

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

**FOR THE 19TH MEETING OF
THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CITES**

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
14 - 25 NOVEMBER 2022



TRAFFIC

CONTENTS

page 5

INTRODUCTION

page 6

COP19 OVERVIEW

page 6

TRAFFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON SELECTED AGENDA DOCUMENTS FOR CITES COP19

| | | |
|---|-----------------|------|
| CITES Strategic Vision | Doc. 10 | p.9 |
| World Wildlife Trade Report | Doc. 12 | |
| Engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities | Doc. 13 | p.10 |
| Livelihoods | Doc. 14 | |
| Participatory mechanisms for rural communities in CITES | Doc. 15 | |
| CITES and One Health | Doc. 23.1, 23.2 | p.11 |
| Malagasy ebonies, palisanders and rosewoods | Doc. 29.3 | p.12 |
| Enforcement Matters | Doc. 33 | |
| Demand reduction to combat illegal trade | Doc. 38 | p.13 |
| Non-detriment findings | Doc. 43.1, 43.2 | p.14 |
| Marine Turtle | Doc. 64.1, 64.2 | p.15 |
| Sharks and Rays | Doc. 65 | p.16 |
| Elephants | Doc. 21 | p.17 |
| Elephants | Doc. 66.1 | |
| Elephants | Doc. 66.2.1 | |
| Elephants | Doc. 66.3 | |
| Elephants | Doc. 66.6 | |
| Elephants | Doc. 66.7 | |
| CITES Big Cat Task Force | Doc. 67 | p.19 |
| Asian Big Cats | Doc. 68 | p.20 |
| Pangolins | Doc. 71.1, 71.2 | p.21 |
| Lions | Doc. 72 | |
| Songbird trade and conservation management | Doc. 74 | p.22 |
| Rhinoceroses | Doc. 75 | p.24 |
| Saiga Antelope | Doc. 76 | p.25 |
| Tortoises and Freshwater turtles | Doc. 78 | |
| Marine ornamental fishes | Doc. 80 | p.26 |
| Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species | Doc. 82 | p.27 |
| Amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) | Doc. 87.1, 87.2 | p.28 |

page 26

TRAFFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSALS TO AMEND APPENDICES AT CITES COP19

| | | |
|--|----------|------|
| Common Hippopotamus | Prop. 1 | p.30 |
| Southern White Rhinoceros | Prop. 2 | p.31 |
| Southern White Rhinoceros | Prop. 3 | p.31 |
| African Elephant | Prop. 4 | |
| African Elephant | Prop. 5 | p.32 |
| Mexican Prairie Dog | Prop. 6 | |
| Aleutian Cackling Goose | Prop. 7 | |
| White-rumped Shama | Prop. 8 | p.33 |
| Straw-headed Bulbul | Prop. 9 | |
| Short-tailed Albatross | Prop. 10 | p.34 |
| Broad-snouted Caiman | Prop. 11 | |
| Saltwater Crocodile | Prop. 12 | p.35 |
| Siamese Crocodile | Prop. 13 | |
| Chinese Water Dragon | Prop. 14 | p.36 |
| Jeypore Hill Gecko | Prop. 15 | |
| Helmethead Gecko | Prop. 16 | p.37 |
| Desert Horned Lizard | Prop. 17 | |
| Horned Lizards | Prop. 18 | p.38 |
| Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard | Prop. 19 | |
| Puerto Rican Boa | Prop. 20 | p.39 |
| Timber Rattlesnake | Prop. 21 | |
| Amazon Matamata and Orinoco Matamata | Prop. 22 | p.40 |
| Alligator Snapping Turtle | Prop. 23 | |
| <i>Graptemys barbouri</i> , <i>G. ernsti</i> , <i>G. gibbonsi</i> , <i>G. pearlensis</i> , and <i>G. pulchra</i> | Prop. 24 | p.41 |
| Red-crowned Roofed Turtle | Prop. 25 | |
| Indochinese Box Turtle | Prop. 26 | p.42 |
| Neotropical Wood Turtles | Prop. 27 | |
| Narrow-bridged Musk Turtle | Prop. 28 | p.43 |
| Genus <i>Kinosternon</i> | Prop. 29 | |
| Mexican Musk Turtle and Giant Musk Turtle | Prop. 30 | p.44 |
| Musk turtles | Prop. 31 | |
| Softshell Turtles | Prop. 32 | p.45 |
| Leith's Softshell Turtle | Prop. 33 | |
| Glass Frogs | Prop. 34 | p.46 |
| Lemur Leaf Frog | Prop. 35 | |
| Laos Warty Newt | Prop. 36 | p.47 |
| Requiem Sharks | Prop. 37 | |
| Hammerhead Sharks | Prop. 38 | p.48 |
| Freshwater Stingray | Prop. 39 | p.49 |
| Guitarfish | Prop. 40 | |
| Zebra Pleco | Prop. 41 | p.50 |
| Sea Cucumbers | Prop. 42 | |
| Orchidaceae | Prop. 43 | p.51 |
| Trumpet Trees | Prop. 44 | |
| <i>Rhodiola</i> spp. | Prop. 45 | p.52 |
| African mahogany | Prop. 46 | |
| North Indian Rosewood | Prop. 47 | p.53 |
| <i>Cumaru Dipteryx</i> spp. | Prop. 48 | |
| <i>Paubrasilia echinata</i> | Prop. 49 | p.54 |
| <i>Pterocarpus</i> spp. | Prop. 50 | |
| <i>Khaya</i> spp. | Prop. 51 | p.55 |
| Orchidaceae | Prop. 52 | |



Rhodiola spp.



Hammerhead Shark - *Sphyrnidae*

INTRODUCTION

The years following the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP) will be remembered predominantly for the COVID-19 pandemic that swept around the globe, with the toll it has taken on people's lives, businesses and economies.

Even as the world slowly emerged from almost a full year of social and economic lockdown, the climate of uncertainty saw a continued disruption of governmental and inter-governmental processes, with meetings of the CITES Committees and working groups being delayed and limited by having to be conducted virtually online. CITES Management and Scientific Authorities too faced challenges in the implementation of the Convention. At the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee in May 2021, a report by the Secretariat outlined the many difficulties encountered during the pandemic due to travel restrictions, border closures and employment rules for government workers, with insufficient hardware

and software tools and the challenges of a teleworking environment further exacerbating these challenges.

Despite these trials and tribulations, however, we have weathered the storm and will arrive at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) in Panama City this November with a packed and busy agenda. The hard work of the Parties, the Secretariat, NGOs and other stakeholders have set the scene for the Conference of the Parties to adopt decisions that will prompt the transformative change that is needed to face the enormous biodiversity challenges in the coming years. New Resolutions and Decisions are set to break exciting, new ground for CITES, such as a proposed Resolution that outlines the potential role the Convention can play in implementing the One Health approach.

As in previous CoPs, there will no doubt be tensions around issues where Parties have not found consensus in the past. Addressing these will require mutual understanding, agreement

on shared areas of concern and a spirit of compromise and cooperation. We hope that the challenges and delays we encountered in the past few years due to the pandemic will instil a new sense of urgency to the deliberations and a commitment to ensuring that we end the CoP19 with ambitious but practical actions that will effectively address the challenges confronting wildlife trade in the coming years.

We should also not forget that the CoP19 will end just days before governments meet to enter the final stages of negotiations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This new framework, which will set the global conservation agenda for the next 10 to 30 years, now has specific targets and indicators

for ensuring wildlife trade and sustainable use and will strongly advocate for links and integration to be made between biodiversity and health. Political interest in wildlife trade issues is now even more substantial than it has ever been before, fuelled by the strong perceived link to the pandemic outbreak. CITES is poised to demonstrate the vital contribution the Convention can make to drive greater collective action worldwide to reverse the global decline of nature that is eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life. We believe Parties are up to this challenge and will deliver the positive outcomes needed for nature and people.

OVERVIEW

This year's CITES CoP seeks to build on the largely successful outcomes of the previous CoP18 held in Geneva in 2019. The agenda includes a large volume of ongoing business related to previous decisions, often involving significant intercessional work by the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees. Much of that work had to be delayed due to the pandemic, with much of the deliberations of these three Committees having to take place virtually online, apart from the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee which was held in March 2022 in Lyon, France.

The CoP19 agenda examines progress in the past three years on a wide range of species – from rhinos and big cats to pangolins and marine turtles – and recommends more robust action that is needed. Commercially important fisheries and forestry commodities

remain an important area of attention, with agenda documents that outline the next steps needed in the management of sharks and Madagascar's precious timber species.

Other agenda items will build upon the strides made in previous CoPs on strategic issues such as demand reduction, corruption and non-detriment findings. CoP19 will also consider a range of new topics of strategic importance, such as the potential role CITES can play in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence and alignment of CITES' Strategic Vision indicators with those of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

A major theme in many of the agenda items is that of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), including the intractable question of how to engage effectively with IPLCs in CITES processes to ensure decisions

do not adversely impact their economic, social and cultural needs and well-being while maximising the important role they can play in achieving the goal of environmental, economic and social sustainability. Also on the agenda will be discussion on guidance and case studies to demonstrate how the involvement of IPLCs contributes to their livelihoods and the conservation of species in the wild.

A major area of debate at the CoP will be the 52 proposals for stronger trade regulation measures through amendments to the CITES Appendices, with Parties proposing greater regulation of trade under CITES Appendix II provisions for all African populations of *Pterocarpus* timber species and the strictest international trade prohibitions under Appendix I of the Convention for a variety of freshwater turtle species such as the Indochinese Box Turtle.

This Briefing Document outlines TRAFFIC's views and advice on some of these priority issues and proposals on the agenda for CITES CoP19. TRAFFIC believes that policy decisions and recommendations should be informed

and guided by credible evidence and impartial analysis. For many of the issues addressed in this document, we have highlighted recent TRAFFIC reports and other research that could assist Parties in their deliberations. We hope that this briefing document provides Parties with important insights on how their decisions about these various agenda items and proposals can help ensure that wild plants and animals are not overexploited through unsustainable trade, and that sustainable use of wildlife continues to provide benefits to conservation and human livelihoods. Members of TRAFFIC's team of wildlife trade specialists from our offices around the world will attend the CoP and will be available throughout the meeting to provide explanation and further advice on request.

See <https://tinyurl.com/traffic-cop19> for further information, including more detailed briefings on some of the priority areas the CoP will be tackling, as well as real time updates, commentary, and perspectives on various CITES topics.



Straw-headed Bulbul - *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*

TRAFFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON SELECTED AGENDA DOCUMENTS FOR CITES COP19

CITES STRATEGIC VISION

CoP19 Doc. 10

Just weeks after the conclusion of CITES CoP19, governments will be deliberating on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the 15th meeting of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity in Montreal. The framework includes, for the first time, a proposed Target 5 that directly addresses the harvest, use and trade of wild species, and other targets addressing the benefits to conservation and humans resulting from the legal and sustainable use of wildlife. CITES will play an essential role in assisting governments to meet these targets. TRAFFIC, therefore, fully supports the draft Decision calling for a comparative analysis of the areas of alignment between the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and the post-2020 GBF, as a starting point for an assessment of how CITES can contribute to the implementation of the GBF and its monitoring framework. This work would be an important opportunity to ensure that the indicators being used by the CITES Strategic Vision and GBF are consistent, harmonised, and mutually supportive of each other.

Given the importance of the use of wild species nationally, it is critical that measurement of progress in tackling unsustainable use is done at the national level before it can be reflected in global indicators. TRAFFIC, therefore, encourages governments to consider the development of national-level indicators which can effectively address biodiversity challenges they face at the national level but can also be relevant to the global indicators that can measure progress at the international level. TRAFFIC is working with a range of Parties and international organisations – including the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management - in efforts for the co-development of the indicator ‘Sustainable Use of Wild Species’ to measure the implementation of draft Target 5 of the GBF. TRAFFIC is keen on working with CITES Parties in ensuring strong linkages between these and their CITES obligations

WORLD WILDLIFE TRADE REPORT

CoP19 Doc. 12

With the very limited knowledge that currently exists, TRAFFIC welcomes an in-depth analysis of the legal trade in CITES-listed species globally, and of the economic values and the conservation and socio-economic benefits of that trade. The proposed World Wildlife Trade Report can potentially highlight the critical role that sustainable, legal, traceable, and safe wildlife trade plays in supporting and enhancing rural livelihoods, local and national economies and in safeguarding

The image shows a document titled 'Indicator metadata form for compilation of data relating to headline indicators proposed in the first draft of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework'. It is dated November 2021, Version 1.0. The form includes sections for: 1. Indicator name, 2. Date of metadata update, 3. Goals and Targets addressed, and 4. A table for providing the corresponding draft goal name and goal number, draft goal & other Global Biodiversity Framework, and draft target. The form is partially filled out with text.

