

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 second session for Committee II

15 November 2022: 14h05 - 17h00

Chairs: R. Ollerenshaw

Secretariat: I. Higuero
T. Carroll
S. Flensburg
T. McGregor

Rapporteurs: A. Caromel
F. Davis
J. Mark
R. Mackenzie

Morocco, as Chair of the Credentials Committee, provided an update on the status of credentials: 131 credentials were accepted for the 145 Parties present.

Strategic matters

25. Action plan on gender-related matters

Panama introduced document CoP19 Doc. 25, emphasising the importance of promoting gender equality, mainstreaming gender issues, and acknowledging the involvement of women in the sustainable use of wildlife, while noting that CITES did not have an action plan for gender-related issues. It supported the Secretariat's comments on the document.

Indonesia, echoed by Bangladesh and China, agreed on the substance of the topic but stated that the definition of gender cited was not universally recognised and believed that each country should be able to adopt its own definition.

Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia and the United States of America highlighted the need to reflect gender inclusivity and diversity beyond the binary definition in order to fully tackle gender discrimination and avoid gender stereotyping. Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Union and its Member States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States generally supported the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat, pending further textual amendments. World Wide Fund for Nature, speaking also on behalf of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Pantera, the Zoological Society of London, TRAFFIC, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, welcomed the proposal,

The Chair established a working group comprising Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico, Panama, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Zambia, TRAFFIC and the World Wide Fund for Nature. The working group would elect its own chair from among the delegates that are members of the working group and would consider the draft decisions and draft resolution as amended by the Secretariat.

Maintenance of the Appendices

88. Communications concerning amendments to the Appendices received by the Depositary Government after the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 88, which addressed the practical and legal questions raised by some of the communications concerning amendments to the Appendices received by the Depositary Government after the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18). Its Annexes contained proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*, Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, and Resolution Conf. 4.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Reservations*. The Secretariat noted that the document incorporated comments received at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Peru expressed support for the Secretariat's proposed amendments to the Resolutions, while Canada and Kenya generally supported these with some amendments. Further amendments to the document were proposed by the European Union and its Member States, India, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the United States of America.

While the United States supported the Secretariat's proposed amendments in document CoP19 Doc. 88, it considered they did not go far enough to resolve the problem in its entirety and identified other issues related to reservations that it felt merited consideration at CoP19, summarized in information document CoP19 Inf. 17 (Rev. 1). They were supported by Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Kenya and the United Kingdom.

The European Union and its Member States noted that document CoP19 Doc. 66.4.2 was also relevant to this topic. Echoed by Canada, it felt that annotations for both fauna and flora should be treated in the same way.

China and Israel expressed general support for the Secretariat's proposed amendments but considered that some elements might create implementation challenges. China proposed new draft decisions. Botswana, Zimbabwe and SUCO-SA noted that document CoP19 Doc. 88 was a consequence of decisions made at CoP18 to revise Resolution Conf. 11.20 on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* and the reservations that were entered as a result. Botswana believed the amendments proposed by the Secretariat could form the basis for further discussions. Zimbabwe indicated that due to the substantive nature of the document more time was required to consider the document. Namibia expressed its interest in the discussions as a Party that submitted a reservation after the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Chair established a drafting group comprising: Botswana, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Kenya, Namibia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Zimbabwe. The drafting group was requested to consider amendments proposed to Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the document during the discussion.

23. Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade

23.1 Report of the Standing Committee

and

23.2 One Health: Human and animal health risks from wildlife trade

The Chair announced that agenda items 23.1 and 23.2 would be considered together. The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP19 Doc. 23.1, containing a set of draft decisions for consideration in Annex 1, and proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on *Transport of live specimens* in Annex 2. Côte d'Ivoire introduced document CoP19 Doc. 23.2, which it had submitted with Gabon, The Gambia, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, proposing the adoption of a draft resolution on One Health and CITES contained in Annex 1 to the document, and draft decisions contained in Annex 2. The proponents believed that, because of the urgency of the issue, it was important to adopt a resolution at CoP19.

Canada, Chile, the European Union and its Member States, Israel, Japan, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Republic of Tanzania supported the proposed decisions in document CoP19 Doc. 23.1 and the proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16), with Canada, the European Union and its Member States and Israel expressing a preference for the Secretariat's amendments to the draft decisions. TRAFFIC, also on behalf of the World Wide Fund for Nature, supported the proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16).

Gabon, Israel, Niger, Togo, the United States of America, Born Free Foundation, speaking also on behalf of a number of other non-governmental organizations, and Wildlife Conservation Society supported document CoP19 Doc. 23.2. The United States drew attention to its proposed amendments to the draft resolution and decisions in document CoP19 Doc. 23.2, available in information document CoP19 Inf. 73.

Chile, the European Union and its Member States, Japan, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Republic of Tanzania opposed the draft decisions and draft resolution in document CoP19 Doc. 23.2. Japan considered that the proposal was premature, and the European Union and its Member States stated that a focus on zoonoses would go beyond the mandate of CITES. Canada expressed concern that the proposals would unduly increase the workloads of CITES Management Authorities and Committees. It suggested that the Standing Committee could consider aspects of document CoP19 Doc. 23.2 through an intersessional process.

The European Union and its Member States and TRAFFIC suggested that some elements of the draft resolution in document CoP19 Doc. 23.2 might be integrated into the draft decisions in document CoP19 Doc. 23.1. Cambodia and Chile noted the need to ensure that the terms used in documents CoP19 Doc. 23.1 and Doc 23.2 were up-to-date and consistent.

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) referred to the CMS-CITES Joint Programme of Work that includes issues of common interest and shared information on three relevant institutional mechanisms within CMS that could be useful to Parties in addressing the item under discussion: the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds convened by the CMS Secretariat and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the Working Group on Migratory Species and Health, and the CoP-appointed scientific councillor, designated by the CMS Standing Committee, whose expertise and responsibilities include the issue.

The Chair established a working group comprising: Australia, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Canada (Chair), Cambodia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, European Union, France, Gabon, Ghana, The Gambia, Israel, Liberia, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Organisation for Animal Health, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free Foundation, Centre for Biological Diversity, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, German Society of Herpetology, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Pet Advocacy Network, ProWildlife, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, South African Taxidermy & Tannery Association, Species Survival Network, The International Fur Federation, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wide Fund for Nature. The working group was mandated to combine the recommendations in document CoP19 Doc. 23.1 and document CoP19 Doc. 23.2 into a single proposal, taking into consideration the amendments proposed during discussion.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 17h00.