

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 sixth session for Committee I

20 August 2019: 14h05 - 17h05

Chair: R. Hay (New Zealand)

Secretariat: I. Higuero
I. Camarena
T. De Meulenaer
K. Gaynor
M. Hitziger
M. Sosa Schmidt

Rapporteurs: A. Caromel
J. Gray
R. Mackenzie
J. Vitale

Species specific matters (cont.)

76. African lion (*Panthera leo*)

The Chair of the Animals Committee, speaking on behalf of the in-session working group on African lions, presented the results of the working group, comprising revised draft decisions in document CoP18 Com. I. 1.

The draft decisions in document CoP18 Com. I. 1 were accepted.

66. Trade in *Boswellia* spp. (Burseraceae)

The United States of America introduced document CoP18 Doc. 66, proposing to collect more information about the impacts of international trade on *Boswellia* species. It largely supported the amendments of the Secretariat in Annex 2 to the draft decisions and offered the following further amendments:

18.AA a) biological data on *Boswellia* species, including population size, distribution, status and population trends, identification information, and its role in the ecosystem in which it occurs;

18.DD Range States and Parties involved in management, propagation, or trade of *Boswellia* species are encouraged to provide information ~~regarding the status, management, and trade in *Boswellia* species~~ to the Secretariat, as requested in Decision 18.AA.

Sri Lanka, as co-sponsor of the document, fully supported the proposal and its amendments by the United States. Chad, Ethiopia, the European Union, Kenya, Oman, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Species Survival Network supported the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat and the United States.

Canada, supported by Creative Conservation Solutions, believed that the proposed work was important but, given that the species suggested for study were not presently listed in the Appendices, it should be pursued independently by Parties and experts, including non-governmental organizations.

The draft decisions in document CoP18 Doc. 66 as amended by the Secretariat in Annex 2 and by the United States of America were accepted.

74. Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 74.

The United States of America proposed the following amendment to draft decision 18.AA paragraph a):

- i) provide or confirm, with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee, a reference list of genera that are commonly referred to as “rosewood tree species”, noting that at present the species from the following CITES and non-CITES listed genera have been assumed as such by the CITES community: *Caesalpinia*, *Cassia*, *Dalbergia*, *Dicorynia*, *Guibourtia*, *Machaerium*, *Millettia*, *Pterocarpus* and *Swartzia*

The European Union supported the deletion of Decision 17.234 and the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat and the United States.

World Resource Institute supported the document and offered to participate in the study proposed in draft decisions 18.AA paragraph a). The International Association of Violin and Bow Makers, speaking on behalf of C.F. Martin & Co., Inc., Chambre Syndicale de la Factice Instrumentale (CSFI), Confédération des Industries Musicales Européennes (CAFIM), Fender Musical Instruments Corp., ForestBased Solutions Llc, International Wood Products Association, League of American Orchestras, Paul Reed Smith Guitars Limited Partnership, Taylor Guitars, and other like-minded organizations, supported the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat, and encouraged involvement of industry stakeholders in any studies or workshops.

The draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 74 as amended by the Secretariat and the United States of America were accepted. It was agreed to delete Decision 17.234.

Strategic matters (cont.)

16. CITES tree species programme

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 16, outlining the progress of the CITES tree species programme and thanking the European Union and the United States of America for their support and financial contribution to the programme.

The European Union supported continued partnership with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), noting it was a major donor to the programme.

Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Species Survival Network and ForestBased Solutions supported the draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 16, and expressed appreciation for the programme's positive impact on improving CITES implementation in relation to trade in trees. Argentina, Benin, Cameroon and Senegal, however, noted that delays in the distribution of funds had resulted in implementation issues.

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malaysia, Senegal, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania expressed their desire for the programme to be extended beyond 2020, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania calling for expansion of assessments and data-collection under the programme, and Côte d'Ivoire noting wide interest in participating in the programme.

ITTO stressed its commitment to continuing to work with the CITES Secretariat and Parties, and joined calls for extension of the programme. It emphasized its desire for Parties to report their trade in Appendix II-listed tree species to the Secretariat at appropriate levels, to make these more meaningful for conservation purposes.

The Secretary-General expressed gratitude to the European Union for its support, to beneficiary Parties for their commitment and in-kind contributions to the Programme, and to her Secretariat colleagues.

The draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 16 were accepted.

90. Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*)

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 90.