Indicator metadata form for compilation of data relating to headline indicators proposed in the first draft of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Document link:

<https://www.post-2020indicators.org/pdfs/174?type=headline>

healthy ecosystems and species populations. TRAFFIC is keen to work with Parties and the alliance of partners that will be involved in the preparation of the report to ensure that a robust, balanced and evidence-based approach is taken to develop the methodology used in the collection and analysis of data for the report.

ENGAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

CoP19 Doc. 13

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) recently released its Summary for Policymakers of the IPBES Sustainable Use of Wild Species report which indicated that indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) manage fishing, gathering, terrestrial animal harvesting and other uses of wild species on more than 38 million km² of land, equivalent to about 40% of terrestrial conserved areas, in 87 countries. It also recognised that the sustainable use of wild species is central to the identity and existence of many indigenous peoples and local communities. It is, therefore, unfortunate that no consensus was reached by the Working Group on addressing this issue. TRAFFIC urges Parties to fully support the renewal of the relevant Decisions and to progress work on this issue with a renewed sense of urgency that reflects the critical role that IPLCs play not only in the effective implementation of CITES but also in helping governments meet their targets for many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

LIVELIHOODS

CoP19 Doc. 14

It is unfortunate that the Standing Committee was not able to review the draft guidance on how to maximise the benefits of trade in CITES species for indigenous peoples and local communities and the related study, calling for further review of the guidance by the relevant Working Group. However, TRAFFIC welcomes the 16 case studies that have already been produced, (seven of which TRAFFIC contributed to) demonstrating the contribution of well managed legal trade in CITES species to livelihoods and species conservation. To ensure that CITES work on this issue can draw from a rich knowledge base of experiences, lessons learned and best practices on this issue, TRAFFIC encourages Parties to support the submission of new case studies for consideration, and to consider the lessons learnt and recommendations in those case-studies in making decisions around the trade in CITES-listed species.

PARTICIPATORY MECHANISMS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN CITES

CoP19 Doc. 15

TRAFFIC supports the adoption of a Resolution supporting the UN Declaration. For various procedural and administrative reasons, TRAFFIC does not believe that a dedicated Rural Communities Committee in CITES is the best mechanism to maximise rural community participation in decision-making and other options will need to be considered, including exploring the experience and best practices of other Conventions and multilateral environmental agreements in their engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities.

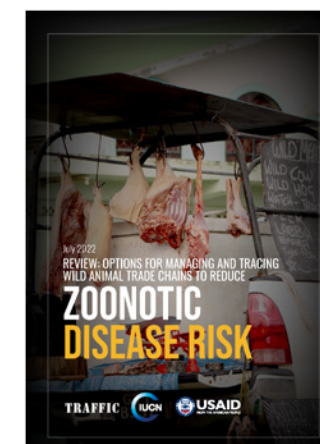
CITES AND ONE HEALTH

CoP19 Doc. 23.1, CoP19 Doc. 23.2

Efforts by just one sector cannot prevent or eliminate future pandemics. A well-coordinated One Health approach is needed, requiring strong multisectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration that will integrate human, animal and environmental health approaches to reduce the risks posed by international trade in wild animals to future zoonotic disease spill-over events. TRAFFIC, therefore, supports the draft Decisions from the Standing Committee in CoP19 Doc 23.1 to encourage greater practical collaboration with other international organisations, such as with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly known as OIE), FAO, WHO and ICCWC, including the development of a joint programme of work with WOAH.

While the document recommends the development of a resolution for CITES CoP20 on actions Parties and others could take to advance a One Health approach, TRAFFIC believes that to delay action by Parties until CITES CoP20 does not reflect the great urgency of the matter. In this regard, TRAFFIC supports serious consideration of the draft Resolution on CITES and One Health proposed in document CoP19 Doc 23.2. The Resolution contains elements that are consistent with and complementary to some of the draft Decisions proposed by the Standing Committee, particularly those related to encouraging cooperation and collaboration with other international organisations. However, the draft Resolution focuses on practical recommendations that can be implemented by the Parties at the national level, such as developing synergies between wildlife; animal and public health authorities; the development of One Health CITES Action Plans by Management Authorities; as well as undertaking risk analyses, training and public awareness activities. The scope of these recommendations is wide-ranging, but the draft Resolution text provides a good basis for further refinement at the CoP.

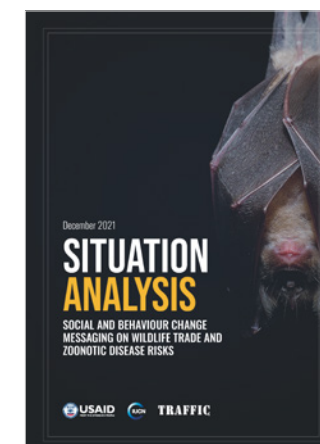
If adopted, TRAFFIC is committed to assisting governments in the implementation of the Resolution and mobilising action in areas of relevant expertise: wildlife trade supply chain research and analysis; design and mediation of regulatory and market-based solutions (including traceability systems); capacity-building in support of implementation and law enforcement; design of behaviour change messaging; and trade impact evaluation. We look forward to working with CITES Parties and other partners in the coming years in tackling this global challenge together.



Review: Options for Managing and Tracing Wild Animal Trade Chains to Reduce Zoonotic Risk

Report link:

<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/review-options-for-managing-and-tracing-wild-animal-trade-chains-to-reduce-zoonotic-risk/>



Situation analysis: Social and Behaviour Change Messaging on Wildlife Trade and Zoonotic Disease Risks

Report link:

<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/situation-analysis-social-and-behaviour-change-messaging-on-wildlife-trade-and-zoonotic-disease-risks/>

MALAGASY EBONIES, PALISANDERS AND ROSEWOODS

CoP19 Doc. 29.3

TRAFFIC supports renewal of Decisions asking Madagascar to secure the stockpiles (including undeclared and hidden stocks) of timber of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* in Madagascar and submit regular updates on audited inventories and the creation and functioning of independent oversight mechanisms. TRAFFIC also supports the recommendation for potential destination countries of shipments of illegal specimens of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar to take appropriate measures to ensure that such timber is not illegally transported or traded, including prohibiting entry, seizing such specimens upon arrival and applying appropriate sanctions against traffickers. However, the draft Decisions do not address the crucial issue of continuing illegal harvest and trade in Madagascar, ineffective stockpiles management, as well as the urgent need to strengthen law enforcement. Madagascar must be seen to be taking effective action to curb illegal activities and ensure appropriate stockpiles management before any re-opening of domestic or international trade.

TRAFFIC also encourages the consideration of work on traceability to enhance the transparency of the trade and limit the leakage of newly harvested timber into markets. Additionally, Madagascar should be encouraged to implement an electronic permitting system that would reduce corruption and the issuance of fraudulent documentation; enhance the traceability of wildlife products; and allow for the sharing of permit data and reporting on trade, hence improving international cooperation. A feasibility study has been conducted by UNCTAD and TRAFFIC has developed a blueprint for the development and implementation of such a system. TRAFFIC hopes that Parties also consider the problem of auctioning of seized timber, which in effect legalises timber that was potentially illegally sourced, appreciating the challenges they face in the storage of these seized specimens and other costs involved.

ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

CoP19 Doc. 33

Corruption is one of the most important facilitators of illegal wildlife trade. Every stage in the illegal trade chain is affected, from poaching and illegal harvesting through transportation, processing and export, to sale and laundering of proceeds. In 2016, CITES broke new ground when Parties at CoP17 adopted the first-ever CITES Resolution on prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption-facilitating activities conducted in violation of the Convention (Resolution Conf. 17.6). Parties are being asked to build upon this momentous step at CoP19 by adopting a Decision encouraging Parties to ensure corruption risk mitigation policies and strategies are in place to address corruption risks associated with wildlife crime; and ensure collaboration mechanisms are in place between CITES and anti-corruption authorities to facilitate swift and decisive action where corrupt activities are detected. The issue



A Guide to Identifying Corruption Risks Along Natural Resource Supply Chains

Guide link:

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/tnrc-nrm-supply-chain-corruption>

of financial crime is also being addressed by a draft Decision encouraging Parties to integrate financial crime investigations into the investigation of crimes involving wildlife, and to increase the use of financial investigation techniques to identify criminals involved in wildlife crime and their networks and address associated illicit financial flows from these crimes. TRAFFIC strongly encourages Parties to adopt this Decision and is keen to assist Parties in its effective implementation with practical guidance and tools. TRAFFIC is a partner in the Targeting Natural Resource Corruption (TNRC) project which brings together expertise from a consortium of conservation and anti-corruption organisations. The TNRC project has developed a series of relevant guides and training tools that Parties may find useful in the implementation of this Decision, including guides to identifying corruption risks along wildlife, forestry and fisheries supply chains and an e-Course on engaging the financial sector to reduce money-laundering and corruption linked to wildlife trade.

DEMAND REDUCTION TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TRADE

CoP19 Doc. 38

The development of the 'CITES Guidance on demand-reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species' is a milestone in CITES' efforts to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products - one of the leading causes for the decline of many CITES-listed species. Parties at CoP19 are strongly encouraged to support amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.4 (Rev. CoP19) 'Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species' urging Parties to make full use of the guidance. The Guidance, which was prepared under contract from the CITES Secretariat by TRAFFIC, introduces a Five-Step Framework and 10 Behaviour Change Benchmarks and will enable non-specialists to research, design, and deliver impactful and targeted behaviour change initiatives that successfully dissuade consumer desire and change buyer behaviour. TRAFFIC also fully supports a draft Decision encouraging regional training seminars on the use of the Guidance and the implementation of pilot projects to promote the use of Guidance for selected species and countries, with necessary adaptation to suit local context. TRAFFIC stands ready to assist Parties in their implementation of this work. For example, TRAFFIC is organising a side event at CoP19 (Caribe 5, lunch on 23 November) that will provide an opportunity for Parties to share insights and gain experience from others implementing the Guidance and to reflect on next steps. The event will include information emerging from a regional pilot of the draft Guidance.

TNRC eCourse: Engaging the financial sector to reduce money-laundering and corruption linked to wildlife trade

Course link:

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/tnrc-ecourse-engaging-the-financial-sector-to-reduce-money-laundering-and-corruption-linked-to-wildlife-trade>

SIDE EVENT: CITES guidance on demand reduction

23 November,
12:15 – 14:00
Room: Caribe 5

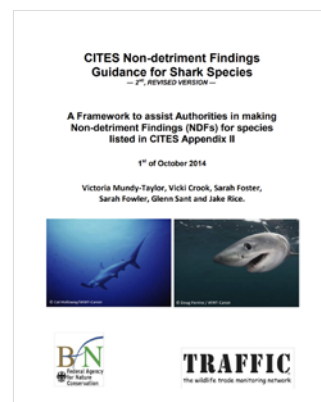
The demand for illegal wildlife products is one of the leading causes for the decline of many species. CITES Draft Guidance on Demand Reduction is presented to CoP19 under Agenda item 38. Join Parties, CITES Secretariat and TRAFFIC to share insights and gain experience from others implementing the draft Guidance.

NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS

CoP19 Doc. 43.1, CoP19 Doc. 43.2

Ensuring that trade is legal and within sustainable limits is at the core of CITES. The trade of Appendix II-listed species is only allowed if the Scientific Authority of the State has advised that “such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species” and non-detriment findings (NDFs) are a critical step to ensure the export of any specimen will not negatively impact the survival of that species. The Secretariat has conducted a thorough review of existing NDF guidance and tools, including the 9-Step guidance for Plants and guidance for Sharks that TRAFFIC has developed with the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). TRAFFIC supports the draft Decisions in CoP19 Doc. 43.1 that plot the way forward for the Technical Advisory Group that will progress this fundamental work and directs the Secretariat to organise a second international expert workshop on non-detriment findings, with the assistance of the Animals and Plants Committees, where draft guidance materials on NDFs are to be reviewed, advanced or completed. TRAFFIC is keen to support Parties in this work and has continued to improve and further develop its 9-Step guidance and e-learning tools based on Parties’ feedback. Parties are invited to join TRAFFIC at a side event at the CoP to exchange their experiences and learn about the 9-Step guidance (Caribe 5, 19:00, 21 November).

TRAFFIC also supports the proposal by the UK in CoP19 Doc. 43.2 calling for a collaborative workshop involving relevant Parties, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, Regional Fisheries Bodies, Multilateral Environment Agencies, the fishing industry, non-government organisations and scientists to develop technical and practical guidance steps to improve the ability of Parties to make high seas NDFs for commercially fished aquatic species, complementing the ongoing initiative by the German Government that is focussing on the technical outputs needed to progress this work. TRAFFIC stands ready to support these efforts and encourage Parties to refer to relevant TRAFFIC studies such as Missing Sharks: A Country Review Of Catch, Trade And Management Recommendations For CITES-listed Shark Species (2022) which explores many of the concerns and issues raised.



