

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 II

20 August 2019: 9h00 - 12h00

Chair: C. Hoover (United States of America)

Secretariat: D. Morgan  
Y. Liu

Rapporteurs: J. Vitale  
E. Jennings  
C. Stafford  
F. Davis

**Strategic matters (cont.)**

17. Rural communities (cont.)

and

18. CITES and livelihoods (cont.)

The Chair confirmed that Canada had agreed to chair the working group on rural communities and livelihoods

20. Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species

Canada introduced document CoP18 Doc. 20 as prepared by the Standing Committee.

The European Union, Myanmar, Niger, Peru, the United States of America and the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme supported the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat. Bangladesh, China, Mexico, Viet Nam, Creative Conservation Solutions and IWMC-World Conservation Trust also supported these but emphasized that CITES guidance should distinguish illegal from legal trade, and that demand reduction strategies should not impact legal trade and livelihoods.

Norway supported the draft decisions as outlined in Annex 1, but considered that funds would be better spent on a consultant than a workshop. In response to related queries by the United States of America and the European Union, the Secretariat clarified that holding a workshop would not preclude the commissioning of a consultant should funds be available.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and TRAFFIC drew attention to information document CoP18 Inf. 4 and supported the development of guidance.

The draft decisions presented in Annex 1 were accepted as amended by the Secretariat and it was agreed to delete Decisions 17.44 to 17.48.

## 22. United Nations World Wildlife Day

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 22, specifying amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.1 on *World Wildlife Day* regarding the designation of a lead focal point in all Parties and non-party States for coordinating World Wildlife Day, and the invitation for the Secretariat to liaise with relevant United Nations system organizations as potential partners.

The Secretariat, referring to the previous discussion of agenda item 18.2 on livelihoods, proposed that the topic of rural communities be used as a theme for World Wildlife Day rather than establishing a new day. Thus the Chair proposed the following language for a new draft decision: “The Standing Committee shall consider designating a future World Wildlife Day to be focused on livelihoods of rural communities”.

The Ivory Education Institute, generally supported by Mexico, suggested an amendment to the wording of the draft decision to refer to “indigenous and local communities” instead of “rural communities”. Canada and Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada stated their preference for the terminology “indigenous peoples, rural and local communities”.

The Chair, based on the interventions, proposed amended text of the new draft decision:

### **18.AA *Directed to the Standing Committee***

The Standing Committee shall consider designating a future World Wildlife Day to be focused on livelihoods of indigenous peoples and rural and local communities.

Japan stressed that the budget for World Wildlife Day activities should be restricted to allocated funds. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) committed to continue hosting the International Youth Art Contest in the future.

The draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 17.1 on *World Wildlife Day* contained in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 22 was accepted and it was agreed to delete Decision 17.49 as it has been implemented. The new draft decision as proposed by the Chair was accepted.

## 23. Youth engagement

South Africa introduced document CoP18 Doc. 23, which addresses the implementation of Decisions 17.26 and 17.27 on *Youth engagement*.

Bangladesh, Guinea, Jamaica, Malawi, Mexico, Namibia, Niger, the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe expressed their support for the engagement of youth in CITES and for the recommendations in document CoP18 Doc. 23.

Mexico proposed the following amendment to paragraph 5 of the Resolution:

5. 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

Youth For Wildlife Conservation expressed its support for the proposals, and highlighted the importance of Parties developing long-term youth engagement strategies. Drawing attention to information document SC69 Inf. 10, it offered to assist Parties in the development of such strategies. World Leaders of Today noted the need for measures to include youth in all decisions.

The draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 17.5 on *Youth engagement* contained in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 23 as amended by Mexico was accepted and it was agreed to delete Decisions 17.26 and 17.27.

## Interpretation and implementation matters (cont.)

### General compliance and enforcement (cont.)

#### 31. Domestic markets for frequently illegally traded specimens

Canada introduced document CoP18 Doc. 31, summarising the implementation of Decisions 17.87 and 17.88. A study had been carried out by consultants for the Secretariat in two phases: a first focusing on domestic trade controls in consumer markets for elephant ivory, and a second on the domestic controls in consumer markets for specimens of other CITES-listed species for which international trade is predominantly illegal. Canada noted that it was premature to recommend revisions to Resolutions relevant to phase 2 of the study.

The European Union and Gabon expressed support for the proposed recommendations, the latter in particular welcoming decisions of some governments to close domestic ivory markets.

