



NOVEMBER 2022

CITES CoP19 Report

IPHA



Submitted by: Danene van der Westhuyzen

Introduction

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank The International Order of T. Roosevelt for their support and funding, which made it possible for myself, Mrs Danene van der Westhuyzen, to represent IPHA at the CITES Cop19 in Panama during November.

The 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in Panama City, Panama during November 2022.

CITES is an international agreement between governments ensuring international trade does not threaten survival of species. There are 184 Parties (Countries) and over 200 Non-Party attendees (Intergovernmental organisations/Nongovernmental Organisations). CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. All import, export, re-export and introduction from the species covered by CITES has to be authorised through a licensing system.

Again a large amount of agenda points and appendix species proposals (52) ensured very limited time for discussions and/or interventions on each agenda item. It was noted several times during the convention that interventions by parties, especially where range states were affected, were very limited by time. This further caused very restrictive interventions from IGO's and NGO's, and in many cases no interventions were allowed, but the interventions that were made by our pro-sustainable use bloc were done very well and were supported by each other.

IPHA spent considerable time in preparing for CoP by meeting and working with Conservation Force, the CIC, DSC, SCI and Resource Africa who are important pro-sustainable use organisations. Conservation Force, with Mr John Jackson III and Mr Marco Pani delivered incredible information, historical importance and scientific data in these preparations. The CIC assisted greatly in arranging a press release, side events and meetings during the CoP which was crucial for communities.

Even though IPHA attended most agenda items, it was impossible to attend all so IPHA focussed specific items pertinent to the hunting community.

During the Conference there was close cooperation with the IPHA, DSC, Conservation Force, the CIC, SCI and SCIF, NACSO, Resource Africa, CBNRM, IUCN, as well as some SADC countries and SADC Ministries.

Some of the most relevant outcomes at CoP19 of Cites is summarised below:

HIPPOPOTAMUS

The initial proposal to transfer hippopotamus from Appendix II to Appendix I was amended to retain the listing on Appendix II, with the annotation of a zero export quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purpose.

The CoP voted to reject the proposal.

WHITE RHINO

Namibia proposed to transfer its population of southern white rhinos from Appendix I to Appendix II with an annotation for the exclusive purpose of international trade in live animals for in-situ conservation only, and hunting trophies. The proposal was adopted in a limited version restricting it to the exclusive purpose of live animals for on-site conservation only within the natural and historic range of the white rhino in Africa - hunting trophies excluded.

ELEPHANT

The proposal to up-list the four populations of elephants in Southern Africa, from Appendix II to Appendix I was rejected. Elephant populations in countries in Southern Africa, including the four rangestates with Appendix II populations, are either increasing or stable compared to other parts of Africa

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Parties rejected the proposal made by Eswatini, Namibia and Zimbabwe on the establishment of a permanent CITES Rural Communities Committee for the direct involvement of rural communities in the CITES decision-making processes. The CoP agreed that the proponents could refer the matters raised in the document to an inter-sessional working group to be established by the Standing Committee under an agenda item on engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in CITES process.

Proposed amendments by Cambodia, Eswatini, Namibia and Zimbabwe to include livelihoods and food security as two factors that must be taken into account in proposals for amendment to the Appendices were rejected by CoP.

Livelihoods and food securities were topics of considerable discussion. The desire for Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) to have a more structured manner for providing guidance into CITES continues to be discussed. Amendments to documents were offered to include these but were not adopted. Most critics feel that livelihoods (community input and needs) should be coordinated at the national level, and not at the CITES level.



LEOPARD

An item of interest was the leopard. With no proposals on the leopard put forward, the shocker came when the Chair of the Standing Committee introduced a working document on quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins. The document recommended changing the quota for Ethiopia from 500 to 20, removing the quotas for Kenya and Malawi and providing additional review requirements. During the discussion, Niger questioned the scientific basis for quotas and then requested to suspend all current leopard quotas until reviewed and approved by “experts.” After considerable opposition, Niger’s amendment was withdrawn with a huge sigh of relief from all of us. During this event, Conservation Force again displayed their incredible knowledge, strategic skills and grit.

In conclusion, CoP19 had plenty of challenges, but we had some significant wins (in blue), and the pro-sustainable use community came together better than ever before. Also significant was the steady improvement for communities. After CoP18, IPHA was of the opinion that all hope was lost, but it was very evident that work paid off as one can feel the progress and notice change.

