



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/018

Geneva, 1 February 2018

CONCERNING:

Information on the status, trade and conservation
of eel species (*Anguilla* spp.)

1. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.186 to 17.189 on *Eels* (*Anguilla* spp.).
2. Decision 17.186 directs the CITES Secretariat, subject to external funding, to undertake the following:
 - a) *contract independent consultants to undertake a study compiling information on challenges and lessons learnt with regards to implementation of the Appendix II listing of European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and its effectiveness. This includes in particular the making of non-detriment findings, enforcement and identification challenges, as well as illegal trade. This study should notably take account of the data compiled and advice issued by the ICES/GFCM/EIFAAC Working Group Eel;*
 - b) *contract independent consultants to undertake a study on non-CITES listed *Anguilla* species:*
 - i) *documenting trade levels and possible changes in trade patterns following the entry into force of the listing of the European Eel in CITES Appendix II in 2009;*
 - ii) *compiling available data and information on the biology, population status, use and trade in each species, as well as identifying gaps in such data and information, based on the latest available data and taking account inter alia of the Red List assessments by the IUCN Anguillid Eel Specialist Group; and*
 - iii) *providing recommendations for priority topics for technical workshops based on gaps and challenges identified under i)-ii);*
 - c) *make the reports from the studies above available to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC29) for their consideration; and*
 - d) *organize, where appropriate, international technical workshops, inviting cooperation with and participation by the relevant range States, trading countries, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the IUCN Anguillid Eel Specialist Group, the ICES/GFCM/EIFAAC Working Group Eel, industry and other experts appointed by Parties as appropriate. Such workshops should in particular cover the topics identified by the reports described in subparagraphs a) and b) of this Decision and could focus on challenges specific to the various eel species, such as*
 - i) *in relation to European eel, the realization of and guidance available for non-detriment findings, as well as enforcement of the Appendix II listing including identification challenges; and*
 - ii) *in relation to the other eel species, to enable a better understanding of the effects of international trade, including trade in their various life stages, and possible measures to ensure sustainable trade in such species;*

- e) *make any workshop report available to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC30) for their consideration; and*
- f) *make available to the Standing Committee relevant information on illegal trade in European eels gathered from the study and the workshop report mentioned in paragraphs a) and e).*
3. Decision 17.187 encourages **range States and Parties involved in trade in *Anguilla* spp.**, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to:
- a) *promote international or regional cooperation on a species-by-species basis, including the convening of regional meetings to discuss how to fill the information gaps and ensure long-term sustainability in the face of increasing demand from international trade;*
- b) *provide the Secretariat and their consultants with specific information needed for the purposes of completing Decision 17.186 a) and b) as well as the results of the regional meetings; and*
- c) *participate, where appropriate, in the technical workshops and share expertise and knowledge on the priority topics identified.*
4. Furthermore, Decision 17.188 directs the Animals Committee to consider the reports referred to in Decision 17.186 and the information submitted by eel range States pursuant to Decision 17.187, as well as any other information on eel and provide recommendations on the sustainable trade in eels to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Colombo, 2019). Decision 17.189 directs the Standing Committee to consider information relating to illegal trade in *A. anguilla*, which will include information provided under paragraph f) of Decision 17.186.
5. Pursuant to the implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 17.186, two separate questionnaires have been prepared, which are contained in the Annexes to the present Notification.
6. Annex 1 contains a questionnaire seeking information on the implementation and effectiveness of the Appendix II listing of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*). This questionnaire should be answered by all range States of the species, and the Parties involved in its trade, as well as relevant organizations and stakeholders. The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather new information, so where Parties have previously submitted information through another reporting process (e.g. annual reports), it would be useful to indicate this, but it is not necessary to resubmit this information.
7. Annex 2 contains a questionnaire concerning the conservation and trade of all other *Anguilla* spp.¹ (*A. australis*, *A. bengalensis*, *A. bicolor*, *A. borneensis*, *A. celebesensis*, *A. dieffenbachii*, *A. interioris*, *A. japonica*, *A. luzonensis*, *A. marmorata*, *A. megastoma*, *A. mossambica*, *A. obscura*, *A. reinhardtii* and *A. rostrata*) and should be answered by all range States and Parties trading in anguillid species.
8. Parties are invited to complete the attached questionnaires that are relevant to them, and to submit their responses by **1 March 2018** to the Secretariat (karen.gaynor@cites.org), who will forward the information to the consultants who will undertake the studies. This will allow for compilation of the responses in a timely manner for consideration at AC30 (Geneva, July 2018) in compliance with Decision 17.188. Information concerning the illegal trade in *A. anguilla* will be considered at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (Sochi, October 2018), in compliance with Decision 17.189.
9. Parties may also want to take note that a technical workshop on *Anguillidae* is provisionally scheduled to take place during the week of 16-20 April 2018 (dates and venue to be confirmed).

¹ *Three other species names are occasionally used in relation to freshwater eels – Anguilla labiata, Anguilla malgumora and Anguilla nebulosa. A. labiata is a sub-population of A. bengalensis, primarily found in Africa and should be referred to as the latter. A. malgumora is a synonym for A. borneensis and should be referred to as the latter. A. nebulosa is a synonym for A. bengalensis and should be referred to as the latter.*

10. Management Authorities are encouraged to consult all relevant national authorities to obtain the required information. Parties are further encouraged to engage where possible with researchers, fishery-experts, national and international organizations, and other pertinent stakeholders to ensure that as much relevant information as possible is provided.