

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 fourteenth session for Committee I

22 November 2022: 19h05 – 22h00

Chair: V. Fleming (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Secretariat: I. Higuero
H. J. Kim
D. Morgan
J.C. Vasquez

Rapporteurs: A. Caromel
F. Davis
J. Gray
R. Mackenzie
J. Mark
L. Oliveira
C. Stafford
S. Rouse

Species specific matters

61. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.)

The Chair introduced document CoP19 Com I. 1, prepared by the Secretariat containing revised draft decisions based on those in Annex to document CoP19 Doc. 61.

Draft decisions 19.AA to 19.DD in document CoP19 Com. I. 1 were accepted, and it was agreed to delete Decisions 18.197 to 18.202.

70. Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

The Chair introduced document CoP19 Com I. 2 prepared by the United States of America, based on its suggested amendments to the draft decisions contained within document CoP19 Doc. 70.

Draft decisions 19.AA to 19.CC presented in document CoP19 Com. I. 2 were accepted, and it was agreed to delete Decisions 18.234 to 18.237.

Proposals to amend the Appendices

89. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

On behalf of the co-proponents, the European Union and its Member States introduced **proposal CoP19 Prop. 45** to include *Rhodiola* spp. in Appendix II with annotation #2: "All parts and derivatives except: a) seeds and pollen; and b) finished products packaged and ready for retail trade". It highlighted the biological vulnerability of *R. rosea* and *R. crenulata* and their suspected population declines. It noted that products of

these species were frequently substituted for other *Rhodiola* species, and therefore the provisions of the look-alike criterion for the rest of genus were applicable.

Canada, Norway and Switzerland supported the proposal. TRAFFIC noted that an unknown proportion of *Rhodiola* exports from some range States were in finished products, with some likely to be from domestic wild harvest, and recommended that trade in finished products containing *Rhodiola* be monitored to ensure it did not threaten wild populations.

Proposal CoP19 Prop. 45 to include *Rhodiola* spp. in Appendix II with annotation #2 was accepted by consensus.

Maintenance of the Appendices

84. Standard nomenclature

84.4 Standard nomenclature for *Rhodiola* spp.

The European Union and its Member States introduced document CoP19 Doc 84.4 outlining the nomenclatural issues surrounding *Rhodiola* and containing a draft decision to direct the Plants Committee to identify and recommend a suitable nomenclatural reference to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The United States supported the acceptance of draft decision 19.AA as revised by the Secretariat and asked that the subspecies *Rhodiola integrifolia integrifolia*, *Rhodiola integrifolia leedyi*, *Rhodiola integrifolia neomexicana* and *Rhodiola integrifolia procera* be included as separate entries in the CITES Checklist of species. It also drew attention to Annex 1 to proposal CoP19 Prop. 45 which included scientific synonyms and distribution data for these taxa.

Draft decision 19.AA under Comments of the Secretariat in document CoP19 Doc 84.4 was accepted by consensus.

Proposals to amend the Appendices

89. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II (cont.)

Switzerland introduced **proposal CoP19 Prop. 52** to amend the annotation to the listing of Orchidaceae included in Appendix II, specifically to amend Annotation #4, with the addition of new paragraph g), to read: “(g) finished products packaged and ready for retail trade of cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* or *Phalaenopsis lobbii*.” It highlighted that research on these five species had indicated they were artificially propagated in large quantities to supply the cosmetic and personal care industry, with no evidence that wild-harvested plants would be detrimentally affected by the exemption of finished products. However, to address concerns that wild specimens could enter into trade as a result of acceptance of this proposal, Switzerland proposed the following draft decisions:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA No less than one (1) year after entry into force of the decisions adopted at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting the following information:

- a) whether there have been any implementation issues concerning the Annotation #4 exemption for finished products packaged and ready for retail trade of cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of specimens of *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii*, and if so describe the issues;
- b) whether Parties have identified any conservation impacts of the Annotation #4 exemption on the status of *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii* in the wild; and

- c) based on the responses received, prepare a report to the Standing Committee on implementation challenges and to the Plants Committee on conservation impacts of the exemption.

Directed to the Parties

- 19.BB** Parties are encouraged to submit pertinent information concerning the Annotation #4 exemption for finished products packaged and ready for retail trade of cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of specimens of *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii* as requested in Decision 19.AA.

Directed to Plants Committee

- 19.CC** The Plants Committee shall:

- a) review the information received as requested under Decision 19.AA with a view to assessing whether the exemption provided under Annotation #4 has had any impacts on the wild populations of these species; and
- b) based on the outcome of this review, formulate recommendations to the Standing Committee concerning the exemption provided under Annotation #4 for *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii*.

Directed to the Standing Committee:

- 19.DD** The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report of the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 19.AA and any recommendations of the Plants Committee under Decision 19.CC; and
- b) formulate recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the application and conservation impacts of the exemption provided under Annotation #4 to *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii*, as appropriate.

Australia, Canada, China, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland supported the proposal.

The European Union and its Member States stated that it could not support the proposal unless specimens with source codes W and Y were excluded, and proposed an amendment to the annotation, so that it would comprise the text in the current annotation #4 with an additional paragraph to read: "(g) finished products derived from artificial propagation, packaged and ready for retail trade of cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* or *Phalaenopsis lobbii*", to which Switzerland agreed.

