

IUCN policy position on selected issues

**Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of
Wild Fauna and Flora
Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP19)
14 – 25 November 2022, Panama City, Panama**

Summary of Key Messages

IUCN hereby presents views and recommendations on selected issues and agenda items of COP19 for Parties' consideration.

CITES Strategic Vision (Agenda item 10)

- ✓ IUCN supports the draft decision in [CoP19 Doc. 10](#) calling on the Secretariat to undertake a comparative analysis to highlight areas of alignment between the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) once adopted, to assess the contribution of CITES to the implementation of the GBF.
- ✓ IUCN encourages Parties to adopt the indicators developed for the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and highlights the potential for such indicators to be considered in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 GBF in relation to the conservation of wildlife subject to trade, including ensuring that any such trade is legal and sustainable.

Engagement of IPLCs (Agenda item 13)

- ✓ IUCN reiterates its support to re-establish an intersessional working group to examine the issues around engagement of IPLCs and, in particular, to develop guidance to enhance involvement of IPLCs in decision-making, particularly at the national level.

Livelihoods (Agenda item 14)

- ✓ IUCN fully supports the re-establishment of the CITES and Livelihoods Working Group proposed in [CoP19 Doc. 14](#) and to continue to document case studies that provide empirical evidence on the impacts of trade in CITES-listed species on both conservation and livelihoods.

Participatory mechanisms for rural communities in CITES (Agenda item 15)

- ✓ IUCN continues to strongly support ongoing implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES and Livelihoods that encourages "empowerment of rural communities".

Cooperation with organisations and multilateral environmental agreements (Agenda item 17)

- ✓ IUCN would like to bring to the attention of the CITES Parties and CITES Secretariat the most recently adopted IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations relevant to CITES. They are referenced under the section on Agenda item 17 in the body of the document.
- ✓ IUCN calls on CITES Parties to scale up species conservation action at the national level to support the implementation of the post-2020 GBF. In this regard, IUCN and its Members and Commissions have developed the [Global Species Action Plan](#), in consultation with secretariats of all biodiversity-related conventions.
- ✓ IUCN appreciates the continued collaboration of the CITES Secretariat with IUCN and other biodiversity-related conventions on the Global Species Action Plan in support of the implementation of both CITES and the post-2020 GBF.

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Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade (Agenda item 23)

- √ IUCN supports the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with wildlife trade and markets, and encourages Parties to contribute to these activities. The benefits from such work contribute to both species conservation and the mitigation of risk of pathogen spillover and outbreaks of zoonotic origin.

Non-detriment findings (Agenda item 43)

- √ IUCN welcomes the elaboration of additional NDF guidance for Parties and an international expert workshop on NDFs. IUCN has important views to share during the process to ensure NDFs are more approachable for many Parties currently not undertaking NDFs for species in trade.

Identifying species at risk of extinction for CITES Parties (Agenda item 83)

- √ IUCN welcomes the suggestion for a mechanism through which updates to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species can be shared with the CITES Parties to inform decision-making in the Convention.

Amendment to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) (Agenda item 87.1)

- √ IUCN recognises that implementation of some listing decisions may have negative impacts on IPLCs and reiterates its support for Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) which notes that where negative impacts occur, mitigation strategies should be implemented. The proposed guidance for consultation with IPLCs on proposals to amend the Appendices could help identify potential negative impacts and ensure effective and equitable mitigation measures have been put in place.

Proposals to amend Appendices I and II (Agenda item 89)

- √ IUCN draws the attention of CITES Parties to the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of Proposals when assessing the proposed amendments to the CITES Appendices. IUCN also recommends that Parties consult the relevant IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Specialist Group members who will be present at CoP19, for their input and scientific evaluation of these proposals.
- √ IUCN highlights the importance of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in key CITES processes, including as informing and evaluating the listing proposals.

CITES Strategic Vision (Agenda item 10)

IUCN supports the draft decision in Document 10 calling on the Secretariat to undertake a comparative analysis to highlight areas of alignment between the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), once adopted.

Ensuring the monitoring frameworks are aligned will enhance coherence between CITES and CBD and reduce the reporting burden on Parties to both. IUCN is a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), which has been contributing to the development of a Sustainable Use of Wild Species indicator for the GBF. IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) Sustainable Use and Livelihoods and Specialist Group (SULi) are building a Sustainable Use of Species database to contribute to this effort.

