

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 - 25 November 2022

Summary record of the first session for Committee I

15 November 2022: 09h20 - 11h55

Chair: V. Fleming (United Kingdom)

Secretariat: D.Morgan
K. Gaynor
H. Okusu
J. C. Vasquez

Rapporteurs: J. Mark
F. Davis
J. Gray
S. Rouse

The Chair announced his intentions with regard to the working programme of Committee I. Following discussions of document CoP19 84.1 on *Standard nomenclature*, proposals CoP19 Prop. 48, Prop. 51 and Prop. 45 would be considered in the afternoon session of Wednesday 16 November with their respective standard nomenclature documents (CoP19 Doc. 84.2, Doc. 84.3 and Doc. 84.4), and proposals CoP19 Prop. 43 and Prop. 52 in the morning session of Thursday 17 November. The remaining proposals for flora would then be considered in numerical order. Proposals for fish and other aquatic species would be considered in the afternoon session of Thursday 17 November, in numerical order 37-42. Proposals CoP19 Prop. 4, Prop. 5 and Prop. 1 would be considered in the afternoon session of Friday 18 November. The remaining proposals would follow the order set out on the CITES website.

The Chair of the Credentials Committee reported that 143 Parties had registered, and 126 credentials had been accepted.

Maintenance of the Appendices

85. Annotations

85.1 Annotations: Report of the Standing Committee

Canada, as Chair of the intersessional working group on annotations, introduced document CoP19 Doc. 85.1, which reported on implementation of Decisions 16.162 (Rev. CoP18), 18.321 and 18.322. As the working group had not achieved consensus on all of the work directed to it in Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18), a revised decision had been submitted to CoP19 deleting those directives that had been accomplished.

The Chair noted that the recommendation in paragraph 10. a) in document CoP19 Doc. 85.1, to amend

* While this summary record has been adopted without changes in summary record CoP19 Com. I. Rec 11, the Secretariat has revised it at the request of the European Union that had asked to be referred to as "the European Union and its Member States" throughout all the summary records of CoP19.

paragraph 5 of the Interpretation Section of the Appendices, was linked to proposal CoP19 Prop. 43 and proposed deferring discussion of this recommendation and Annex 1 to the document until this proposal had been discussed.

Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 10. c) to amend paragraph 8 of the Interpretation Section of the Appendices the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland proposed a minor grammatical edit to the first sentence by inserting of between "wood" and "each".

With regards to the Secretariat's suggestion that a new set of decisions be adopted instead of a revised version of Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18), the United States of America recommended retaining the original numbering of the decisions in order to show that these discussions had been ongoing for a number of meetings of the Conferences of the Parties. In relation to the recommendation in paragraph 10. g), the Chair suggested that the original numbering also be retained for Decisions 18.321 and 18.322 as proposed by the Standing Committee.

In relation to the recommendation in paragraph 10. f) regarding definitions of wood and wood products, the Republic of Korea noted that the current definitions were inconsistent with the most recent World Customs Organization definitions. In response, the United States of America, supported by Canada as the Chair of the intersessional working group on annotations, suggested that an additional element be included in the proposed terms of reference for the working group, contained in Annex 5. The Committee Chair proposed the following paragraph between paragraphs b) and c) in Annex 5 to document CoP19 Doc. 85.1: b bis) to review and update the definitions of wood and wood products currently located in paragraph 1 c) of Resolution Conf.10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*, for logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and plywood.

The Chair adjourned discussions on recommendation 10. a). The Committee agreed to recommend for adoption recommendations 10. b), c) with the minor amendment proposed by the United Kingdom, d), e) with the additional paragraph proposed by the Committee Chair and g).

85.2 Information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 85.2, which outlined the scope and expected outputs of an information system for processing trade data associated with transactions in specimens of CITES-listed tree species and proposed the renewal and amendment of Decision 18.137 and a new decision to direct the Secretariat to commission a study to explore the feasibility and requirements for developing such a system.

The European Union and its Member States supported the renewal of Decision 18.317 and the adoption of the proposed draft decision, highlighting the importance of species identification and of building on existing work but also cautioning against duplication of effort. Argentina opposed the draft decisions as it believed the inclusion of information on the value and socio-economic benefits of trade in CITES-listed tree species could present an unbalanced impression of the benefits versus the impacts of such trade. Senegal proposed an analysis of relevant data in the CITES Trade Database.

