



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/034

Geneva, 22 April 2020

CONCERNING:

West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.)

1. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted, *inter alia*, Decisions 18.186 to 18.192 on *West African vultures (Accipitridae spp.)*. These Decisions are contained in the Annex to the present Notification.
2. Decisions 18.188 and 18.189, directed to the Secretariat, read as follows:
 - 18.188** *The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting the following information concerning trade in and conservation of Egyptian vulture (Neophron percnopterus), white-headed vulture (Trigonoceps occipitalis), hooded vulture (Necrosyrtes monachus), whitebacked vulture (Gyps africanus), Rüppell's vulture (Gyps rueppelli) and lappet-faced vulture (Torgos tracheliotos) in West Africa:*
 - a) *biological data on West African vultures, including population size, breeding productivity, distribution, and trends across the range of the species;*
 - b) *available information about harvest and levels of legal and illegal trade of vultures and their parts;*
 - c) *information on threats to these species, in particular belief-based use and sentinel poisoning, and other trade-related threats;*
 - d) *information on enforcement actions taken, including seizures, forensic analysis of seized specimens, arrests, prosecutions and judgments relating to illegal trade in vultures as well as disposal of seized specimens; and*
 - e) *new developments regarding management, education and awareness-raising measures concerning vultures.*
 - 18.189** *The Secretariat shall compile responses from the Parties and provide these responses to the Animals Committee's working group to inform its work.*
3. Parties are hereby requested to submit to the Secretariat relevant information as per Decision 18.188, via email to info@cites.org and johannes.stahl@cites.org, no later than **30 May 2020**. The Secretariat will compile the responses received into an information document for the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee.

Decisions on West African vultures (*Accipitridae* spp.)
adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

18.186 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to assist in the implementation of the trade-related aspects of the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan, subject to the availability of resources, including sharing information based on the work of the Animals Committee.

18.187 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat is encouraged to include vultures as a case study for the possible Non-Detriment Findings workshop.

18.188 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting the following information concerning trade in and conservation of Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), white-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*), hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), whitebacked vulture (*Gyps africanus*), Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*) and lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*) in West Africa:

- a) biological data on West African vultures, including population size, breeding productivity, distribution, and trends across the range of the species;
- b) available information about harvest and levels of legal and illegal trade of vultures and their parts;
- c) information on threats to these species, in particular belief-based use and sentinel poisoning, and other trade-related threats;
- d) information on enforcement actions taken, including seizures, forensic analysis of seized specimens, arrests, prosecutions and judgments relating to illegal trade in vultures as well as disposal of seized specimens; and
- e) new developments regarding management, education and awareness-raising measures concerning vultures.

18.189 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall compile responses from the Parties and provide these responses to the Animals Committee's working group to inform its work.

18.190 Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall establish a working group to address key gaps in knowledge as it relates to the biological and trade issues highlighted in the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan (Vulture MsAP), with particular attention for the six species mentioned in Decision 18.188 and the West African region, and including but not limited to trade in vulture parts of belief-based use (Objective 4), sentinel poisoning by poachers (Objective 5), cross-cutting actions that contribute to addressing knowledge gaps (Objective 11), and contribute to effective implementation of the Vulture MsAP (Objective 12).

The working group shall:

- a) review the information submitted under the Notification;
- b) conduct a detailed assessment on the scale and impact of legal and illegal trade in live birds, eggs, and vulture body parts across the range of the Vulture MsAP; and
- c) provide findings and recommendations to the Animals Committee.

18.191 Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall provide guidance to range States on how to factor in all known threats to the species when making non-detriment findings for these species, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

18.192 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the recommendations from the Animals Committee, as appropriate, and information relating to illegal trade in vulture body parts for traditional/belief-based use, and adopt recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Parties concerned; and
- b) in consultation with the Secretariat, report on the implementation of Decisions 18.186 to 18.191 to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.