesia sarmientoi* on whether they can support the revisions to annotation #11 and annotation #12 described in paragraph 12 of document SC78 Doc. 76;

12. The working group proposes the following amendments to Annotation 11 and Annotation 12 as follows:

Proposed #11

Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood, powder and extracts, except the following products containing such extracts when the extract is not the primary or highest-percentage ingredient in the product:

- a) *finished products packaged and ready for the retail trade;*
- b) *finished fragrance mixtures; and*
- c) *finished flavour mixtures.*

Proposed #12

Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood and extracts, except the following products containing such extracts when the extract is not the primary or highest-percentage ingredient in the product:

- a) *finished products packaged and ready for the retail trade;*
- b) *finished fragrance mixtures; and*
- c) *finished flavour mixtures.*

- d) endorse the proposed addition of text to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species* (Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 76) and in the Interpretation Section of the Appendices (Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 76); and

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION CONF.10.13 (REV. COP18) ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR TREE SPECIES

1. RECOMMENDS that:

[...]

- d) for the purpose of annotations in the Appendices for parts and derivatives of species traded as timber, definitions to be used should, to the extent possible, be based on the tariff classifications of the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization. Note references to Harmonized System codes refer to the language of the definition adopted by CITES, and not to the Harmonized System code that applies;

NEW PARAGRAPH OF THE INTERPRETATION SECTION OF THE APPENDICES

xx. Note references to Harmonized System codes refer to the language of the definition adopted by CITES, and not to the Harmonized System code that applies.

- e) request that the Secretariat revise Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP19) to remove completed directives and submit the revised decision for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.XX The Standing Committee shall, in close collaboration with the Plants Committee, recognizing that the Plants Committee is an important source of expertise and advice to Parties on such scientific and technical issues:

- a) re-establish the working group on annotations, aiming to ensure balanced representation of importing and exporting Parties. The group shall include, but not be limited to, Members from the Standing Committee, Plants Committee, observer Parties, including representatives of CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, enforcement focal points, and industry representatives. The terms of reference for the working group shall include the following and may be expanded in response to other Decisions adopted by CoP20:
- i) in close collaboration with ongoing efforts in the Plants Committee, continue reviewing the appropriateness and practical challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations to the Appendices, including those related to tree species, particularly to assess the benefits of simplifying annotations #5, #6 and #17 or assessing the benefits of harmonizing annotations for species with the same genus, taking into account the guidance provided by Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*;
 - ii) further consider Annotations #11 and #12 with regard to determining when extracts become ingredients in finished products and consult with range States to ensure that the annotations would continue to regulate the specimens/commodities they export under the original rationale for the species listing in line with the guidance provided in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*;
 - iii) further consider Annotation #14 related to the agarwood producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.) in particular with regard to the implementation of paragraph e) “exhausted agarwood powder, including compressed powder in all shapes” and the challenges related to the identification of exhausted agarwood powder by frontline enforcement officers;
 - iv) develop or refine definitions of terms used in current annotations as appropriate, and submit them for adoption by the Conference of the Parties and subsequent inclusion in the Interpretation section of the Appendices;
 - v) conduct any work related to annotations directed to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee or the Plants Committee; and
 - vi) prepare reports on progress made in addressing the issues tasked to it and submit them for consideration by the Standing Committee.
- b) report its conclusions and any recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

77. Annotation #15 [Decision 18.322 (Rev. CoP19)] - SC78 Doc. 77

Recommendations in paragraph 15:

15. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) provide feedback on the second draft of the report contained in the Annexes 1 and 2 to document SC78 Doc. 77;
- b) request the Secretariat to revise this second draft of the report taking into consideration the comments made by the Standing Committee and submit a final report for consideration at CoP20; and
- c) agree that Decisions 18.321 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.322 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

78. Orchid specimens exempted through annotation #4 g) (Decision 19.271) - SC78 Doc. 78

Recommendations in paragraph 15:

15. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note that the main implementation challenge for the exemption in annotation #4 g) is verifying whether the specimens used in the finished cosmetics products had been artificially propagated or not;
- b) encourage Parties that use the exemption to consider using clearly visible printed labels or printed packages to allow for verification that final cosmetic products are derived from artificially propagated specimens; and
- c) agree to propose the revised draft decisions on *Orchid specimens exempted through annotation #4 g)* in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 78 for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT REVISED DECISIONS ON
Orchid specimens exempted through annotation #4 g)

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strike~~through.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.268 (Rev. CoP20) *No less than one (1) year after ~~entry into force of the Decisions adopted at the 1920th~~ meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting the following information:*

- a) *whether there have been any implementation issues concerning the annotation #4 g) exemption for finished products derived from artificial propagation, packaged and ready for retail trade of cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of specimens of *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii*, and if so describe the issues;*
- b) *whether Parties have identified any conservation impacts of the annotation #4 g) exemption on the status of *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii* in the wild; and*
- c) *based on the responses received, prepare a report to the Standing Committee on implementation challenges and to the Plants Committee on conservation impacts of the exemption.*

Directed to Parties

19.269 (Rev. CoP20) *Parties are encouraged to submit pertinent information concerning the annotation #4 g) exemption for finished products packaged derived from artificial propagation, and ready for retail trade of cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of specimens of *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii* as requested in Decision 19.268 (Rev. CoP20).*

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.270 (Rev. CoP20) *The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *review the information received as requested under Decision 19.268 (Rev. CoP20) with a view to assessing whether the exemption provided under annotation #4 g) has had any impacts on the wild populations of these species; and*
- b) *based on the outcome of this review, formulate recommendations to the Standing Committee concerning the exemption provided under annotation #4 g) for *Bletilla**

striata, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii*.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.271 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the report of the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 19.268 (Rev. CoP20) and any recommendations of the Plants Committee under Decision 19.270 (Rev. CoP20); and*
- b) *formulate recommendations to the ~~20th~~21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the application and conservation impacts of the exemption provided under annotation #4_g) to *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii*, as appropriate.*

79. Implications of the transfer of a species from one Appendix to another [*Decision 18.151 (Rev. CoP19)*] - SC78 Doc. 79 (Rev. 1)

Recommendations in paragraph 10:

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the draft guidance and best practices related to periods of transition and possible transitory measures provided in Annex to document SC78 Doc. 79 (Rev. 1);
- b) request the Secretariat, taking into account any comments made by the Standing Committee, to make this initial Guidance available on the CITES website before the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) agree that Decision 18.151 (Rev. CoP19) has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT ELEMENTS FOR GUIDANCE AND BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO PERIODS OF TRANSITION AND POSSIBLE TRANSITORY MEASURES

Introduction

1. Article II, paragraph 4, of the Convention establishes as a fundamental principle that the Parties shall not allow trade in specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III except in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. Accordingly, it is necessary to know exactly which rules are applicable to the export, re-export, import or introduction from the sea of a specimen of a species included in the Appendices at any given time.
2. Articles III, IV and V contain the rules that apply to trade in specimens of species included in Appendix I, II or III, respectively. Article XV stipulates that an amendment to Appendices I and II enter into force 90 days after the meeting at which they have been adopted. Similarly, Article XVI stipulates that amendments to Appendix III shall take effect 90 days after they have been communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat. In case of withdrawal of a species from Appendix III, the withdrawal takes effect 30 days after the date of the communication of such withdrawal.
3. However, the Convention contains no provisions related to the situation where the export of a specimen is authorized before an amendment of the Appendices enters into effect and presented for import after the entry into effect of the amendment. Similarly, the Convention contains no provisions related to any measures to be taken during this period of transition, i.e., between the adoption of an amendment and the entry into effect of such an amendment.
4. Questions have been raised as to the applicable rules in these situations and the following is a first attempt to provide draft elements of simple guidance for such situations as well as possible transitory measures. Unless otherwise indicated, the guidance is intended to apply to the following situations:
 - Inclusion of a species that was not previously included in one of the Appendices;
 - Transfer of a species from one Appendix to another (whether uplisting or downlisting);
 - Amendment of an annotation, amending the scope of the application of the Convention for that species (e.g. inclusion of additional specimens in the annotation); and
 - Delayed entry into effect of the inclusion of a species in Appendix II.
5. Specimens that fulfil the conditions for being traded as pre-convention specimens as set out in Article VII, paragraph 2, of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 13.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of Article VII, paragraph 2, concerning 'pre-Convention specimens'* are not covered by the guidance related to transition periods.

Background

Relevant provisions in existing Resolutions

6. Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Permits and certificates*, paragraph 10, provides 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;
7. Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 11, further:
recommends that, in the case of a listing proposal adopted by the Conference of the Parties to transfer a species to Appendix I, the Management Authority ensures that any permit or certificate for trade in that species be valid only until the date that the new listing in Appendix I enters into force and that this be indicated in box 2 of the permit;
8. Resolution Conf. 13.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Implementation of Article VII, paragraph 2, concerning 'pre-Convention' specimens*, paragraph 3:
calls on Parties to take any necessary measures in order to prevent excessive acquisition of specimens of a species between the date on which the Conference of the Parties approves the inclusion of that species in Appendix I and the date on which the inclusion takes effect;

Stricter domestic measures

9. Article XIV of the Convention provides that Parties retain the right to adopt:
 - a) stricter domestic measures regarding the conditions for trade, taking, possession or transport of specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III, or the complete prohibition thereof; or
 - b) domestic measures restricting or prohibiting trade, taking, possession or transport of species not included in Appendix I, II or III.

As such, Parties may be in a position to implement an amendment to the Appendices adopted by the CoP prior to the entry into effect of this amendment, thus avoiding any period of transition. However, this might be difficult in practice and might create legal uncertainties, which would go against the Convention's objective to establish common rules.

Existing practices

Inventories

10. Some Parties, notably range States, take steps to inventory, mark and secure stockpiles of specimens of species concerned by an amendment proposal before the entry into effect of the amendment. Some Parties share their inventories with the CITES Secretariat for information, although the Secretariat currently does not have a mandate to record such information.
11. In the case of an inclusion of a new species in the Appendices of the Convention, particularly in Appendix II, such an inventory allows the Party to ascertain which specimens could be considered pre-Convention under Article VII, paragraph 2, of the Convention. In the case of a transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I, the inventory informs the Party of any stockpile available in the country and inform any economic operators holding the stock of the date of the entry into force of the amendment and the implications.