A relatively concise report on all the agenda items, documents and proposals that IPHA earmarked as important to attend and intervene on follows below.



Agenda Items

Doc 4.2 Proposed Amendment to Rule 26:

Introduction:

Botswana and Zimbabwe propose to amend Rule 26 such that the weight of each Party's vote when deciding species proposals, related Resolutions and annotations shall depend upon the proportionate population sizes of the species under discussion or whose status is subject to voting. In other words, range states with larger populations of relevant species will have a greater voice in CITES decision-making regarding those species compared to non-range states and range states with smaller populations.

Summary of discussion:

Zimbabwe introduced the relevant report (CoP19 Doc. 4.2), suggesting adjustments to Rule 26 on the right to vote to take account of the key roles played by some Parties in the conservation of endangered species and the burden stemming from their conservation. BOTSWANA, INDONESIA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, and TANZANIA supported the proposal. The REPUBLIC OF KOREA objected to the proposal, emphasising everyone should bear equal responsibilities. COTE D'IVOIRE, BENIN, GABON, and ARGENTINA objected, underscoring the difficulty of implementing the proposal. The EU objected, noting that the proposed change would fundamentally alter voting rights.

Outcome:

SOUTH AFRICA raised a point of order, blocking the CoP's decision to reject the proposal. The CoP Chair underscored that changes to Rule 26 did not have enough support but agreed to defer decision to allow informal discussion on the matter.

Doc 10: CITES Strategic Vision

Introduction:

The SC invites CoP19 to adopt draft Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC in order to continue the mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision against the Global Biodiversity Framework once it has been adopted. Parties are also invited to adopt the potential indicators for the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030 as has been presented in Doc. 10 and to delete Decision 18.24.

Summary of discussion:

SC Chair Carolina Caceres introduced CoP19 Doc.10 and addendum, highlighting a comparative analysis of linkages between the adopted CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and the goals within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a proposed map of the Vision against the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

JAPAN supported the mapping of the Vision against the GBF. NORWAY supported the view that CITES work should be undertaken in harmony with other processes. CHINA proposed to further refine the Vision's indicators in an in-session working group.

Outcome:

Committee II moved to establish an in-session working group chaired by the US. The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.10 and its addendum, and indicators in CoP19 Com.II.2.

Doc 11: Appendix 1 Listed Species

Introduction:

Decision 18.28 directed the Secretariat to conduct rapid assessments on the conservation status, legal and illegal trade, of Appendix-I listed species and produce a report prioritising those that could potentially benefit from additional CITES action. Resources were not secured for range state consultation or detailed assessments. The Parties are invited to adopt draft Decisions that would (1) direct the Secretariat to produce detailed assessments for at least ten Appendix-I listed species, which are listed in Doc. 11, and (2) direct the Animals and Plants Committees to review the report and refine the methodology and its criteria for carrying out such assessments.

Summary of discussion:

The AC Chair (Switzerland) introduced CoP19 Doc.11.

Outcome:

Committee I agreed to the draft decisions as amended.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.11, as amended.

Doc 12: World Wildlife Trade

Introduction:

South Africa proposes that the Secretariat, in coordination with partner organisations, prepare a World Wildlife Trade Report between each intersessional period of the Conference of the Parties to analyse a range of aspects of international trade in CITES-listed species, from trends, patterns and scale to conservation impacts, socio-economic benefits and the correlation between legal and illegal trade. As South Africa explains, the report would better inform national and international wildlife trade policies and provide a more factual perception and characterization of trade in CITES-listed species. It would also demonstrate how sustainable, legal and traceable wildlife trade can be a tool for conserving species and healthy ecosystems, enhancing rural livelihoods, local and national economies and human wellbeing.