Decisions 17.87 (Rev. CoP18) and 17.88 (Rev. CoP18) were accepted as amended by the Secretariat in paragraph C of its comments. The amendment to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens* in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 31 was accepted.

#### 32. Enforcement matters

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 32, noting that reports of corrupt activities highlighted the need for Parties to remain vigilant. Regarding Decision 17.83 b) to convene a Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, the Secretariat noted that this had not yet occurred, but that the ongoing need to convene this task force was addressed in draft decision 18.CC in Annex 1.

Thailand provided an update on the outputs and discussions of the Special Ministerial Meeting on Illegal Wildlife Trade of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held on 21-22 March 2019 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, presented in information document CoP18 Inf. 14. Niger highlighted the importance of enforcement capacity-building at the national level, as well as recent work undertaken by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to develop regional strategies to combat wildlife crime.

The United States of America encouraged Parties to submit their annual illegal trade reports in a timely manner, expressed support for all recommendations and proposed the following amendments to the draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 32:

18.CC The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, convene a Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, consisting of representatives of Parties affected by illicit trafficking in such specimens, ICCWC partner organizations, other intergovernmental organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional enforcement networks and other experts. The Task Force should work to develop strategies to combat illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, including measures to promote and further strengthen regional and international cooperation. The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of this Decision and the work of the Task Force and take into consideration any recommendations made by the Standing Committee.

18. DD The Standing Committee shall review the Secretariat's report called for in Decision 18.CC and make recommendations as appropriate.

The European Union and South Africa voiced their support for the draft decisions in Annex 1 as amended by the United States, and for the other recommendations.

TRAFFIC noted that enforcement remained a significant challenge to the implementation of the Convention. The Environmental Investigation Agency, speaking also on behalf of the Born Free Foundation, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Protection Society of India, World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London, echoed concerns raised by the United States regarding the low number of Parties that had so far submitted their annual illegal trade reports.

The draft decisions presented in Annex 1 as amended by the United States were accepted. It was agreed to delete Decisions 17.83 and 17.84, and to delete Decision 17.85, paragraph b) as it has been implemented. The amendment to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) in Annex 2 was accepted.

### 33. Combating wildlife cybercrime

#### 33.1 Report of the Secretariat

and

#### 33.2 Report of the Standing Committee

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 33.1 and noted that the INTERPOL *Guidelines on how to combat wildlife crime linked to the internet* were expected to be launched in November 2019 and encouraged Parties to make use of advice and assistance from the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore.

Kenya, as the Chair of the intersessional working group on combatting wildlife cybercrime, introduced document CoP18 Doc. 33.2.

China, the European Union, Indonesia, Jordan, Peru and the United States of America expressed support for the draft decisions in document CoP18 Doc. 33.1.

Regarding document CoP18 Doc. 33.2, the Secretariat withdrew paragraph B of the comments of the Secretariat and suggested that recommendation 9 c) of document CoP18 Doc. 33.2 be incorporated into draft decision 18.XX in Annex 2 to read as follows:

#### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

The Secretariat shall amend all relevant Resolutions and Decisions to ensure consistent use of the term 'wildlife crime linked to the internet' with regard to reference to combating wildlife cybercrime and include as appropriate this terminology on the CITES glossary and the new webpage on *Wildlife crime linked to the internet* on the CITES website.

Regarding the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Compliance and enforcement* in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 33.2, China, Jordan and Peru expressed support for the revised resolution, while the European Union, supported by the United States, suggested further changes to paragraph 11 as follows:

- f) ~~require the national points of contact under paragraph d) to~~ identify key contacts at online technology and data companies that can facilitate the provision of information upon request from Parties in support of investigations;
- g) engage online platforms to:
  - i) introduce and publish policies to address and prevent the use of such platforms for illegal trade in wildlife including measures to ensure compliance with such policies;
  - ii) ensure that such policies are presented as clearly and visibly as possible;
  - iii) encourage them to inform their users about illegal online trade in wildlife, by using targeted alerts and other technology to ~~ensure~~ make users ~~are~~ aware of relevant laws and website policies;

Indonesia, Jordan and Zimbabwe expressed support for the draft decisions in document CoP18 Doc. 33.2. China, Peru and the United States also expressed support for these as amended by the Secretariat and to the deletion of Decisions 15.57 and 17.92 to 17.96. This was echoed by the European Union, with the exception of the new draft decision 18.XX proposed by the Secretariat, which they did not consider necessary.

