

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Strategic matters

Committee reports and recommendations

Animals Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Animals Committee.*

Introduction

2. This report covers the activities of the CITES Animals Committee in the period between the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17; Johannesburg, 2016) and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Colombo, 2019). During this period the Animals Committee met twice; firstly, at its 29th meeting (AC29, Geneva, July 2017), Switzerland (with a session held jointly with the 23rd meeting of the CITES Plants Committee; AC29/PC23) and its 30th meeting (AC30, Geneva, July 2018) (with a session held with the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee; AC30/PC24). The details and summary records of the meetings can be found on the CITES website. The Committee extends its warm and sincere appreciation to the government of Switzerland for hosting our Committee.
3. The composition of the Animals Committee for the reporting period is found in the table below. Ms. Caceres stood down as Chair of the Animals Committee having served during the period between CoP16 and CoP17 and Mr. Lörtscher was elected the Chair of the Animals Committee at a meeting of the Committee immediately following the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Composition of the Animals Committee (2016-2019)

Region	Regional Representative	Alternate
Africa	Prof. Guy Appolinaire Mensah (Benin) Mr. Pantaleon M. B. Kasoma (Uganda)	Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt) Ms. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka (Uganda)
Asia	Mr. Giyanto (Indonesia) Mr. Ashgar Mobaraki (Iran)	Mr. Arvin C. Diesmos (Philippines) Mr. Nobuo Ishii (Japan)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Mr. Paul Edward Ouboter (Suriname) Sr. Marcel Enzo Calvar Agrelo (Uruguay)	Sr. José Alberto Álvarez Lemus (Cuba) Sr. Nestor Herrera (El Salvador)
Europe	Mr. Mathias Lörtscher (Switzerland)	Mr. Simon Nemtzov (Israel)

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

	Mr. Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Ms. Dagmar Zíková (European Union)
North America	Ms. Rosemarie Gnam (United States of America)	Ms. Carolina Caceres (Canada)
Oceania	Mr Hugh Robertson (New Zealand)	Mr. Troy Makan (New Zealand)
Nomenclature Specialist	Mr. Peter Paul Van Dijk (United States of America)	

4. Direction to the Animals Committee for the current reporting period is found in 24 Resolutions and 49 Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. This report provides detailed information on actions taken by the Animals Committee to fulfil the terms of those Decisions and Resolutions where this information is not reported elsewhere on the CoP18 agenda. The full list of Decisions and Resolutions, as well as a summary of Animals Committee activities, can be found in the Annex to this report.

Terms of reference of the Animals Committee

5. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.5 and 17.9 on *Review of the terms of reference of the Animals and Plant Committees*. The Animals and Plants Committees were tasked to identify possible inconsistencies and overlaps between Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of committees* and their own Rules of Procedure and submit to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) any required revisions to the Resolution for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In addition, they were tasked to review their terms of reference as contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) in order to, as necessary, remove redundancies with other activities directed to the Committees by Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, reflect current practice including provision of scientific advice upon request of Parties and otherwise clarify the functions of the Committees in their role as science advisory bodies to the Conference of the Parties. As a result of this review, any proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) were to be presented to the Standing Committee for inclusion into their proposed amendments, as appropriate, pursuant to Decision 17.3, and for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.
6. At the joint session of AC29 and PC23, an intersessional working group under the direction of the two Chairs of the Scientific Committees was formed, which worked intersessionally to fulfil the mandates given by CoP17. In doing so, the working group liaised regularly with the Standing Committee working group reviewing the terms of reference of their Committee under Resolution Conf. 11.1. (Rev. CoP17) to make sure that the proposed amendments were in line with this general revision. The outcomes of this work were submitted to SC70 for its consideration and inclusion into the review of Resolution Conf. 11.1. (Rev. CoP17). The results of this work are found in document CoP18 Doc. 13 for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at this meeting.

CITES Strategic Vision

7. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.18 through 17.21 on the *Strategic Vision*. Decision 17.18 directed the Standing Committee to establish an intersessional working group to review progress in implementing the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020 against the adopted indicators, taking account of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets and submit a proposal for a CITES Strategic Vision for the period after 2020 and any associated action plan and indicators, in time for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chairs of the Plants and Animals Committees were designated as members to this working group. They participated in the discussions and at the joint session of AC30 and PC24, the Committees had an additional opportunity to express their views on these matters. The inputs that were provided through this process are contained in document CoP18 Doc. 10 for consideration at this meeting.

Non-detriment findings

8. Non-detriment findings were considered at the joint sessions of AC29 and PC23 and, subsequently, of AC30 and PC24. The topic was considered in the context of Decisions 16.53 and 17.104, and on the basis of information submitted by the Parties. The Committees considered, through an in-session working group, draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat and recommended revised versions of these, including to support a 2nd international expert workshop on non-detriment findings, for consideration at CoP18, as proposed in document CoP18 Doc.45.

Appendix I listed species

9. Decision 17.22 directed the Secretariat to contract the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) or other consultants, as appropriate, to make a rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal in trade in species included in Appendix I, with an indication of conservation priorities based on levels of threats caused by trade and resource availability to address these threats, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees, following consultation with range States. The Secretariat had to make recommendations to the Animals and Plants Committees on how the findings can contribute to the implementation of Aichi Target 12. Accordingly, Decision 17.24 then directed the Animals and Plants Committee to review the report and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 17.22, and formulate recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties and consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting. These decisions are linked to the implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020 and the contribution by CITES to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
10. At their joint session at AC29 and PC23 in July 2017, the Committees considered the information in Document AC29 Doc. 8/PC23 Doc. 9 and established an informal advisory group to draft, with the Secretariat, terms of references and methods for the consultancy called for in Decision 17.22. At the next joint session in 2018, the Committees took note of the information in document AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc.8, and since no external funds were found for undertaking the consultancy, requested the Secretariat to submit draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at CoP18 to continue the work called for in Decisions 17.22 to 17.25, taking into account the steps outlined in paragraph 11 of document AC30 Doc. 8/PC24 Doc. 8. These draft decisions are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 92.

Capacity-building and identification materials

11. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.31 to 17.34 on *Capacity-building*. It directed the Animals and Plants Committees to establish a joint working group on capacity-building and identification materials to undertake in consultation with the Secretariat a range of tasks and to report on progress with these activities at the next meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees as well as at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
12. The AC/PC intersessional working group on capacity-building and identification materials was established at AC29/PC23. However, due to the very large amount of tasks and topics to cover, only limited progress could be made. Therefore, at PC24/AC30, new decisions detailing future work were proposed to the Standing Committee for its consideration. The outcome of these deliberations are submitted in a separate document at this meeting (see document CoP18 Doc. 21.2).