CITES Non-detriment Findings Guidance for Shark Species

Report link:

<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/shark/docs/Shark%20NDF%20guidance%20incl%20Annexes.pdf>

Expert NDF guidance 9-Step process for making science-based non-detriment findings for CITES-listed timber and perennial plant species.

Guide link:

<https://www.9steps-cites-ndf.org/>

SIDE EVENT: 9-step guidance for plant NDFS

21 November,
19:00 – 21:00
Room: Caribe 5

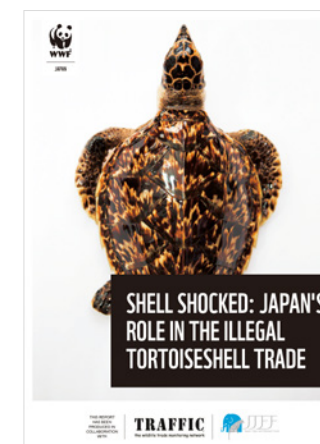
New capacity-building tools to implement the 9-Step Guidance for making Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for Perennial Plants and Timber species will be showcased in this side-event. Please join TRAFFIC, BfN and other collaborators to discuss these tools and future plans for improving e-learning.

MARINE TURTLE

CoP19 Doc. 64.1, CoP19 Doc. 64.2

While there is little evidence of large-scale and widespread illegal international trade, the harvest, use and trade in marine turtle products persists, including Hawksbill turtle shell involving several countries in Asia and what may be a growing market in Latin America. Domestic use and markets, particularly for food (meat, eggs) remain significant in many countries (as well as in some neighbouring countries) and bycatch remains a concern. TRAFFIC, therefore, supports the adoption of a Resolution on Conservation of Marine Turtles, a draft of which is proposed in CoP19 Doc. 64.2. However, the text appears to focus on strengthening regulations and enforcement to reduce illegal use, trade, and bycatch, and improving international cooperation in this regard. This shift in use and trade dynamics, achieved in large part thanks to CITES trade controls, now requires CITES to expand its approaches. Greater attention should be given in the Resolution to artisanal fisheries, which are believed to be the source of a significant share of products entering trade, and to understanding and shifting drivers of unsustainable harvest, use and trade (legal and illegal) at local levels. This should include recognition of the importance of working with indigenous peoples and local communities in this regard, with reference to Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18). The Resolution should also encourage greater application of social and behaviour change approaches to research and activities aimed at reducing unsustainable and/or illegal fisheries and trade and consumer demand for illegal products, including effective implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.4 and the related guidance to be discussed at CoP19.

With regard to enforcement, efforts directed to understanding and disrupting specific illegal supply chains will be critical to eliminating remaining/emerging trade hotspots. More targeted attention is warranted for countries where there is evidence of ongoing illegal trade. Without more information on these illegal supply chains, it is unlikely that a clearer picture will emerge of trade levels and patterns. Seizure data compiled from other sources and market surveys could help illuminate illegal trade trends and future CITES action. Targeted and time-bound actions must also be directed at countries implicated in multiple large seizures and/or with persistent markets. To overcome capacity gaps, particularly in some range States, support must be provided by Parties, international organisations and NGOs to reinforce capacity to implement CITES, national fisheries and trade regulations for marine turtles where this would be welcomed.



Shell Shocked: Japan's Role In The Illegal Tortoiseshell Trade

Report link:

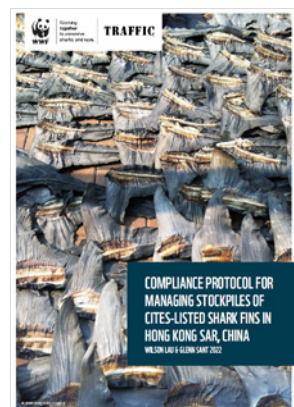
<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/shell-shocked-japans-role-in-the-illegal-tortoiseshell-trade>

SHARKS AND RAYS

CoP19 Doc. 65

Some progress has been made in addressing some of the key issues identified at previous meetings with regards implementation of the Appendix II listing of commercially exploited sharks and rays. Parties should fully support the adoption of the draft decisions to ensure that Parties can build upon this progress and further strengthen actions for the conservation and management of sharks. With regard to stockpiles, the draft Decision directs Parties to provide brief reports to the Secretariat about the assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives. It should be noted that a Compliance Protocol for managing stockpiles of CITES-listed shark fins in Hong Kong SAR has been recently formulated by TRAFFIC (see Lau and Sant, 2022) to enable appropriate management of shark fin stockpiles of CITES-listed species in the territory. Although the protocol is formulated specifically for the consideration of the Hong Kong SAR Government, this could be adapted to other shark fin end markets and should also be considered by exporting countries where fins are often held and accumulated representing catch over what can be a long period.

Another key consideration in improving implementation of the shark and ray CITES listings should be the adoption of traceability systems for their products in international trade. Guidance on traceability was adopted by Parties at CITES CoP18, as was a working definition which notes the design of such systems to collect information which facilitates the verification of legal acquisition and non-detrimental findings and helps prevent the laundering of illegal products. TRAFFIC has previously reviewed the traceability systems adopted for a range of CITES listed taxa and believes this should be progressed for listed shark and ray species. As a first step towards achieving this, Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on Conservation and Management of sharks should be amended to include stronger language for Parties to adopt traceability for shark and ray products. TRAFFIC has developed a traceability system, SharkTrace, which could be considered in this context. Additionally, TRAFFIC is organising a side event at CoP19 (America 1, 17:15 on 24th November) that will provide an opportunity for Parties to gain experience about a range of traceability and technological approaches to support the implementation of CITES Decisions.



CITES Non-detriment Findings Guidance for Shark Species

Report link:

<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/shark/docs/Shark%20NDF%20guidance%20incl%20Annexes.pdf>

Expert NDF guidance 9-Step process for making science-based non-detriment findings for CITES-listed timber and perennial plant species.

Guide link:

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/tncr-ecourse-engaging-the-financial-sector-to-reduce-money-laundering-and-corruption-linked-to-wildlife-trade>

SIDE EVENT: Traceability and technological solutions

24 November,
17:15 – 19:00
Room: America 1

Join TRAFFIC and collaborators to discuss innovative solutions – including 3D Shark fins, SharkTrace, timber tracker App – to help Parties implement traceability requirements.



African Elephant - *Loxodonta africana*

ELEPHANTS

CoP19 Doc. 21

TRAFFIC supports amendment to Res. Conf 10.10 as outlined in sections 1-3 as well as on sections 5-7 of Annex 1 of the document. Regarding data collection and compilation and the suggested amendments of the due date for Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) data from 31 March to 31 October, TRAFFIC refers the Parties to section VI of Doc. 66.6 and the implications of changing the due date of ETIS data to 31 October, which will increase by about one year the data time-lag between the date of seizures included in the analyses and the Standing Committee or CoP reports (depending on the meeting date). More clarification on the mechanism of data submission is needed if the data submission due date is indeed changed to 31 October, and whether that would imply data will be submitted to the Annual Illegal Trade Reports (AITR) and then forwarded to ETIS. If it is the latter, there may be implications to data quality and data management efficiency, given the different data structures and reporting guidelines of ETIS and AITR. TRAFFIC also reminds the Parties that the ETIS review (SC74 Doc. 13) found the lack of funding consistency to be an impediment to the success of the ETIS programme. We note the table of recommendation prioritisation in Annex 3 of CoP19 Doc. 21 which notes that ensuring minimum funding for ETIS is a high priority.

CoP19 Doc. 66.1

With reference to closure of domestic markets, TRAFFIC supports renewing decisions 18.117-18.119. With regard to new and renewed Decisions on stocks and stockpiles, TRAFFIC supports the recommendations and further calls the attention of the Parties to item 31 in the prioritization table of Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) review recommendations (Annex 3 of CoP19 Doc. 21) which states that, as a first step to examine relationships between ivory stockpiles and illegal ivory trade, the Secretariat needs to consolidate the data into a database.

CoP19 Doc. 66.2.1

TRAFFIC supports the recommendations in principle, as better reporting of ivory stocks is warranted. However, TRAFFIC encourages Parties to report stocks by individually marked specimens for full transparency and as per the suggested template in CoP19 Doc. 66.2.1, rather than as summarised, aggregated data.

CoP19 Doc. 66.3

TRAFFIC notes the draft Decision directing the Secretariat to engage the Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and TRAFFIC in an analysis of ivory seizures connected to each Party with a legal domestic market for commercial trade in ivory and include the analysis in the ETIS report to the Standing Committee. TRAFFIC suggests that it should be clearly defined which Parties with legal domestic trade markets are to be included in such an analysis and clarify the specific objectives of the analysis. Further discussions with the MIKE-ETIS TAG may be needed to identify how ETIS data can inform such an analysis.

CoP19 Doc. 66.6

TRAFFIC is encouraged by the continued declining trends in illegally traded ivory observed in the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) analysis, which is in line with the observed declines in PIKE estimates presented in CoP19 Doc. 66.5. However, TRAFFIC cautions that continued monitoring is warranted given that 2020 was an abnormal year due to COVID-19, which likely affected law enforcement efforts and reporting to ETIS. TRAFFIC notes that prior to the pandemic, 2019 had the third largest seized weight and included three record-breaking illegal consignments of up to 9.1t of elephant ivory.

With regard to the ETIS data submission timeline, TRAFFIC refers to our comments on **CoP19 Doc. 21** above regarding the implications of changing the due date of ETIS data to 31 October, the one-year data time-lag and the implications to data quality and data management efficiency, given the different data structures and reporting guidelines of ETIS and AITR.

CoP19 Doc. 66.7

TRAFFIC fully supports the draft Decisions for the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to undertake a review of the process with a view to improving effectiveness and compliance. TRAFFIC particularly welcomes any options that would strengthen transparency, accountability, monitoring and compliance with the process by the countries concerned. TRAFFIC also notes in the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) report to CoP19 (Annex 1, CoP Doc 66.6) that better definitions of the criteria for the assignments of Parties requiring attention under the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) process as Categories A, B or C are warranted, in particular, what 'most affected', 'markedly affected' and 'affected' may mean in terms of quantifiable illegal trade characteristics. Clear guidance or criteria for interpretation of ETIS analysis results in the context of identifying Parties requiring attention under the NIAP process should be developed by the MIKE-ETIS TAG in consultation with the Secretariat and TRAFFIC. An evaluation of the criteria for entry into (or exit from) the process should be part of the proposed NIAP review.

CITES BIG CAT TASK FORCE

CoP19 Doc. 67

TRAFFIC supports the draft Decision establishing the CITES Big Cats Task Force, which would allow Parties to develop strategies and make recommendations to significantly improve international co-operation regarding CITES enforcement and implementation issues related to illegal trade in all big cat species from Africa, Asia and Latin America and enhance collaboration among countries in addressing any links between the trade in these species in a more holistic and systemic way, and pave the way for more robust information gathering on issues such as the management and trade in specific big cat species and the linkages between trade in these species. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Task Force in CoP19 Doc. 67 highlights the need to prevent and detect attempts to launder illegal specimens through legal trade, including trade originating from captive-bred sources; as well as improving understanding of trade in specimens originating from captive-bred sources and the potential linkage with laundering of illegal specimens from such facilities. However, the issue of captive breeding may require much greater attention in the Task Force's deliberations, including the broader issue of actions that need to be considered when reviewing national management practices and controls for facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity. In this regard, consideration should be given to guidance that can be developed on the operation of such facilities and the trade of captive-born and bred live tigers and their parts and derivatives. While the TOR does refer to time-bound recommendations as one of its outputs, it is also important that, where appropriate, recommendations are also country-specific to ensure that actions are not only timely but targeted at where problems exist. This will also help the Task Force determine where support to range States is most needed.

It is unfortunate that the pandemic had delayed the timely implementation of the original Decisions from CoP18, particularly given the urgency of addressing illegal trade problems being faced by the species involved. It is, therefore, important that every opportunity be taken to ensure that the work of the Task Force is implemented as quickly as possible, and that implementation is regularly monitored prior to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. While the draft Decision does direct findings and recommendations to be reported to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee, it is important that the Task Force should report to all meetings of the Standing Committee prior to CITES CoP20. Frequent reference is made in the TOR to findings of available verified and validated studies to help inform the deliberations of the Task Force. It is important that the information generated by the work of the Task Force (with the exception of enforcement-related intelligence and other sensitive information) be made publicly available so that it can be used by other Parties and relevant organisations involved in tackling the illegal trade in big cat species. This includes the status, scale, and dynamics of illegal trade for different big cat species; illegal trade dynamics to inform demand reduction; the role and impact of legal trade in big cat specimens; and the trade in specimens originating from captive-bred sources.