Entry into effect of an amendment to the Appendices during the transport of a specimen

12. With regard to the specific situations when the rules applicable change after specimens of a species left the port of export but before they reached the port of import, Parties have developed different practices. Mainly:
 - a) Certain Parties place the acceptance of the import on hold while the Management Authorities of the country of import and the country of export consider the issuance and acceptance of a retrospective permit or certificate issued by the exporting Party;

- b) Other Parties do not practice the retrospective issuance of CITES documents and accept to consider that if the shipment left the port of export prior to the date of entry into effect the listings, the import can be accepted based on the rules applicable at the time of export.
13. Both solutions have advantages and drawbacks. The first allows Parties to ensure that specimens are being imported in accordance with the rules applicable to the species at the time of import. However, Parties have agreed on a restrictive approach to the retrospective issuance of permits and certificates in section XIV of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19). This situation is not foreseen as a cause allowing for the retrospective issue of permits and certificates. The second solution allows for the application of the rules existing at the time of the export, without applying listings retroactively, but does not implement the rules of the Convention existing at the time of the import.
14. In the absence of a clear rule governing these situations, or of a consensus between the Parties on the best way forward, it seems that a good practice to follow is for the country of export to liaise, as early as possible, with the intended country(ies) of import in order to ensure that Parties agree on the way forward in the event that an export might reach the port of import after the entry into effect of an amendment proposal.
15. This is also important as one or more of the Parties might have stricter domestic measures in place.

Guiding principles and best practices

16. Based on the above provisions and existing practices, certain principles could be derived that Parties could consider applying to all 'periods of transition' from the adoption of an amendment proposal to the entry into effect of the proposal:

General principles

- a) The provisions applicable to trade in a specimen of a species are the provisions applicable to the species concerned at the time of export, re-export, import or introduction from the sea:
- i) In the case of a first inclusion in the Appendices (with or without delayed entry into effect): the trade will be governed by the national legislation of the Party concerned, if any, until the date of entry into effect of the listing. From the date of the entry into effect, the trade will be governed by the relevant provisions of the Convention, Article III, IV or V;
 - ii) In the case of a transfer from an Appendix to another: the trade will be governed by the rules applying to the Appendix in which the species is listed until the date of entry into effect of the transfer to another Appendix;
 - iii) In the case of the amendment of an annotation: similar to ii), the trade will be governed by the existing annotation until the date of entry into effect of the amended annotation.
- b) In the specific situations where the rules applicable to trade in a particular species or specimen change after specimens of that species left the port of export but before they reached the port of import, the country of export should liaise, as early as possible, with the intended country(ies) of import in order for the Parties to agree on the procedure to implement concerning the trade.
- c) Pursuant to Article XIV of the Convention, Parties retain the right to adopt stricter domestic measures regarding the conditions for trade, taking, possession or transport of specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III of the Convention. As such, Parties may opt to implement the decision of the CoP approving the inclusion of a species in the Appendices or the transfer of a species from one Appendix to the other, immediately after its adoption, thus avoiding any 'period of transition'. However, such stricter domestic rules might be difficult to implement in practice.

Transitory measures

- d) In case of transfer from one Appendix to another, the Management Authority should ensure that any permit or certificate for trade in a specimen of the species subject to a transfer be valid only until the date that the new listing enters into effect and that this be indicated in box 2 of the permit or certificate.
- e) Parties should take any necessary measures in order to prevent excessive acquisition of specimens of a species between the date on which the Conference of the Parties approves the inclusion or transfer

of that species in Appendix I of the Convention and the date on which the inclusion or transfer takes effect in line with the recommendation in Resolution Conf. 13.6 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 3. Parties may wish to consider the same principle with regard to the inclusion or transfer of species in Appendix II of the Convention.

- f) Before an amendment to include a new species in the Appendices of the Convention, particularly in Appendix II, takes effect, Parties should consider taking steps to inventory stockpiles of specimens of species concerned by the amendment acquired for the purpose of export. This will help ascertain the quantity of specimens available, if any, and to determine whether such specimens would qualify as “pre-Convention” specimens under Article VII, paragraph 2, of the Convention. In some cases, the Party concerned could consider requesting the publication of a voluntary export quota for the pre-Convention stockpile in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas*.

80. Information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species [Decision 18.317 (Rev. CoP19)] - SC78 Doc. 80

Recommendations in paragraph 16:

16. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the updated report provided by the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 19.265; and
- b) agree to propose the renewal of Decision 18.317 (Rev. CoP19) and Decision 19.265 to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

Directed to the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Plants Committee

18.317 (Rev. CoP19~~20~~) *The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Plants Committee, shall explore the feasibility and requirements for developing an information system, subject to agreed terms of reference, 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 20~~th~~ 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.265 *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.*

81. Informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations (*Decision 19.267*) SC78 Doc. 81

Recommendations in paragraph 28:

28. The Standing Committee is invited to
- a) take note of the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of Decision 19.266 and of the report contained in Annex 2 to document SC78 Doc. 81;
 - b) consider and agree with the approach to the review of existing annotations proposed in paragraphs 23-25 above and the draft decisions included in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 81;

Review of existing annotations

23. Parties and observers agree that a review of existing annotations should fall under the mandate of the Standing Committee and focus on implementation challenges. Furthermore, there seems to be agreement that the best way for the Standing Committee to obtain information about implementation challenges related to existing annotations would be through a Notification to the Parties. Such a notification could be published well after the meeting of the CoP and prior to the first meeting of the Standing Committee, thus allowing to gather feedback on the implementation of annotations, including annotations (and amendments to annotations) that were adopted at the latest CoP. Any information and feedback received could be provided to the Standing Committee for consideration and, if needed, for inclusion in the mandate of the working group on annotations.
24. The Standing Committee has for the past intersessional periods established a working group on annotations focusing mostly but not exclusively on issues related to hash annotations. Although the mandate of the working group may already cover many issues, it is the best place to consider issues related to implementation of annotations. The Secretariat proposes draft decisions directing the Secretariat to issue a Notification, compile and analyse the responses for the consideration of the Standing Committee and draft decisions inviting Parties to submit information and directing the Standing Committee to consider these and make recommendations, as appropriate. Such draft decisions are contained in Annex 1 to the present document.
25. For implementation challenges identified through this process, the Standing Committee has at least two options for addressing these according to Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 8: through agreed definitions to be included in the interpretation section of the Appendices at the next CoP (and issued in a Notification pending the next CoP); and/or through an amendment proposal to be submitted to the CoP for consideration. Both options were used recently with regard to annotation #15 used for *Dalbergia* spp included in Appendix II.

ADDITIONAL DECISIONS ON ANNOTATIONS

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties inviting Parties and observers to provide information on whether there have been any implementation issues or challenges concerning any of the annotations contained in Appendices I, II and III, and if so, describe the issues or challenges, including options for addressing these; and
- b) based on the responses received, prepare a report to the Standing Committee on identified implementation challenges with its recommendations for addressing these.

Directed to Parties and observer organizations

20.BB Parties and observers are encouraged to submit pertinent information to the Secretariat in response to the Notification concerning issues or challenges related to the implementation of annotations in the Appendices as well as options for addressing these.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report and the recommendations prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.AA; and
 - b) formulate recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the implementation of the annotations, as appropriate.
- c) consider the approach with respect to annotations that are proposed to be amended during the course of the meeting of the CoP, described in paragraphs 25 to 27 above and, if appropriate, agree to test the approach at CoP20 and request the Secretariat to report back to the first regular meeting of the Committee following CoP20 on the experience and any results as well as any recommendations; and

Annotations included in amendment proposals (new or amended)

26. The Secretariat considers that the main problem lies with hash annotations that are amended and adopted during the negotiations at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties. There is no strong support for establishing a review mechanism to operate during the CoP, but some Parties and observers agree that more could be done to avoid the adoption of hash annotations that cause significant implementation challenges. The Secretariat therefore proposes a few initiatives that could be implemented before and during the upcoming meeting of the CoP, if the Standing Committee so agrees, without establishing an actual mechanism:

a) Before formal submission of proposals

The Secretariat could issue a Notification to the Parties inviting Parties to use the format for proposals contained in Annex 6 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*. This Annex contains a number of recommendations with respect to annotations that Parties should consider as they prepare their amendment proposals. In addition, the Secretariat could invite Parties to consider the recommendations in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19). With regard to proposals related to tree species, the Notification could draw attention to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species* and the interpretation section of the Appendices. Finally, the Notification may draw attention to Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, and the possibility of excluding hybrids and cultivars by a specific annotation.

In line with the recommendations Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph 7, Parties would also be invited to consult with other range States, other experts and the Secretariat in case of doubt about a specific annotation.

The Secretariat is preparing a checklist for the preparation of proposals and an e-learning module in which it will draw the attention to these issues. It is expected that the checklist will be ready by the end of 2024 and the e-learning module will be available in early 2025. The Notification would also draw the attention to these resources.

By raising awareness of recommendations related to the formulation of annotations and to consultations with other Parties, the Secretariat and other experts, there is an expectation that amendment proposals would aim to address potential implementation challenges already during this phase.

b) Post-submission of proposals and pre-CoP

After the submission of the proposals to the Secretariat and as required by Article XV of the Convention, the Secretariat will invite the statutory consultees to provide their views on the proposals. The Secretariat will draw their attention to any proposed annotations, inviting the consultees to indicate any implementation challenges that they are in a position to anticipate. The assessment of the statutory

consultees will be made available for the consideration of the Parties prior to the meeting, in accordance with Article XV of the Convention.

The Secretariat will also continue to consider any annotations in its assessment of the proposals in accordance with the Convention and make recommendations in line with the above-mentioned Resolutions and Resolution Conf. 5.20 (Rev. CoP17) on *Guidelines for the Secretariat when making recommendations in accordance with Article XV*. Depending on the annotation, the Secretariat may seek the advice of appropriate experts, including Members of the scientific committees.