Summary of discussion:

South Africa introduced CoP19 Doc.12, aimed at assisting parties in making use of their wildlife trade data. SENEGAL and PERU supported the initiative. MALAYSIA expressed concern over the reporting burden. COLOMBIA stressed the need for support for megadiverse countries. NEW ZEALAND questioned the value of parties going down this route and recommended commissioning a report looking at the value of the World Wildlife Trade Report. MEXICO noted it was premature to adopt the Report.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to establish an in-session working group.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.12 as amended by CoP19 Com.II.1

Doc 13: Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Introduction:

CoP18 instructed the SC to establish an intersessional Working Group to consider how to effectively engage indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in CITES processes. During SC74, the Chair of the Working Group reported that the Working Group had not been able to meet physically or online due to the COVID-19 pandemic and language barriers. In Doc. 13, the Parties are invited to extend the mandate of the Working Group for the next intersessional period.

In the revised decisions, the Working Group will take into consideration the experiences of Parties and relevant MEAs and international organisations in IPLC engagement as compiled and summarised by the Secretariat in SC74 Doc. 20.2.

Summary of discussion:

Kenya introduced CoP19 Doc.13 on, inter alia, extending the mandate of the intersessional working group. Several parties lamented no progress on this item in six years. CHINA, CANADA, and ZAMBIA supported extending the mandate. IUCN, on behalf of several NGOs, noted that one of the incomplete tasks is the non-binding guidance for consulting with IPLCs.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the document with some changes.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.13, including a new draft decision, with the exception of the text “and international” in paragraph A, after a vote, with 30 parties in favor, 48 against, and 14 abstaining.

Doc 14: Livelihoods

Introduction:

At SC74, the Standing Committee considered the report of the intersessional Working Group on livelihoods presented by Peru as Chair, and a report by the Secretariat (SC74 Doc. 21.2) on the implementation of Decision 18.35. Given that the questionnaire on the engagement of IPLCs received limited response, Peru suggested that the consultation be repeated to obtain a wider overview of the efforts by Parties in engaging IPLCs in decision-making. Further it was suggested that the Working Groups on livelihoods and on engagement with IPLCs work in synergy. Regarding implementation of Decision 18.35, the Standing Committee was not able to review the draft guidance document on how to maximise benefits of trade for IPLCs and the study on the use of registered marks, certification, and traceability mechanisms. The Committee suggested instead that they should be reviewed in the next intersessional period. The Parties are invited to adopt the revised Decisions contained in Annex 1 of Doc. 14.

Summary of discussion:

Peru presented CoP19.Doc.14, including on the renewal of the livelihoods working group’s mandate. BURKINA FASO, TOGO, and ISRAEL opposed the recommendations in the document, with BURKINA FASO citing concerns over transparency. CHINA, MEXICO, and the MALDIVES supported the recommendations.

The US, TANZANIA, BOTSWANA, SOUTH AFRICA and others indicated their support for renewing the working group, with ISRAEL, KENYA, and GABON objecting. BOLIVIA suggested an amendment whereby case studies would show both positive and negative impacts of species use.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the recommendations with Bolivia’s proposed amendment.

The CoP agreed to revised decisions in CoP19 Doc.14, with a further amendment.

Doc 15: Participatory mechanisms for Rural Communities in CITES

Introduction:

Eswatini, Namibia and Zimbabwe propose establishment of a permanent CITES Rural Communities Committee for the direct involvement of rural communities in the CITES decision-making processes. The main objectives of the Committee would be to operationalize principles pertaining to wildlife trade and rural communities, livelihoods and sustainable use that are fundamental to CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity and that are already recognized by the Parties (such as in the Convention Preamble, Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13) on Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife, and Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) on CITES and livelihoods).

Summary of discussion:

Zimbabwe, on behalf of Eswatini and Namibia, introduced CoP19 Doc.15 (Rev.1), emphasizing discussions on the creation of a permanent CITES advisory body providing rural community input. BURKINA FASO opposed the proposed body, noting that it could make socio-economic criteria decisive in species listings. SENEGAL, CANADA and the US also voiced opposition. NIGER underscored that CITES is a “convention of parties not local communities”. CHINA and JAPAN supported the Secretariat’s proposal to establish a Rural Communities Advisory sub-Committee. KENYA opposed going with the Secretariat’s proposal. CANADA suggested that terms of reference for the working under agenda item 13 are robust enough to address this item.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed that the intersessional working group set up under agenda item 13 considers this issue.

The CoP agreed that proponents of CoP19 Doc.15 (Rev.1) could refer the matters raised in the document to an inter-sessional working group to be established by the SC under agenda item 13, on engagement of IPLCs.