ASIAN BIG CATS

CoP19 Doc. 68

The Decisions that were adopted for Asian big cats at CITES CoP18 were ambitious and wide-ranging, addressing a wide variety of issues such as illegal trade, law enforcement, demand reduction and the potential threat posed by poorly regulated captive breeding facilities. It is unfortunate that the pandemic delayed the timely implementation of many of these Decisions, particularly given the urgency of addressing the poaching and illegal trade problems being faced by the species involved. The deletion of 17.226 and 18.106 to be incorporated into the text of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) on 'Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species' is generally welcomed as it will provide Parties with long-standing guidance for implementation. However, the compressed text eliminates crucial elements aimed at reviewing existing management and control mechanisms to prevent illegal practices of captive breeding facilities and ending demand for illegal tiger and other Asian big cat parts and derivatives. TRAFFIC believes these specific elements should be included in the revised Resolution. Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 and funding gaps further significantly delayed and compromised the effort to inspect captive breeding facilities. These should be prioritised, with assurance of the right expertise and guidelines available to the teams conducting such missions, to uphold the purpose of the missions in ensuring full compliance with the relevant CITES Provisions to reduce and eradicate illegal trade. TRAFFIC stands ready to support its effective implementation.

TRAFFIC's research and data emphasises the continued pressure trade on Asian Big Cats, both from the wild and captive sources, and decades-long challenges on the lack of effective enforcement and investigative action to reverse the trend in some countries. CoP19 Doc.68 however further proposes the deletion of Decisions related to illegal trade, enforcement, and joint investigations aimed at disrupting organised crime networks and cross-border trade from tourist markets. These specific activities should be considered for inclusion in the Resolution. A long-standing problem with the effective implementation of the Resolution and relevant Decisions is firm, time-bound outcomes and reporting of progress. A strong mechanism for reporting, including for Decisions 18.103 (Rev. CoP19), 18.108 (Rev. CoP 19) and 18.109 (Rev.CoP19) is critical.



Skin and Bones: Unresolved

Report link:
<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/skin-and-bones-unresolved>

PANGOLINS

CoP19 Doc. 71.1, CoP19 Doc. 71.2

The overall progress made since CoP18 to address illegal trade in pangolins has been disappointing, including poor reporting and responses from Parties. The draft Decisions put forward in CoP19 Doc. 71.1 fail to reflect the urgency of the wide-ranging challenges to pangolin conservation and management and do not appear to address many of the issues raised in SC74 Doc. 73 Annex 1. While some draft Decisions do appear to address additional specific priorities raised in the report, such as stockpile management - which is paramount given that hundreds of tons of pangolins and parts have been confiscated in the recent decade – decisions focusing on identification materials and trainings alone is insufficient to reverse the decline in wild pangolins from trade pressures, which persists. For example TRAFFIC's analysis shows more than 300 t of pangolins and their parts were seized in just Asia from 2015-2021, where close to 80% were scales, mostly African species. In contrast, CoP19 Doc.17.2 more fittingly emphasises the urgency needed for Parties and non-Parties to effectively demonstrate meaningful effort to address illegal pangolin trade. TRAFFIC fully supports this document and stands ready to offer support to ensure its effective and holistic implementation. Given the poor reporting progress, the reporting mechanism for these Decisions requires an examination to improve and encourage more timely and complete reporting by Parties.

LIONS

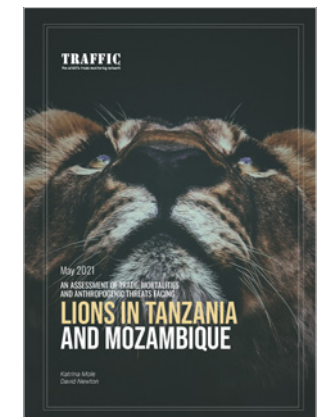
CoP19 Doc. 72

Most of the draft Decisions proposed in CoP Doc. 72 are open-ended and might more appropriately be included in a Resolution. Provision for such a Resolution was included in Decision 18.248 which directed the Standing Committee to "recommend further actions to be taken, including the possible need for the development of a draft resolution, on the conservation of the African lion...". However, mention of a draft resolution appears to have been omitted from the draft Decisions. There is merit in adopting the draft Decisions to ensure continued attention being given to lion trade issues in the CITES agenda in the near term and the draft Decisions appear to sufficiently address most issues that such a Resolution may tackle. However, a TRAFFIC study last year of threats to African Lions in Mozambique and Tanzania (Mole and Newton, 2021) demonstrates the complex drivers of hunting and trade involved, including the need to work



Asia's Unceasing Pangolin Demand

Factsheet link:
<https://www.traffic.org/news/asia-s-unceasing-pangolin-demand/>



African Lion Trade - An assessment of trade mortalities and anthropogenic threats facing lions in Tanzania and Mozambique

with communities that live alongside wild lion populations to find viable solutions. The need for more comprehensive and nuanced approach to reduce such threats, such as a Resolution, may need to be considered in the future.

There do not appear to be any reporting requirements associated with the draft Decision directed to Parties on illegal killing of and illegal trade in lions. It would then be difficult to assess progress and the impact of this Decision, so consideration could be given to including a request to the Parties and Secretariat to report on activities dealing with the issue.

SONGBIRD TRADE AND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

CoP19 Doc. 74

TRAFFIC supports the Recommendations to renew the Decisions from CoP18. The issue of international songbird trade remains urgent and unresolved with little tangible progress made in taking forward the decisions made at CoP 18 regarding the preliminary study on the scale and scope of international songbird trade and workshop to consider management and conservation priorities. TRAFFIC studies and records of seizures since CoP18 reinforce the worryingly large number of songbirds that continue to be intercepted from illegal trade across the Asian region, along with hundreds and thousands being offered for sale in physical and online markets, often against national laws and regulations. When COVID-19 struck and strict lockdowns were implemented, TRAFFIC research also revealed how some hobbyists shifted their popular bird singing competitions onto online platforms, signalling the quick and adaptive trends to sustain the demand for songbirds. Given the continued trade pressure faced by songbirds, many of which involve species that are rare and threatened, urgent action to understand it more holistically at a global level to improve its regulation is needed. TRAFFIC has played a key role in addressing songbird trade and conservation management, including through involvement in the Songbird Species Knowledge Initiative (SKI) by Species 360 and the quantitative review of the global trade in wild birds, as reflected in CoP 19 Doc.74. Through our longstanding work in addressing illegal and unsustainable songbird trade, TRAFFIC stands ready to support the implementation of this Decision.

Report link:

<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/african-lion-trade-an-assessment-of-trade-mortalities-and-anthropogenic-threats-facing-lions-in-tanzania-and-mozambique>



Distancing the flock: Bird singing competitions fly online to avoid COVID-19

Report link:

<https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/13362/distancing-the-flock.pdf>

RHINOCEROSES

CoP19 Doc. 75

The status report by IUCN and TRAFFIC highlighted in CoP19 Doc. 75 indicates that overall numbers of continental poaching rates in Africa have declined since 2018, and trade data suggests the lowest annual estimate of rhino horns entering illegal trade markets since 2013. The report finds that poaching rates in Africa have continued to decline from 5.3% of the whole African rhino population during its peak in 2015 to 2.3% in 2021 and trade data provided estimates that fewer rhino horns of (575 to 923) entered illegal trade markets annually between 2018 and 2020, compared with the previous analysis's annual statistic of 1,832. While national and international law enforcement and legislation efforts may have contributed to the declines, it is unclear as to the effects of COVID19 on reported data. In 2019, before the COVID outbreak, reported seizures of illegal trade were highest, perhaps due to increased law enforcement efforts and the implementation of national regulations passed in 2018. However, range and consumer countries most affected by illegal trade remained the same as in previous years, and the lack of reporting by certain countries, including on stockpiled horns, limits inference on the observed declines. Although we cannot state the true impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rhino horn trade, 2020 represented an abnormal year with low levels of illegal activity, law enforcement and reporting. We would therefore encourage Parties to continue monitoring levels of rhino poaching and the illegal trade in rhino specimens, while actively promoting increased cooperation of law enforcement efforts between affected range and consumer countries in Africa and Asia.

TRAFFIC notes that not all Parties are reporting rhino horn stocks consistently and that stocks aggregated weights often do not match the expected weight given seizure data. Destruction events published in the media were also not reported to CITES. TRAFFIC encourages the Parties in line with paragraph 2 of Res. Conf. 9.14 and as detailed in the annual Notification to the Parties, to submit stock inventory as a detailed itemized inventory rather than an overall aggregate and to report any destruction events. Overall better reporting of seizure data and improved accountability of existing stockpiles can help TRAFFIC better quantify the extent of horns entering illegal trade for future reports. We also urge Parties to consider providing increased resources, more consistently to allow data and survey collection on a more regular basis and to explore improvements of current analyses implemented for the report.

The report highlights the need for greater sharing of critical information such as DNA samples among countries affected by the illegal trade in rhino products to better understand patterns of illegal trade. Better DNA sampling of seized horns and cross referencing of data with the RhODIS® database might provide further insights as to the origins of the illegally traded horns and illegal trade chains involved. It will also further inform law enforcement interventions and cross-border collaborations.

SAIGA ANTELOPE

CoP19 Doc. 76

TRAFFIC welcomes the draft Decisions on Saiga antelope. There has been little progress made on the issue of robust management of stockpiles of saiga specimens. Of the 11 countries and territories considered to be important consumer and trading countries of Saiga parts and derivatives, only three shared relevant information with the Secretariat on their implementation of Decision 18.270 regarding the management of stockpiles. The draft Decision renews calls for its implementation and further encourages training to strengthen cross-border cooperation to counter illegal trade. Guidelines on the management of stockpiles, such as the Guidance Document made available in CoP 18 (CoP18 Inf. 72) can be considered for this purpose. Continued engagement with traditional medicine practitioners and consumers, along with initiatives to address demand from illegally sourced products is important, and TRAFFIC stands ready to work with Parties to implement this.

TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES

CoP19 Doc. 78

TRAFFIC notes the progress made by Madagascar in Decision 18.286 to address the illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles. Its continued effort to address this issue is encouraging, where TRAFFIC is also working closely with Madagascar and other trade and consumer regions where Madagascar species are sought after. Tortoises and freshwater turtles continue to be targeted at an unrelenting pace. For example, TRAFFIC's analysis of Testudines seized in India from 2009-2019 showed more than 110,000 animals had entered illegal trade, including CITES Appendix I species. These, and other such analyses show that organised criminal networks were firmly behind the high level of trafficking, moving animals across continents. We, therefore, support draft Decision 19.AA to initiate national-level enforcement operations; however, we caution that these may only result in limited success. Any efforts to break transnational criminal operations require close regional and international collaboration, information sharing mechanisms while also considering financial investigations, as well as a considered effort to address market availability and consumer demand in illegally acquired specimens. These should be included in the Decision. We also urge processes and initiatives to update the IUCN Red List status of numerous species affected by trade, which can support government interventions on legislation and



Ensuring effective stockpile management: a guidance document

Report link:
<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/inf/E-CoP18-Inf-072.pdf>



Tortoises and freshwater turtles under siege

Factsheet link:
<https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/12464/traffic-factsheet-tortoises-freshwater-turtles-india-2019.pdf>

regulation, prioritisation and funding efforts and support overall effective conservation management for tortoises and freshwater turtles.

MARINE ORNAMENTAL FISHES

CoP19 Doc. 80

TRAFFIC supports the draft decision for a workshop to be convened to consider the conservation priorities and management needs related to the trade in non-CITES listed marine ornamental fishes worldwide. In this regard, consideration should perhaps be given to ensure that the workshop will be well prepared and informed by the most recent studies and research on marine ornamental fishes' biology, conservation status, trade and management, applicable trade regulations, and enforcement, and that workshop participants will be invited to contribute relevant information and expertise to the workshop. Due to the complexity of the issue, it is essential that the workshop identifies the priority issues that need to be addressed. This is also crucial for the Animals Committee to make recommendations for CoP20, including, but not limited to the challenges regarding the complexity of trade in marine ornamental fishes, such as data monitoring systems, captive breeding, certification and traceability. Parties may also wish to examine the impacts on livelihoods at the workshop. This not only includes fishing communities that depend on collection of the resource or local captive breeding operations as a source of income but also other related issues, such as the detrimental impact that removal of ornamental fish may have on food fish populations and local food security or the impact on the marine environment that may affect the local tourism industry. Focusing only on biological and trade information on the issue of marine ornamental fishes may result in crucial socio-economic issues being neglected, which could undermine conservation objectives.