Proposal CoP19 Prop. 52, as amended by European Union and its Member States and with the draft decisions proposed by Switzerland, were accepted by consensus.

Species specific matters

82. Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species

The draft decisions contained in document CoP19 Com. I. 3 were accepted by consensus.

64. Marine turtles (*Cheloniidae* spp. and *Dermochelyidae* spp.)

China supported the new draft decision and resolution proposed in document CoP19 Com. I. 4. These were accepted by consensus, and it was agreed to delete Decisions 18.210 to 18.216.

Proposals to amend the Appendices

89. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

On behalf of the co-proponents, Costa Rica introduced **proposal CoP19 Prop. 34** to include all species of the family Centrolenidae in Appendix II indicating that species in the family were attractive, charismatic and highly valued in trade. It further noted that it was almost impossible to distinguish between species in trade and that effective implementation therefore required all species in the family be listed.

Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Gambia, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Panama, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the United States of America, Uruguay, China Biodiversity Green Development Foundation and Humane Society International supported the proposal, several highlighting the threat from unregulated and illegal trade.

The European Union and its Member States, supported by Canada, opposed the proposal. It considered that only one species of the 158 might meet the criteria for listing, that recorded international trade was restricted to a few non-threatened species, and that threatened taxa were not in demand. It also expressed concern regarding the use of the look-alike criteria, noting striking similarities between species of the family Centrolenidae and those belonging to at least five other families and concluding that customs officials would struggle to identify members of the family in trade. The European Union and its Member States suggested the proponents significantly reduce the scope of the proposal but also agreed it would not block consensus. The German Society for Herpetology and Pet Advocacy Network opposed the proposal on the grounds that the species did not meet the listing criteria and were not at risk from trade.

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 34 to include all species of the family Centrolenidae in Appendix II was agreed by consensus.

Panama introduced **proposal CoP19 Prop. 35** for the inclusion of *Agalychnis lemur* in Appendix II with a zero annual export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes.

Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the European Union and its Member States, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Senegal, Seychelles, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the German Society for Herpetology supported the listing proposal

Proposal CoP19 Prop. 35 to include *Agalychnis lemur* in Appendix II with a zero annual export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes was accepted by consensus, with the recommendation that the CITES standard reference to be used for this species (*Frost, D.R. 2021. Amphibian Species of the World: an Online Reference. Version 6.1. doi.org/10.5531/db.vz.0001*) as proposed in Annex 1 to the proposal.

The European Union and its Member States introduced **proposal CoP19 Prop. 36** for the inclusion of *Laotriton laoensis* in Appendix II with a zero annual export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mali supported the proposal drawing attention to its scarcity and restricted distribution.

Proposal CoP19 Prop. 36 to include *Laotriton laoensis* in Appendix II with a zero annual export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes was accepted by consensus.

India introduced **proposal CoP19 Prop. 25 (Rev. 1)** to transfer *Batagur kachuga* from Appendix II to Appendix I highlighting its highly threatened state, having been assessed by IUCN as Critically Endangered on the basis of an inferred population reduction of 80% over a 50-year period.

Costa Rica, the European Union and its Member States, Mauritania, Senegal, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the German Society of Herpetology supported the proposal.

Proposal CoP19 Prop. 25 (Rev. 1) to transfer *Batagur kachuga* from Appendix II to Appendix I was accepted by consensus.

Proposal CoP19 Prop. 26 to transfer *Cuora galbinifrons* from Appendix II to Appendix I was introduced by Viet Nam on behalf of the co-proponents, highlighting the intrinsic vulnerability of the species and hoping that transfer of the species to Appendix I would assist in the fight against illegal trade by allowing the introduction of higher penalties.

Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Senegal, the United States of America and the German Society of Herpetology supported the proposal.

Proposal CoP19 Prop. 26 to transfer *Cuora galbinifrons* from Appendix II to Appendix I was accepted by consensus.

Proposal CoP19 Prop. 27 to include *Rhinoclemmys* spp. in Appendix II was introduced by Costa Rica on behalf of the co-proponents. It stated that five of the nine species in the genus had been assessed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List and highlighted the intrinsic vulnerability of the species in the genus due to slow growth, low reproductive rates and late sexual maturity. It explained that identification to species-level was difficult for non-experts, considering therefore that the genus in its entirety should be listed in Appendix II.

Argentina, Benin, Ecuador, Gabon, Guatemala, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Togo and Uruguay supported the proposal.

Guyana did not support the proposal, considering that it did not present sufficient evidence that the different species met criteria for listing in Appendix II.

The European Union and its Member States opposed the proposal in its original form, considering that it did not present sufficient data on whether international trade was affecting all species. It noted that some species were locally common, while those species with more restricted ranges were not traded in significant numbers. It also considered that all the species in the genus could be differentiated, and therefore that the look-alike criteria were not met. Supported by Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, it suggested that the proponents reduce the scope of the proposal to include the following species only: *Rhinoclemmys areolata*, *R. diademata*, *R. rubida*, *R. pulcherrima* and *R. punctularia*.

Seeing no consensus, the Chair proposed that Parties consult informally before resuming deliberations at the following session.

The meeting was adjourned at 22h00.