Parties will be invited to consider recommendations made by the statutory consultees and the Secretariat with regard to the formulation of annotations, as well as any implementation challenges identified during the assessment process. Such issues may be addressed during the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

c) At a meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Annotations included or amended during CoP meetings are more likely to lead to implementation challenges, because Parties may require time to fully consider the implications of including or amending an annotation. Negotiations on the proposals to amend CITES Appendices I and II may be technical and intense, and sometimes the way to reach a compromise goes through an annotation proposed on the floor. To try to prevent that amendments to an annotation be agreed without careful consideration of potential implementation challenges, the Secretariat proposes the concept of a “reflection period”. The objective would be to allow for some additional time to reflect on potential implementation challenges before any final decision is made with regard to a proposal to amend or include an annotation. The following suggestions by the Secretariat are based on the current Rules of Procedure and no amendments to the Rules would be necessary. For practical reasons, these are intended to apply only to hash annotations at this stage.

- i) Working programme: when preparing and considering the working programme of Committee I, the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and Parties should try to ensure that consideration of amendment proposals with hash annotations be included in the working programme of Committee I prior to the two-day break in the middle of the meeting, to allow for sufficient time to introduce the concept of a “reflection period.” This may not cover all the amendment proposals: Parties may introduce annotations to amendment proposals that originally did not have an annotation and this may not necessarily be taken into account in the preparation and adoption of the working programme.
- ii) Adjournment of the debate: Under Rule 18, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the Chair of a session has the authority to propose the adjournment of the debate on a particular subject or question under discussion. Using this Rule, the Chair of Committee I could propose an adjournment in the case where a proposal(s) to adopt or amend a hash annotation have been made by one or more Parties (to reduce the scope of the proposal or to make it more precise) before the Committee makes a final recommendation on the proposal. By proposing to adjourn the debate, the Committee I Chair would give Parties an opportunity to reflect on the proposals for the annotation and identify possible ways to address potential implementation challenges. The Chair is of course free to use this opportunity under other circumstances, just as Parties can raise a point of order in accordance with Rule 20 and propose that the debate be adjourned in accordance with paragraph 2 of that Rule. This proposal is intended to draw the attention to this possibility in the case of proposals from the floor to amend hash annotations.
- iii) In-session document: In proposing the adjournment, the Chair may ask the Party or Parties having proposed the adoption or amendments to hash annotations to provide these in writing to the Secretariat for circulation to the Committee as an in-session document. This is intended to assist Parties in their consultations and considerations of the amended hash annotations.
- iv) Resumed consideration: Later in the meeting, when the Chair reopens the debate on the amendment proposal in Committee I, Parties and observers, such as relevant industry representatives, would have had additional time to reflect on the proposal in order to identify any potential implementation challenges, as well as possible solutions to address these. In this context, it is important to keep in mind Rules 24 and 25 of the Rules of Procedure. According to Rule 24, once a proposal has been amended to reduce its scope, it may not be re-amended to increase the

scope of the amended proposal. Further, according to Rule 25, an amended proposal under this Rule supersedes the original proposal.

Therefore, the suggestion to adjourn the debate in Committee I before an amended hash annotation is agreed could assist in reducing implementation challenges in the long term.

- d) agree that Decisions 19.266 and 19.267 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

82. Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings [*Decision 18.314 (Rev. CoP19)*] - SC78 Doc. 82

Recommendations in paragraph 14:

14. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review this document and the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III* in Annex 1 and Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature* in Annex 2 agreed by the joint session of the Plants and Animals Committees;
- b) agree to submit the proposed amendments contained in Annex 1 and 2 to document SC78 Doc. 82 to be considered at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) agree that Decisions 18.313 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.314 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the Conference of the Parties.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 9.25 (REV. COP18) ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR SPECIES IN APPENDIX III

The Plants and Animals Committees agreed the following amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18):

Text proposed to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~ and proposed new text is underlined.

1. RECOMMENDS that, when considering the inclusion of a species in Appendix III, a Party:

a) ensure that:

i) the species is native to its country;

ii) if the species concerned is included in one of the standard lists of names or taxonomic references adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the name provided by that reference be used; if the species concerned is not included in one of the adopted standard references, the Party provide references as to the source of the name used as indicated in sub-paragraph e) below, and in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, as appropriate;

iii) its national laws and regulations for the conservation of the species are adequate to prevent or restrict exploitation and to control trade, and include penalties for illegal taking, trade or possession and provisions for confiscation; and

iv) its national enforcement measures are adequate to implement these regulations;

[...]

c) inform the Management Authorities of other range States, the known major importing countries, the Secretariat and the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee that it is considering the inclusion of the species in Appendix III, provide the Nomenclature Specialist of the Animals or Plants Committee with the reference as to the source of the name used to describe the species being proposed, and seek their opinion on the potential effects of such inclusion;

[...]

e) after due consultation, and having satisfied itself that the biological and trade status of the species justify the action, submit to the Secretariat its considerations under paragraph 1 a) to d) above, specifying the following, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article XVI of the Convention:

i) the scientific name of the species it is submitting for inclusion in Appendix III;

- A. if the species concerned is included in one of the standard lists of names or taxonomic references adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the reference citation and the name provided by that reference should be submitted;
 - B. if the species concerned is not included in one of the adopted standard references, the Party(ies) should provide reference(s) as to the source of the name used; and
 - C. if there are nomenclature uncertainties concerning the species, Party(ies) should consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, as appropriate; and
- ii) any readily recognizable parts and derivatives to be included, unless it intends to include all readily recognizable parts and derivatives

.....

6. URGES Parties having included species in Appendix III to:

- a) review periodically the status of these species, seek assistance of the Animals or Plants Committee in undertaking the review mentioned in paragraph 5 of this Resolution, if necessary, and taking into account these guidelines and any recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, to consider the necessity to maintain the species in Appendix III;
- b) inform the Secretariat and the Animals and Plants Committees about any taxonomic or nomenclatural changes affecting species included in Appendix III to determine whether these changes would also result in changes in distribution that would affect the determination of which countries would be required to issue certificates of origin, and proceed to amend the Appendix-III listing, if needed; and
- c) respond in a timely manner to requests from the Secretariat on proposed nomenclature changes for Appendix-III listed species recommended by the Animals or Plants Committee through its process for updating current standard nomenclatural references in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature* to inform amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and proceed to amend the Appendix-III listing, if needed.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 12.11 (REV. COP19) ON STANDARD NOMENCLATURE:

The Plants and Animals Committees agreed the following amendments to Resolution Conf.12.11 (Rev. CoP19) [Note the Secretariat made an editorial amendment in paragraph g) to replace '(see definition in paragraph 2.h)' with 'as defined in subparagraph h) below']:

Text proposed to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~ and proposed new text is underlined.

2. RECOMMENDS that:

.....

- f) whenever a change in the name of a taxon included in the Appendices is proposed, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, determine whether this change would alter the scope of protection for fauna or flora under the Convention. In the case where the scope of a taxon is redefined, the Animals or Plants Committee shall evaluate whether acceptance of the taxonomic change would cause additional species to be included in the Appendices or listed species to be deleted from the Appendices and, if that is the case, a range state Party or the Depositary Government should be requested to submit a proposal to amend the Appendices in accordance with the recommendation of the Animals or Plants Committee, so that the original intent of the listing is retained. Such proposals should be submitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees will be considered;
- g) if the Animals or Plants Committee become informed of taxonomic or proposes nomenclatural changes in a published taxonomic authority, as defined in subparagraph h) below relating to taxa included in

Appendix III, they should advise the Secretariat of such proposed changes and whether they these changes would also result in changes in species distribution that would affect the issuance of determination of which countries would be required to issue certificates of origin by range States. To ensure the Party (or Parties) that included the species in Appendix III are aware of the potential changes and their potential impacts on implementation, the Secretariat will inform the Party (or Parties) of the nomenclature changes and any resulting changes in distribution that potentially alter the scope of protection for fauna and flora (inclusion or deletion of species or populations) included in Appendix III and in consultation with the nomenclature specialist(s) as appropriate, encourage the Party (or Parties) to revise the nomenclature of their Appendix-III listing in accordance with the procedure described in Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III.*

.....

8. AGREES that the adoption of a standard checklist or reference by the Conference of the Parties does not by itself change the status vis-à-vis CITES of any entity, whether it is listed in the Appendices or not, and the status of the entity remains as intended in the proposal adopted by the Conference unless specifically changed by the adoption of a further amendment proposal; any Party that identifies a change in the status vis-à-vis CITES of any entity as a result of the adoption of a new standard reference should consult the Secretariat and nomenclature specialist as soon as possible.

83. Higher taxon listings in the Appendices (*Decision 19.273*) - SC78 Doc. 83 (Rev. 1)

Recommendations in paragraph 12:

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review and agree the amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature* in paragraph 11 of document SC78 Doc. 83 (Rev. 1) to be considered at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

2 f) *whenever a change in the name of a taxon included in the Appendices, or the taxonomic level in which a taxon is included in the Appendices, is proposed, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, determine whether this change would alter the scope of protection for fauna or flora under the Convention. In the case where the scope of a taxon is redefined, the Animals or Plants Committee shall evaluate whether acceptance of the taxonomic change would cause additional species to be included in the Appendices or listed species to be deleted from the Appendices and, if that is the case, the Depositary Government should be requested to submit a proposal to amend the Appendices in accordance with the recommendation of the Animals or Plants Committee, so that the original intent of the listing is retained. Such proposals should be submitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees that are determined not to alter the scope of protection for fauna and flora under the Convention will also be considered by the Conference of the Parties;*

- b) agree that Decisions 19.272 and 19.273 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

84. Taxonomy and nomenclature of African elephants (*Loxodonta* spp.) (Decision 19.277) - SC78 Doc. 84 (Rev. 1)

Recommendations in paragraph 37:

37. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the change to the standard nomenclature reference recommended by the Animals Committee as set out in paragraph 4 above;

4.	At its 33rd meeting (AC33; Geneva, July 2024), the Animals Committee agreed to reconfirm its acknowledgment of the scientific merit of recognizing the two species of African elephants, recognizing that hybrids and mixed-species groupings do occur. The Committee recommended that the nomenclatural standard references concerning African elephants be updated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) deleting Wilson & Reeder 1993 as the specific reference for <i>Loxodonta africana</i> in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Standard nomenclature</i> and therefore including African elephants as covered by the adopted nomenclatural standard reference Wilson & Reeder 2005; and b) adopting as a supplementary standard reference to clarify the distribution of <i>Loxodonta africana</i>, <i>L. cyclotis</i>, and their hybrids, Mondol et al. 2015, or a more up-to-date publication if that becomes available before the document submission deadline for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
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- b) consider the options to reflect the nomenclature change in the Appendices, as contained in paragraphs 29 to 32 above, and agree on a recommendation for submission to the Conference of the Parties;