CoP19 Doc 80 outlines the thematic reviews to be undertaken and notes the process of identifying priority species and discussions with IUCN around the Red List assessments. TRAFFIC notes the potential contribution of tools such as M-Risk in this work. Developed by TRAFFIC, the M-Risk assessment can help identify species and their vulnerability to overexploitation due to a lack of management. This allows for prioritization of those species where improvements to management measures are needed, which could include trade-related measures such as CITES.

M-Risk: A framework for assessing global fisheries management efficacy of sharks, rays and chimaeras

Article link:
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/faf.12695>

TRADE IN MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANT SPECIES

CoP19 Doc. 82

TRAFFIC supports draft Decisions, and stands ready to support the Secretariat, Plants and Standing committee with their effective implementation, building on the range of expertise and long experience available in TRAFFIC on addressing the issue of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs). TRAFFIC is happy to have been involved with CITES partners on relevant work, such as on possible benefits and challenges of supporting sustainable trade in CITES-listed MAPs, through the use of and collaboration with certification schemes, standards and guidelines (also see information documents PC24 Inf. 12 and CoP18 Inf. 36), the support to CITES Parties on developing approaches to non-detriment findings, and the development of informational materials for raising awareness of CITES regulations for the MAPs industry stakeholders and consumers. TRAFFIC also has long-standing experience with analysing e-commerce value chains, and convening stakeholders to combat illegal trafficking online (linked to the draft Decision 19.AA b)).

In support of the draft Decision 19 AA a) and 19 BB a) TRAFFIC would like to draw attention to the recent United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the IUCN Medicinal Plant Specialist Group and TRAFFIC's joint report 'WildCheck: Assessing the Risks and Opportunities of Trade in Wild Plant Ingredients', as well as the accompanying platform at WildCheck.org. The WildCheck platform aims to enhance awareness of MAPs value chains, aiming at industry and consumers, enhance awareness of CITES regulations and trade interventions, and encourage sustainable use and legal trade in MAPs. TRAFFIC calls on Parties, CITES Secretariat and other organisations to join the collaborative WildCheck platform to support the objectives of the long-term sustainable trade in MAP resources. Through our longstanding work in addressing unsustainable and illegal trade in medicinal and aromatic plants, TRAFFIC stands ready to support the implementation of this Decision. TRAFFIC and collaborators will organise a side event at CoP19 (Caribe 5, 17:15 on 16 November) that will provide an opportunity for Parties to exchange experience around the solutions to ensure sustainable trade in medicinal and aromatic plants to support the implementation of CITES Decisions.



Wildcheck – Assessing the risks and opportunities of trade in wild plant ingredients

Report link:

<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/wildcheck-assessing-risks-and-opportunities-of-trade-in-wild-plant-ingredients/>

SIDE EVENT:

Saving plants that save lives: risks and opportunities of trade in medicinal and aromatic plants

16 November,
17:15 – 19:00
Room: Caribe 5

Join CITES Parties, IUCN, FAO, UNCTAD BioTrade, TRAFFIC and others to discuss innovative approaches and collaborations (WildCheck platform) to the management and sustainability of trade in CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plants (Agenda item 82).

AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 9.24 (REV. COP17)

CoP19 Doc. 87.1, CoP19 Doc. 87.2

The fundamental issues raised in CoP19 Doc. 87.1 about the implications of CITES listings for rural livelihoods and food security, particularly in relation to indigenous peoples and local communities, are critically important in their own right. They are also important in gaining a deeper understanding of the likely implications of a CITES listing for the long-term conservation of the species in question, including how markets, governments and stakeholders along entire supply chains will respond. The text of the Convention clearly sets out the biological and trade parameters for listing species in the Appendices and the issue of livelihoods should not override the role of the science in the decision-making process. However, there is mounting evidence, including in the multiple CITES and Livelihoods case studies and the IPBES Sustainable Use of Wild Species Assessment, that the effective conservation of species requires the involvement of people, and the understanding of the supply chain dynamics. Adopting a more comprehensive approach to determining the status, use, trade and management of wild species, including through an active consultation process with IPLCs and other stakeholder groups likely to be most affected by proposed listings, would improve the content of CITES listing proposals and the quality of CoP decisions. Consideration should be given to ways in which provision of information on livelihoods impacts can be strengthened in the supporting statements of proposals and mechanisms for strengthening consultations with the IPLCs affected. This may be an issue that can be considered by the CITES Working Groups that are dealing with the issues of engagement with IPLCs (CoP19 Doc. 13) and CITES and Livelihoods ((CoP19 Doc. 13).

CoP19 Doc. 87.1 aims to have the footnote in the Resolution amended to recognise that sharks and rays fall outside below suggested productivity ranges for decline for inclusion in the appendices for fish and suggest using the definition of decline from the body of the main text of the resolution not the footnote for sharks and rays. While the text of the draft Decision may require further refinement, TRAFFIC supports the intend of this amendment. For some marine taxa, such as Class Chondrichthyes, slow growth rates, long lives, live birth, and low fecundity will require a more precautionary approach, and the percentages indicated in this footnote are unlikely to be appropriate when considering their listing. Instead, the definition of decline in the main text of Conf. 9.24 should be used when considering the listing of species within this Class.

TRAFFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSALS TO AMEND APPENDICES AT CITES COP19



Lemur Leaf Frog - *Agalychnis lemur*

These recommendations use as their foundation the 'IUCN/ TRAFFIC Analyses of the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties', which provide background information underpinning TRAFFIC's advice. As well as the CITES the Listing Criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses also take into account additional considerations that may be relevant to the decision on whether or not to adopt the proposal (for example, implementation challenges and potential risks/benefits for the conservation of the species concerned). In TRAFFIC's Recommendations to the Parties, in terms of whether to Accept or Reject each proposal, the basic question we try to answer is whether a proposed change to the regulatory treatment of a species under CITES, on balance, would have a positive impact or not: or (in the words of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)) would it "be in the best interest of the conservation of the species concerned, and be a proportionate response to anticipated risks".

The full analyses are available at

<https://tinyurl.com/CoP19-fullAnalyses>

while a summary of the analyses is available at

<https://tinyurl.com/CoP19-AnalysesSummary>





CoP19 Prop. 1

COMMON HIPPOPOTAMUS *Hippopotamus amphibius*

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I (Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo)

The Common Hippopotamus does not have a restricted range, nor does it have a small population. The global population was reported to have declined by $\geq 30\%$ over three generations but this is less than the guideline figure given in Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) for a marked recent rate of decline of 50% or more over 10 years or three generations, whichever is the longer. However, stable or increasing populations, mainly in southern and eastern Africa, make up a large proportion of the overall population. *H. amphibius* therefore does not appear to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

Trade has remained stable or declined over the last ten years. Although found in illegal trade, trade in hippo teeth and tusks is not considered a significant threat to the species, with habitat degradation, human-wildlife conflict and climate change considered greater threats. Previous concerns regarding implementation of the Appendix II listing have been addressed through the CITES Review of Significant Trade process, resulting in three range States establishing export quotas. Any future concerns regarding export levels of hippo products could also be addressed through strengthening this process.

REJECT



CoP19 Prop. 2

SOUTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS *Ceratotherium simum simum*

Transfer the population of Namibia from Appendix I to Appendix II with an annotation (Botswana and Namibia)

The Namibian population of *Ceratotherium simum simum* does not have a restricted distribution and, while relatively small, is increasing. Although the poaching rate has increased, it is currently less than 1% of the population annually, which is lower than the intrinsic population growth rate. Overall, the Namibian population does not meet the biological criteria for retention in Appendix I. The proposed annotation is to restrict international trade to

live animals for in-situ conservation only, and hunting trophies. This can be considered a special measure under the terms of the Precautionary measures in Annex 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). Namibia already undertakes such trade under the Appendix I listing and has a system in place to license and track specimens in trade. An annotation similar to the one proposed has been used for export of this subspecies from South Africa and Eswatini for several years.

ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 3

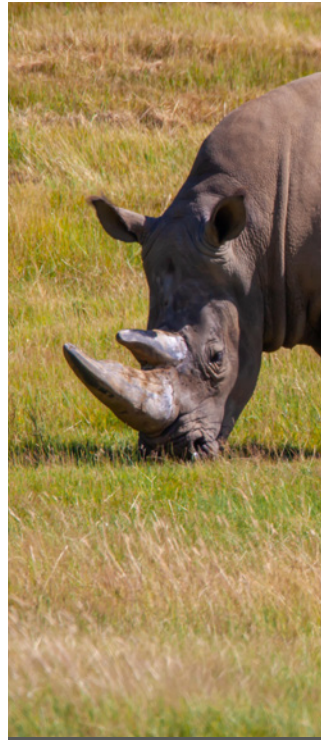
SOUTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS *Ceratotherium simum simum*

Remove the existing annotation for the population of Eswatini listed in Appendix II (Eswatini)

Although Eswatini has provided some detail on precautions that they would implement with this proposal, these measures are not integral to the proposal. With respect to the proposed trade in rhino horn, there is significant uncertainty about potential market impacts of the release of legal supply into the continuing global illegal trade. Although a trade protocol has been proposed, few details are provided as to how the proposed legal trade would be carried out and controlled in practice. It is also not clear if authorities in potential importing countries have

been consulted, particularly with regard to the current trading restrictions in place in these countries. The proponent states that if the trade were judged to be having a negative impact it would be stopped, but no mechanism is specified for how such an assessment would be undertaken. The significant risks of allowing legal rhinoceros horn exports do not appear to be convincingly addressed and it is not possible to conclude that this proposal includes satisfactory Precautionary measures, as detailed in Annex 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

REJECT



CoP19 Prop. 4

AFRICAN ELEPHANT *Loxodonta africana*

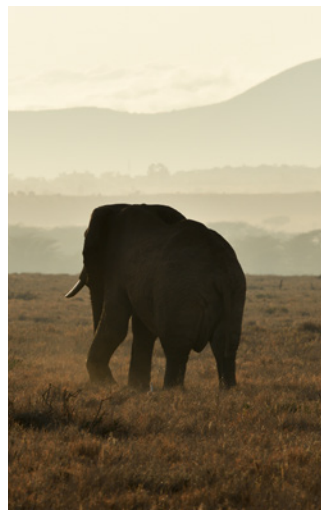
Amend the existing annotation for the population of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe)

Adoption of the proposed changes would remove some provisions which are no longer valid, with timeframes having passed and decisions no longer in effect. Trade in leather goods for commercial purposes from Zimbabwe would be permitted, which appears already to be taking place. It is unlikely that the demand for leather goods would be problematic. If accepted, the main effect of this amendment would be to allow exports of registered raw ivory, but without the level of oversight and control mechanisms previously required by the Conference of the

Parties for such trade. The Supporting Statement does not detail safeguards and it is unclear whether the intention is to export only current stockpiles, or future stocks from natural mortality or management related take as well. Overall, there are significant risks to be considered in relation to the proposed amendments that are not convincingly addressed, particularly with respect to ivory trade. It is not possible to conclude that this proposal includes satisfactory Precautionary measures, as detailed in Annex 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

REJECT

except for amendments (i) remove provisions which are no longer valid, timeframes that have passed and decisions no longer in effect and (ii) permitting trade in leather goods for commercial purposes.





CoP19 Prop. 5

AFRICAN ELEPHANT *Loxodonta africana*

Transfer the population of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I (Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Mali and Senegal)

These are not small populations, nor do they have a restricted range and they are not undergoing a marked

decline. Therefore, these populations do not meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

REJECT



CoP19 Prop. 6

MEXICAN PRAIRIE DOG *Cynomys mexicanus*

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II (Mexico)

This proposal results from the Periodic Review of the Appendices and was supported by the Animals Committee.

The species may still meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I but there is no evidence

of any trade demand, and it is highly unlikely that a transfer to Appendix II would stimulate trade in the species.

The Precautionary measures in Annex 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) appear to be met.

ACCEPT



CoP19 Prop. 7

ALEUTIAN CACKLING GOOSE *Branta canadensis leucopareia*

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II (United States of America)

This proposal results the Periodic Review of the Appendices and was supported by the Animals Committee. The species no longer meets the biological or trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix I, as the wild population is neither small nor in decline, its

distribution range is not currently restricted, nor is the subspecies in demand for international trade. The Precautionary measures in Annex 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) appear to be met.

