

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 - 26 November 2022

Summary record of the fifth session for Committee II

16 November 2022: 19h30 – 21h50

Chair: R. Ollerenshaw (Australia)

Secretariat: I. Higuero
T. Carroll
Y. Liu
D. Morgan
J.C. Vasquez

Rapporteurs: L. Oliveira
J. Robinson
C. Stafford
R. Sexton
R. Mackenzie
S. Rouse

Strategic matters

14. Livelihoods

Kenya, echoed by Gabon, Amboseli Ecosystem Trust and Fondation Franz Weber (speaking also on behalf of a number of observer organizations) did not support the proposed revisions of Decisions 18.33 to 18.35 as it considered these to have been implemented. Fondation Franz Weber and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) further urged that case studies better reflect costs and benefits of the CITES-regulated trade on livelihoods and the conservation of species.

Botswana, Guinea, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Community-Based Natural Resource Management Forum (CBNRM) (on behalf of Zambian Community Resource Management Forum and Community Resource Board Association), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (also on behalf of TRAFFIC and World Wide Fund for Nature) and Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa also on behalf of several observer organizations expressed support for the revised decisions, being of the opinion that an extension of the mandate of the working group on livelihoods was needed to ensure continued engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). The United States noted the impact of the revised decisions on the Secretariat staff time and resources.

Gabon, supported by Kenya and Niger, proposed a number of amendments to the revised decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 14. These were opposed by Canada, the European Union and its Member States, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia proposed an amendment to paragraph a) of draft decision 18.33 (Rev. CoP19) as follows:

- a) collate or conduct new case studies, using the standard template, that demonstrate how sustainable use of CITES-listed species contributes to the wellbeing and livelihoods of the indigenous peoples and local communities* involved in such use, including trade, and to the conservation of the species. Include examples of facilitating such involvement by wildlife-related authorities and other stakeholders and submit them to the Secretariat ;

The Committee accepted the revised decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP19 Doc. 14, with the amendment to Decision 18.33 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph a), as proposed by the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The Committee also agreed to delete Decisions 18.36 and 18.37.

15. Participatory mechanisms for rural communities in CITES

Speaking also on behalf of Eswatini and Namibia, Zimbabwe introduced document CoP19 Doc. 15 (Rev. 1), which, *inter alia*, proposes that the Standing Committee establish a cross-cutting Rural Communities Advisory Subcommittee to enable increased representation of IPLCs in CITES decision-making. Zimbabwe emphasized that rural communities are among those most affected by wildlife conservation and trade decisions and considered that the establishment of such a Subcommittee would facilitate the integration of traditional knowledge into conservation.

Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, the Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa, Conservation Force (speaking also on behalf of a number of other observer organizations) and Speak Out for Animals supported the proposals in the document, citing in particular the losses that local communities suffer due to human-wildlife conflict.

China and Indonesia supported the Secretariat's amendments to the draft decisions in the proposal. Japan referred to the IPBES assessment that indicated the need to strengthen socio-economic aspects in the implementation of the Convention.

Burkina Faso, the European Union and its Member States, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Born Free Foundation (speaking also on behalf of a number of other observer organizations) did not support the document's proposals, citing concerns that such a subcommittee could give one particular type of stakeholder disproportionate influence over decision-making. Rather, it was incumbent on Parties to consult IPLCs when deciding on their national positions. The European Union and its Member States, the United Kingdom and the United States also considered that the issue of inclusion of IPLCs in CITES decision-making was already addressed through Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) *CITES and livelihoods*, document CoP19 Doc. 13, and document CoP19 Doc. 14, and did not think there was a need for another separate process. The United States further noted the impact of the proposals in the document on the Secretariat staff time and resources.

Following interventions from Canada, the European Union and its Member States and the United Kingdom, drawing attention to the terms of reference for the intersessional working group created under agenda item 13 on *Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities*, it was agreed that the proponents could refer the matters raised in document CoP19 Doc. 15 (Rev 1) to the intersessional working group established under agenda item 13.

Species specific matters

66. Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

66.5 Report on Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 66.5, thanking African and Asian range States for their continued commitment to MIKE. The Secretariat reported on relative poaching levels based on the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) in Africa and Asia, as well as implemented capacity-building initiatives. With regards to factors associated with illegal killing of elephants in Africa, analysis undertaken shows strong evidence that the illegal killing of elephants tends to be lower in countries with better governance; at sites with better law enforcement capacity; and at sites where adjacent households are wealthier and healthier.

Burkina Faso, China, India, Japan, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, and the United States of America expressed appreciation for the report with Japan and the United States citing their contributions to the MIKE programme. Kenya, South Africa and Uganda expressed thanks to donors who provide support

to MIKE and stressed the need for continued support. Uganda drew attention to reduced levels of the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) in Eastern and Southern Africa but remained concerned about PIKE levels in West and Central Africa. Uganda noted an increase in killing for wild meat during the COVID-19 pandemic and queried whether this had affected elephant populations. Kenya highlighted paragraph 12 of the report on the need to interpret PIKE results with caution. India noted the need for clarification of the interpretation of the data in paragraph 31.

Document CoP19 Doc. 66.5 was noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 21h50.