

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

Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Geneva (Switzerland), 17 - 28 August 2019

Summary record of the fifth session for Committee I

20 August 2019: 09h10 - 11h50

Chair: R. Hay (New Zealand)

Secretariat: T. De Meulenaer
K. Gaynor
I. Higuero

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
A. Caromel
J. Gray
J. Robinson

The Chair of the Credentials Committee provided an update. Of the 167 Parties registered, 149 had their credentials accepted and eight were outstanding.

Species specific matters (cont.)

73. Great apes (Hominidae spp.)

The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 73, and invited the Conference of the Parties to adopt the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in great apes* contained in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 73, and agree to the deletion of Decisions 17.232 and 17.233.

Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal and Uganda all recommended maintaining regular reporting requirements as contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Annex 3. China, Malawi, Togo, the United States of America, and the European Union supported the amendments proposed in Annex 3 of document CoP18 Doc. 73. However, the European Union, supported by Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Senegal, asked that all references to 'bushmeat' be amended to 'wild meat' throughout Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16). It also proposed additional amendments to the preamble and paragraph 1 f) of the operative text. The United States objected to the change of wording from 'bushmeat' to 'wild meat'. Canada, while supporting the document, did not agree specifically with the amendments by the Secretariat to paragraph 7 of the preamble of Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16), while the European Union and Israel supported the Secretariat's proposals.

The Convention on Migratory species (CMS), as interim secretariat for the CMS Gorilla Agreement, reaffirmed its commitment to enhance synergies with CITES and other relevant organizations working on the issue of great ape conservation. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), also speaking on behalf of the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), recommended maintenance of regular reporting requirements. Born Free Foundation, also on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society, Convention for Biological Diversity, Eurogroup for Animals, Four Paws, International Primate Protection League, Robin des Bois and World Animal Protection, supported the amendments in Annex 3 to document CoP18 Doc. 73, as amended by the European Union, as well as the retention of reporting requirements as proposed by IUCN. The Secretariat reported that Committee II had

agreed to the amendment of 'bushmeat' to 'wild meat' in Resolution Conf. 13.11 (Rev. CoP17) on *Bushmeat* during consideration of agenda item 95 and suggested adding a clarifying footnote to Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev CoP16) that would explain that the term 'wild meat' is synonymous to 'bushmeat'. It also noted that the proposed new paragraph 3 of the operative text maintained an obligation to regularly review implementation of the Resolution by the Secretariat and raise any concerns to the Standing Committee and Animals Committee.

The Chair established a working group comprised of the United States of America (Chair); the European Union, Israel, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and IUCN, Born Free Foundation, Conservation Analytics and San Diego Zoo Global. The working group shall review paragraphs 2 and 3 of Annex 3 to document CoP18 Doc. 73 with a view to retaining reporting obligations to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties.

79. Songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes)

The United States of America introduced document CoP18 Doc. 79 and read out a new set of draft decisions based on the Secretariat's concerns regarding the extensive scope of work proposed in this document.

Sri Lanka, as a co-author of the document, supported by Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and Niger, emphasized support for the proposed decisions, as read out. Benin, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Peru, Singapore and Ukraine supported the document but agreed with the Secretariat's observations relating to funding and workload implications, and restricting the scope to species identified as high priority. The European Union suggested a study be commissioned subject to external funding.

Chad, Guyana, Mali and Niger, while in favour of improving conservation of songbirds, raised concerns regarding national management issues such as conflict with agricultural practices, and called for further support on how to deal with these issues. Guyana stated it would evaluate the potential usefulness of Appendix-III listing for songbird populations.

Birdlife International, TRAFFIC, and European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, speaking also on behalf of San Diego Zoo Global, Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, supported the draft decisions as revised by the United States.

The Chair established a working group comprised of the European Union (Chair); Brazil, China, Finland, Guyana, Indonesia, Japan, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, the United States of America, Convention on Migratory Species, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, BirdLife International, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Fauna and Flora International, Ivory Educational Institute, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation International and World Animal Protection. The working group shall review and revise the draft decisions as amended by the United States, subject to consideration of the Secretariat's comments in document CoP18 Doc. 79 and on the basis of discussions in session.

84. Helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*)

Indonesia introduced document CoP18 Doc. 84, prepared by the Standing Committee.

Malaysia, echoed by Myanmar, referred to a workshop on the helmeted hornbill it had hosted in its country in February 2019, stressing that the workshop had agreed that Decisions 17.264-17.266 had several imperfections. It drew attention to information document CoP18 Inf. 22.

China, Togo, the United States of America and Indonesia Hornbill Conservation Society supported the draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 84. The United States added that, should the changes to Resolution Conf. 17.11 and decision texts proposed by Malaysia be tabled, it would have edits to suggest.

Wildlife Conservation Society, speaking also on behalf of BirdLife International, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Asian Species Action Partnership and TRAFFIC, welcomed the information document provided by Malaysia.

The Chair established a working group comprised of the United States of America (Chair), China, the European Union, Indonesia, Malaysia, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Fauna & Flora International, Indonesia Hornbill Conservation Society, TRAFFIC and Wildlife Conservation Society. The working group

shall review suggested amendments to the draft decisions in document CoP18 Doc. 84, taking account of information document CoP18 Inf. 22, and produce a revised text for consideration.

65. Implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa [*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.]

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 65 and asked Parties to consider the amendments to the draft decisions by the Secretariat in its comments, with the exception of text in paragraph a) i) of draft decision 18.AA, which should read, “developing a questionnaire on gaps potential conservation issues in the implementation...”. The United States supported the draft decisions so amended.

The draft decisions in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 65 were agreed as amended by the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee. It was agreed to delete Decision 16.157 (Rev.CoP17) and Decisions 17.194 to 17.200.

80. African cherry (*Prunus africana*)

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 80 and noted the third draft decision proposed by the Secretariat.

The United States of America generally supported the Secretariat's version of the draft decisions but wished to note it believed the Plants Committee need only report to the Conference of the Parties and not to the Standing Committee, as called for in draft decisions 18.AA and 18.CC.

The European Union, as the major importer of *Prunus africana* bark, suggested a minor amendment to paragraph 18.AA a) replacing ~~for consideration and advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*~~ with and advise the range States of *Prunus africana* of appropriate actions; and

The draft decisions in document CoP18 Doc. 80 were accepted as amended by the Secretariat and by the European Union. It was agreed to delete Decisions 17.250 to 17.252.

93. Neotropical tree species

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 93 and asked Parties to consider agreeing to the draft decisions on Neotropical tree species as amended by the Secretariat in Annex 2 of the document.

The draft decision in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 93 was agreed. It was agreed to delete Decision 16.159 (Rev. CoP17).

Adoption of Summary Records

CoP18 Com. I Rec. 1

The document was accepted by the Committee with no changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 11h50.