ACCEPT

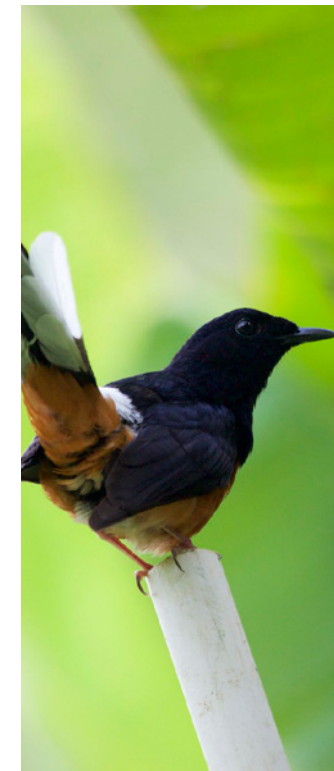
CoP19 Prop. 8

WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA *Kittacincla malabarica*

Inclusion in Appendix II (Malaysia and Singapore)

Although *Kittacincla malabarica* has a wide distribution across Asia, there is clear evidence of high trafficking levels for the cage bird trade. This is more pronounced in Southeast Asia, resulting in several local extirpations despite currently being listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List. Domestic trade appears to be the primary driver, but illegal international trade has escalated in recent years, particularly involving Malaysia and Indonesia. Although there are gaps in knowledge on the status and trends

of wild populations across its range that correlates to meeting the relevant biological criteria for its listing, high demand and rising international smuggling warrants improved regulation. A listing on CITES Appendix II is a precautionary measure to ensure legal and sustainable trade and prevent further population declines, particularly as *K.malabarica* consists of multiple (up to 17) genetically distinct subspecies and subpopulations that are susceptible to local extinctions.



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 9

STRAW-HEADED BULBUL *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II (Malaysia, Singapore, and United States of America)

Pycnonotus zeylanicus has been assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Remaining populations are small and declining due to exploitation for the caged songbird trade as well as habitat loss and degradation. The species is now limited to a fraction of its

historic range. Therefore, *P. zeylanicus* appears to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Although the relative extent of domestic and international trade is not clear, there is sufficient evidence to conclude that the species is affected by trade.



ACCEPT



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 10

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus*

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II (United States of America)

Following near-extinction in the 1950s as a result of overexploitation the Short-tailed Albatross has undergone significant recovery. The population is still relatively small (although is increasing year on year) and the species remains classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife/IUCN (2018). There is currently no evidence that

harvest for international trade is or may be a threat to its survival. Therefore, the species does not appear to meet either the biological or trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Furthermore, the species is widely protected. This proposal is supported by the Animals Committee.



ACCEPT IF

accompanied by a zero export quota

CoP19 Prop. 11

BROAD-SNOUDED CAIMAN *Caiman latirostris*

Transfer the population of Brazil from Appendix I to Appendix II (Brazil)

The *Caiman latirostris* population in Brazil no longer meets the biological criteria for being listed in Appendix I. However, it is unclear what Precautionary measures are intended in line with Annex 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). Brazil indicates in the supporting statement that it "will practise a zero quota for ranched or harvested individuals", but there

is no formal export quota proposed for consideration with the proposed transfer to Appendix II. Setting a zero export quota for ranched or wild harvested individuals, as an integral part of the proposal to transfer *C. latirostris* from Appendix I to Appendix II, would ensure that the relevant Precautionary measures are met.

CoP19 Prop. 12

SALTWATER CROCODILE *Crocodylus porosus*

Transfer the Philippine population in Palawan Islands from Appendix I to Appendix II with a zero export quota for wild specimens (Philippines)

Available information indicates that the Palawan *Crocodylus porosus* population no longer meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. The Philippines proposes a zero export quota for wild specimens. The proposal therefore complies with Annex 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 on precautionary safeguards. Referring to a "zero export quota for wild specimens for commercial purposes" might reflect better the intention of the proposal.

the Philippines with populations outside Palawan remaining in Appendix I. In addition, the Philippines is proposing a zero export quota for wild specimens, but one of the three captive breeding farms registered in CITES is located in Palawan, and the source of specimens in the other two CITES-registered facilities in the country. These practical regulatory complications will need to be addressed.

Adoption of this proposal would result in a split listing for the species within



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 13

SIAMESE CROCODILE *Crocodylus siamensis*

Transfer the Thai population from Appendix I to Appendix II with a zero export quota for wild specimens (Thailand)

The Thai population of the Critically Endangered *Crocodylus siamensis* is still small and fragmented and appears to continue to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. However, large amounts of captive-sourced specimens are exported from Thailand and it is unlikely that wild-sourced specimens will enter trade due to extremely low numbers in the wild. Thailand

is proposing a zero quota for wild specimens, making the listing in Appendix II stricter for wild specimens than an Appendix I listing as it would not allow export for scientific, education and other purposes. Referring to a "zero export quota for wild specimens for commercial purposes" may reflect better the intention of the proposal.



REJECT



CoP19 Prop. 14

CHINESE WATER DRAGON *Physignathus cocincinus*

Inclusion in Appendix II (Viet Nam and the European Union)

Physignathus cocincinus has a wide range in mainland South-East Asia (principally in Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Cambodia), where it is extensively harvested for human consumption and the pet trade. It was categorised on the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable in 2017 and there are indications of at least locally reduced population

densities in Viet Nam, ascribed to harvesting. Data from imports to the USA and EU show an annual average of over 59,000 wild-sourced individuals, primarily imported from Viet Nam. The species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II under part B of Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

ACCEPT



CoP19 Prop. 15

JEYPORE HILL GECKO *Cyrtodactylus jeyporensis*

Inclusion in Appendix II (India)

With a population that is decreasing and restricted to two separated areas, the species appears to meet the biological criteria for listing on Appendix I. There is evidence of collection for commercial purposes, specifically for the pet trade, and of an illegal market outside the country. Given the vulnerability of this species to any degree of wild harvest, it meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II Criterion A of Annex 2a. India has implemented "stricter domestic

measures" regarding CITES-listed species whereby the export for commercial purposes of all wild-taken specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III is prohibited. If this proposal is accepted, India may wish to submit to the CITES Secretariat a zero quota for wild-harvested specimens for commercial trade reflecting the "stricter domestic measures" that would come into force with the listing.

ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 16

HELMETHEAD GECKO *Tarentola chazaliae*

Inclusion in Appendix II (Mauretania and Senegal)

There are no recent population estimates available for this species and information on its status is conflicting. There is very little recent information on the scale of international trade or on any impact of collection for trade although there

are indications that at least a portion of the demand for the species is now met through captive breeding. Overall, there is insufficient information to determine if the species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.



REJECT

CoP19 Prop. 17

DESERT HORNED LIZARD *Phrynosoma platyrhinos*

Inclusion in Appendix II (United States of America)

The Desert Horned Lizard is relatively abundant species with a large wild population. The species has featured in the international pet trade but is evidently very difficult to keep alive in captivity with indications that demand has latterly declined. Negligible trade has been reported in

recent years. Offtake from the wild is regulated in all six states in the USA where the species occurs. None of the *Phrynosoma* species currently included in Appendix II can be easily confused with *P. platyrhinos*. It seems unlikely that the species would meet criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.



REJECT



REJECT

CoP19 Prop. 18

HORNED LIZARDS *Phrynosoma* spp.

Inclusion in Appendix II (Mexico)

Of the species of *Phrynosoma* proposed for inclusion, only one (*P. platyrhinos*—the subject of Proposal 17) is known to have featured in trade in notable numbers, with negligible trade taking place in recent years. Other species have either not been recorded in trade or are recorded at a low level. This includes those species currently listed in Appendix II, in which

minimal trade has been reported since 1991. With the exception of very limited export and import of scientific specimens of the Near Threatened *P. mcallii*, all species recorded in trade are not currently considered of conservation concern. It seems unlikely that *Phrynosoma* species meet these criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 19

PYGMY BLUETONGUE LIZARD *Tiliqua adelaidensis*

Inclusion in Appendix I (Australia)

Tiliqua adelaidensis is believed to have a relatively small population, with a restricted and fragmented area of distribution. Despite protection under Australian law, in recent years the species has been identified within the European and Japanese pet markets

and has evidently been the subject of illegal export. The species may therefore meet criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Inclusion of the species in Appendix I would be in line with existing national legislation.

CoP19 Prop. 20

PUERTO RICAN BOA *Epicrates inornatus*

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II (United States of America)

The Puerto Rican Boa was classified as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List in 2015. It is widely distributed within Puerto Rico and has a stable population, with a recent estimate of 30,000 individuals. No trade has been recorded from Puerto Rico since its listing in 1977 and no international trade in the species from any CITES Party has been reported since 2014.

It does not appear to meet the biological or trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix I and it is unlikely that a transfer of the species to Appendix II will stimulate trade. Transfer of the species to Appendix II is in line with the Precautionary measures in Annex 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). This proposal is supported by the Animals Committee.



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 21

TIMBER RATTLESNAKE *Crotalus horridus*

Inclusion in Appendix II (United States of America)

This species was most recently assessed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List in 2007 and “Apparently Secure” across its range by NatureServe in 2014. The most recent status information available suggests it has a population size of at least 100,000 and that a short-term decline of over 10% over three generations was possible. The species has been subject to considerable

human-induced mortality, but any trade appears to be predominantly domestic. International trade is minimal and is unlikely to be having a significant impact on the species’ population. Regulation of international trade does not appear to be necessary and therefore the species does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in Appendix II.



REJECT



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 22

AMAZON MATAMATA

Chelus fimbriata

ORINOCO MATAMATA

Chelus orinocensis

Inclusion in Appendix II (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Peru)

This is a very widely distributed species, with a global distribution of several million square kilometres, and is said to be at least locally common within this range. There is some demand in the exotic pet trade and has been reportedly exported in the low thousands per year in the past decade, with most legal trade reported to be from Peru. Some are reported as wild-collected, while others are reported as ranch or captive-sourced. While there is a lack

of evidence of export from four out of nine range states, an Appendix II listing would be in the best interest of the species given a lack of global population data and the known levels of legal and illegal trade in the species. Given the likely reclassification of *Chelus fimbriata* as two separate species, if Parties were to consider it necessary to list the taxon, it may be preferable to list the genus for any future taxonomic changes to be accommodated.



REJECT

CoP19 Prop. 23

ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE

Macrochelys temminckii

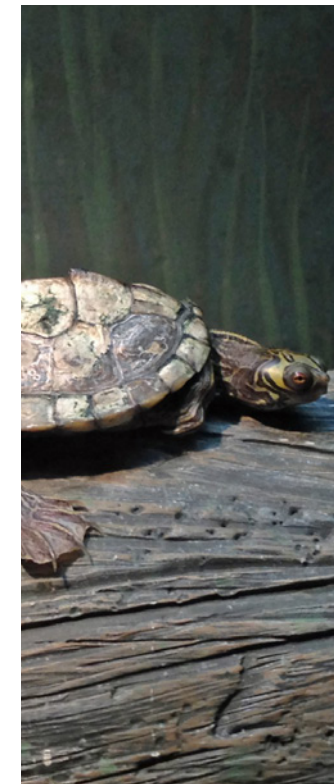
COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE

Chelydra serpentina

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II (United States of America)

These are relatively widespread freshwater turtles occurring in North America and neither species has a small population. Both species are in international trade, though most of these comprise immature individuals hatched in captivity. *M. temminckii* populations had decreased in the past but wild harvest is now banned in all states in the USA, with only limited personal harvest permitted in two states. *M. temminckii* does not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix

II under Annex 2(a) of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev CoP17). This being the case *C. serpentina* would not meet the lookalike criteria set out in Annex 2b of the Resolution, despite the difficulty in distinguishing between hatchlings. In November 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed including *M. temminckii* as a threatened species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, which would make it illegal to export this species without an authorisation permit.



REJECT

CoP19 Prop. 24

Graptemys barbouri, *G. ernsti*, *G. gibbonsi*, *G. pearlensis*, and *G. pulchra*

Inclusion in Appendix II (United States of America)

These species of *Graptemys* turtles are all endemic to the USA, with three species (*G. barbouri*, *G. gibbonsi* and *G. pearlensis*) having populations numbering in the low tens of thousands. International trade in wild-sourced individuals have been minimal and only small numbers of captive-born individuals were in trade. Harvest is prohibited or regulated in most States where they occur. These species do not appear

to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). In November 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed including *M. temminckii* as a threatened species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, which would prohibit international trade.

CoP19 Prop. 25

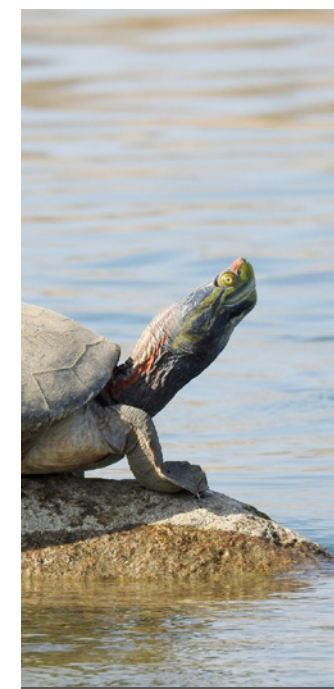
RED-CROWNED ROOFED TURTLE

Batagur kachuga

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I (India)

The Critically Endangered *Batagur kachuga* has a small wild population with a highly restricted distribution in India. It is believed to have undergone a marked historical decline that is thought likely to be continuing. Despite legal protection, there is international demand for the species and ongoing

illegal trade is suspected. The species therefore appears to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. As all commercial exports of wild specimens have been illegal in India since 1999, increased enforcement is essential to ensure the effectiveness an Appendix I listing.