Option A

ELEPHANTIDAE Elephants	Appendix I	Appendix II
	<p><i>Elephas maximus</i></p> <p><i>Loxodonta africana</i> (Except the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, which are included in Appendix II subject to annotation A10)</p> <p><i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i></p>	<p><i>Loxodonta africana</i>^{A10} (Only the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe; all other populations are included in Appendix I)</p>

Option B

ELEPHANTIDAE Elephants	Appendix I	Appendix II
	<p><i>Elephas maximus</i></p> <p><i>Loxodonta</i> spp. (Except the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, which are included in Appendix II subject to annotation A10)</p>	<p><i>Loxodonta</i> spp.^{A10} (Only the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe; all other populations are included in Appendix I)</p>

Option C

ELEPHANTIDAE Elephants	Appendix I	Appendix II
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	<p><i>Elephas maximus</i></p> <p><i>Loxodonta spp.</i> (Except the populations of <i>L. africana</i> included in Appendix II)</p>	<p><i>Loxodonta africana</i>^{A10} (Only the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe; all other populations are included in Appendix I)</p>
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- c) review and submit the draft decision and proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 84 (Rev. 1) to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
- d) agree that Decisions 19.275 to 19.277 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISION ON
DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS FOR TWO SPECIES OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) consult the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group to advise whether an analysis of the trends in the proportion of illegally killed elephants (PIKE) based on the two species of African elephants can be provided in the future, in addition to the analysis of the genus-level continental and subregional trends and,
- b) if feasible, carry out the analysis and include the results in its regular report to the Standing Committee in accordance with paragraph 27 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10. 10 (REV. COP19) ON
TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strike~~through.

- 23. URGES Parties to collect samples from large-scale ivory seizures (i.e. a seizure of 500 kg or more) that take place in their territories, preferably within 90 days of the seizure or as soon as allowed under judicial processes, and provide these to forensic and other research institutions capable of reliably determining the origin, species and ~~or~~ age of the ivory samples in support of investigations and prosecutions;
- 24. RECOMMENDS that Parties share with the Secretariat and source countries information on the origin, species and ~~or~~ age of seized ivory specimens arising from forensic analysis of samples to facilitate investigations and prosecutions, and for analysis by MIKE and ETIS in their reporting to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties;

85. Any other business - *No document*

86. Determination of the time and venue of the 79th and 80th meetings - *No document*

87. Closing remarks

87.1 Secretary-General - *No document*

87.2 Chair - *No document*

COMPILATION OF DRAFT DECISIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTIONS AGREED BY THE
PLANTS COMMITTEE AT ITS 27TH MEETING (PC27) FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 20TH MEETING OF
THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (CoP20)

A) Global Strategy for Plants Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Amendments agreed by the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee (clean version from Annex 1 to PC27
Doc. 9 – edits agreed by PC27: *deleted text is in strikethrough and new text is underlined*)

Conf. 16.5* **Cooperation with the Global Strategy
(Rev. CoP20)** **for Plant Conservation of the
Convention on Biological Diversity**

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention of Biological Diversity*, and the *Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of CITES and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity*, signed on March 1996, as well as its amendment, signed in 2000 and 2001;

RECALLING that, ~~in 2002~~, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2002, adopted, through Decision VI/9, the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* (GSPC), including outcome-oriented global targets through to for 2010; in Decision XI/17 adopted the *Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation for 2011-2020*, and, in 2024 through Decision XX/X adopted the voluntary complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

NOTING that, since its 13th meeting (Geneva, August 2003), the Plants Committee has recognized that CITES contributes to many of the Targets of the GSPC and since its 27th meeting (Geneva, July 2024) that these contributions will continue through the voluntary complementary actions under the CBD's new Global Biodiversity Framework;

NOTING further that the Secretariat of the CBD recognizes in the 20209 Plant Conservation Report that Target 11 of the GSPC (*No species of wild flora endangered by international trade*) formeds the core business of CITES activities related to flora;

RECALLING Decision 159.2249 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 159th meeting (Panama City Doha, 202240), which directs the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to collaborate with processes established to implement develop the relevant outcomes regarding the post-2020 future of the GSPC beyond 2040, as it relates to CITES activities;

WELCOMING Decision X/XX17 of the 160th meeting of Conference of the Parties to the CBD (Japan-Cali, Colombia, 202440), which adopted the consolidated update of the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020* (GSPC) to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

RECOGNIZING the significant role that CITES can play in the achievement of the objectives and targets voluntary complementary actions of the GSPC, and the effect upon CITES if the GSPC is successfully implemented;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. INVITES Parties to:

- a) take note of the potential contribution of CITES through ~~to~~ the objectives and targets and voluntary complementary actions of the consolidated update of the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2023-2030* through the activities and products listed in the Annex to the present Resolution;
 - b) promote and enhance collaboration between their GSPC focal point and their CITES Authorities, through:
 - i) the involvement of CITES authorities in the development and implementation of the GSPC national biodiversity strategies, particularly activities related to CITES-listed species; and
 - ii) the inclusion of CITES-GSPC-related activities in CBD National Reports;
2. DIRECTS the Secretariat to encourage the exchange of information related to the GSPC and other plant conservation and sustainable use initiatives, by:
- a) promoting awareness of ongoing CITES activities that contribute to the achievement of GSPC voluntary complementary actions~~Targets~~, by communicating information among CITES bodies and Parties on the operations and outcomes of CITES processes, such as the Review of Significant Trade, Periodic Review of the Appendices, proposals to amend the CITES Appendices, ~~and~~ formulation of Non-detriment Findings (NDFs), among others;
 - b) collaborating with the CBD Secretariat to streamline reporting on relevant CITES activities related to the GSPC objectives, targets and voluntary complementary actions~~Targets~~;
 - c) including the GSPC in any work plans developed under the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat of CBD; and
 - d) inviting a CBD representative to participate as an observer at Plants Committee meetings that address GSPC;
3. DIRECTS the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to promote CITES collaboration with CBD on the implementation of the GSPC objectives, targets and voluntary complementary actions by:
- a) representing the CITES Plants Committee at meetings of CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and other GSPC-related meetings subject to the availability of external funding; and
 - b) providing contributions for CBD documents regarding the implementation of the GSPC objectives, targets and voluntary complementary actions.

Annex

List of potential CITES activities and products and their contribution to the objectives, and targets and complementary voluntary actions of the updated *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011–2020*