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

13. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 16.13 (Rev. CoP17) to 16.16 (Rev. CoP17) on the collaboration between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CITES. In particular, it instructed the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees in Decision 16.15 (Rev. CoP17) to: support the Standing Committee in the fulfilment of Decision 16.14 (Rev. CoP17); to participate as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and thereby reinforce linkages between the MEP and the CITES scientific committees; and to report regularly to the Standing Committee on their activities. Decision 16.14 (Rev. CoP17) instructs the Standing Committee to establish a working group on IPBES, including the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to 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; that the communication between CITES and IPBES is effective; and that the work of IPBES takes into account the needs of national scientific and management authorities to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment and legal acquisition findings, and related trade decisions.
14. Mexico, the Secretariat, the Standing Committee Chair as well as the Animals and Plants Committee Chairs reported on the participation at the IPBES CoP in Medellin, Colombia, in 2018 and the MEP 11 meeting in 2018 in Bonn and provided an oral update on the discussions at these meetings concerning the progress in the IPBES assessment of sustainable use. At the joint AC30/PC24 session, the Committees noted the oral updates of the acting representative of North America of the Plants Committee (Mr. Benítez Díaz), of the

Secretariat, of the Chair of the Animals Committee and of Canada, in their capacity as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on IPBES.

15. The Committees requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification transmitting IPBES' call for requests, inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer-term strategic needs that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme and the IPBES assessment of the sustainable use of wild species, issues and questions which the IPBES assessment could address to make the assessment most useful for CITES. The Committee further requested the Secretariat to compile Parties' responses for transmittal to the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on IPBES. Further progress in this matter can be found in document CoP18 doc. 15.4.

Review of Significant Trade

16. Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* directs the Animals Committee to review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade following a prescribed procedure. During the reporting period, the Committee continued the Review process for species previously selected, and selected new species/country combinations for review, using the new provisions of the Resolution adopted at CoP17. A summary of progress in the implementation of the review at the time of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee can be found in document AC30 Doc.12.1.
17. At AC29, the Animals Committee reviewed, based on information provided by range States and information compiled by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the 25 species-country combinations (comprising 14 taxa) that remained in the review process following the 28th meeting of the Committee. Of these 25 combinations, eight (see table below) were classified as 'action is needed', and recommendations directed to the range States concerned were adopted by the Committee.

Taxa selected after CoP 16	Category	Range State
<i>Amazona festiva</i>	Action is needed	Guyana
<i>Triceros montium</i>	Action is needed	Cameroon
<i>Varanus ornatus</i>	Action is needed	Togo
<i>Malayemys subtrijuga</i>	Action is needed	Indonesia
<i>Notochelys platynota</i>	Action is needed	Indonesia
<i>Chelonoidis denticulatus</i>	Action is needed	Guyana
<i>Chelonoidis denticulatus</i>	Action is needed	Suriname
<i>Testudo graeca</i>	Action is needed	Jordan

18. The remaining 17 species-country combinations were categorised as 'less concern' and so removed from the review. Of these 17, nine species-country combinations (of four taxa) were traded predominantly as source codes C, F and R and so were referred to the *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* under Resolution Conf. 17.7 (see paragraphs 24 to 36 below).

Taxa selected after CoP16	Category	Range State
<i>Uromastix aegyptia</i>	Less concern	Jordan
<i>Uromastix aegyptia</i>	Less concern	Syria*
<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i>	Less concern	Indonesia, Malaysia
<i>Malayemys subtrijuga</i>	Less concern	Lao People's Democratic Republic
<i>Malayemys macrocephala</i>	Less concern	Malaysia
<i>Centrochelys sulcata</i>	Less concern	Benin*, Ghana*, Guinea*, Mali*, Sudan*, Togo*
<i>Testudo graeca</i>	Less concern	Syria
<i>Ornithoptera croesus</i>	Less concern	Indonesia*
<i>Ornithoptera rothschildi</i>	Less concern	Indonesia*
<i>Hirudo medicinalis</i>	Less concern	Turkey
<i>Hirudo verbana</i>	Less concern	Turkey

* species-country combinations referred for consideration in the *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*

19. The Committee selected, at AC29, nine species occurring in 19 species-country combinations (see table below). This was based on information compiled and analysed by the UNEP-WCMC. Subsequently, the range States were notified by the Secretariat of their inclusion in the review and asked to respond. Their responses were considered at AC30, along with a report compiled by UNEP-WCMC about the biology and

management of, and trade in, the species selected, and with the conclusions of an in-session working group on eels (*Anguilla* spp.). The species were, consequently, categorised as either 'action is needed' or as 'less concern' (see below); the latter included four species-country combinations for which the exporting country did not appear to be a range State and so these were re-categorised as 'less concern'.

Taxa	Category	Range State
<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	Action is needed	Mali
<i>Amazona farinosa</i>	Action is needed	Guyana, Suriname
<i>Ara ararauna</i>	Action is needed	Guyana, Suriname
<i>Ara chloropterus</i>	Action is needed	Guyana, Suriname
<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i>	Action is needed	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<i>Uomastyx geyeri</i>	Action is needed	Mali
<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>	Action is needed	Indonesia
<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Action is needed	Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria
<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i>	Less concern	Mali*
<i>Uomastyx geyeri</i>	Less concern	Benin*, Ghana*, Togo*
<i>Brookesia minima</i>	Less concern	Madagascar
<i>Brookesia peyrierasi</i>	Less concern	Madagascar

* species selected at AC29 but for which the exporting country does not appear to be a range State.

20. The Committee formulated recommendations directed to Parties for which species-country combinations had been identified as 'action is needed'. The Committee also drew to the attention of the Secretariat a number of other issues that were not related directly to the implementation of Article IV of the Convention including suspected illegal trade and the inaccurate use of source codes. In addition, *Brookesia* spp. from Madagascar were categorised as less concern because there is a zero-export quota in place; however, the Committee noted the provisions of paragraph g) i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), namely that any changes to this zero-export quota should be communicated by Madagascar to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee with a justification for the change.