ACCEPT



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 26

INDOCHINESE BOX TURTLE *Cuora galbinifrons*

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I (Viet Nam and the European Union)

Populations of this species are likely to be small and individuals are slow growing, with limited annual reproductive output, making the species intrinsically vulnerable to exploitation. It has been harvested extensively, with populations that have experienced a marked decline of 90% in three generations as a result of

collection for trade, and is now rarely found in the wild. At CoP16 a zero-export quota for wild specimens for commercial purposes was adopted with the listing for *Cuora galbinifrons* and therefore trade is already illegal. Increased enforcement is therefore essential to ensure the effectiveness of an Appendix I listing.



REJECT

CoP19 Prop. 27

NEOTROPICAL WOOD TURTLES *Rhinoclemmys* spp.

Inclusion in Appendix II (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Panama)

While there is very little information on current population levels of any *Rhinoclemmys* species, most are believed to have relatively extensive ranges and at least some to be locally common. The only species for which there is any indication of extensive trade are *R. pulcherrima* and *R. punctularia*. The very extensive distribution of *R. punctularia* indicates

that this species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II and insufficient information to determine if *R. pulcherrima* meets these criteria. Low levels of known trade and their generally extensive distributions also indicate that the other seven species currently do not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

CoP19 Prop. 28

NARROW-BRIDGED MUSK TURTLE *Claudius angustatus*

Inclusion in Appendix II (Mexico)

Although a relatively widespread species, there are indications of low densities and declining numbers in at least parts of its Mexican range. Little is known of its status in Belize or Guatemala. There is demand in both domestic and international markets for food and in the pet trade. A high proportion of the trade is thought to be in illegally collected wild specimens, with anecdotal accounts of declining populations in areas

subject to collection. The lack of data on its population and the extent of international trade makes it difficult to assess whether or not *Claudius angustatus* meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. However, indications of the impact of harvest and growing demand of chelonians from the region may support its inclusion in Appendix II on the basis of Criterion B of Annex 2A Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 29

Genus *Kinosternon* Inclusion in Appendix II

K. cora and *K. vogti*
Inclusion in Appendix I

(Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, and United States of America)

Kinosternon cora and *K. vogti* both appear to have a restricted area of distribution, with wild populations likely to be small or very small and declining. Despite legal protection in Mexico, both species have been reported in pet markets in Asia and appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. With regard to other *Kinosternon* spp., several species are known to be harvested for food and for the international pet trade in notable numbers. Seizure data indicate that some species in trade, notably *K. leucostomum* declared as

captive-bred may in fact be wild-collected. Specimens of *K. cora* and *K. vogti* are reported to be similar in appearance to *K. angustipons*, *K. dunnii*, *K. herreraei* and *K. leucostomum*. Juveniles and hatchlings of all species are also said to be difficult to distinguish from each other. If *K. cora* and *K. vogti* are accepted for inclusion in Appendix I, other members of the genus would appear to meet the criteria in Annex 2 b of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) for inclusion in Appendix II on the basis of being lookalikes.



ACCEPT



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 30

MEXICAN MUSK TURTLE

Staurotypus triporcatus

GIANT MUSK TURTLE

Staurotypus salvinii

Inclusion in Appendix II (El Salvador and Mexico)

Population sizes of *S. triporcatus* and *S. salvinii* are unknown, though local densities of *S. triporcatus* are known to be low in Mexico. There is evidence of over harvesting of *S. triporcatus* and demand for food and the pet trade seems to be high,

especially in Asia, with large numbers in trade. *S. triporcatus* appears to meet criterion 2a B for Appendix II. Due to identification difficulties between *S. triporcatus* and *S. salvinii*, especially between juveniles, *S. salvinii* meets criterion 2b A as a lookalike.

CoP19 Prop. 32

SOFTSHELL TURTLES

Apalone spp.

Inclusion in Appendix II (United States of America)

The three *Apalone* species are all widespread and all are currently assessed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List. *A. ferox* and *A. spinifera* have been exported in large numbers in the past but the great majority of recent trade is in *A. ferox* which are reported as captive-born within the USA, with very small numbers declared as wild-collected. There is little indication of depletion of wild populations through over-collection.

No recent trade has been reported in *A. mutica* and very little in *A. spinifera*. Little information is available on current populations or any impact of wild collection. Given their widespread distribution, local abundance and the predominance of captive sourced specimens in exports it seems unlikely that any species of the genus meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).



REJECT



REJECT

CoP19 Prop. 31

MUSK TURTLES

Sternotherus spp.

Inclusion in Appendix II (United States of America)

S. depressus, has a restricted range and fragmented distribution, and has been assessed by IUCN as Critically Endangered. However, the other three are widespread and it is likely that their global populations are very large. The most common of the species (*S. odoratus*) is a popular pet and has been exported in relatively large numbers, with a significant proportion of these are recorded as wild-collected

or ranched (though some may be captive-born or captive-bred). There is no information available on the impact of collection for export on wild populations and harvest has not been specifically identified as a cause of concern for any of the species. Overall, none of the species of *Sternotherus* is likely to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

CoP19 Prop. 33

LEITH'S SOFTSHELL TURTLE

Nilssonina leithii

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix II (India)

Nilssonina leithii populations are thought to have undergone a marked decline over the past 30 years and remaining populations are fragmented and small. The species appears to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I in Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev CoP17). Because population levels are now too low to make hunting worthwhile, there is no indication of current harvesting and

no recent records of international trade exist. While it appears that the species is not currently affected by international trade, any level of international demand is likely to be detrimental to the species. Export of wild specimens for commercial purposes is banned and an Appendix I listing would reflect the national regulations in place for this species.



ACCEPT



REJECT

CoP19 Prop. 34

GLASS FROGS Family Centrolenidae

Inclusion in Appendix II (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Guinea, Niger, Panama, Peru, Togo, and United States of America)

There are few quantitative data available on populations of glass frog species and no population estimates for the 12 species identified by the proponents as being in the trade. Recent and forthcoming IUCN Red List assessments classify all these 12 species as Least Concern, with large population distributions. Trade data are limited - US import data at the species level for four species proposed show the majority reported to be from captive sources.

Hyalinobatrachium fleischmanni is the most frequently reported species in trade but almost all specimens in trade were reported to be captive-bred. It does not appear that any of the 12 lead species identified in the proposal meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. Although some species in the glass frogs are threatened according to recent IUCN Red List assessments, we found no evidence of the trade in these species.

CoP19 Prop. 36

LAOS WARTY NEWT *Laotriton laoensis*

Inclusion in Appendix II with a zero export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes (European Union)

This endemic species is classified as Endangered due to its limited distribution and very restricted population that has undergone a marked decline. Evidence of international trade is largely anecdotal but it is clear that there is international demand. Large population accumulations in the breeding season make them vulnerable to overharvesting and the species may already be close to meeting

the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. The species therefore appears to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II under Criterion A of Annex 2a, in Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). A zero-export quota of wild specimens for commercial purposes would afford the species equivalent protection to an Appendix I listing and reflect the prohibition of trade from Lao PDR.



ACCEPT



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 35

LEMUR LEAF FROG *Agalychnis lemur*

Inclusion in Appendix II with a zero annual export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes (Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, and European Union)

Agalychnis lemur has undergone a marked recent population decline in the wild, primarily due to habitat loss. It was assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List in 2019. The species already meets the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Although popular in the

pet trade, there is little evidence of international trade in wild-sourced specimens. However, given the vulnerability of this species to any degree of wild harvest, it meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II Criterion A of Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev.CoP17).

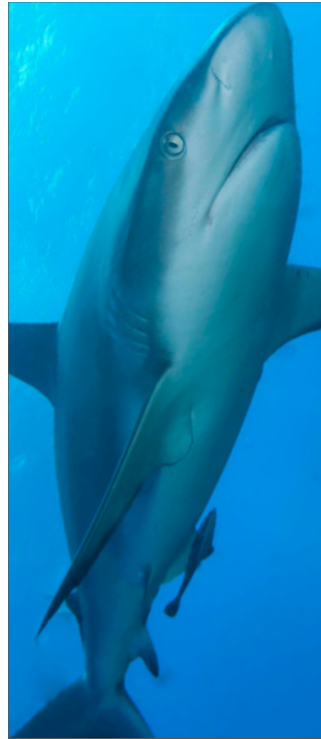
CoP19 Prop. 37

REQUIEM SHARKS Family Carcharhinidae

Inclusion in Appendix II (Bangladesh, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Israel, Maldives, Panama, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom, and European Union)

The great majority of species in the family Carcharhinidae appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II, either because regulation is needed to ensure that the harvest is not reducing the wild populations to a level at which their survival may be threatened by continued harvesting or other influences (Annex 2a of the Resolution), or as lookalikes (Annex 2b of the Resolution). Seven species

did not meet criteria for listing in either Annex 2a or Annex 2b but their inclusion in the Appendices would help harmonise assessment, enforcement, and compliance. Listing of the Family could potentially strengthen national measures for the species involved and, in some cases, complement existing management measures that are already in place.



ACCEPT



CoP19 Prop. 38

HAMMERHEAD SHARKS Family Sphyrnidae

Inclusion in Appendix II (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and European Union)

Overexploitation has led to significant population reductions for all species within the family Sphyrnidae. Declines observed for *Sphyrna tiburo* overall are not consistent with the indicative guidelines for inclusion in Appendix II as specified in the footnote to Annex 5 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). However, the widespread disappearance of this species in the Pacific and South Atlantic portions of its range, combined with evidence that fins are traded internationally, implies that regulation of trade is needed, and the species meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2aB of the Resolution. The Critically Endangered *Sphyrna corona*, *S. media*, and *S. tudes* are likely to meet or

are near to meeting the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2aA of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). It is unclear whether *Eusphyrna blochii* does or does not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2a. Small-to-moderate sized dorsal and pectoral fins of all members of the family Sphyrnidae resemble each other indicating they meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2 bA of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) based on the difficulty of distinguishing their fins from those of juvenile Appendix II listed species. It appears that all species in the Family Sphyrnidae meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II either under Annex 2a or 2b of the Resolution.

ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 39

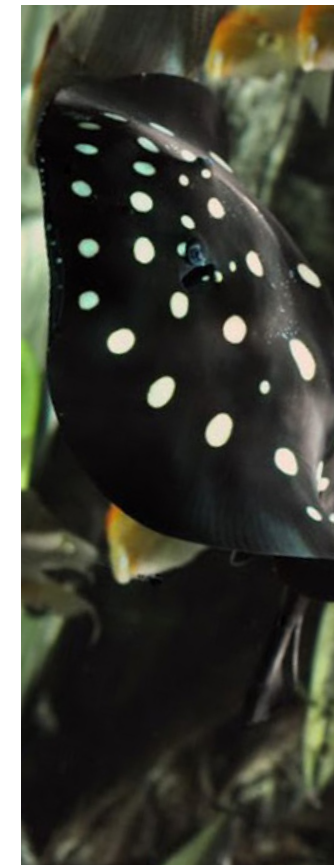
FRESHWATER STINGRAY

Potamotrygon wallacei, *P. leopoldi*, *P. albimaculata*, *P. henlei*, *P. jabuti*, *P. marquesi* and *P. signata*

Inclusion of the six species in Appendix II (Brazil)

The species proposed are endemic but are relatively widespread in Brazil. In the past, some species have been exported in significant numbers, but it is unclear whether population decreases can be ascribed to harvesting (including for export) or other factors such as habitat degradation. Declared exports have been lower than the set quotas for the six native *Potamotrygon* spp. Since 2021 all export of CITES-listed species has been banned so there is currently no legal export trade. Although there appears to be some illegal trade, there are no indications of large-scale illegal trade, and species other than *P. leopoldi* and its hybrids, rarely appear on the open market. Given

the absence of legal trade at present, it appears unlikely that the Brazilian *Potamotrygon* species proposed meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. It is not clear how listing the species in Appendix II would solve the problem of illegal trade compared to having them listed in Appendix III with what is in effect a zero-quota, given the ban on trade. An Appendix II listing may also potentially have a detrimental impact on existing captive breeding operations, which could lead to illegal sources being sought to meet demand. Brazil is encouraged to strengthen enforcement efforts to ensure the effectiveness of the current Appendix III listings.