China, Egypt, Jordan, Peru, Uruguay and Zimbabwe all expressed concern at the burgeoning online trade in wildlife, and Egypt and Zimbabwe urged Parties to strengthen national legislation to tackle the

issue. China and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) drew Parties' attention to the *Coalition to end wildlife trafficking online* launched earlier in 2019 by IFAW, World Wildlife Fund and TRAFFIC. China also highlighted the Global Wildlife Cybercrime Action Plan.

The draft decisions presented in paragraph 10 of document CoP18 Doc. 33.1 were accepted. The proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev CoP17) on *Compliance and enforcement*, paragraphs 11 and 12, as presented in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 33.2, along with the amendments proposed by the European Union, were accepted. The draft decision 18.XX in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 33.2, as amended by the Secretariat, was accepted. It was agreed to delete Decisions 15.57 and 17.92 to 17.96 and to replace them by the draft decisions presented by the Secretariat in paragraph E of its comments on document CoP18 Doc. 33.2.

#### 34. Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 34. In accordance with Decision 17.97, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), had commissioned a threat assessment report on illegal wildlife trade in West and Central Africa, presented in Annex 4 to the document. The draft decisions in Annex 1 were based on a review of this report. In light of varying progress made by Parties in the region, the Secretariat further considered that a rigid set of decisions to be implemented by all Parties in the region would not be feasible. Instead, it suggested that draft decision 18.AA directed to all Parties in West and Central Africa should be complemented by recommendations that could be considered by the Parties concerned, each taking into account its own unique domestic situation. These were presented in Annex 2.

Niger, supported by Nigeria, considered that the results of the report presented in Annex 4 would be a useful guide to decision makers, but drew the attention of Parties to the results of the meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the development of a coordinated counter wildlife trafficking response in West Africa (Abuja, Nigeria, July 2018), presented as an information document to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70 Inf. 3). In light of this, Niger suggested the following amendments to the draft decisions in Annex 1:

##### ***Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations***

18.DD Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance to Parties in West and Central Africa and mobilize resources to address the matters identified in the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and any further recommendations made by the Standing Committee.

##### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

18.FF The Secretariat shall:

- a) draw to the attention of relevant United Nations agencies, the African Union, the Commission of Central African Forests, the Global Environmental Facility, and development agencies, the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; and the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3, and encourage these to be taken into consideration in the development of work programmes or activities initiated by these entities in the two subregions;
- b) subject to external funding, work with its partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to support Parties in West and Central Africa in addressing illegal trade in wildlife, including addressing the matters identified in the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3, and any further recommendations made by the Standing Committee;
- c) subject to the availability of external funds and upon request from Parties, undertake general and targeted capacity-building activities to strengthen the effective

implementation of CITES in the two subregions, taking into consideration the contents of information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and

- d) report, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee on the results of the activities conducted in accordance with Decision 18.FF paragraphs a) to c).
- e) the Secretariat shall give priority to the guidelines agreed by West African parties as contained in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3 in the course of the implementation of its capacity-building work.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Nigeria and Zimbabwe noted that the actions outlined in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34 were ambitious and encouraged the CITES community and donors to provide support to implement them. Niger noted that the West Africa Strategy on Combating Wildlife Crime currently being implemented called for the establishment of a fund to help implement measures, and called for Parties to contribute to this fund.

The European Union and the United States of America voiced support for the decisions and recommendations outlined in document CoP18 Doc. 34.

The Chair of the Animals Committee noted that species/country combinations from West and Central Africa frequently entered the Review of Significant Trade, and asked Parties to consider how the Animals and Plants Committees could help West and Central African Parties in ensuring trade was conducted at sustainable levels.

The Environmental Investigation Agency, speaking also on behalf of the Center for International Environmental Law, Conservation Analytics and the World Resources Institute, echoed calls by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Nigeria and Zimbabwe for support to West and Central African Parties. TRAFFIC drew attention to the Sub-regional Action Plan for Countries of the Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC) to Strengthen the Implementation of National Wildlife Legislation. The University of Washington – Center for Conservation Biology raised concern about the scale of illegal trade in pangolins in West and Central Africa; and the World Parrot Trust commended efforts in the region to address trade in African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*).

The draft decisions presented in Annex 1 were accepted as amended by Niger, and the recommendations contained in Annex 2 were noted. It was agreed to delete Decisions 17.97, paragraphs a) and b), 17.98 and 17.99, as they have been implemented, as well as to delete Decisions 17.97, paragraph c) and 17.100, as they have been incorporated in the proposed draft decisions in Annex 1.

The meeting adjourned at 11h58.