

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 second session for Committee II

18 August 2019: 14h00 - 17h00

Chairs: C. Hoover

Secretariat: I. Higuero
D. Morgan
S. H. Flensburg

Rapporteurs: B. Austin
F. Davis
R. Mackenzie
C. Stafford

Strategic matters (cont.)

11. Review of the Convention

Zimbabwe introduced document CoP18 Doc. 11, also on behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia and South Africa, recalling that the only review of the effectiveness of CITES had been undertaken between 1994 and 1997, and stating that they believed there was need for an inclusive and comprehensive review of the Convention.

Botswana, Egypt, and Uganda supported the review proposed in the document. South Africa emphasized the need for equitability, science-based decision-making, and incentivizing successful conservation efforts and sustainable use. Niger, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal opposed the recommendations in the document, Kenya, Liberia and Senegal expressing concern that the proposed review would prioritise trade over conservation, and Gabon, Mali and Senegal highlighting potential impacts of a review on national implementation. Recalling the increasing workload of CITES as expressed by the Executive Director of UNEP and the CITES Secretary-General, Israel suggested deferring consideration of this proposal until a later meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The European Union, supported by Japan, noted that the scope of the proposed review was unclear, and questioned the level of funding required. The United States of America opposed the recommendations in paragraph 33 of the document, and indicated that the purpose and scope of any additional review of the Appendices would need to be clearly defined and that no new instrument or protocol should be negotiated. The Centre for Biological Diversity, speaking also on behalf of David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Environmental Investigation Agency USA, Fondation Franz Weber, Natural Resources Defense Council, ProWildlife, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Leaders of Today, urged parties to reject the proposal. IWMC – World Conservation Trust and the Private Rhino Owners Association supported the review.

The Committee established a working group comprised of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union, Kenya, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, the United States of America and Zimbabwe. The working group shall develop a draft decision, directed to the Standing Committee, that would narrow and clarify the scope of the intended review in relation to paragraph 33, subparagraphs a) to c) and i).

13. Revision of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of committees*

Canada introduced document CoP18 Doc. 13, in which the Standing Committee invited the CoP to adopt *inter alia* the draft resolution in Annex 2 and repeal Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17). The Chair drew attention to the Secretariat's proposed minor editorial amendments in Annex 3. The United States supported the draft decisions in Annex 1. They also supported the Secretariat's proposed amendments to the draft resolution set out in Annex 3, except for the amendment to the title and the chapeau of paragraph 7 of the resolution as per paragraph B d) of the Secretariat's comments. In addition, the United States proposed that in paragraph 8 of Annex 2 of the draft resolution in Annex 3 of document CoP18 Doc. 13, the words "at a meeting" be inserted after "In the absence of the Chair".

The draft resolution contained in Annex 3 of document CoP18 Doc. 13, with the additional changes proposed by the United States of America, was accepted. It was agreed to delete Decisions 17.3, 17.5 and 17.9 as these had been implemented. The two draft decisions in Annex 1 to the document were accepted.

14. Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees

The Chair of Standing Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 14, which was noted. It was agreed to delete Decisions 16.09 (Rev. CoP17) and 16.10 (Rev. CoP17) as these had been completed.

Strategic matters (cont.)

15. Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

15.1 Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions

The Bahamas introduced document CoP18 Doc. 15.1 on cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions and summarized activities carried out since CoP17.

Liberia, Niger, the European Union, Canada and the United States of America expressed support for cooperation with other biodiversity-related convention and the extension of the amended Decisions 17.55 and 17.56. Following a query from the European Union, Canada and the United States, the Secretariat clarified the intent of the proposed report in draft decision 18.AA, which was to examine best practice in other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to explore if there were any lessons that could be learnt to strengthen cooperation. It further proposed an amendment to the draft decisions to restrict the scope of the proposed report to consider other biodiversity-related conventions only. The United States additionally proposed an amendment to Decision 17.56 (Rev. CoP18).

The representative from the Convention on Biological Diversity provided an overview of current collaborative efforts and on opportunities to work towards better cooperation, noting that it was important to strengthen communication among focal points at the national level. UNEP, on behalf of the fourteen members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), informed the Committee of its recent achievements, including the publication of a report on the wild meat sector.

