

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 fourth plenary session

28 August 2019: 09h00 – 11h30

Chairs: T. Jemmi (Switzerland)
A. Ochieng Pernet (Switzerland)

Committee I Chair: R. Hay (New Zealand)
Committee II Chair: C. Hoover (United States of America)

Secretariat: I. Higuero
I. Camarena
S. H. Flensburg
K. Gaynor
T. de Meulenaer
D. Morgan
J.-C. Vasquez

Rapporteurs: B. Austin
C. Stafford

Species specific matters (cont.)

105. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

The Conference of the Parties noted that proposal CoP18 Prop. 49 had been withdrawn.

Having been accepted by consensus in Committee I, the following proposals were adopted: CoP18 Prop. 39, Prop. 40, Prop. 41, Prop. 46, Prop. 47, Prop. 48, Prop. 50, and Prop. 56.

As part of consideration of proposal CoP18 Prop. 47, it was agreed to include Page & Treadwell 2004 in Resolution Conf. 12.11 on *Standard nomenclature* as a standard nomenclature reference for *Achillides chikae*.

The Chair of Committee I reported that proposals CoP18 Prop. 42, Prop. 43 and Prop. 44, had been accepted by Committee I following votes. Proposals Prop. 42, Prop. 43 and Prop. 44 were adopted.

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 45, as amended to delay its entry into effect by 12 months (i.e., until 28 August 2020), had been accepted by Committee I following a vote and was adopted.

The Chair of Committee I reported that Committee I had rejected proposal CoP18 Prop. 51. Proposal CoP18 Prop. 51 was rejected.

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 52 was amended as presented in in-session document CoP18 Com. I. 11. The proposal, as amended, had been accepted by Committee I and was adopted. The five definitions to be included in the interpretation section of the Appendices, and two decisions as shown in in-session document

CoP18 Com. I. 11, and further amended in summary record CoP18 Com. I. Rec. 15, had also been accepted by Committee I and were adopted. The United States of America noted that, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP17) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*, the Standing Committee agreed to interim definitions of several terms in Annotation #15 following the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which were causing implementation difficulties. The United States wished to reaffirm that those definitions would no longer be valid, and that in light of this, the Secretariat should be directed to repeal Notification to the Parties No. 2017/078 once the listing with the revised annotation entered into force.

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 53 was amended by removing the footnote and proposing it as a new annotation that would only apply to *Pericopsis elata*. The proposal, as amended, had been accepted by Committee I and was adopted. It was also agreed that the footnote relating to the definition of 'Transformed wood', as amended in summary record CoP18 Com. I Rec. 9, be moved to the interpretation section of the Appendices.

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 54, as amended to include annotation #6, had been accepted by Committee I and was adopted. Proposal CoP18 Prop. 55, as amended by removing the footnote, had also been accepted by Committee I and was adopted. Four decisions related to *Aloe ferox*, as shown in summary record CoP18 Com. I. Rec. 9, had been accepted by Committee I and were adopted. Proposal CoP18 Prop. 57 was amended to include annotation #6, with the note *Populations of the Neotropics*, and an implementation delay of 12 months (i.e., until 28 August 2020). This had been accepted by Committee I and the amended proposal was adopted. The United States reaffirmed that the Appendix-III listings of three species of *Cedrela* remained in effect until the entry into force date of the Appendix-II listing of the genus *Cedrela*. This included ensuring that international trade in CITES specimens of the three Appendix-III species are accompanied by the appropriate CITES documents.

Conclusion of the meeting

106. Determination of the time and venue of the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Costa Rica offered to host the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The offer was accepted by acclamation.

107. Closing remarks

Closing remarks were made by observers from the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust, speaking also on behalf of the Conservation Alliance of Kenya and Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association; observers from the Documentation Center for Species Protection, the International Professional Hunters Association, the Ivory Education Institute, the International Wildlife Management Consortium-World Conservation Trust, Japan, NUS Co. Ltd, the League of American Orchestras, Species Survival Network, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Ranching South Africa, World Leaders of Today and the World Wildlife Fund; and from the African Union Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with many expressing their ongoing sympathies for the people of Sri Lanka and appreciation and congratulations for Switzerland, the new Secretary-General, Chairs of the Committees, the Secretariat, interpreters, translators and rapporteurs, and all others who had worked hard to make the organization of the meeting such a success.

These sentiments were echoed by many of the Parties that spoke including Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, China, Egypt, the European Union, Fiji, Ghana, India, Jamaica, the Republic of Korea, Mali, Mauritania, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In addition, Jordan and Turkey called for action against the fires currently raging in the Amazon region. The United States of America recalled that CITES can also support economic growth, this was echoed in part by Japan who also called for a greater focus on the sustainable use of wildlife. Guinea committed to take all the necessary action to see its trade suspension lifted. Switzerland expressed some concern as to the significant amount of work that CITES will have to undertake intersessionally.

The United Republic of Tanzania, speaking also on behalf of the members of the Southern African Development Community, namely Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, expressed grave concerns with the implementation of the Convention and over the anti-sustainable use and anti-trade ideology that came to light during the polarized discussions on African charismatic large mammals. SADC members emphasized the effectiveness of their conservation models and stated that they would reconsider whether there are any meaningful benefits from their membership in CITES.

The Secretary-General highlighted that the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties has put the Convention on a much stronger footing for the future; expanded the Parties' capacity to fight illegal trade and broadened the role of Appendix II in promoting sustainable development.

The Chair thanked participants for their cooperative spirit, passion and commitment and declared the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties closed.

The meeting closed at 11h30.