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
1. <u>Reducing threats to biodiversity</u>		
<p>Target 1 <u>Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.</u></p>	<p><u>Plant conservation in spatial planning and management processes</u></p> <p>1. <u>Identify and map, where possible, all plant species in terrestrial, inland water, marine and coastal ecosystems, including at the population level, as well as areas and ecosystems important for plant diversity, using diverse knowledge systems.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <u>CITES Appendices.</u> – <u>Proposals for amendment of the Appendices.</u> – <u>Non-detriment Findings.</u> – <u>Periodic Review of the Appendices.</u> – <u>Review of Significant Trade.</u>
<p>Target 2 <u>Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.</u></p>	<p><u>Ecological restoration</u></p> <p>2. <u>Implement or participate in programmes for the effective restoration of degraded ecosystems and habitats, including to prevent or mitigate the existing drivers of degradation, prioritizing the use of genetically appropriate material of native species, enhancing and conserving soils, considering ecological criteria, associated fungal symbionts, pollinators and</u></p>	<p><u>Not directly applicable as CITES works at species level.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
	<p><u>dispersers, and including species of conservation concern, as well as climate resilience, long-term commitment, innovative financing and adaptive management, ensuring that the programmes enhance biodiversity and human well-being and are informed, where possible, by traditional knowledge, with the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned.</u></p>	
<p>Target 3 <u>Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.</u></p>	<p><u>Important areas for plant diversity</u> 3 (a) <u>Ensure that important areas for the conservation of plant species and their genetic diversity are identified, well connected and represented within protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including in marine and coastal areas.</u> 3 (b) <u>Develop integrated management plans for important areas for plant diversity and implement programmes to ensure that those areas are effectively documented, protected, monitored and sustainably managed, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.</u></p>	<p><u>Not directly applicable as CITES works at species level.</u></p>
<p>Target 4 <u>Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce</u></p>	<p><u>Plant species conservation</u> 4 (a) <u>Ensure that extinction risk and conservation status are known, understood and maintained and that</u></p>	<p><u>Species Plus.</u></p> <p><u>CITES Non-detriment Findings.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<p><u>extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.</u></p>	<p><u>assessments are regularly updated, as far as possible, for known plant species.</u></p> <p>4 (b) <u>Develop and implement recovery plans for all known threatened plant species, including management plans for pests, weeds and other known threats and drivers of loss, to significantly reduce extinction risk.</u></p> <p>4 (c) <u>Promote programmes to ensure that threatened plant species are effectively conserved, managed, monitored and restored using in situ and ex situ methodologies, aiming to achieve adequate levels of genetic diversity and viable populations and, where appropriate, involving indigenous peoples and local communities.</u></p> <p><u>Conservation of genetic diversity</u></p> <p>4 (d) <u>Undertake ex situ and in situ conservation programmes for genetic diversity in wild and domesticated plant species and populations, including crops and their wild relatives and other socioeconomically valuable plant species, considering the domestication gradient and the use of surrogates or proxies, ensuring that the genetic diversity within and among populations is effectively documented, managed and monitored, to maintain and restore genetic diversity and safeguard their adaptive potential, taking into account the relevant frameworks and plans of action developed under the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.</u></p> <p>4 (e) <u>Establish programmes to ensure that domesticated, cultivated species and crop wild relatives are effectively protected, restored and managed using on-farm and in situ methodologies and by applying sustainable management practices using agroecology</u></p>	<p><u>Artificial Propagation and assisted production.</u></p> <p><u>Conf. 13.9 Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
	<p><u>and other sustainable production practices involving the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent.</u></p> <p>4 (f) <u>Encourage ex situ operations that artificially propagate threatened plant species to seek cooperative measures that would support in situ conservation, such as technical support, the contribution of funds, the exchange of specimens for reintroduction into the wild, capacity-building and training, technology transfer, investment and infrastructure.</u></p>	
<p>Target 5 <u>Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.</u></p>	<p><u>Sustainable harvesting</u></p> <p>5 (a) <u>Develop and implement strategies to ensure the sustainable and legal harvesting and use of wild plants, including by determining sustainable harvest levels, and for artificial propagation or assisted production, respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.</u></p> <p><u>Trade in plants</u></p> <p>5 (b) <u>Identify wild plants that are currently or likely to be threatened by unsustainable or illegal trade, and support the implementation or development and adoption of national or international guidelines and other measures to ensure that the harvesting of and trade in plants are sustainable, safe and legal.</u></p>	<p><u>Legal Acquisition Findings.</u></p> <p><u>Non-detriment Findings.</u></p> <p><u>Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) Implementation of the Convention for tree species.</u></p> <p><u>Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) Regulation of trade in plants.</u></p> <p><u>Conf. 14.4 Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
		<u>Conf. 16.10 Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa.</u>
<p><u>Target 6</u> <u>Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.</u></p>	<p><u>Monitoring invasive species</u></p> <p><u>6 (a) Develop or strengthen early warning and monitoring and tracking systems, including public awareness programmes, at the national and international levels, to prevent, manage and eradicate potentially invasive alien species that affect or may affect native plants and their ecosystems, and put in place measures¹ to manage pathways of introduction.</u></p> <p><u>¹ Any international measures should be implemented in compliance with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization and the International Plant Protection Convention.</u></p> <p><u>Controlling invasive species</u></p> <p><u>6 (b) Address the detrimental impact of invasive alien species on plant diversity and ecosystems by undertaking control or eradication measures, with a focus on areas important for plant diversity and considering the impacts of climate change.</u></p>	<p><u>Not directly applicable as CITES works at species level.</u></p> <p><u>Nevertheless, CITES Parties have recognized the link between trade and alien invasive species in Resolution Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14) on Trade in alien invasive species.</u></p>
<p><u>Target 7</u> <u>Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a)</u></p>	<p><u>Impact of pollution on plants</u></p> <p><u>7. Gather information, research, assess and provide evidence of pollution risks and their negative impacts, and take action to minimize pollution pressures on plant species and their ecosystems.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Not directly applicable as CITES works at species level.</u> • <u>However, CITES does take into consideration the impacts on plants from multiple threats, including pollution.</u>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<p><u>by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.</u></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>CITES Appendices.</u> • <u>Supporting statements for proposals to amend the Appendices.</u> • <u>Non-detriment Findings.</u>
<p><u>Target 8</u> <u>Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.</u></p>	<p><u>Native plant use in climate mitigation and adaptation</u></p> <p><u>8 (a) Consider current and projected impacts of climate change on species, species distribution and ecosystems when implementing plant conservation activities, including those undertaken under Targets 2, 3, 4 and 6.</u></p> <p><u>8 (b) Encourage the use of genetically, biologically and ecologically appropriate native plant species, including species of conservation concern, in areas planted for carbon sequestration and in nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for climate mitigation and adaptation, ensuring that such areas are selected appropriately to avoid negative effects and foster positive impacts on biodiversity.</u></p>	<p>– <u>CITES Appendices.</u></p> <p>– <u>Supporting statements for proposals to amend the Appendices.</u></p> <p>– <u>Non-detriment Findings.</u></p> <p>– <u>Periodic Review results.</u></p> <p>– <u>Review of Significant Trade results.</u></p>
<p><u>2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</u></p>		
<p><u>Target 9</u> <u>Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing</u></p>	<p><u>Plants for peoples' needs</u></p>	<p><u>Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) CITES and Livelihoods.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<p><u>social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.</u></p>	<p><u>9. Co-develop and implement programmes with indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders to sustainably maintain and manage wild plants that are of socioeconomic and cultural importance, as well as their ecosystems, and to enhance benefits for people.</u></p>	
<p><u>Target 10</u> <u>Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.</u></p>	<p><u>Sustainable management of production land</u></p> <p><u>10 (a) Support and put in place sustainable management programmes for existing areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry and increase the proportion of those areas that is managed sustainably to ensure the conservation and restoration of associated wild plant diversity, including crop wild relatives.</u></p> <p><u>10 (b) Include a special effort to conserve landraces, both in situ and ex situ, and promote the wider use of landraces to support the diversification of crops and cropping systems.</u></p> <p><u>10 (c) Promote and support actions relating to the conservation of wild relatives of edible species as a clear contribution towards food security.</u></p>	<p><u>Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) CITES and Livelihoods.</u></p> <p><u>Captive-produced animals and artificially propagated plants.</u></p>
<p><u>Target 11</u> <u>Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions</u></p>	<p><u>Native plants and ecosystem functions and services</u></p> <p><u>11. Ensure that genetically, biologically and ecologically appropriate and adapted native plant species, including species of conservation concern, are used for the restoration of ecosystems or ecosystem services, including through</u></p>	<p><u>Not directly applicable as CITES works at species level.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<u>and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.</u>	<u>nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches.</u>	
<p><u>Target 12</u> <u>Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.</u></p>	<p><u>Urban green infrastructure</u></p> <p><u>12 (a) Establish green infrastructure projects focused on plant diversity and connectivity, encouraging the use of native climate-resilient species in plant diversity conservation programmes in urban areas and developing and implementing new strategies for promoting the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning and management, taking into account coastal urban areas and coastal and marine ecosystems.</u></p> <p><u>Urban plant diversity</u></p> <p><u>12 (b) Develop, designate and protect biodiversity-rich accessible green and blue spaces in urban areas by establishing or strengthening, inter alia, parks, greenways, ponds, watercourses, wetlands, botanical gardens and arboretums in such areas, and ensure connectivity among those spaces, in order to support biodiversity conservation, environmental education and awareness, and human health and well-being effectively.</u></p>	<p><u>Not directly applicable as CITES works at species level.</u></p>
<p><u>Target 13</u> <u>Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic</u></p>	<p><u>Access and benefit-sharing for plant conservation</u></p> <p><u>13. Support and encourage measures to facilitate appropriate access to plant genetic resources, ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of such resources and associated traditional knowledge, as well as from digital sequence information originated from those resources, in accordance with</u></p>	<p><u>Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) CITES and Livelihoods.</u></p> <p><u>Artificially propagated plants.</u></p> <p><u>Medicinal Plants.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<p><u>resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.</u></p>	<p><u>applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.</u></p>	
<p><u>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</u></p>		
<p><u>Target 14</u> <u>Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.</u></p>	<p><u>Tools for mainstreaming plant conservation</u></p> <p>14. <u>Provide open and accessible data and develop tools to help to measure and integrate the importance of diverse knowledge systems and value of plant diversity into policies, regulations, environmental assessments and planning processes, including rural and urban development, poverty reduction strategies and national accounting and reporting mechanisms.</u></p>	<p><u>CITES and Forests Compendium.</u></p> <p><u>CITES Tree Species Programme.</u></p> <p><u>Non-detriment Findings.</u></p> <p><u>Legal Acquisition Findings.</u></p>
<p><u>Target 15</u> <u>Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions</u></p>	<p><u>Sustainable practices in plant use</u></p> <p>15 (a) <u>Encourage and support the adoption by businesses, in particular large and transnational companies and other sectors that focus on plants of sustainable practices along supply chains for trade in wild plant species, and promote those practices in such sectors as finance, transport, e-commerce and tourism.</u></p> <p>15 (b) <u>Promote and support the development of best practices for the monitoring and evaluation of plant use in sustainable production, to support plant</u></p>	<p><u>Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) CITES and Livelihoods.</u></p> <p><u>Artificially propagated plants.</u></p> <p><u>CITES Tree Species Programme.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<p><u>along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios;</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;</u></p> <p>(c) <u>Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable;</u></p> <p><u>in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.</u></p>	<p><u>conservation and benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities.</u></p> <p>15 (c) <u>Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption practices in plant use.</u></p>	<p><u>CITES and Forests Compendium.</u></p>
<p><u>Target 16</u> <u>Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices, including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.</u></p>	<p><u>Sustainable consumption</u></p> <p>16 (a) <u>Provide information and guidance, including in the form of trade statistics and data, and capacity-building to inform the development of policies and legislative and regulatory frameworks that recognize the importance of wild plants as a source of food, fibres, medicines, pharmaceuticals and construction material and as a resource for other sectors.</u></p> <p>16 (b) <u>Develop and support education programmes on the importance of plants and the impacts of the global footprint of consumption, global food waste and overconsumption on plant diversity.</u></p>	<p><u>Review of Significant Trade.</u></p> <p><u>Medicinal Plants.</u></p> <p><u>CITES and Forests Compendium.</u></p> <p><u>Conf. 13.9 Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<p><u>Target 17</u> <u>Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.</u></p>	<p><u>17. Foster and support research and development, especially in developing countries, to enhance the benefits arising from the use of safe biotechnologies related to plant conservation and increase the sustainability and resilience of agrifood systems.</u></p>	<p><u>Not directly applicable as CITES works at species level.</u></p>
<p><u>Target 18</u> <u>Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</u></p>	<p><u>No particular plant conservation action is required under Target 18, except to support its achievement.</u></p>	<p><u>Not directly applicable as CITES works at species level.</u></p>
<p><u>Target 19</u> <u>Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least \$200 billion per year by 2030, including by:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from</u></p>	<p><u>Financial resources for plant conservation</u></p> <p><u>19. Support and mobilize resources from a wide range of appropriate sources to carry out plant conservation actions.</u></p>	<p><u>CITES consistently seeks to increase the resourcing raised and allocated to plant conservation actions that relate to CITES-listed plant species.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<p><u>countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least \$20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least \$30 billion per year by 2030;</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;</u></p> <p>(c) <u>Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;</u></p> <p>(d) <u>Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards;</u></p> <p>(e) <u>Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises;</u></p> <p>(f) <u>Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions and non-market-based</u></p>		