Country-wide Review of Significant Trade

21. Decision 17.111 required the Animals and Plants Committees, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to explore the potential benefits and disadvantages of country-wide significant trade reviews drawing upon the lessons learned from the country-wide review of Madagascar.
22. At AC29/PC23, the Committees agreed to create an intersessional working group and, with the outputs of a commissioned report on country-wide significant trade reviews, to review conclusions at their second joint meeting before the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Committees concluded, amongst other things, that a country-wide review process has significant merit but that such 'reviews' are likely to be more effective if they address implementation of the Convention in its entirety, rather than remaining restricted to Article IV alone.
23. The Chairs and the Secretariat reported the conclusions of the two Committees at SC70 in document SC70 Doc. 29.3, and also proposed some draft decisions for a process to consider whether the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar can be integrated into other existing CITES mechanisms or programme activities, or whether a new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties at a national level to address implementation of the Convention in its entirety. The Standing Committee agreed to the draft decisions and these, with the recommendations and conclusions of the three Committees, are reported in document CoP18 Doc.29.

Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity

24. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted a new compliance procedure through Resolution Conf. 17.7 on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity*. It concerns trade in specimens using the source codes C, D, F or R, as defined in paragraph 3 i) of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates*. The Animals Committee, together with the Standing Committee and in cooperation with the Secretariat, is directed to play a key role in the implementation of this Resolution.
25. According to paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 17.7, the Secretariat was tasked to produce a summary from the CITES Trade Database of annual report statistics of species traded, derived from the five most recent years, under source codes C, D, F or R, and to undertake, or appoint consultants to undertake, an

analysis of such data to identify species-country combinations for review. The Secretariat commissioned UNEP-WCMC to produce such a summary and analysis using the following criteria:

- i) significant increases in trade in specimens declared as captive-produced (source codes C, D, F and R);
 - ii) trade in significant numbers of specimens declared as produced in captivity;
 - iii) shifts and fluctuations between different captive-production source codes;
 - iv) inconsistencies between source codes reported by exporting and importing Parties for specimens declared as produced in captivity;
 - v) apparent incorrect application of captive production codes such as: 'A' for animal species or 'D' for Appendix-I species that have not been registered in compliance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes; and
 - vi) trade from non-range States of specimens declared as produced in captivity with no evidence of lawful acquisition of parental breeding stock (i.e. no recorded imports).
26. As this was the first time that such an exercise had been undertaken and considering the scope for interpretation in sub-paragraphs 2 a) i) to vi) of Resolution Conf. 17.7, the Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC sought guidance from a representative selection of Parties and members of the Animals Committee. This was achieved during a consultation workshop on the regulation of trade in CITES specimens of captive-bred and ranched source, held in Cambridge, United Kingdom, on 29-30 March 2017.
27. Paragraph 2 b) of Resolution Conf. 17.7 also tasked the Secretariat to compile any other relevant information made available to it with respect to concerns about captive production, including any cases identified under Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* and information referred to it by Parties or available in relevant reports, including the global conservation status by species published in the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) or noted as not evaluated.
28. Paragraph 2 f) of the Resolution directs the Animals Committee to determine for which species it should request the Secretariat to commission short reviews of known information relating to the breeding biology and captive husbandry and any impacts, if relevant, of removal of founder stock from the wild. Finally, the Animals Committee is requested to refer any urgent enforcement matters identified during the course of the review to the Secretariat and the country concerned; and, subsequently, report to the Standing Committee.
29. At AC29, the Animals Committee, taking into account all the information provided in the processes detailed above, formed an in-session working group to:
- a) select a limited number of species-country combinations;
 - b) prepare a brief explanation of the reason for each selection;
 - c) draft general or specific questions for the countries selected for review;
 - d) determine for which species a request should be made for the commissioning of a short review of the breeding biology, captive husbandry and any impacts, if relevant, of removal of founder stock from the wild as described in paragraph 10 of the present document; and
 - e) identify any urgent enforcement matters which need the attention of the Secretariat, the country concerned and the Standing Committee.
30. The Animals Committee selected the following 23 species-country combinations and added case-specific questions to be answered by the relevant countries. Details concerning the specific question to be asked to those countries are contained in AC29 Com. 11 (Rev. by Sec.) (<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/29/com/E-AC29-Com-11-R.pdf>).

Taxa	Range State(s)
<i>Vulpes zerda</i>	Sudan
<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Cambodia
<i>Cacatua alba</i>	Indonesia
<i>Lorius lory</i>	South Africa
<i>Varanus exanthematicus</i>	Ghana, Togo
<i>Varanus timorensis</i>	Indonesia
<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>	Indonesia
<i>Centrochelys sulcata</i>	Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Sudan, Togo
<i>Geochelone elegans</i>	Jordan
<i>Testudo hermanni</i>	North Macedonia
<i>Oophaga pumilio</i>	Nicaragua, Panama
<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>	Nicaragua
<i>Hippocampus comes</i>	Viet Nam
<i>Ornithoptera croesus</i>	Indonesia
<i>Tridacna crocea</i>	Micronesia (Federated States of)
<i>Trachyphyllia geoffroyi</i>	Indonesia

31. Subsequently, the Parties concerned were requested to send answers to the questions for consideration at the next meeting of the Animals Committee.
32. At AC30, an in-session working group reviewed the responses from Parties and any additional information, and determined if trade was in compliance with Article III and Article IV of the Convention, as well as Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5. In instances where this was not the case, the working group was tasked to identify concerns within the Committee's remit, and, in consultation with the Secretariat, formulate draft recommendations directed to the relevant Party which were time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and aimed at ensuring long-term compliance which, where appropriate, aim to promote capacity building and enhance the ability of the Party to implement relevant provisions of the Convention and prepare supporting information for the Standing Committee on these cases. Finally, the working group was asked to identify any concerns that were more appropriately considered by the Standing Committee.
33. The Animals Committee, after reviewing the recommendations from the working group decided to exclude seven species-country combinations from the review. For 12 species-country combinations, specific recommendations were determined. Implementation must be communicated to the Secretariat by 1 February 2019. For two species-country combinations, no response had been received. These were referred for further consideration to the Standing Committee. For one species-country combination, the Animals Committee considered that as there was already an Article XIII compliance process underway for the country, the selected case was to be included in this Article XIII process. Details of the recommendations can be found in document AC30 Com. 7 (Rev. by Sec).
34. In Decision 17.105, the Conference of the Parties further directed the Animals Committee to prepare at AC30 a report for the Standing Committee on its observations and recommendations regarding this first iteration of Resolution Conf. 17.7, including opportunities for harmonisation with the process in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* and other opportunities to achieve the aims of the Resolution most effectively and cost efficiently.
35. At AC29 and AC30, the Animals Committee recommended in this regard the following amendments to be included in Resolution Conf. 17.7:

RECOMMENDS that the Animals Committee, when selecting species-country combinations for review under paragraph 2 c) of the present Resolution, not select species-country combinations where the Standing Committee has already entered a dialogue with the country concerned over the use of source codes C, D, F or R under another compliance process.

