

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, 19 January 2023
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Conference Room 1, United Nations Office at Nairobi
Hybrid meeting

Agenda item 4: Update on the outcomes of the CITES COP19.

This note serves as an information background document for consideration of agenda item 2, whereby the Committee will be provided an update on the outcomes of the 19th Conference of Parties under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP 19). The note has been developed by the CITES Secretariat.

Following a presentation, Member States and Stakeholders are invited to engage in an exchange of views with the CITES Secretariat on the outcomes of CITES COP 19.



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Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

19 January 2023

Key Outcomes:

19th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

14 – 25 November 2022, Panama

Background

1. CITES is an international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival by regulating and monitoring international trade through a legal framework together with common procedural mechanisms. These ensure that international trade is legal, sustainable and traceable.
2. The Conference of the Parties is the decision-making body of the Convention. It meets every three years to consider proposed amendments to the Appendices, new Resolutions (including a budget and costed programme of work for the Secretariat) and amendments to existing Resolutions, as appropriate. The Conference of the Parties also adopts Decisions that can be directed to the Parties, the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees as well as in some instances other organizations such as UNEP.
3. CITES listed species is categorized into three appendixes (Appendices I, Appendices II and Appendices III) and amendments of Appendices I and II can only be agreed by the Conference of Parties based on consideration of proposals submitted by Parties that includes supporting statements that address the criteria for the amendment of the Appendices agreed by Parties ([Resolution Conf. 9.24 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#)).
4. CITES was agreed in 1973 and will turn 50 in 2023. We will celebrate this milestone on 3 March 2023 (World Wildlife Day) under the theme "[Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation](#)".

CITES CoP19

5. The 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) was hosted by the Government of Panama and took place at the Panama Convention Center in Panama City from 14 – 25 November 2022. The Standing Committee also met on 13 November 2022 to address mainly compliance matters and on 25 November 2022 met to elect a new chair and establish working groups to move inter-sessional work forward.
6. More than 2,500 participants attended CITES CoP19, including 154 Parties. Various inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector, indigenous and local communities attended and participated in the meeting, while 140 representatives of the media attended and reported on

7. discussions. CoP19 enjoyed more global coverage than ever especially with regards to the marine species listing proposals on the table. A list of [participants](#) can be accessed on the CITES website.
8. CoP19 considered 91 [Agenda](#) items that covered the following:
 - a. Administrative and financial matters, including proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the budget and work programme for 2023 to 2025, and a language strategy for the Convention.
 - b. Strategic matters, including the CITES Strategic Vision, World Wildlife Trade Report, Engagement of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs), capacity building, cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements, the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international trade and an action plan on gender-related matters.
 - c. Interpretation and implementation matters, that included several items relating to general compliance and enforcement, the regulation of trade and exemptions and special trade provisions.
 - d. Species specific matters, that included twenty-five agenda items relating to specific species or higher taxon levels that required consideration and specific action.
 - e. Proposals to amend the Appendices.
9. The Conference of the Parties considered more than 120 working documents and 52 proposals to amend the Appendices. Most of the working documents considered were submitted by the Standing Committee and scientific committees (Animals and Plants Committees) based on the inter-sessional work carried out. The other working documents were submitted by Parties and the Secretariat. Forty-nine (49) Parties were proponents of the 52 proposals to amend the Appendices covering plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians, marine species, mammals and freshwater fish. Thirty-nine (39) proposals proposed an increase in protection under CITES, 12 proposals a decrease in protection and one proposal was 'neutral' in that it did not propose a change in the listing status, but an amendment to the annotation to provide clarification of the scope of regulation under CITES. It's important to note that the success of the Convention can be measured by the decrease in species protection given successful conservation management measures that lead to an increase in population size.
10. The Conference of Parties adopted more than 365 Decisions, 5 new Resolutions (*Financing and the costed programme of work for the triennium 2023 – 2025, Gender and international trade in wild fauna and flora, Capacity-building, Conservation of and trade in marine turtles, Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species*) and revisions to 23 existing Resolutions. Forty-six (46) listing proposals were adopted, the majority through consensus. The adoption of these proposals resulted in more than 500 species being included in the Appendices. This includes four bird species, 100 shark and ray species, 50 turtles and tortoise species, 160 species of amphibians, and 150 tree species that will not be regulated as soon as the listings come into effect. Most listings come into effect 90 days after the meeting (on 23 February 2023) but for a few species, including requiem sharks and the Straw-headed bulbul as well as some tree species, listings will come into effect in 12 or 24 months after the meeting.
11. Under Strategic matters, the Parties to CITES adopted indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention. Decisions relating to a comparative analysis to be done to highlight areas of alignment with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as a starting point for an assessment of how CITES can contribute to the GBF and its monitoring framework were also adopted. In addition, options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and

synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will also be considered by the Standing Committee. With the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on 18 December 2022, the aforementioned decisions will be implemented as soon as it takes effect on 23 February 2023.

12. Other key outcomes include the adoption of:
 - a. decisions relating to the Language strategy for the Convention that provides for among others the translation of all valid Resolutions and Decisions into three additional languages (Arabic, Chinese and Russian) if additional external resources are mobilized;
 - b. a resolution and decisions to work on building gender equality into the international trade in wildlife, recognizing that women are often guardians of wildlife and biodiversity but, just as often, are not recognized or benefit from this trade; and
 - c. a number of decisions aimed at investigating the ways in which CITES can contribute to mitigating the risk of zoonotic pathogen spillover and transmission from wildlife trade and associated wildlife supply chains, including markets.
13. In terms of species-specific matters, an existing ban under CITES on the international commercial trade in ivory was upheld while decisions on the trade in live African elephants including a call for a CITES dialogue meeting for African elephant range States were adopted.
14. Parties, particularly those affected by illegal fishing and trafficking of totoaba, also agreed to work together to prevent and combat illegal trade in the species while fighting to save the world's most endangered marine mammal, the vaquita porpoise.
15. The pilot edition of the [World Wildlife Trade Report](#) was also launched at CoP19. This report showed that international trade in wildlife is worth more than \$200 billion annually to the world economy and highlighted how important that trade is to human well-being. It also reflects on the positive impact of well-regulated trade on species conservation.
16. The CITES Secretariat will share further information in the presentation to be presented during the meeting.