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<p><u>approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity;</u></p> <p>(g) <u>Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.</u></p>		
<p><u>Target 20</u> <u>Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.</u></p>	<p><u>Capacity-building</u></p> <p><u>20 (a) Establish or strengthen professional training and capacity-building initiatives related to plant conservation, scientific research and monitoring, taxonomy and information management, horticulture, botany, plant conservation biology research, biotechnology and ecological restoration.</u></p> <p><u>20 (b) Establish mechanisms, partnerships and networks to support the accessibility of data, knowledge, technology and South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation for collaborative plant conservation.</u></p>	<p><u>Capacity building.</u></p> <p><u>Draft guidance on Non-detriment Findings.</u></p> <p><u>CITES Tree Species Programme.</u></p> <p><u>Conf. 13.9 Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes.</u></p>
<p><u>Target 21</u> <u>Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and</u></p>	<p><u>Public awareness programmes</u></p> <p><u>21 (a) Develop or implement programmes to raise public awareness of the value of plant diversity and the ecosystem services that they provide.</u></p> <p><u>Plant information systems</u></p>	<p><u>Species Plus, CITES Checklist.</u></p> <p><u>CITES and Forests Compendium.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<p><u>knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.</u></p>	<p><u>21 (b) Support the development and use of existing comprehensive, authoritative and accessible expertise and online information systems, documentation and inventories, as well as access to biological collections (e.g. through digitization) at the local, national and international levels, making available to all countries information on their floras and the status of known plant species and associated ecosystems, while ensuring the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples with regard to access to traditional knowledge and taking into consideration the ongoing work and processes carried out under relevant organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.</u></p> <p><u>21 (c) Explore ways to consider various knowledge systems, including traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies, to support plant conservation action.</u></p> <p><u>21 (d) Promote the continuous updating of the World Flora Online, including its identification support tools, information on plant distribution and the updating of regional floras.</u></p> <p><u>[Citizen science</u></p> <p><u>21 (e) Develop or support citizen science programmes for identifying, documenting, monitoring, conserving, restoring and sustainably using plant diversity.]</u></p>	<p><u>CITES identification materials.</u></p> <p><u>CITES Virtual College.</u></p> <p><u>CITES website.</u></p>
<p><u>Target 22</u> <u>Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources,</u></p>	<p><u>Plant conservation and traditional knowledge</u></p> <p><u>22. Ensure the full equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels, with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation, to build respect for, and safeguard traditional</u></p>	<p><u>Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) CITES and Livelihoods.</u></p> <p><u>Capacity Building.</u></p>

<u>Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>	<u>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030</u>	<u>CITES's potential contribution</u>
<p><u>and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.</u></p>	<p><u>knowledge, innovations and practices related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity.</u></p>	
<p><u>Target 23</u> <u>Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.</u></p>	<p><u>Gender equality</u> <u>23. Ensure gender equality in the implementation of plant conservation and restoration actions by proactively implementing a responsive approach, encompassing the recognition of women's rights, equitable access to plant resources and inclusive participation at all levels in decision-making processes, while highlighting the important role of women, as essential knowledge holders, in plant conservation.</u></p>	<p><u>CITES gender action plan.</u></p> <p><u>Resolution Conf. 19.3 on Gender and international trade in wild fauna and flora.</u></p>

PC27 agreed to maintain the last table in the Annex that maps the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation objectives, targets and CITES potential contribution:

GSPC's Objective	GSPC's Target ¹⁴	CITES's potential contribution
(I) Plant diversity is well understood, documented and recognized	1. An online flora of all known plants.	CITES checklists available online.
	2. An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CITES Appendices. – Supporting statements for proposals to amend the Appendices. – NDFs. – Periodic Review results. – Review of Significant Trade results.
	3. Information, research and associated outputs, and methods necessary to implement the Strategy developed and shared.	
(II) Plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved	4. At least 15 % of each ecological region or vegetation type secured through effective management and/or restoration.	Not directly applicable as CITES works at species level.
	5. At least 75 % of the most important areas for plant diversity of each ecological region protected with effective management in place for conserving plants and their genetic diversity.	
	6. At least 75 % of production lands in each sector managed sustainably, consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	
	7. At least 75 % of known threatened plant species conserved <i>in situ</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inclusion of species/populations in CITES Appendices. – Identification of the location/habitat of Appendix-I species. – Efforts by CITES Parties to ensure sustainable use of CITES-listed species: NDFs and national quotas. – Implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.9 on <i>Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes</i>. – CITES Certificate of Scientific Exchange.
	8. At least 75 % of threatened plant species in <i>ex situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and at least 20 % available for recovery and restoration programmes.	

¹⁴ As taken from the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020.

GSPC's Objective	GSPC's Target ¹⁴	CITES's potential contribution
	9. 70 % of the genetic diversity of crops including their wild relatives and other socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, while respecting, preserving and maintaining associated indigenous and local knowledge.	Not directly applicable.
	10. Effective management plans in place to prevent new biological invasions and to manage important areas for plant diversity that are invaded.	Not directly applicable. Nevertheless, CITES Parties have recognized the link between trade and alien invasive species in Resolution Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Trade in alien invasive species</i> .
(III) Plant diversity is used in a sustainable and equitable manner	11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.	All CITES activities contribute directly to this Target, and CITES is recognized as having a leadership role in implementing this Target.
	12. All wild-harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NDFs, national quotas, Review of Significant Trade, and Periodic Review of the Appendices. – Annotations to the Appendices enable regulation of certain target commodities.
	13. Indigenous and local knowledge innovations and practices associated with plant resources, maintained or increased, as appropriate, to support customary use, sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NDFs. – Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Traditional medicines</i>. – CITES Standing Committee Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods.
(IV) Education and awareness about plant diversity, its role in sustainable livelihoods and importance to all life on earth is promoted	14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, education and public awareness programmes.	<p>CITES tools, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Training courses, workshops results and technical reports. – CITES Virtual College. – CITES website. – CITES Identification Manual and Web pages.
(V) The capacities and public engagement necessary to implement the Strategy have been developed	15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities sufficient according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Training materials, including PowerPoint presentations and CD-ROMs. – Capacity-building work of the Secretariat.
	16. Institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels to achieve the targets of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CITES Parties and Plants Committee. – Regional Directories.

B) Identification of timber and other wood products

Directed to Parties (new text underlined, deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~)

19.146 (Rev. CoP20) Parties are encouraged to:

- a) ~~collaborate with the Secretariat in sharing relevant information in support of the implementation of Decisions 20.AA 19.145 and 19.147 Dalbergia species, taking into consideration progress made in document PC25 Doc. 34 and document CoP19 Doc. 84.1, and giving attention to frontline identification materials to assist differentiating look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as Dalbergia sissoo;~~
- b) prioritize the development of identification material for:
 - i) priority CITES listed tree species, taking into consideration the prioritization done by the Plants Committee in Decision 19.147 (Rev. CoP20) and the needs of frontline enforcement staff; and
 - ii) look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as Dalbergia sissou.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties inviting Parties to provide information to the Secretariat relating to:
 - i) the CITES listed tree species in international trade to be prioritized for the development of timber identification material, taking into consideration the prioritization done during the previous intersessional period for African tree species, Neotropical tree species and Rosewood tree species contained in documents [PC26 SR](#), [PC27 Doc 31](#), [PC27 Doc. 27](#), PC27 SR;
 - ii) priorities for frontline enforcement as it relates to timber identification, including:
 - A. existing diagnostic keys or taxon-specific CITES identification materials for priority species that can be shared with the Secretariat for publication on the CITES website; and
 - B. key gaps relating to identification material to be addressed.
 - iii) available timber identification techniques and tools used by Parties, the standards applicable to the techniques and tools and the usefulness of these tools,
 - iv) minimum information contained in wood sample collection forms or documents for wood samples to be recognized; and all possible fields that are captured in a wood sample collections;
 - v) publicly accessible wood sample databases that can be included on the CITES website; and where feasible, information on the process by which other Parties might submit a request to access database that are restricted; and
 - vi) best practices and experiences in the development and use of wood identification technologies to build expertise in wood identification;
- b) make information shared by Parties relating to materials, techniques, tools and database on timber identification available on the CITES website; and
- c) collate this information for the consideration of the Plants Committee at its 28th meeting and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Plants Committee, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (new text underlined, deleted text in strikethrough)

19.147 (Rev. CoP20) *The Plants Committee shall, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and building on information on existing initiatives and processes, information contained in document PC27 Doc. 18.2 and its Annexes and the responses to the Notification issued by the Secretariat in terms of Decision 20.AA, and progress to date:*

- a) ~~develop a plan to prioritize the CITES-listed tree species for which identification materials, reference databases and tools should be developed; to focus global efforts on developing and sharing identification reference databases and tools, including sampling campaigns for vouchered reference samples;~~*
- b) ~~advise on possible mechanisms to address the shortage of vouchered reference samples;~~*
- b) ~~prioritize the development of identification material for Dalbergia species, taking into consideration progress made in document PC25 Doc. 34 and document CoP19 Doc. 84.1, and giving attention to frontline identification materials to assist differentiating look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as Dalbergia sissoo;~~*
- c) ~~consider the develop a list of available techniques and tools, and evaluate their standards and usefulness to species-specific identification and enforcement for priority CITES-listed tree species and their look-alikes;~~*
- d) ~~determine gaps in current knowledge sources for CITES timber identification, on their availability and usefulness, and consider challenges and resourcing required to make these tools more widely available to CITES Parties;~~*
- e) ~~develop standardized information templates and other tools that could be used by Parties to facilitate sharing information on the content and status of wood sample collections, and exchange with research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities;~~*
- f) ~~determine methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties, including lessons learned on how Parties have built their timber identification capacity and expertise;~~*
- gd) ~~consider the outcomes of the review of the utility and practicality of the online repository conducted by the Secretariat and make recommendations on its further development to inform implementation of Decision 19.145;~~*
- h) ~~consider the relevant outcomes of the online Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species presented in the Annex to the Addendum to document SC74 Doc. 33.2; and~~*
- ie) ~~update the Standing Committee, as appropriate, on progress made, and report its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 210th meeting.~~*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.148 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall consider any report by the Plants Committee relating to the implementation of Decision 19.147 (Rev. CoP20) and convey, as appropriate, any recommendations it may have to the Conference of the Parties.*