REJECT

CoP19 Prop. 40

GUITARFISH Family Rhinobatidae

Inclusion in Appendix II (Israel, Kenya, Panama, and Senegal)

Targeted and incidental fisheries throughout their range have led to marked declines of Guitarfish populations, with ten species assessed by IUCN for the Red List as Critically Endangered and a further five as Endangered. These species would appear already to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. There is very little indication of international trade in any of these species. It is therefore not clear that any members of the

family meet the criteria in Annex 2a for inclusion in Appendix II. However, it can be challenging to identify parts and derivatives to species level within the family Rhinobatidae. As such, all members of the family Rhinobatidae meet the criteria for listing in Annex 2bA of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) based on the difficulty of distinguishing whole carcasses as well as parts and derivatives from those of species already listed in the Appendices.



ACCEPT



CoP19 Prop. 41

ZEBRA PLECO *Hypancistrus zebra*

Inclusion in Appendix I (Brazil)

Hypancistrus zebra has a restricted distribution in Brazil of 150 km and a range of less than 400 km² and there are concerns over a decrease in habitat quality. The species is in demand for international pet trade and seizure data indicate that illegal export takes place, although there is little information on the scale of such export. The restricted range with declining habitat quality and continuing presence in trade indicate the species appears to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. However, international trade dominated is by supply of captive born or bred specimens and Appendix I listing will result in a decrease in

this supply (due to possible disputes over the legal acquisition of the founder stock and consequent failure to register as legitimate Appendix I captive breeding facility). This could increase pressure on wild populations and ultimately impact the wild population negatively. **An Appendix II listing with a zero-export quota for trade in wild specimens for commercial purposes would have the same effect as an Appendix I listing but would ensure that breeding operations will still be able to trade captive-bred individuals without needing to be registered in CITES under Res. Conf. 12.10 (Rev CoP15).**

REJECT



CoP19 Prop. 42

SEA CUCUMBER *Thelenota* spp.

Inclusion in Appendix II (Seychelles, European Union, and United States of America)

Thelenota sea cucumbers are prone to overexploitation due to their limited mobility as adults, late sexual maturity, density-dependent reproduction, habitat preferences and low rates of recruitment. Declines have been observed in *Thelenota ananas* which are consistent with the indicative guidelines for the inclusion in Appendix II in the footnote to Annex 5 of Resolution 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). It is likely that most accessible populations in its range are exploited, indicating that regulation of trade

in the species is necessary to avoid it becoming eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future (criterion 2a A). *Thelenota anax* is considered uncommon and demand for *T. anax* may be increasing. *T. ananas* and *T. anax* may meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. While there is insufficient evidence to determine whether *T. rubralineata* meets the criteria, it is extremely vulnerable to overexploitation due to its rarity and low population densities.

ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 43

Family Orchidaceae

Amend annotations #1, #4, #14 and the annotation to species of Orchidaceae listed in Appendix I (Canada)

The amendments propose removal of the phrase “, in solid or liquid media” from annotations providing exemptions for trade in plant seedlings and tissue cultures obtained in vitro; these were supported by consensus by the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting in 2022. They are in line

with current propagation techniques and should have no impact on the conservation of species in the wild. Submission of this proposal to the CoP is in line with Res. Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II.*



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 44

TRUMPET TREES *Handroanthus* spp., *Roseodendron* spp., and *Tabebuia* spp.

Inclusion in Appendix II with annotation #17 (Colombia, Panama, and European Union)

The timbers of certain species of these three genera are in high demand both domestically and internationally. Woods of the three genera are marketed with the same common name (Ipê); distinguishing between the species and genera is reportedly difficult even at the microscopic level. Species in these genera do not regenerate easily and overexploitation has resulted in significant population declines in some species. At least five species appear to meet criterion B for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex

2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and the remaining species meet the criteria for inclusion in Annex 2b as lookalikes, based on the reported identification difficulties, taxonomic and nomenclatural uncertainties, as well as being in trade under the same trade name. *Dipteryx alata* and *D. odorata* (proposed for listing in Proposal 48) are said to be commonly confused with the three genera and would also meet the lookalike criteria were this Proposal to be accepted.



ACCEPT



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 45

Rhodiola spp.

Inclusion in Appendix II with annotation #2 (China, Ukraine, United Kingdom, European Union, and United States of America)

There is clear evidence of international trade in *Rhodiola* products that may be increasing. *R. crenulata* is considered endangered in China where the majority of the species occurs. Given the clear impact of trade, it appears to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev CoP17). Populations of *R. rosea* have been assessed as rare or vulnerable in countries where they are most heavily harvested but there is little indication of extensive harvest in the remainder of its wide range, and it does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. However, because of difficulty in distinguishing between the species in dried form and

the known mixing of products in trade, *R. rosea* along with other members of the genus meet lookalike criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2bA of the Resolution.

Annotation #2 would exclude “finished products packaged and ready for retail trade.” Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) states annotations to proposals should include “those specimens that first appear in international trade as export from range States.” If a significant part of the export trade is in finished products inclusion of this annotation, were the proposal to be accepted, would go against the intention of the Resolution.



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 46

AFRICAN MAHOGANY

***Afzelia* spp.**

Inclusion of all African populations in Appendix II with annotation #17 (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Senegal, and European Union)

African *Afzelia* spp. produce high quality timber that is valued in the international market. Four of the seven currently recognised African species are widespread but there are reports of declining populations as a result of harvest in a number of different range States, with three of these species being classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. There are strong indications that all four of these species are currently harvested

unsustainably in sometimes large parts of their range, increasing their vulnerability to other important threats, therefore meeting Criterion B of Annex 2a Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). It is difficult to distinguish between the timber of different African *Afzelia* spp. and the other African members of the genus would appear to meet the lookalike criteria for listing in Appendix II in Annex 2b of the Resolution.

CoP19 Prop. 47

NORTH INDIAN ROSEWOOD

Dalbergia sissoo

Deletion from Appendix II (India and Nepal)

Wild populations of *Dalbergia sissoo* are found over a large range and in general there is no evidence that they are declining due to trade. While the species does not appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), differentiating this species in trade from all other *Dalbergia* species

presents an implementation challenge. While methods exist to differentiate *D. sissoo* from other members of the genus in international trade, these require expertise and technology not currently available globally. The species therefore still meets the criteria in Annex 2bA.



REJECT

CoP19 Prop. 48

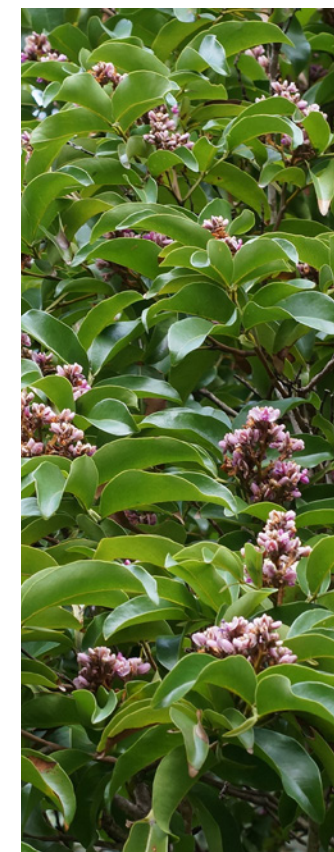
Cumaru Dipteryx spp.

Inclusion in Appendix II with new annotation designating logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood and transformed wood, and seeds (Colombia, Panama, and European Union)

Due to the slow growth of the main species in trade, the genus is particularly vulnerable to overexploitation, and international trade in its timber appears to be increasing. The seeds are also in trade primarily as tonka beans for use in the perfumery and food industries, but it is unclear whether the harvest of seeds negatively impacts the species. *Dipteryx alata* appears to meet Criterion B of Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev CoP17) on the basis of ongoing and historic decreases of over 30% over three generations driven by deforestation and it is likely that *D. odorata*, *D. micrantha*, and *D. oleifera* also meet the Criterion. The genus appears to meet Criterion A of Annex 2b due to significant taxonomic uncertainty, issues of timber species identification, reporting of trade under generic and common names.

D. alata and *D. odorata* are commonly confused” with *Handroanthus* spp., *Tabebuia* spp., and *Roseodendron* spp. proposed for listing in Proposal 44, and would also meet the criteria in Annex 2bA were that proposal to be accepted.

However, as the overall impact of tonka bean harvesting remains unclear, and there is evidence of the seeds harvesting contributing to the conservation and management of the species, Annotation #17 without the addition of seeds is more appropriate to ensure the positive outcome for species, until strategies to mitigate potential negative impacts on livelihoods, and knock-on effects on forest cover, are developed in accordance with Res. Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES and livelihoods.



ACCEPT IF
proposed Annotation
is amended to exclude
seeds



REJECT

CoP19 Prop. 49

Paubrasilia echinata

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I with annotation: All parts, derivatives and finished products, including bows of musical instruments, except musical instruments and their parts, composing travelling orchestras, and solo musicians carrying musical passports in accordance with Res. Conf. 16.8 (Brazil)

Due to extensive exploitation for international trade and an overall decline of more than 90% of the forest's historical range, the species appears to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Since Brazilian law prohibits the exploitation of *P. echinata* from its natural habitat, the effect of the proposal would be to restrict movement of post-2007 musical instruments and their parts, unless recognised as from artificially propagated trees, which would need to be permitted on a case-by-case basis in compliance with Articles III and VII of the Convention (for example personal and household effects or pre-Convention specimens). The inclusion

of an annotation to an Appendix I listing proposal for a plant species would be unusual. If the intention of the proponent is to subject finished products to CITES trade control, while allowing for use of musical passports in accordance with Res. Conf. 16.8 (CoP17), this could alternatively be achieved by amending the Proposal to retain the species in Appendix II with a change to annotation #10 to this effect. **Brazil could also submit a zero quota for wild-sourced commercial exports to be posted on the CITES website to indicate that trade in wild harvest of the species from Brazil is not permitted.**



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 50

Pterocarpus spp.

Inclusion of all African populations in Appendix II of CITES with annotation #17, including already listed species *P. erinaceus* (CoP17, no annotation) and *P. tinctorius* (CoP18, annotation #6) in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention (Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Senegal, Togo, and European Union)

Twelve species occur in Africa, of which *P. angolensis*, *P. soyauxii*, and *P. tessmannii* appear to meet Criterion B in Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). The rare species, *P. zenkeri* appears to meet Criterion A in Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). The most commonly logged species are considered to be difficult to distinguish from one another by people involved in the trade - some

can be distinguished using chemical and anatomical approaches, but it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish them based on the wood anatomical features alone. As *P. erinaceus* is currently listed in Appendix II and believed to be affected by trade, all other African species therefore meet the lookalike criteria for listing in Appendix II provided in Annex 2b of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Prop. 51

Khaya spp.

Inclusion of African populations in Appendix II with annotation #17 "Designates logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood and transformed wood." (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Senegal, and European Union)

Harvesting and international trade of these species have led to depletion and in some cases exhaustion of harvestable stocks, as is the case with *K. madagascariensis* which is no longer known to be in trade. There are strong indications that four species (*K. anthotheca*, *K. grandifoliola*, *K. ivorensis*, and *K. senegalensis*) are

currently harvested unsustainably in large parts of their range and therefore meeting Criterion B of Annex 2a Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). Given the similarity of appearance and the mixing of timbers in trade, *K. madagascariensis* would meet the lookalike criteria in Annex 2b of the Resolution.



ACCEPT

CoP19 Prop. 52

Family Orchidaceae

Amend the Annotation (#4) to the listing of Orchidaceae included in Appendix II 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 amabilisor Phalaenopsis lobbii* (Switzerland)

Cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of the five orchid species proposed to be exempted from CITES regulations are mostly sourced from artificially propagated specimens, and only two of the species (*Bletilla striata* and *Gastrodia elata*) have been exported by range States in low quantities, the amendment proposed to Annotation #4 would appear not to pose a threat to the conservation of wild populations of these species. While not currently the primary product in trade, these commodities could become the main item in trade at some time in the future and in that

case, if exempted, they will fall outside the provisions of the Convention and trade will not be monitored. Therefore, to ensure the long-term survival of species, it is important that the implementation and conservation impacts of the annotation amendment are monitored should it be accepted. Monitoring could be through a formal mechanism, such as reporting to the Plants Committee by the Range and consumer states. It is also important that this exemption be applied only to narrowly defined 'cosmetics' products and not used in cases of trade in 'medicinal' products.



ACCEPT

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Chinese Water Dragon - *Physignathus cocincinus*

WORKING TO ENSURE THE TRADE IN
WILD PLANTS AND ANIMALS IS NOT
A THREAT TO THE CONSERVATION
OF NATURE

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