“Boredom, angst, ennui—these are the true hero’s enemies,” as American writer David Foster Wallace observed. As eyes drooped during discussions on Indigenous Peoples and local communities, those same communities were mostly remarkable by their absence. “The strongest Indigenous representation at CITES right now is at the craft tables in the lunch area,” mourned a delegate. “How can we say we are involving First Peoples in good faith when they aren’t even in the room?”

Doc 16: Capacity Building

Introduction:

After CoP18, the Standing Committee established a Working Group on capacity building to consider inputs and recommendations from the Animals and Plants Committees and to review Resolution Conf. 3.4 on Technical cooperation with the aim of incorporating capacity-building needs. The Working Group agreed that a new Resolution on capacity building is needed to replace Res. Conf. 3.4. The Working Group, via the Standing Committee, also submitted draft Decisions to continue the work on the development of a capacity-building framework. The Parties are invited to adopt the draft Resolution and Decisions.

Summary of discussion:

New Zealand, on behalf of the SC Chair, presented CoP19 Doc.16. Parties broadly welcomed the document, with several expressing their gratitude for the University of Andalucía CITES Master's Programme.

Outcome:

Committee II adopted the document with minor amendments.
The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.16 as amended.

Doc 17.3: Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Introduction:

CoP18 adopted Resolution Conf. 18.4 on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES) where the Standing Committee, working with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, were mandated to take actions related to cooperation with IPBES. The Resolution further instructed the Standing Committee to report at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work. The Parties are invited to note the update on actions taken since CoP18 in Doc. 17.3 and adopt draft Decisions contained in Annex 1.

Summary of discussion:

The AC Chair introduced CoP19 Doc.17.3. IPBES described the global declines due to unsustainable use. Many parties welcomed the document. NEW ZEALAND invited parties to adopt the report now instead of sending it to the scientific committees for consideration first.

Outcome:

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.17.3.

Doc 17.4: Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative

Introduction:

CoP18 directed the Secretariat to continue the African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) in its joint work with CMS, including development of a program of work (POW), and support to range states in implementing relevant Resolutions and Decisions. The Secretariat developed a draft POW with funding from Belgium. An SC73 intersessional Working Group recommended relatively few revisions to the draft POW text, and the Standing Committee approved the revised POW. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented support to range states, and discussions continue about holding a second ACI range state meeting. The Parties are invited to adopt the draft Decisions in Annex 1, which will continue the process of implementing the ACI POW.

Summary of discussion:

The Secretariat introduced CoP19 Doc.17.4, highlighting ongoing synergies. NIGER welcomed the initiative and expressed hope funding would be available.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the document.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.17.4.

Doc 22: MIKE and ETIS Programmes**Introduction:**

At SC74, the Secretariat provided information relating to the resources needed to continue supporting MIKE implementation. The Secretariat reported that, if funding cannot be secured over the next year, the ability to meet the responsibilities assigned to the Secretariat in Resolution Conf. 10.10 will be compromised, thereby having a direct impact on the objectives of the MIKE programme set out in the Resolution. The Parties are invited to adopt draft Decisions which direct the Secretariat to seek funding for the MIKE programme and report to the Standing Committee.

Summary of discussion:

The Secretariat introduced CoP19 Doc.22. The US mostly supported the recommendations. ZAMBIA and GUINEA welcomed the continuation of the programme.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the document.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.22.

Doc 23.1: Role of CITES in Reducing Risk of Future Zoonotic Disease Emergence Associated with International Wildlife Trade: Report of the Standing Committee**Introduction:**

In January 2021, Canada raised the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade with the Standing Committee. The SC subsequently decided to establish an intersessional Working Group, chaired by Canada. The Working Group produced a number of draft Decisions that the Parties are invited to consider. The Parties are also invited to adopt the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.21 on Transport of live specimens contained in Annex 2.

Doc 23.2: One Health and CITES: Human and Animal Health Risks from Wildlife Trade**Introduction:**

Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal invite the Parties to recognize the urgency with which CITES must address pathogen emergence and zoonotic disease transmission and the central role of CITES in this regard. The proponents propose adoption of a new Resolution on One Health and CITES: reducing human and animal health risks from international wildlife trade. Additionally, the draft Decisions presented in Annex 2 propose the establishment of a CITES One Health Expert Panel to support Parties with the implementation of the proposed Resolution.