The United States of America suggested that the concerns expressed by Parties could be resolved through the addition of a new element to draft decision 18.317 (Rev. CoP19) to direct the Standing Committee to adopt terms of reference, in consultation with the Plants Committee, for contemplating the outputs of an information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species.

The Chair suggested draft decision 18.317 (Rev. CoP19) contained in Annex 1 also be directed to the Plants Committee and the following be inserted at the beginning of the draft decision: "The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Plants Committee, shall explore the feasibility and requirements for developing an information system, subject to agreed terms of reference."

The two draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 85.2 were accepted with the amendments to draft decision 18.317 (Rev. CoP19) proposed by the Chair.

85.3 Informal review mechanism of existing and proposed annotations

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 85.3 outlining the rationale for developing an informal review mechanism of both existing and proposed annotations.

The United States of America supported the adoption of the draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat and proposed the following for insertion at the beginning of draft decision 19.BB: “The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee.”. Given this proposed amendment, the Chair suggested that draft decision 19.BB should also be directed to the Animals and Plants Committees.

The two draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 85.3 were accepted with the amended wording to draft decision 19.BB proposed by the United States of America and the Committee Chair. It was also agreed that Decisions 18.316, 18.318, 18.319 and 18.320 be deleted.

Species specific matters

83. Identifying species at risk of extinction for CITES Parties

Nigeria, followed by co-proponents Niger and Senegal, introduced document CoP19 Doc. 83 containing a draft resolution and draft decisions for the purpose of extending protection under CITES to a larger number of threatened species by making use of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Benin, Costa Rica, Gabon and Kenya supported the document. China, Colombia, the European Union and its Member States, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe and IWMC-World Conservation Trust (speaking also on behalf of several sustainable use organizations) did not support it. Several of these recognized the need for more technical support in formulating listing proposals and the value of the IUCN Red List in informing these but noted that Red List data were readily accessible and believed that provision for technical support to Parties was already in place. Some Parties also drew attention to the potential burden of work that would result from the proposed resolution to the Secretariat and the Animals and Plants Committees, noting that the work would be unfunded.

The United Kingdom, supported by the United States of America and Israel, saw some merit in the document and expressed support for draft decisions to explore ways for improved interface with Red List information in the preparation of CITES listing proposals. The United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) (speaking also on behalf of IUCN and the Zoological Society of London) drew attention to a recent preprint paper submitted as information document CoP19 Inf. 74 which developed a new mechanism to identify globally threatened species at risk from international trade using the IUCN Red List. Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech - University of Liège stated that it would be willing to share its scientific data on species in the West African region.

The Chair, noting the lack of consensus among Parties, asked the proponents to collaborate informally with the United Kingdom and the United States of America and others to develop a refined set of decisions which could meet the technical support and guidance needs of the West African region.

Maintenance of the Appendices

87. Amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

87.2 Aquatic species listed in the CITES Appendices: proposals for a new approach to the listing of sharks and rays

Senegal introduced document CoP19 87.2, announcing that instead of its original proposal, it had prepared a series of draft decisions as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) convene a technical workshop to examine the biological difference between these species of the class Chondrichthyes (and other highly vulnerable marine species) and other commercially exploited aquatic species and consider to further develop the amendments proposed to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) that are contained in section 6 of document CoP19 Doc 87.2, to ensure that they correctly reflect the intent of the text of the Convention for the class Chondrichthyes.

- b) publish a notification inviting all interested Parties, the Animals Committee, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and other competent intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to participate in this workshop.
- c) submit the conclusions and recommendations of this workshop to the Animals Committee at its next meeting for review.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 19.BB** The Animals Committee shall review the report of the workshop and make recommendations to the next meeting of the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.CC** The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the workshop and the recommendations and comments of the Animals Committee and submit recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties and others

- 19.DD** Parties, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations and other donors are encouraged to provide funding to the Secretariat for the implementation of Decision 19.AA.

The meeting was adjourned at 11h55.