RECOMMENDS that the Standing Committee, when drafting recommendations to the country or countries under paragraph 2 j) of the present Resolution, not duplicate engagement with the country concerned over the use of source codes C, D, F or R under another compliance process.

In addition, it recommended to insert a new paragraph in Resolution Conf. 17.7 as follows:

Where the Animals Committee finds that a species/country combination raises concerns better dealt within the process of the Review of Significant Trade, it can introduce that combination into stage 2 of the process in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 1 d) as an exceptional case.

36. Finally, it transmitted a range of observation concerning the first iteration of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.7 to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

Registration of captive-breeding facilities

37. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*, Mexico submitted an application to register a breeding facility of the Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*). The United States of America and Israel raised an opposition to this registration. Pursuant to the process laid out in Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), the Animals Committee was requested to comment on the application of Mexico to register a breeding facility of the Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*). Through a consultation process via electronic means and considering the points the Animals Committee had to consider, the members of the Committee came to the general conclusion that the application met the requirements for a registration. It raised several additional technical questions which it submitted to the Secretariat to be forwarded to Mexico for a response.

Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA

38. CoP17 adopted Decisions 17.89-17.91 on *Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA*. In Decision 17.90, the Animals and Plants Committees were requested to review the findings and recommendations of the Secretariat's report asked for in Decision 17.89 and make recommendations for consideration at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, including appropriate revisions to existing resolutions. At PC23/AC29, the Committees noted that the terms "synthetic and cultured" DNA would need clarification and also finalized the terms of reference for the study to be commissioned by the Secretariat under Decision 17.89. The terms of reference were further enhanced by the Standing Committee at SC69.
39. At PC24/AC30, the Committees considered document AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc. 14 (Rev. 1), submitted by the Secretariat, and reviewed the study. They reached consensus that the term to be used in this context should be "specimens produced through biotechnology", but could not reach general conclusions on the other topics to be forwarded for consideration at SC70 and CoP18. They, therefore, just noted the document and suggested the submission of renewed decisions to be forwarded to CoP18 for its consideration. These are contained in document CoP18 Doc. 43.

Quotas for leopard hunting trophies

40. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted four Decisions on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies* established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16). The aim of these decisions was to review these quotas, which had not been revised since being agreed by the Conference of Parties. Therefore, Parties which have quotas established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) were requested to review these quotas, to consider whether these quotas are still set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild and to submit a justification thereof to the Animals Committee. The Animals Committee was tasked to consider the information submitted and any other relevant information, and, if necessary, make any recommendations to the range States and to the Standing Committee relating to the review.
41. At AC30, the Committee reviewed responses received by Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. No responses had been received from Botswana, Ethiopia and the Central African Republic.
42. Kenya and Malawi, in their responses, informed the Animals Committee that they considered that the quota for their respective countries contained in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) could be withdrawn as neither Party intends to trade in leopard hunting trophies. The Animals Committee informed the Standing Committee about these requests.
43. The Animals Committee, after reviewing all the relevant information and the contributions by the range states present, informed the Standing Committee that it considers that the quotas for Leopards for Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe as mentioned in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16), are set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

44. Concerning the Parties from which no response had been received, i.e. Botswana, the Central African Republic and Ethiopia, the Animals Committee informed the Standing Committee about the lack of response and that it had therefore not been able to determine if the quotas for leopards for these countries, as mentioned in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16), were set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.
45. In addition, the Animals Committee recommended that upcoming meetings dealing with the conservation of leopards, among other species, provide an opportunity for discussion and lessons learned on monitoring of populations of leopards (for instance, the meeting of the joint CMS/CITES African Carnivores Initiative and, if held, the upcoming meeting in Africa on non-detriment findings for sport-hunted trophies).
46. Finally, the Animals Committee requested the Standing Committee to consider establishing a process to review and if necessary revise, quotas for Appendix-I species which have been established by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.21 (Rev. CoP13) on *Interpretation and application of quotas for species included in Appendix I*, such as those for leopards in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16).

Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'

47. Decision 17.179 directed the Animals Committee to
 - a) consider the report of the Secretariat regarding Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'*, and make recommendations and develop guidance, as appropriate, for consideration of the Standing Committee and CoP18; and
 - b) consider the report of the Secretariat regarding implementation of the requirements in Article III, paragraphs 3 (b) and 5 (b), regarding findings that recipients of living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to house and care for them, and make recommendations and prepare guidance, as appropriate, for consideration of the Standing Committee and CoP18.

At AC29, the Committee established an intersessional working group to carry out this activity and report its recommendations to AC30.

48. At AC30, the Committee considered the information in the Secretariat's report (document AC30 Doc. 16 (Rev. 2) and its Annex), and from the intersessional working group to develop non-binding guidance with the following factors: physical housing, species-specific enclosure furnishings, animal care and husbandry, dietary needs, adequate provisions of suitable veterinary and animal care, wildlife laws, social well-being and animal behaviour, management, and any other taxon-specific considerations for an evaluation when considering whether the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care. In addition, the Committee drafted a series of CoP18 decisions for future work on this issue, notable for African elephants and southern white rhinos, and the preparation of non-binding best practice guidance on how to determine whether "the trade would promote *in situ* conservation". The Committee presented its final observations and recommendations to SC70 (see document SC70 Doc. 38.1). The results of the Standing Committee deliberation of this issue can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1.

Sharks and rays

49. The operational part of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation and management of sharks* provides the direction for work on sharks and rays undertaken by the Animals Committee since CoP17. It states that the Animals Committee shall examine new information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information and report their analyses and on progress on shark and ray activities at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, so species-specific recommendations can be made, if necessary, on improving the conservation status of sharks and rays.
50. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties further adopted Decisions 17.209 to 17.216, of which Decision 17.211 was most relevant to the activities of the Animals Committee. It directed *the Secretariat to issue a notification, requesting Parties to provide new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, including legislation, and make the responses available to the Animals Committee for its consideration and to provide a summary of information in the CITES trade database on trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2000 for consideration by the Animals Committee.*

51. At AC29 and AC30, the Animals Committee formed an in-session working group to discuss the information received via the Secretariat on the implementation of the decisions relevant to its mandate. The results of these deliberations and recommendations to the various stakeholders can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 68.1 submitted by the Animals Committee and document CoP18 Doc. 68.2 submitted by the Secretariat.