Summary of discussion:

Committee II simultaneously considered two documents: the SC report (CoP19 Doc.23.1), and CoP19 Doc.23.2 submitted by Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal, including a resolution recommending parties to adopt a One Health approach when implementing the Convention. JAPAN, the EU, SWITZERLAND, ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA, CANADA, CHILE, the US, and the Wildlife Conservation Society largely supported adopting the SC report's recommendations. COTE D'IVOIRE, NIGER, TOGO, the US, and GABON supported adopting the recommendations in the African parties' proposal.

Outcome:

Committee II struck up a working group to combine the recommendations of each document into a single proposal.

CANADA introduced CoP19 Com.II.6, prepared by the working group on the basis of CoP19 Doc.23.1 and 23.2. TANZANIA suggested language requesting an assessment on the potential risk of pathogen spillover. Responding to CHILE's request to refer to "preventing" zoonotic disease, CANADA proposed using "mitigate and prevent."

Committee II accepted the document as amended.

Report of the Standing Committee and One Health and CITES: Human and animal health risks from wildlife trade: The CoP adopted CoP19 Docs.23.1 and 2 as amended by CoP19 Com.II.6.

Doc 38: Demand Reduction to Combat Illegal Trade

Introduction:

Doc. 38 represents a culmination of work done since CoP18, pursuant to Decision 18.86, to (1) propose amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.4 on Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species and (2) draft Guidance on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species. Parties are invited to adopt the proposed amendments to Res. Conf. 17.4 in Annex 1, adopt draft Decisions in Annex 2, and take note of the draft Guidance in Annex 3.

Summary of discussion:

The SC Chair introduced CoP19 Doc.38.

SENEGAL and many others welcomed the document.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the document with amendments.

Doc 39: Domestic Markets for Frequently Illegally Traded Specimens

Introduction:

CoP18 directed the Secretariat to undertake a study of the domestic controls in consumer markets for specimens of CITES-listed species for which international trade is predominantly illegal, other than elephant ivory, and to report the findings and recommendations of the study to the SC. The full study was made available at SC74, and the SC provided feedback. In reaction to the study, the SC recommends adoption of amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 on Compliance and enforcement and adoption of a draft Decision that directs the SC to consider whether additional measures are needed to address illegal international trade in CITES-listed species.

Summary of discussion:

The SC Chair introduced CoP19 Doc.39. GEORGIA proposed expanding study to all Appendix II species.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the document with amendments.

Doc 42: Purpose Codes on CITES Permits and Certificates**Introduction:**

Based on the recommendations of an intersessional Working Group, the SC invites Parties to adopt amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 on Permits and Certificates that would provide definitions for purpose codes Z, M, E, N, and L. The Parties are also invited to adopt relatively minor amendments to Resolution Conf. 5.10 on Definition of primarily commercial purposes, Resolution Conf. 17.8 on Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species, and Resolution Conf. 18.7 on Legal acquisition findings. And the Parties are invited to adopt a draft Decision that would reestablish the intersessional working group to continue discussion on possible definitions for purpose codes P and T.

Summary of discussion:

The SC Chair introduced CoP19 Doc.42. The UK and the EU supported re-establishing an intersessional working group.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the document with amendments.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.42.

Doc 43.1: Non-Detriment Findings: Report of the Animals and Plants**Committees****Introduction:**

CoP18 directed the Secretariat to review guidance and identify priorities for making NDFs, undertake targeted research in development of new guidance, and organise expert workshops, with review, input, and assistance of the AC and PC. AC31 Doc. 14 proposed 10 workstreams to develop new or updated NDF guidance and suggested a technical advisory group (TAG) be established. The TAG met in January 2022. Expert groups will be formed for each workstream. The draft Decisions in Annex 1 make edits to the formation of the TAG after Committee meeting direction. Annex 2 outlines membership, terms of reference, other processes, and functions for the TAG. Annex 3 outlines methods for the work streams for consideration of an expert workshop. The approach incorporates gap analysis by the Secretariat and recommendations from Parties, the AC, and PC.

Summary of discussion:

The AC Chair introduced CoP19 Doc.43.1 on NDFs.

Outcome:

Committee I agreed to the draft decisions as amended.

Non-detriment findings: The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.43.1.