C) Agarwood-producing taxa (Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.) (Decision 19.240)

AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 16.10 ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR
AGARWOOD-PRODUCING TAXA

(clean version from Annex 1 to PC27 Doc. 25 – Edits agreed by PC27: *deleted text is in ~~strike~~through and new text is underlined*)

Conf. 16.10 (Rev. Implementation of the Convention CoP20) for agarwood-producing taxa

RECOGNIZING that agarwood-producing taxa included in Appendix II refer to *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.;

NOTING that wild populations of agarwood-producing taxa are in decline due to several reasons, including selective harvesting and over-exploitation, some of the main species in trade are threatened with extinction according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List¹⁵ and the conservation status of others remains unclear;

RECOGNIZING that some agarwood-producing tree species are easy to propagate artificially, and AWARE that the production of resinous wood is typically induced through natural or artificial stress factors (e.g. bacteria/fungi attacks, inoculation or mechanical injuries), and that the amount of tree stock is not equivalent to the amount of resinous wood produced;

RECOGNIZING that, for artificially propagated agarwood-producing taxa, and all parts and derivatives thereof, the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 5), of the Convention apply;
NOTING that the definition of 'artificially propagated' in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, and Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species* can be applied to monospecific tree plantations;

AWARE that agarwood-producing taxa can be grown in monospecific or mixed species plantations; [PC27 edit: *deletion of the hyphen in mono-specific and deletion of the hyphen and adding a space for mixed-species*]

RECOGNIZING that for plant species that are propagated and grown in diverse production systems with varying degrees of human intervention, the Conference of the Parties adopted the term and definition for 'assisted production' and source code 'Y' at its 18th meeting (Geneva, 2018), in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Permits and certificates*, respectively;

RECOGNIZING that range States may have different procedures for making non-detriment findings (NDFs) for agarwood-producing taxa and that Scientific Authorities are encouraged to take into account the concepts and non-binding principles in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings*;

NOTING the availability of guidance materials to assist Parties in making non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing taxa, such as the *CITES NDF Guidance*¹⁶;

RECOGNIZING that range States may establish national export quotas for agarwood specimens, which must be for individual species of agarwood-producing taxa consistent with the guidelines in Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas*;

ACKNOWLEDGING that paragraph 3 iv), of the Resolution Conf. 13.7 (CoP17) on *Control of trade in personal and household effects* sets certain maximum quantities of specimens of agarwood-producing taxa that may qualify for the personal or household effects exemption from the provisions of Articles III, IV and V of the Convention;

RECOGNIZING, however, that many Parties do not fully implement the exemptions of personal and household effects in Article VII, paragraph 3 of the Convention, and Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17) on

¹⁵ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/PC/26/agenda/E-PC26-27.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php>

Control of trade in personal and household effects for specimens of agarwood-producing taxa, owing due to stricter domestic measures or other provisions;

ACKNOWLEDGING the outcomes of the workshop on *Implementation of CITES for Agarwood-producing species* (Kuwait, 3-6 October 2011), the Asian regional workshops on agarwood (*Management of wild and plantation-grown agarwood* (Indonesia, 22-24 November 2011), the Asian Regional Workshop on the *Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa* (India, 19-23 January 2015, and Indonesia, 25-29 June 2018), the CITES Tree Species Programme Validation Workshop on Agarwood Report (Malaysia, 20-22 June 2022), and the International Tropical Timber Organization technical report: *Expensive, Exploited and Endangered. A review of the agarwood-producing genera Aquilaria and Gyrinops: CITES considerations, trade patterns, conservation, and management* (Thompson, I.D., Lim, T., and Turjaman, M. 2022. ITTO Technical Series No. 51);

RECOGNIZING that the management of agarwood-producing taxa can be improved through measures taken by and with cooperation among range States and agarwood exporting, importing, and transit States; and

NOTING that information document CoP16 Inf. 3, contains a previous version of the CITES Glossary of Agarwood products, with illustrated samples of agarwood products;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

Regarding 'artificially propagated' specimens of agarwood-producing taxa

1. AGREES that the definition of 'artificially propagated' in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) does not fully cover all production systems and current practices in cultivating agarwood-producing taxa, due to the definition of the term 'under controlled conditions', and due to the fact that agarwood-producing taxa are also grown in mixed-species plantations;

2. ADOPTS the following definition used in this Resolution:

For agarwood-producing taxa, 'under controlled conditions' means monospecific or mixed species plantations or non-wild environments without wild populations of agarwood-producing taxa or remnants thereof, that are cultivated and intensively manipulated by human intervention for the purpose of producing agarwood specimens;

3. DETERMINES that the term 'artificially propagated' shall refer to specimens of agarwood-producing taxa as follows:

a) grown under controlled conditions; and

b) grown from cultivated parental stock in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18), or from specimens that are exempted from CITES regulation through the annotation associated with the Appendix-II listings of agarwood-producing taxa;

Regarding 'assisted production' specimens of agarwood-producing taxa

4. AGREES that for agarwood specimens derived from trees that do not fulfil the definition of 'artificially propagated' according to Resolution Conf 11.11 (Rev. CoP18), and that are considered not to be 'wild' because they are propagated or planted in an environment with some level of human intervention for the purpose of plant production, the requirements for 'assisted production' apply as for other plant species;

5. ALSO AGREES that propagation material for 'assisted production' of agarwood-producing taxa may be derived from plant material that is exempt from the provisions of the Convention, or from artificially propagated plants, or from plants obtained through 'assisted production' in accordance with Resolution Conf 11.11. (Rev. CoP18), or from plant material collected in a non-detrimental manner from wild populations and legally acquired in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Convention and relevant national laws;

Regarding non-detriment findings (NDFs)

6. ENCOURAGES range States to make use of the *CITES NDF Guidance* as a reference for making NDFs for specimens of agarwood-producing taxa sourced from wild populations or from 'assisted production' and for the establishment and maintenance of parental stock, and any subsequent additions to the parental stock for artificially propagated trees. The guidance is available on the CITES website and should be updated as appropriate;
7. ALSO ENCOURAGES Parties and the Secretariat to use the *CITES NDF Guidance* in capacity-building workshops and relevant training materials;

Regarding management and trade control

8. ENCOURAGES range States to establish registration systems for the artificial propagation and 'assisted production' of agarwood-producing taxa; and

Regarding parts and derivatives

9. RECOMMENDS that Parties use the 'Glossary of agarwood products' in the Annex to the current Resolution.

D) Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) focus its capacity-building efforts for CITES-listed rosewood tree species on the 13 high priority and 14 medium priority species identified in the "Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]" (see document PC27 Doc. 27, Annex 3), particularly as they relate to the implementation of Article IV of the Convention;
- b) issue a Notification to the Parties inviting feedback on the "Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]" to assess which additional information or CITES-listed species could be added in a future revision of the report;
- c) subject to the availability of external funds and internal resources, and in close consultation with the Plants Committee, revise the "Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]" by:
 - i) reviewing or updating the prioritization exercise taking into account any new rosewood-tree species that may be included in the Appendices at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20);
 - ii) reviewing, updating and, if appropriate, expanding the set of factsheets;
 - iii) strengthening linkages with the Module on NDFs for tree species of the CITES Non-Detriment Findings Guidance (CITES Secretariat, 2024); and
 - iv) considering amending the title of the report to consider the inclusion of CITES-listed tree species not in the family Leguminosae; and
- d) report on progress on the above to the Plants Committee.

Directed to Parties

20.BB Parties are invited to:

- a) when developing non-detriment findings for CITES-listed rosewood tree species, consider using as a baseline reference the "Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed

rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]” and its factsheets, in conjunction with the Module on NDFs for tree species of the CITES Non-Detriment Findings Guidance (CITES Secretariat, 2024);

- b) provide feedback and information to the Secretariat in support of its implementation of Decision 20.AA.

Directed to the Plants Committee

20.CC The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider and provide input on any report prepared by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA; and
- b) report on the implementation of these Decisions to the Conference of the Parties.

COMPILATION OF DRAFT DECISIONS AGREED BY THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE AT ITS 33RD MEETING (AC33) FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 20TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (CoP20)

A) Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative

i. **Proposed amendment to paragraph 1 b) of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) agreed by the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee:**

b) *ensuring that CITES initiatives in respect of the following species or taxonomic groups complement, reinforce and, as far as possible, benefit from the regional collaboration already being undertaken or envisaged in the framework of CMS:*

[...]

v) *cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus), lions (Panthera leo) and leopards (Panthera pardus):*

ii. **Draft decisions proposed by the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee:**

CITES-CMS AFRICAN CARNIVORE INITIATIVE

Directed to range States of African carnivores

18.59 *Relevant range States of African carnivores are urged to work through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative to implement CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.*

Directed to Parties

18.60 (Rev. CoP19) *Parties are invited to recognize the importance of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative in implementing CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by the Initiative, and in seeking synergies as appropriate to implement complementary CMS resolutions and decisions.*

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

18.61 *Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support relevant African range States, through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, in their implementation of CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.24 (Rev. CoP20) *The Secretariat shall:*

a) *subject to external resources, support the range States of the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative in preparing a revised ACI Programme of Work and in implementing relevant CITES Resolutions and Decisions that contribute to the ACI;*

b) *inform the Animals Committee regarding the draft revised ACI Programme of Work and the activities and outputs of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI) that relate to the Committee's mandate and request advice from the Animals Committee, as appropriate; and*

- c) report on the implementation of this Decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting.

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.25 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on information that it provides regarding:*

- a) the revised Programme of Work of the African Carnivore Initiative (ACI); and
- b) *the activities and outputs of the ACI that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.*

DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RESOURCE KITS FOR
AFRICAN LIONS (*PANTHERA LEO*) AND LEOPARDS (*PANTHERA PARDUS*)

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) share trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) with the Secretariat; and
- b) request the Secretariat to make these trade resource kits available to the Parties on the CITES website.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB The Secretariat shall subject to external funding,

- a) review the trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) shared by Parties;
- b) identify gaps and develop trade resource materials for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) based on the gaps identified and taking into consideration lessons learnt from the development of the CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit.
- c) share trade resource kits developed by Parties on the CITES website, as appropriate.
- d) inform the Animals Committee, as appropriate, regarding the development of trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*).