Sturgeons and paddlefish

52. Decision 16.137 (Rev. CoP17) directs the Animals Committee to review a study on the identification of sturgeon and paddlefish specimens in trade. The Secretariat reported at AC30 that it had compiled a list of relevant publications that could form the basis of further work concerning molecular, DNA-based and other forensic methods that could assist in identifying sturgeon and paddlefish specimens in trade. The Secretariat further noted the importance of this issue, in particular in sturgeon range States that established aquaculture operations, where mixing of caviar originating from captive bred and wild caught sturgeons can more easily occur. The Animals Committee thus invited the Standing Committee to ask the Secretariat to submit renewed or, as necessary, revised decisions concerning *identification of products of sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.) specimens in trade*. With regards to Decision 17.183, the Animals Committee reviewed the information submitted by range States regarding Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* and reported its observations to SC69. Further, as anticipated in Decision 17.185, the Animals Committee provided a number of observations regarding the definition of "country of origin of caviar" to SC69.

Great apes

53. Through Decisions 17.232 and 17.233, CoP17 directed the Secretariat to finalize a report on the status of great apes and the relative impact of illegal trade and other pressures on their status, and the Standing Committee to consider the report prepared by the Secretariat and prepare recommendations for further action as may be needed, to be considered at CoP18.
54. At SC69, the Secretariat gave an oral report on activities carried out with regard to Resolution Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in great apes*. Subsequently, it was suggested that, as this study was in large part scientific in nature, it would greatly benefit from input from the Animals Committee. The Animals Committee was therefore invited to review the report in the Annex and provide comments, feedback and recommendations, as appropriate, to the Secretariat, for it to bring to the attention of the authors before they finalize the report and submit it to the Standing Committee.
55. At AC30, the Animals Committee reviewed the report contained in the Annex of document AC30 Doc. 26 and provided comments, feedback and recommendations for consideration by the Secretariat, for it to bring to the attention of the authors before they finalize the report and submit it to the Standing Committee at SC70.

Snake trade and conservation management

56. At CoP17, Decisions 17.275 – 17.284 on snakes were adopted. In Decision 17.279, the Animals Committee was instructed to continue to review guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for the export of CITES-listed snakes. In addition, it was requested to review information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo provided in accordance with Decision 17.276 and new information on the trade in, and sustainable use and conservation of, snakes, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.
57. Concerning the review of guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for the export of CITES-listed snakes, the Animals Committee welcomed the guidance on making non-detriment findings developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and asked the Secretariat to make the guidance available to Parties on its website. This guidance was put to use during an interdisciplinary workshop for CITES authorities and other stakeholders of range States of Asian snake species in international trade. The workshop took place in Bogor, Indonesia, from 1 to 4 May 2018, and was combined with sessions focusing more broadly on captive-bred and ranched specimens.
58. Decision 17.276 directed to Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo to carry out a range of tasks concerning the sustainable use of selected snake species for the pet trade and report to the Animals Committee. The species had been selected under Decision 16.102 which asked for an analysis of trade in Asian snakes for the pet trade. The selection was left to the consultants, and no particular guidance regarding

selection criteria was given. The species selected were, therefore, a random sample. The analysis of the report by the consultants then led to the recommendations contained in Decision 17.276.

59. At AC30, the Animals Committee discussed the issue and due to the lack of response to the requests for information from the concerned Parties, expressed its concern with processes that are parallel to the process of the Review of Significant Trade (RST), without the RST structure. It therefore recommended to suggest to the Standing Committee that concerning Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo instead of extending Decision 17.276 after CoP18, it would request UNEP-WCMC to pay particular attention to *Boa constrictor imperator* from Honduras, *Python regius* from Benin, and *Calabaria reinhardtii* from Benin, Ghana and Togo when performing its initial analysis of trade data in the context of the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species, and the review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity after the next Conference of the Parties.

Eels (*Anguilla* spp.)

60. Decision 17.188 directed the Animals Committee to consider, at its 29th or 30th meetings, any reports produced under Decision 17.186 and any other relevant information on the conservation and trade in European and other eel species (*Anguilla* spp.), and to provide recommendations on their sustainable trade to CoP18.
61. At AC30, the Animals Committee considered two reports commissioned by the Secretariat along with a report of an International Technical Workshop on Eels (*Anguilla* spp.), the report of a Workshop of Range States of American eel and a report of the 2nd meeting of the Range States for the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) under the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.
62. The Animals Committee agreed on a series of recommendations for consideration at CoP18, which are reported separately in document CoP18 Doc. 63.

Precious corals

63. Decision 17.192 requested the Animals Committee to analyse the outcomes of the precious coral survey and the study by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and prepare recommendations, as appropriate, on actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable harvest and use of all precious corals in international trade. These recommendations were to be reported to the Standing Committee at SC70.
64. Only a draft of the FAO study could be presented to AC30. The Animals Committee formed an in-session working group to review the draft document. While several recommendations concerning the study and the way forward were agreed at AC30 [see document AC30 Com. 4 (Rev.) (Rev. by Sec.)], the Animals Committee reported to SC70 in document [SC70 Doc. 46](#) that most of the work was yet to be accomplished.
65. With regard to the analysis of international trade contained in the draft study, the Animals Committee noted the challenges of analysing trade in coral products since the current Harmonized System (HS) classification amalgamates them with other species due to the lack of specific custom codes; it further noted the cumbersome process of adopting specific custom codes at an international level.
66. The report of the Animals Committee was taken into account at SC70 and the outcomes of the decisions on precious corals are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 64 and will be deliberated at the present meeting.

African lion

67. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.241-17.245 on African lion (*Panthera leo*). Decision 17.242 directed the Animals Committee to consider the report of the Secretariat established under Decision 17.241 and submit recommendations to SC69 and SC70 and the African lion range States, as appropriate.
68. At AC30, the Committee reviewed the draft study on legal and illegal trade in African lions, *Panthera leo* and additional information provided. Concerning the progress report by the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 17.241, the Animals Committee noted the report, and was informed on the details of the Joint CMS/CITES workshop of the African Carnivore Initiative to be held early in November 2018 in Bonn, as well on the scope and timeframe of the African Lion Conservation Framework that IUCN is developing.