Doc 48: Definition of the Term 'Appropriate and Acceptable Destinations'

Introduction:

Parties are invited to approve the Non-binding practice guidance on how to determine whether “the trade would promote in situ conservation” and the Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen of African elephant and/ or southern white rhinoceros is suitably equipped to house and care for it. Annex 3 of Doc. 48 contains draft Decisions that would invite Parties to provide feedback on experience with using the non-binding guidance related to the definition of the term ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations,’ as reflected in Notification to the Parties No. 2019/070.

Summary of discussion:

The Standing Committee introduced CoP19 Doc.48, with the Secretariat’s recommendation that the CoP adopt the non-binding guidance for determining whether the trade would promote in situ conservation. The US supported the recommendation and provided some text. SENEGAL expressed ethical concerns with how the term “appropriate and acceptable destinations” is defined.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the document with changes provided by the US.
The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.48.

Doc 51: Quotas for Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) Hunting Trophies

Introduction:

CoP18 directed Parties with quotas that did not yet provide information to the AC (Botswana, the Central African Republic, and Ethiopia) to review their leopard hunting quotas as contained in Resolution Conf. 10.14 on Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use, and to consider whether they are set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. The three range states conducted the requested reviews, and the AC concluded that the quotas are set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. The CoP is invited to amend Res. Conf. 10.14 by changing the quota for Ethiopia from 500 to 20 trophies, as requested by Ethiopia, and removing quotas for Kenya and Malawi, as requested by Kenya and Malawi.

Summary of discussion:

The AC Chair presented CoP19 Doc.51. NIGER, opposed by many parties, proposed setting all quotas at zero until the NDF guidance on this issue is produced. The AC Chair, supported by the US and CANADA, explained that scientific assessments had already been completed by the AC, which reviewed NDFs and recommended quotas at a level determined to be non-detrimental to the survival of species in the wild. NIGER eventually withdrew the amendment.

Outcome:

Committee I agreed to the document as amended.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.51 and the draft decisions in the Secretariat’s comments in CoP19 Doc.51 with amendments.

Doc 58: West African Vultures (*Accipitridae* spp.)

Introduction:

CoP18 adopted Decisions 18.186 to 18.192 directing the Secretariat to liaise with CMS to assist in implementing trade-related aspects of the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan, include vultures in possible NDF case studies, and issue a notification requesting information on six vulture species of concern. The AC established a Working Group to address key knowledge gaps including trade for belief-based use and sentinel poisoning by poachers, and assess the scale and impact of legal and illegal trade. The Working Group reported to the AC, and future NDF guidance is expected. The draft Decisions in Annex 1: urge West African range states for vulture species to conduct a series of actions including addressing illegal trade, ensuring national protection laws, and improving enforcement; urge Parties, the Secretariat, and NGOs to support capacity building in the region, work with CMS, and produce identification materials, among other action items; and direct the AC to encourage West African range states to undertake Periodic Review of vulture species with assistance from the IUCN vulture specialist group.

Summary of discussion:

The Secretariat introduced CoP19 Doc.58 on West African vultures.

MALI, NIGER, the US, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, the EU, BURKINA FASO, and others supported the draft decisions.

Outcome:

Committee I agreed to the draft decisions with minor edits.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.58 with condiments.

Doc 59: Illegal Trade in Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*)

Introduction:

Doc. 59, submitted by Ethiopia, highlights that live trade in cheetah cubs by online sales from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula is a serious regional issue for the local subspecies, affecting Parties across the supply chain. Original action was passed at CoP16, and subsequent Committee meetings recommended Parties adopt actions relevant to legislation, enforcement, cooperation, demand reduction, and dealing with confiscated animals. Other CITES actions have been taken including a 2015 workshop, awareness campaigns, establishment of a cheetah user group and forum on the CITES website, and creation of a trade toolkit. Most recently, an informal Working Group met at SC74 and drafted the Decisions in Annex 1. In the draft Decisions, Parties are urged to continue work on this urgent issue relating to illegal trade, enforcement, and exchange of information, and SC77 is directed to consider establishing an in-session Working Group to consider information provided by Parties and convene another workshop for relevant Parties. Parties are additionally recommended to ensure that the Big Cats Task Force (BCTF) mandate and terms of reference include necessary measures to address illegal trade in live cheetahs.