Engagement of IPLCs (Agenda item 13)

IUCN recognises that Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) have valuable and unique knowledge about wildlife use, management and conservation which could help improve the information base for CITES decision-making. Indigenous Peoples have been recognised as being the most effective stewards of wildlife in many cases (IPBES 2019).

IUCN reiterates its support to Decisions taken at CoP18, and their renewal, to re-establish a working group to examine the issues around engagement of IPLCs and, in particular, to develop guidance to enhance involvement of IPLCs in decision making, including consulting them on proposals to amend the Appendices.

Livelihoods (Agenda item 14)

The IPBES Sustainable Use Assessment highlighted the importance of the sustainable use of wild species to millions of people worldwide. IUCN in its policy statement on Sustainable Use of Living Wild Resources (2000) recognises that sustainable use provides a critical incentive for conserving species.

IUCN thus fully supports the re-establishment of the CITES and Livelihoods Working Group and the proposals to continue to document case studies that provide empirical evidence on the contribution of legal trade in CITES listed species to both conservation and livelihoods. The database on Sustainable Use of Species developed by IUCN SSC/CEESP SULi will also become a key repository for such case studies

and other resources that support evidence-based decision making.

Participatory mechanisms for rural communities in CITES (Agenda item 15)

IUCN continues to strongly support ongoing implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES and Livelihoods that encourages empowerment of indigenous peoples and local communities.

IUCN recognises that there are some good practice examples in other UN MEAs and processes that could further facilitate the meaningful engagement of IPLCs in CITES decision making processes including changes to the Rules of Procedure which enable IPLC organisations to apply directly for accreditation to the Secretariat and also that remove the registration fee for IPLC organisations; establishment of a fund specifically to support attendance in CITES meetings by IPLCs; coordination of IPLC organisations through a caucus or other coordinating body.

IUCN strongly encourages enhanced dialogue between the CITES Secretariat and UN expert processes on human rights and indigenous peoples in order to provide further insights into how to enhance participation of IPLCs.

Cooperation with organisations and multilateral environmental agreements (Agenda item 17)

IUCN would like to bring to the attention of the CITES Parties and Secretariat the most recently adopted IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) Resolutions and Recommendations relevant to the Convention.

The following IUCN WCC Resolutions and Recommendations adopted in 2021 and CITES CoP19 agenda items align in select objectives and where possible collaborative actions should be explored to achieve combined conservation outcomes.

- Implementing international efforts to combat the sale of illegal wildlife products online ([IUCN WCC 2020 Res 040](#)) and wildlife crime linked to the Internet ([Agenda item 37](#)).
- Engaging the private sector to combat wildlife trafficking ([IUCN WCC 2020 Res 054](#)) and demand reduction to combat illegal trade ([Agenda item 38](#)).
- Combatting the illegal trade in lion body parts and derivatives ([IUCN WCC 2020 Res 059](#)) and African lions (*Panthera leo*) ([Agenda item 72](#)).
- Action against Asian songbird trafficking ([IUCN WCC 2020 Res 103](#)) and Songbird trade and

conservation management (*Passeriformes* spp.) ([Agenda item 74](#)).

- Promoting human, animal and environmental health, and preventing pandemics through the One Health approach and by addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss ([IUCN WCC 2020 Res 135](#)) and One Health and CITES: Human and animal health risks from wildlife trade ([Agenda item 23.2](#)).

Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions (Agenda item 17.1)

IUCN calls on CITES Parties to scale up species conservation action at the national level to ensure that direct and indirect exploitation, use, and trade of wild species is sustainable, legal, and poses no significant risk of pathogen spillover to humans, wildlife, and other animals, and addresses both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products, and thereby support the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

IUCN would like to bring to the attention of Parties the [Global Species Action Plan \(GSAP\)](#), developed in collaboration with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions to support the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by setting out all the actions required to achieve the necessary species outcomes under the GBF Goals and Targets. In particular, Target 5, which directly links to CITES through addressing illegal harvesting, use and trade of wild terrestrial freshwater and marine species.