69. Concerning the draft study on trade in African lions, the Animals Committee recommends that the authors (TRAFFIC) incorporate the additional information generated at AC30 in its final study, and if additional information becomes available, to have it transmitted to TRAFFIC for incorporation in the final version.
70. It also made recommendations for consideration at SC70. As for the process of reporting to the Conference of the Parties on the further implementation of the various decisions, it agreed to give the Secretariat a mandate to report to the Conference of the Parties on developments, including the recommendations emanating from the Joint CMS/CITES workshop of the African Carnivore Initiative to be held early in November 2018 in Bonn. This report is contained in document CoP18 Doc. 76.1 and will be discussed at the present meeting.

Freshwater stingrays

71. CoP17 adopted Decisions 17.246-17-249 on *Freshwater stingrays*. The aim of these Decisions was to conduct or promote research concerning the captive breeding and sustainable use of stingrays, as well as to be able to carry out mathematical modelling of population trends for freshwater stingrays.
72. No specific decision was directed towards the Animals Committee. However, because several Parties submitted their available data on freshwater stingray populations, the Animals Committee, at AC29, formed an in-session working group which received the task to review the information provided and assess whether the information would be sufficient to allow for the mathematical modelling of population trends for freshwater stingrays.
73. The working group considered the information compiled in the annexes and commends the Parties for this information. While this information was very useful, it was deemed insufficient as the basis for population modelling. The Animals Committee therefore encouraged Parties, organizations and other relevant stakeholders to identify data gaps and research required to support modelling of populations, carry out field studies to gather additional data on key life history, population parameters, and international trade, as well as studies of the taxonomy of this group, to identify the type of population modelling that will inform whether harvest for international trade is detrimental to the species in the wild and to provide financial assistance to the range States to undertake field studies and conduct research.

Banggai cardinalfish

74. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.259 to 17.263 on *Banggai cardinalfish* (*Pterapogon kauderni*). Decision 17.262 was directed to the Animals Committee to review the progress report submitted by Indonesia as referred to under Decision 17.259 at AC30, as well as the results of the study referred to under Decision 17.260 and make recommendations to CoP18.
75. At AC30, an in-session working group was formed with the mandate as outlined in the preceding paragraph. As a result of this work, the Animals Committee is submitting a document with several decisions to CoP18 in a separate document (see document CoP18 Doc. 82).

Queen conch

76. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.285 to 17.290 on *Queen conch* (*Strombus gigas*). The Animals Committee was tasked under Decision 17.287 to provide advice regarding the making of non-detriment findings for trade in *S. gigas*, research in support of sustainable queen conch fishery and trade, and other technical matters if requested by range States of *S. gigas*. Under Decision 17.288, the Committee was further requested to review the process for the setting of scientific quotas for queen conch, in particular where scientific quotas make up a large portion of the overall export quota.
77. At AC29, the Committee requested the Secretariat to publish a Notification aimed at the range States of this species to provide information on the extent to which they use scientific research in the making of non-detriment findings, on their process for establishing levels of export for specimens of queen conch, on the process for, and the objectives of, setting 'scientific quotas', if any, and on whether the catch from scientific surveys contributes to their overall exports.
78. The information provided by the range States was reviewed by the Animals Committee at AC30 (see document AC30 Doc. 22). The Committee noted the document and noted the progress that Honduras had made in implementing its commitments regarding the management of, and trade in, queen conch and considered that Honduras had fulfilled the commitments made at the 22nd meeting of the Animals

Committee. The Committee further noted that there were no such things as “scientific” quotas, and that all export quotas for wild specimens of Appendix II species (as is the case of *Strombus gigas*) are to be supported by a non-detriment finding formulated by the Scientific Authority of the exporting range State, and based on the best technical and scientific information available, regardless of the purpose of the transaction (whether scientific “S”, commercial “T”, medical “M”, educational “E”, or any other code recognized by CITES).

Tortoises and freshwater turtles

79. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted eight Decisions on *Tortoises and freshwater turtles*, of which Decisions 17.291 and 17.293 were relevant to the Animals Committee. Decision 17.291 directed the Secretariat in collaboration with Parties requiring assistance and relevant experts to provide or develop guidance to CITES Scientific and Management Authorities concerning:
- a) techniques to survey and monitor wild populations of tortoises and freshwater turtles, to assess impacts of offtake and to implement adaptive management programmes in the context of the making of non-detriment findings; and
 - b) the differentiation of specimens originating from the wild from those from captive or ranching production systems.
80. In Decision 17.293, the Animals Committee was tasked to review the guidance provided or developed in accordance with Decision 17.291 and make recommendations for consideration by the Secretariat.
81. At AC29, the Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 32, in which it outlined the extensive work that had already been undertaken on guidance for the making of non-detriment findings (NDF) for trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles. The Animals Committee agreed that the existing NDF guidance was adequate, but also expressed a desire for additional guidance in two areas: techniques to survey and monitor wild populations of tortoises and freshwater turtles to assess the impacts of offtake and implement adaptive management techniques; and guidance on the age and size restrictions of specimens to be traded, as trading in younger aged specimens is considered to have a lesser effect on the overall conservation status of the species.
82. At AC30, the Animals Committee considered the report from the secretariat on the open question from AC29 concerning the need for additional guidance on survey techniques and age and size restrictions of specimens to be traded. Concerning the additional guidance contained in that document, the Animals Committee was of the view that the information provided was sufficient. Concerning the development of generic guidance on size and age restrictions for tortoises and freshwater turtles it found that this is extremely difficult, if not impossible. For some genera, this could be possible, but guidance would depend on species-specific criteria such as fertility, the age of sexual maturity, longevity and other characteristics, or if there are environmental or anthropogenic influences. If applied, size- and/or age restrictions should therefore be species-specific.
83. The Animals Committee at AC30 therefore noted document [AC30 Doc. 28](#) and considered Decision 17.293 as fulfilled.

Black Sea bottlenose dolphin

84. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.299 to 17.301 on *Black Sea bottlenose dolphin* (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*). In Decision 17.300, the Animals Committee was tasked to consider at its 30th meeting the information submitted by the Parties pursuant to Decision 17.299 to evaluate the effectiveness of the zero annual export quota for *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* from the wild for primarily commercial purposes and, if necessary, make recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
85. The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 23 and agreed to submit a draft decision to the Conference of the Parties at CoP18. The detailed report on the activities can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 90.