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.CC The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on aspects of the development of trade resource kits and other guidance materials that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.

SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN
AFRICAN LION INVENTORY AND DATABASE

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with African lion range States

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, and in consultation with African lion range States, support the process as agreed by the ACI range States relating to the development of an inventory and of an African lion database (see Activities 11.2.1 and 11.4.1 in the [PoW of the ACI](#) and outcome 5.3 of the [outcomes of the ACI2 meeting](#)); and
- b) inform the Animals Committee regarding the development of an inventory and of an African lion database that relate to the Committee's mandate and seek its advice, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on aspects of the development of an African lion database that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.

B) African lions (Panthera leo)

Directed to the Secretariat, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

19.205 (Rev. CoP20) *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and, as appropriate, taking into consideration the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa ~~in information document CoP18 Inf. 10:~~*

- a) *support the implementation of activities in joint African lion conservation plans and strategies that relate to trade in African lion specimens and the implementation of CITES and as needed, the review of such plans and strategies;*
- b) *jointly with the CMS Secretariat, undertake a comparative study of African lion population trends and conservation and management practices, such as lion hunting, within and between countries, including the role, if any, of international trade;*
- c) *support capacity-building in African lion conservation and management including where appropriate, in the making of non-detriment findings by range States according to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings and the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.9 on Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II, taking into consideration the available guidance on the making of non-detriment findings; and*
- d) ~~*assist in maintaining a joint CITES-CMS web portal on African lions, that also allows for the posting and sharing of information and guidance on the conservation and management of African lions;*~~
- e) *share any relevant update of the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa that relate to the Committee's mandate with the Animals Committee for its review; and*
- f) *report on the implementation of the present Decision to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee and to the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.206 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals Committee shall:*

- a) *review any relevant update of the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa that relate to the Committee's mandate and that has been brought to the Committee's attention by the Secretariat;*
- b) *review the information reported by the Secretariat under Decision 19.205 (Rev. CoP20) and submit recommendations to the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and African lion range States, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.207 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) review any reports received from the Secretariat and the Animals Committee under Decisions 19.205 (Rev. CoP20) and 19.206 (Rev. CoP20) and;
- b) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, the Animals Committee, the Secretariat and/or African lion range States to improve the implementation of the Convention for African lions, as appropriate.

Directed to Parties

19.208 Parties, including range States and consumer countries of African lion, as relevant, are encouraged to:

- a) increase enforcement efforts to detect illegal, unreported or misreported trade in specimens of African lion and other big cats;
- b) use, where appropriate, South Africa's Barcode of Wildlife Project to help identify lion specimens in trade and, when importing lion specimens from South Africa, collaborate where necessary with relevant authorities in South Africa to improve the traceability of such specimens;
- c) provide details on the observed and/or removed lion body parts in trade when collecting and communicating data on illegal killing and illegal trade in lions to CITES in their annual reports; and
- d) cooperate on lion conservation, including by sharing information on lion populations, illegal killing and illegal trade.

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

19.209 (Rev. CoP20) All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support African lion range States and the Secretariat in their efforts to conserve and restore African lions across their range, taking into consideration the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa, the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and the outcomes of the CITES Big Cat Task Force meeting, and the implementation of Decision 19.205 (Rev. CoP20) and 19.208.

~~**Directed to the Secretariat**~~

~~**19.210** The Secretariat shall:~~

- ~~a) share relevant information generated through the implementation of Decision 19.208 with the CITES Big Cats Task Force, the Standing Committee, or both, as appropriate; and~~
- ~~b) report on the implementation of the previous Decision 18.246 to the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee.~~

C) West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.)

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)

19.192 (Rev. CoP20) 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;~~
- ~~cb) 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;~~
- ~~cc) 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;~~
- ~~cd) prioritize implementation of the identify any trade-related issues associated with the implementation of the West Africa Vulture Conservation Action Plan, the regional implementation plan of the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);~~
- ~~ce) 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;~~
- ~~cf) 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~~
- ~~cg) provide information report to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision well in advance of the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee to assist it in its reporting to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.~~

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

19.193 (Rev. CoP20) 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 West Africa Vulture Conservation Action Plan, the regional implementation plan of the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), taking into consideration the findings of the Midterm implementation review of the MsAP; 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; and
- c) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision well in advance of the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 81st meeting of the Standing Committee to assist it in its reporting to the Committees.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.194 (Rev. CoP20) The Secretariat shall:

- ~~a) cooperate with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) partner organizations, regional and subregional wildlife enforcement networks, and competent national authorities, where relevant and feasible, to consider vultures in the context of ICCWC'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 Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029 subject to external funding, and share information based on the work of the Animals Committee;~~
- ~~d) subject to external funding and upon request from Parties, liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) to 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 West Africa Vulture Conservation Action Plan ~~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 19.192 (Rev. CoP20), and report as appropriate this and other information on the implementation of Decisions 19.192 (Rev. CoP20) to 19.194 (Rev. CoP20), paragraphs a), b), c), d) and e) to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, at their first regular meetings following the ~~49~~20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with conclusions and recommendations for their consideration.~~

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.195 (Rev. CoP20) The Animals Committee shall:

- ~~a) encourage West African range States to undertake a Periodic Review of the vulture species referred to in Decision 19.192 pursuant to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) 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;~~
- ~~b) consider the reports and recommendations of the Secretariat submitted in accordance with Decision 19.194 (Rev. CoP20), paragraph e); and~~
- ~~c) make recommendations as appropriate for consideration by range States, Parties, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.~~

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.196 (Rev. CoP20) *The Standing Committee shall review the implementation of Decisions 19.192 (Rev. CoP20) to 19.195 (Rev. CoP20) 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 21st meeting.*

D) Conservation of amphibians (Amphibia spp.)

Directed to Parties

20.AA Parties are invited to:

- a) collect information on the priority species identified in the [revised species prioritization matrix](#) for amphibians, with a particular emphasis on CITES-listed species, concerning:
 - i) national legislation protecting those species, including legislation covering the protection of amphibian habitats;
 - ii) current levels of trade;
 - iii) harvesting levels of amphibians subject to high volumes of international trade; and
 - iv) captive breeding; and
- b) provide the information to the Secretariat, as appropriate; and
- c) implement biosecurity protocols, including those identified in paragraph 29 b) of document AC33 Doc. 32.

Directed to the Secretariat, in close consultation with the Animals Committee and relevant experts

- 20.BB** Taking into account document AC33 Doc. 32, the Secretariat shall, subject to availability of external funding , and in close consultation with the Animals Committee and relevant experts,
- a) update [the revised species prioritization matrix](#) with information on CITES-listed species from Parties under Decision 20.AA and make this information available to Parties;
 - b) develop a table of conversion factors for CITES-listed amphibian specimens in trade;
 - c) identify existing identification materials for amphibians, particularly those for use by customs and law enforcement officers, in view of the sensitivity of amphibians to being handled and the way in which they are packaged; and

- d) report its findings, with draft recommendations to the Animals Committee.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.CC The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider the report submitted by the Secretariat as per Decision 20.BB; and
- b) make recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

E) *Review of Resolution 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) on the “Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade”*

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall,

- a) prepare an overview of all currently valid Resolutions dealing with the issue of marking; and
- b) in collaboration with the ISO Secretariat and relevant experts, develop guidance on the various issues in relation to marking as outlined in Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) and document AC33 Doc. 21.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider the overview and draft guidance developed by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA and determine whether Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev CoP17) and other relevant Resolutions should be amended or if a new Resolution or other technical guidance on marking techniques and standards is required, and
- b) submit its recommendations, including possible amendments to existing Resolutions or a new draft resolution to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the overview and draft guidance developed by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA and the recommendations from the Animals Committee under Decision 20.BB; and
- b) submit the results of this work along with its own recommendations for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting (CoP21).

COMPILATION OF DRAFT DECISIONS AGREED BY THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS COMMITTEE AT THEIR JOINT SESSION AC33/PC27, FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 20TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (CoP20)

A) Countrywide Significant Trade Reviews [Decision 18.72]

Directed to Parties subject to recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade

20.AA Parties subject to recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade are encouraged to make use of the Guidance on the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) developed under Decision 19.132; and provide feedback on the use of this guidance to the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat shall provide targeted capacity-building support at a national level to Parties currently subject to recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade, including the application of the new NDF Guidance produced under Decision 19.132.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

20.CC The Animals and Plants Committees shall, taking into account the progress made under the Compliance Assistance Programme and the development of a Capacity-Building Framework:

- a) review the results of the Evaluation of the country-wide Review of Significant Trade (RST) process report produced for AC30/PC24 and consider whether the RST process or a complementary new mechanism could provide targeted support to Parties with recurring issues in making non-detriment findings for multiple species, who are not currently eligible for the Compliance Assistance Programme, and on the possible role of the Scientific Committees in facilitating this; and
- b) provide recommendations, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species or other existing resolutions, or the development of a new resolution; for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat

20.DD The Standing Committee shall review the report and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, and in consultation with the Secretariat, make recommendations for consideration at the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

B) Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs)

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) publish a Notification to the Parties inviting them to share feedback, including examples, as appropriate, on the use of the CITES Non-detriment finding (NDF) guidance with the Secretariat, preferably through the regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees;

- b) taking into consideration the information received through the Notification as well as the experience gained through the field-testing of the guidance, prepare recommendations for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees regarding:
 - i) possible amendments of the CITES NDF guidance, as appropriate; and
 - ii) possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings*, to establish a regular mechanism for the Animals and Plants Committees to identify, review and agree updates to the CITES NDF guidance; and
- c) subject to external funding, prepare draft amendments to the NDF guidance based on advice received from the Animals and Plants Committees and submit the proposed amendments for consideration by the Committees.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

20.BB The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) consider the recommendations submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA;
- b) advise the Secretariat on amendments to the CITES NDF guidance, as appropriate;
- c) if necessary and as appropriate, propose to the Conference of the Parties amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* to establish a regular mechanism for the Animals and Plants Committees to identify, review and agree updates to the CITES NDF guidance; and
- d) report to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.