IUCN invites the CITES Secretariat to continue its collaboration with IUCN and other biodiversity-related conventions on this effort to enhance conservation of threatened species and cooperation among conventions.

Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade (Agenda item 23)

IUCN supports the draft activities proposed in Document 23.1 and 23.2 and the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade. IUCN encourages Parties to contribute to these activities, noting the benefits from such work contribute to the mitigation of zoonotic risk and species conservation.

IUCN encourages Parties to fully adopt One Health approaches through undertaking joint training, and strengthening exchanges and collaborations between wildlife, animal and public health authorities, specifically between CITES and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) entities.

IUCN invites Parties to consider IUCN's publication on [Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis](#) published in collaboration with WOAH.

Identifying species at risk of extinction for CITES Parties (Agenda item 83)

IUCN welcomes the suggestion for a mechanism through which updates to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species can be shared with the CITES Parties to inform decision-making in the Convention.

IUCN, in collaboration with the University of Oxford, UNEP-WCMC and other partners, have recently developed a mechanism to identify species that are likely threatened by international trade on the IUCN Red List for this purpose. The analyses are available as a pre-print [here](#), and are automated, repeatable, and quick, meaning that future iterations of the results could be shared with the Parties at a convenient time during the intersessional period or at CoPs to inform decision-making.

It should be noted that for species categorised as 'likely threatened by international trade' in these analyses, this does not imply that the species are necessarily threatened by international trade at the global level or that international trade constitutes a major threat to the species or that this threat applies ubiquitously across the species' geographic range or over time. If further iterations of these analyses do inform future decision making in CITES, IUCN encourages the Parties to consider these qualifications during deliberations and in the decision making process.

Amendment to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) (Agenda item 87.1)

IUCN recognises that implementation of some listing decisions may impact IPLCs and reiterates its support for Res Conf 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) which notes that where negative impacts occur, mitigation strategies should be adopted. The proposed guidance for consultation with IPLCs on proposals to amend the Appendices could help identify potential negative impacts and ensure effective and equitable mitigation measures have been put in place.

IUCN also recognises that additional factors beyond livelihoods and food security could be considered in listing decisions and that doing so could reduce the uncertainty of likely conservation outcomes. Content

analysis¹ of proposals to amend the Appendices between CoP14 (2007) and CoP19 (2022) using a social-ecological systems framework of international wildlife trade indicates that only a small proportion of proposals consider factors critical to evaluating the likely effectiveness of CITES trade measures in the real world, though this varies along international trade chains. These include intertemporal price trends, the size of end user markets for wildlife products, the nature of consumer demand (e.g., elasticity), the rule of law and the benefits that accrue to people along supply chains.

Proposals to amend Appendices I and II (Agenda item 89)

IUCN recommends Parties refer to the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of Proposals to amend the CITES Appendices which highlights relevant information on which the Parties can base their decisions.

For CITES to remain a credible instrument for conserving species affected by trade, the decisions of the Parties must be based on the best available scientific and technical information. IUCN draws attention to the Analyses as these technical reviews provide an objective assessment of each amendment proposal against the requirements of the Convention as agreed by Parties and laid out in the listing criteria elaborated in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and other relevant Resolutions and Decisions.

IUCN invites Parties to access the Analyses, which can be downloaded individually by proposal through the IUCN website ([IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of Proposals CITES | IUCN \(iucnredlist.org\)](#)), or in a full or summary format (<https://www.traffic.org/about-us/working-with-cites/cites-cop19/>).

IUCN highlights the importance of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in key CITES processes, such as informing and evaluating listing proposals. In the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of Proposals 589 species were proposed, of which 71% (420) had a Red List threat assessment and 31% (183) had been assessed since 2020.

Furthermore, Red List assessments play a key role in the mechanisms established by CITES to monitor trade levels and flag up cases of potentially unsustainable trade or other possible implementation issues. They can be useful for informing the development of appropriate regulatory measures, as well as informing day-to-day decision-making by Parties on permit applications and non-detriment findings.

¹ Challender, D.W.S., 't Sas-Rolfes, M., Robinson, J.E. & Milner-

Gulland, E.J. (In prep). Towards predicting outcomes of CITES trade measures.