Inclusion of species in Appendix III

86. Decision 17.305 directed the Animals and Plants Committees to advise the Standing Committee working group, if requested by the Standing Committee or its working group, on subject-specific items, e.g. on

characteristics of species for a possible listing of species in Appendix III CITES. Decision 17.303 directed the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, to consider the development of guidance on the application of Appendix-III CITES listings. Considerations could include, e.g.: possible guidance for exporting and importing countries with respect to the effective implementation of Appendix III, including measures to address suspected illegal international trade in Appendix III-listed specimens; and possible guidance for range States on characteristics of species that may benefit from inclusion in Appendix III.

87. At AC29/PC23, the Committees established a joint intersessional working group [AC29/PC23 Sum.1 (Rev.1) (22/07/2017)] to consider the information in document AC29 Doc. 34/PC23 Doc. 30, and discussions in plenary; and to explore ways to best advise the Standing Committee on characteristics of species for possible inclusion in Appendix III by identifying particular biological or trade characteristics for the species concerned, and making suggestions for amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP17) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III* concerning guidance for range States on characteristics of species that may benefit from inclusion in Appendix III. There was no support for the idea to prepare a list of species not currently protected under CITES, with biological characteristics that may qualify them for Appendix III (AC29/PC23 summary record – p. 28).
88. At AC30/PC24, the Committees considered the working group's recommendations in AC30 Doc. 31/PC 24 Doc.26 and developed draft guidance for the evaluation of biological and trade characteristics when Parties are considering an Appendix-III listing. In addition, the Committees provided several suggestions for amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP17). The Animals and Plants Committee presented their final observations and recommendations to the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on Appendix-III listings for their consideration (see document SC70 Doc. 64, pp. 3-5). The results of the Standing Committee deliberation of this issue can be found in document CoP18 Doc. 100.

Periodic Review of the Appendices

89. Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II* outlines a process and guidelines for the Animals and Plants Committee to undertake a periodic review of species included in the CITES Appendices. At AC29, the Committee examined the Secretariat's Periodic Review tables of species reviews that are completed, outstanding and in progress since CoP15 (Annexes 1-4 of document AC29 Doc. 33.1). Following CoP17, it was noted that the reviews for 10 species was still ongoing. Most importantly, per Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), at AC29, the Committee selected new species for periodic review during the next two intersessional periods between CoP17 (2016) and CoP19 (2022) based on outputs found in the Annexes to document AC29 Doc. 33.2 (Rev. 1). There were 198 taxa in these outputs for consideration by the Committee. In addition, the CITES nomenclature working group referred the *Ovis ammon* and *Ovis aries* complexes for review and Parties suggested additional species that were not included in the outputs.
90. The Committee selected 18 species as candidates for potential review under Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) during the next two intersessional periods from CoP17 to CoP19 (2022). The list of the species selected can be found in the table in AC29 Com 7 (Rev. by Sec.). In order to facilitate reviews, the Committee recommended a series of actions [AC29 Com 7 (Rev. by Sec., p.3)] including the creation of a Periodic Review webpage on the CITES website to inform Parties and the wider CITES community of the species currently selected for the Periodic Review, and to create additional resource materials on the Periodic Review for inclusion in CITES Virtual College (including an overview of the review process outlined in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), as well as examples of previous reviews).
91. At AC30, Australia submitted six periodic reviews (AC30 Doc. 29.2.1 to Doc 29.2.6) for two Australian species selected between CoP15 - CoP17 and for four species between CoP17 – CoP19 (at AC29). The species reviewed included: *Dasyornis broadbenti*, *Dasyornis longirostris*, *Leporillus conditor*, *Pseudomys fieldi*, *Xeromys mioides*, and *Zyomys pedunculatus*. The Committee determined that, in accordance with subparagraphs 2 g) and h) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), the six species reviewed by Australia met the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* for transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II as outlined in documents AC30 Doc. 29.2.1 to 29.2.6. The Committee asked the Secretariat to invite Australia to submit these proposals to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting and expressed its appreciation to Australia for the reviews [AC30 Sum.1 (Rev.1) p.5].

Other considerations not referred to above

92. From CoP17, a total of 49 decisions were directed to the Animals Committee. A completely new compliance process under Resolution Conf. 17.7 on captive breeding has also been introduced with its additional

activities. Together with the tasks for the Committee under current Resolutions, the workload of the Animals Committee and the Committee members has steadily increased. It has to be stressed that the Animals Committee strives to provide the best possible advice to the Parties. However, as a result of the above, there are several negative consequences related to this ever-growing workload for the scientific committees.

93. The time that the Animals Committee has available at its meetings must be split between an increasing number of items. This often does not allow for enough thorough discussion of important matters and may harm the quality of the Committee's decisions. It also stretches the capacities of the individual members who, as a rule, have full time jobs to fulfil in addition to their tasks and responsibilities as full or alternate members.
94. The workload of the Nomenclature specialist in particular is at times very large, and there is a need to secure funds to ensure that the specialist can participate in meetings of the relevant Committee, regardless of which country the expert is from. Consideration should also be given to trying to secure additional funding for Committee members from developing States to attend relevant regional meetings.
95. The growing realization that synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements is key in order to achieve common goals and that this requires that the Chairs of the Scientific Committees represent the views and values of CITES in more and more bodies, such as IPBES, Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention on Migratory Species. However, at present, no specific funding is available to cover the costs of representing CITES matters in these bodies.
96. The CITES Secretariat, with its limited resources, has more and more difficulties to produce the documents and analyses it is being tasked to do in the quality it aims to achieve to allow the Committee to make informed decisions.
97. The Conference of the Parties may therefore wish to consider allocating more dedicated funds for the work of the Scientific Committees to make sure they are in a position to fulfil the various tasks attributed to them by this very body.

Acknowledgements

98. The Chair of the Animals Committee,
 - a) greatly acknowledges the tremendous work of the Members and alternate Members during this period between CoP17 and CoP18. Their dedication is greatly appreciated and not to be taken for granted;
 - b) considers that similarly, the dedication and contributions from all the experts and organizations that helped the informed decision-making in the Committee have been outstanding and are also greatly appreciated;
 - c) highly values the contributions from the various donors without whom only a small part of the work reported in this document could have been achieved; and
 - d) highly appreciated the dedication, high quality work, large support and humanity of the Secretariat staff, which allowed the Committee to perform its work.