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme noted the importance of regional and sub-regional mechanisms to tackle illegal trade and suggested that sub-regional and regional bodies be considered in draft decisions 18.AA and 18.BB. Mexico suggested that the drafting group consider establishing terms of reference for the proposed report.

Document CoP18 Doc. 15.1 was noted, and it was agreed to renew Decisions 17.55 and 56 as amended by the European Union, the United States of America and the Secretariat as follows:

Decision 17.55

Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to strengthen synergies among biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity-building activities.

Decision 17.56 (Rev. CoP18)

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and ~~a possible follow-up framework~~ the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as appropriate, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This should involve the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and, as appropriate, engagement with other relevant organisations and processes, including processes under the Rio Conventions. The Standing Committee shall report on the implementation of this Decision at the ~~48~~¹⁹th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Chair also established a drafting group comprised of Canada, the United States of America, and the Secretariat to revise draft decisions 18.AA and 18.BB for consideration later in the meeting, keeping in mind the comments made by Mexico.

15.2 Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 15.2.

The United States of America supported the deletion of Decisions 17.50 and 17.51 and expressed support for the adoption of the amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.4 in Annex 1 but asked for a further amendment.

The draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources regarding trade in toothfish* as presented in Annex 1 were accepted, with the amendment proposed by the United States of retaining the words “and the principles of CITES” in paragraph 12 of the preamble.

It was agreed to delete Decisions 17.50 and 17.51.

15.3 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 15.3, regarding cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), noting the amendments to the draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat in Annex 2.

The European Union and the United States supported the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat and supported the deletion of Decisions 17.53 and 17.54. Mexico also expressed support for the draft decisions. It additionally informed the Committee of a meeting of the GSPC to be held in October 2019 and asked the Secretariat to share details of the most recent meeting of the Plants Committee.

The draft decisions on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as amended by the Secretariat in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 15.3 were accepted and it was agreed to delete Decisions 17.53 and 17.54.

15.4 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced CoP18 Doc. 15.4, outlining activities undertaken to fulfil Decisions 16.13 to 16.16 (Rev. CoP17) adopted at CoP17, including participation in the 13th meeting of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) in 2019 where a first draft of a thematic assessment of sustainable use of wild species had been presented. The Chair of the Animals Committee asked the Committee to consider how a formal input from Parties might best be achieved.

Egypt, the European Union, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria and South Africa supported the draft resolution on cooperation with IPBES in Annex 3 to document CoP18 Doc. 15.4. The European Union agreed with the Secretariat's proposal in document CoP18 Doc. 15.4 to align language with the draft resolution in Annex 1 of document CoP18 Doc. 39 on legal acquisition findings. Mexico, supported by the European Union suggested that the preamble of the draft resolution also refer to any new CITES Strategic Vision that might be agreed at CoP18. The United States did not believe that an additional resolution was

necessary but suggested a number of amendments if it were adopted. Niger additionally suggested the adoption of a further decision to invite Parties to take into account the conclusions of the IPBES Global Assessment.

The Chair requested the Secretariat to prepare an in-session document reflecting the proposed changes to the draft resolution in Annex 3 of the document suggested by the European Union, Niger, and the United States, taking note of the suggestion that the preamble maintain reference to both the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020 and any future CITES Strategic Vision agreed at CoP18.

It was agreed to delete Decisions 16.13 (Rev. CoP17) to 16.16 (Rev. CoP17).

15.5 International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 15.5 and provided an update on the activities of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) since CoP17. It additionally noted that it had not been able to finalise its revision of the ICCWC web-portal, but that it would continue to make efforts to complete these revisions after CoP18. It also drew Parties' attention to information CoP18 Inf. 45, which included details on Operation Thunderbolt.

Egypt, the European Union, the United States of America and South Africa noted their support for the draft decision in Annex 1 of CoP18 Doc. 15.5 and for the deletion of Decision 17.52.

The European Union encouraged other Parties to continue financing ICCWC, and for the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit to be made available to more Parties.

The draft decision presented in Annex 1 was accepted and it was agreed to delete Decision 17.52, as it has been implemented.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 17h 00.