Canada, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America supported the draft decision in document CoP18 Doc. 90. In response to a query from Canada, the Secretariat noted that it would report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on collaboration with the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), as envisaged in the draft decision, under the regular agenda item *Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements*. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) expressed its support for the draft decision, as did Humane Society International, also on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, Species Survival Network, and Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

The draft decision in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 90 was accepted. It was agreed to delete Decisions 17.299 to 17.301.

97. West African vulture trade and conservation management

Burkina Faso introduced document CoP18 Doc. 97, signalling that this was a warning call for vultures in West Africa, where populations had declined by 50-96% over the past 30 years. It cited the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) as a response to this urgent conservation situation and called on Parties to agree the draft decisions 18.AA to 18.GG in the document.

Senegal, one of the co-authors, backed by Nigeria, asked for data to be pooled in the interests of building a sufficient basis for a vulture listing proposal to be prepared for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Niger, the third co-sponsor, of the document implored all assembled to note the plight of vulture and other threatened species in West Africa and to assist in their conservation.

Senegal clarified that it agreed with the comments and edits of the Secretariat as outlined in paragraph F of the document, and that this was the version of the draft decisions it was proposing. Benin, Cabo Verde, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, the European Union, Mali and Nigeria supported these draft decisions.

Mali echoed Niger in stating that vultures had also disappeared from areas of its country and described deliberate targeting of vultures by poachers. It said that it would like to be part of any working group that might be formed to address this issue. Benin, seconded by Nigeria, said all governments in West Africa needed international-level support to help reverse the decline of their vulture populations.

The Convention on Migratory Species and BirdLife International, speaking also on behalf of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Vulture Specialist Group and TRAFFIC, supported the draft decisions.

The United States of America called on fellow Parties not to overlook threats other than trade in making non-detriment findings for the vulture species under discussion and stated that it could support the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat, except for certain instances where it preferred text from the original draft decisions. The United States read out changes it wished to be made and advised the Committee that it had passed written versions of these to the Secretariat.

The draft decisions proposed in document CoP18 Doc. 97, as amended by the Secretariat and the United States of America, were accepted and are set out below.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 18.AA The Secretariat shall 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 Vulture Multispecies Action Plan, subject to the availability of resources, including sharing information based on the work of the Animals Committee.

- 18.BB The Secretariat is encouraged to include vultures as a case study for the possible Non-Detriment Findings workshop.
- 18.CC The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting the following information concerning trade in and conservation of Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), white-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*), hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), whitebacked vulture (*Gyps africanus*), Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*) and lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*) in West Africa:
- a) biological data on West African vultures, including population size, breeding productivity, distribution, and trends across the range of the species;
 - b) available information about harvest and levels of legal and illegal trade of vultures and their parts;
 - c) information on threats to these species, in particular belief-based use and sentinel poisoning, and other trade-related threats;
 - d) information on enforcement actions taken, including seizures, forensic analysis of seized specimens, arrests, prosecutions and judgments relating to illegal trade in vultures as well as disposal of seized specimens; and
 - e) new developments regarding management, education and awareness-raising measures concerning vultures.
- 18.DD The Secretariat shall compile responses from the Parties and provide these responses to the Animals Committee's working group to inform its work.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 18.EE The Animals Committee shall establish a working group to address key gaps in knowledge as it relates to the biological and trade issues highlighted in the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan (Vulture MsAP), with particular attention for the six species mentioned in Decision 18.CC and the West African region, and including but not limited to trade in vulture parts of belief-based use (Objective 4), sentinel poisoning by poachers (Objective 5), cross-cutting actions that contribute to addressing knowledge gaps (Objective 11), and contribute to effective implementation of the Vulture MsAP (Objective 12).

The working group shall:

- a) review the information submitted under the Notification;
 - b) conduct a detailed assessment on the scale and impact of legal and illegal trade in live birds, eggs, and vulture body parts across the range of the Vulture MsAP; and
 - c) provide findings and recommendations to the Animals Committee.
- 18.FF The Animals Committee shall provide guidance to range States on how to factor in all known threats to the species when making non-detriment findings for these species, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.GG The Standing Committee shall:
- a) consider the recommendations from the Animals Committee, as appropriate, and information relating to illegal trade in vulture body parts for traditional/belief-based use, and adopt recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Parties concerned; and
 - b) in consultation with the Secretariat, report on the implementation of Decisions 18.AA to FF to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Adoption of Summary Records

CoP18 Com. I Rec. 2

Summary Record CoP18 Com. I Rec. 2 was accepted without changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 17h05.