Recommendations

99. The Conference of the Parties is invited to note the report of the Animals Committee.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The report of the Chair of the Animals Committee refers to specific Animals Committee activities and issues that are dealt with jointly by the Animals and Plants Committees. Many are the subject of separate agenda items, as also shown in Annex 1 to the present document. The Secretariat provides its comments on these issues under the corresponding agenda items. These separate documents also contain tentative budgets and sources of funding for the draft resolutions or decisions proposed by the Animals and Plants Committees.

B. The Secretariat notes that in paragraphs 94 and 95, the Animals Committee Chair raises the issue of seeking funding to facilitate the participation of the Committee Chair and members, in particular the nomenclature specialist, at relevant meetings. In this regard, the Secretariat draws attention to paragraph 6 subparagraphs a) and b) of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of committees* which states:

6. *DETERMINES further the following principles for the payment of travel expenses to members of the Plants or Animals Committee:*

- a) *the Secretariat shall make provisions in its budget for the payment, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of members, to attend no more than two meetings of the Committee concerned between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, other than members from developed countries;*
- b) *the Secretariat shall also make provision for the participation of the Committee's Chairs at meetings of the Standing Committee and at other meetings that the Chairs are instructed to attend by the Conference of the Parties:*

These instructions are also reflected in paragraph 26 of Resolution Conf. 17.2 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2017-2019* which states:

26. *DIRECTS the Secretariat to make provision for the payment, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of Members, including attendance at the relevant committee meetings, and other expenses of the Chairs of the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, other than Members from developed countries*

C. The Secretariat notes that the issues raised in paragraph 94 and 95 were also raised in the context of the review of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of committees* (see document CoP18 Doc. 13). The review proposes a new draft resolution that *inter alia* seeks provision for the payment of travel expenses, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the United Nations, that is not limited to Members from developing countries, but also covers the travel expenses of the nomenclature specialists (regardless of which country they are from) to attend each regular meeting of the Animals of Plants Committee; and the expenses for other travel undertaken by the Committee Chairs at the request of the Conference of the Parties or the Standing Committee. In this regard, the Secretariat points to its comments on document CoP18 Doc. 13.

D. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties note the report from Chair of the Animals Committee.

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS DIRECTED OR RELEVANT TO THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

Resolution or Decision	Title	Animals Committee activities
Committee Terms of Reference		
Conf.11.1 (Rev. CoP17) [Annex 2, Para 1, c)]	Establishment of committees	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; reference document CoP18 Doc. 13; the Nomenclature Specialist report is found in document CoP18 Doc. 99
16.9 (Rev. CoP17), 16.10 (Rev. CoP17)	Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; reference document CoP18 Doc. 14
Administrative and financial matters		
Conf. 17.2	Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2017-2019	No action to report
17.3, 17.4, 17.5, 17.9	Rules of Procedure	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; reference document CoP18 Doc. 4.2
Strategic matters		
Conf. 16.3 (Rev. CoP17); 17.18	CITES Strategic Vision	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; reference document CoP18 Doc. 10
Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)	Non-detriment findings	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Report in document CoP18 Doc. 45
17.22, 17.24	Appendix-I listed species	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Report in document CoP18 Doc. 92
17.32, 17.33, 17.34, 17.35	Capacity building	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Report in document CoP18 Doc. 21.2
16.14 (Rev. CoP17), 16.15 (Rev. CoP17)	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; reference document CoP18 Doc. 15.4
Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14)	Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines	No action to report
Interpretation and implementation matters		
Compliance and enforcement		
Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP17)	Use of annotations in Appendices I and II	No action to report
Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17); 17.111	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Report in document CoP18 Doc. 29
Conf. 14.3	CITES compliance procedures	No action to report

Resolution or Decision	Title	Animals Committee activities
Conf. 17.7; 17.104, 17.105,	Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; reference document CoP18 Doc. 58
<u>Trade control and traceability</u>		
Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17)	Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade	No action to report
Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16)	Transport of live specimens	No action to report
Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15)	Universal tagging system for the identification of crocodilian skins	No action to report
Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16)	Identification Manual	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; reference document CoP18 Doc. 54.1
Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17)	Permits and certificates	No action to report
Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15)	Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes	Activities undertaken outlined in this report
17.90	Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; reference document CoP18 Doc. 43
17.114, 17.115	Quotas for leopard hunting trophies	Activities outlined in this report; Reference document CoP18 Doc. 46
17.179	Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'	Activities outlined in this report; Reference document CoP18 Doc. 44.1
<u>Species specific matters</u>		
Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17); 17.211, 17.216	Conservation and management of sharks and rays	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Report in document CoP18 Doc.68.1
Conf. 12.7 (Rev.CoP17) 16.136 (Rev. CoP17), 16.137 (Rev. CoP17), 17.183, 17.185	Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish	Activities outlined in this report; Reference documents CoP18 Doc. 54.3 and CoP18 Doc. 61
Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16)	Conservation of and trade in great apes	Activities outlined in this report; Reference document CoP18 Doc. 73
Conf. 17.12; 17.279, 17.280, 17.282	Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes	Activities outlined in this report
17.188	Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Report in document CoP18 Doc. 63
17.192	Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae)	Activities outlined in this report; Reference document CoP18 Doc. 64
17.238	African wild dog (<i>Lycaon pictus</i>)	No actions to report

Resolution or Decision	Title	Animals Committee activities
17.242	African lion (<i>Panthera leo</i>)	Activities outlined in this report; Reference document CoP18 Doc. 76.1
17.249	Freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae spp.)	Activities outlined in this report
17.262	Banggai cardinalfish (<i>Pterapogon kauderni</i>)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Report in document CoP18 Doc. 82
17.287, 17.288	Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>)	Activities outlined in this report; Reference document CoP18 Doc. 85
17.293	Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)	Activities outlined in this report; Reference document CoP18 Doc. 88
17.299, 17.300	Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i>)	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; Report in document CoP18 Doc. 90
Amendment and maintenance of the Appendices		
Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)	Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II	No action to report
Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP17); 17.305	Inclusion of species in Appendix III	Activities outlined in this report; Reference document CoP18 Doc. 100
Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)	Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II	No action to report
Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP17); 16.162 (Rev. CoP17)	Annotations	Activities outlined in this report; Reference document CoP18 Doc. 101
Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)	Periodic Review of the Appendices	Activities outlined in this report;
14.81	Great whales	No action to report
Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17); 17.308, 17.310-313	Standard nomenclature	The Nomenclature Specialist report is found in document CoP18 Doc. 99