

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

**Committee II**

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

*This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of document CoP18 Doc. 15.4 after discussion in the 2nd session of Committee II (see document CoP18 Com. II Rec. 2).*

RESOLUTION CONF. 18.XX

Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform  
on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

RECALLING the objective of the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020 (Resolution Conf. 16.3 Rev. CoP17) that cooperation with relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations is enhanced and the goal of the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 (Resolution. Conf. 18.XX) that delivery of the CITES Strategic Vision is improved through collaboration;

AWARE that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was established in 2012 as an independent intergovernmental body and that an institutional link between the Plenary of IPBES and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme has been established;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the objective of IPBES – to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development – has relevance for the objectives of CITES; and

NOTING the Memorandum of Cooperation between the CITES and IPBES Secretariats signed on 7 March 2017;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. ENCOURAGES Parties to promote actions to reinforce linkages between IPBES and CITES and to strengthen the science-policy interface at the national and international levels, including through the governing body of IPBES, as appropriate;
2. INVITES Parties to provide inputs to the Secretariat in order to provide timely responses to IPBES in regard to CITES engagement.
3. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee, working with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to:
  - a) ensure that there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES, as well as a contributor to IPBES;

- b) ensure that communication between CITES and IPBES is effective;
  - c) promote the needs of national Scientific and Management Authorities in the work of IPBES to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings, and related trade resolutions and decisions;
  - d) ensure that CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines; and
  - e) ensure that any inputs are conveyed to IPBES, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee;
4. FURTHER INSTRUCES the Standing Committee to report at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work;
  5. INSTRUCES the Animals and Plants Committee, through their Chairs, to assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of this Resolution and, to participate, when relevant and subject to external resources, as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and thereby reinforce linkages between the MEP and the CITES scientific committees; and
  6. INSTRUCES the Secretariat to:
    - a) assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of this Resolution;
    - b) track the intersessional and regular work of IPBES bodies and, as appropriate and subject to external funding, participate as an observer in the governing body of IPBES and thereby reinforce linkages between that body and the governing bodies of CITES; and
    - c) seek external funding to support attendance at IPBES meetings by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat.

#### DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

##### ***Directed to the Parties***

- 18.XX Parties are encouraged to use the findings and recommendations of the IPBES 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as priority guidance when considering proposals for CoP19, noting with urgent concern that this assessment concludes that around 1 million animal and plant species could go extinct, many within decades, and that the second leading driver of biodiversity loss and species extinction is the direct exploitation of species; and recognizing that CITES is in a unique position to address these findings and that Parties have agreed on the need to strengthen the science-policy interface between IPBES findings and CITES outcomes.