Summary of discussion:

ETHIOPIA presented CoP19 Doc.59. The US proposed a new paragraph in the draft decisions whereby parties affected by illegal trade in cheetahs would report their activities in advance of an SC meeting. SENEGAL and TANZANIA supported the draft decisions. BAHRAIN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES and KUWAIT questioned some of the sources of information.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the amended draft decisions.
The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.59 with amendments.

Doc 61.1: Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on Trade in Elephant Specimens**Introduction:**

Parties are invited to (1) renew Decisions 18.117 to 18.119 regarding reporting on efforts to ensure domestic ivory markets are not contributing to poaching or illegal trade; (2) adopt new draft Decisions that direct the Secretariat to prepare a report on trade in mammoth ivory and its impact on illegal trade in elephant ivory and elephant poaching, taking into account available information and research studies; (3) renew Decision 18.226 directed to Asian elephant range states regarding trade in Asian elephants and replace Decision 18.227 with a new draft Decision directed to the Secretariat regarding development of a registering, marking and tracing system for live Asian elephants; and (4) renew Decisions 18.184 and 18.185 regarding reporting on ivory stockpiles and adopt a new draft Decision regarding information sharing related to the “practical guidance on ivory stockpile management.”

Summary of discussion:

The CoP adopted the revisions of Decisions 18.117 and 18.119 in Annex 1 to CoP19 Doc.66.1 and Decision 18.118. The CoP adopted the decisions in Annex 2 with the amendments proposed by the Secretariat. The CoP also accepted the decisions in Annex 3 with amendments to Decision 18.226 (Rev. CoP19) to direct the decision to parties and not only the Asian elephant range states, and amendments to draft decisions 19.AA and 19.BB.

Outcome:

The CoP directs:

- the Secretariat, in collaboration with range states and other relevant stakeholders to develop requirements for registering, marking, and tracing system for live Asian elephants; and
- the SC to consider at SC78, findings and make recommendations to the Secretariat and to parties and report to CoP20.

Doc 66.2.1: Ivory Stockpiles: Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on Trade in Elephant Specimens**Introduction:**

Benin, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Senegal and Togo propose adoption of draft Decisions that amend existing Decisions 18.184 and 18.185 regarding elephant ivory stockpiles. The proponents also recommend that CoP19 urge Parties to use an updated declaration of ivory stocks form contained in Annex 1 of Doc. 66.2.1.

Summary of discussion:

BURKINA FASO introduced CoP19 Doc.66.2.1. SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA, and BOTSWANA did not support the proposed updated declaration on ivory stocks and model inventory form. COTE D’IVOIRE, BENIN, ISRAEL, ZIMBABWE, the US, and others supported GABON’s amendment updating the declaration of ivory stocks and model inventory form. CHINA, BOTSWANA, TANZANIA, and DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO opposed it. The matter was put to a vote. Committee II rejected the amendment, with 34 in favor, 54 against, and 13 abstaining.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the document without the amendment.
The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.66.2.1 with amendments.

Doc 66.2.2: Establishing a Fund Accessible to Range States upon Non-Commercial Disposal of Ivory Stockpiles

Introduction:

Kenya proposes to establish an intersessional Working Group to explore the idea of establishing a fund that elephant range states can access if they destroy ivory stockpiles. The aim of the fund would be to avoid resumption of commercial ivory sales while also funding conservation efforts and supporting human elephant coexistence.

Summary of discussion:

KENYA introduced CoP19 Doc.66.2.2. GABON supported the document, noting that countries should receive compensation for conserving wildlife. The US and SWITZERLAND supported establishing a fund for elephant range states, but opposed the Secretariat's recommendation that the SC be directed to consider various issues and options relating to sustainable financing for conservation in the upcoming intersessional period. The UK and the EU opposed KENYA's proposal but supported the Secretariat's recommendation.

Outcome:

Committee II invited KENYA to form a small group and prepare an in-session document with revised decisions.

KENYA introduced CoP19 Com.II.9 incorporating inputs from the US and views from the Secretariat based on CoP19 Doc.66.2.2, which aims to establish an intersessional working group on sustainable financing for elephant and other wildlife conservation. GABON, TOGO, BENIN, and NIGER supported the proposal. BOTSWANA, JAPAN, SOUTH AFRICA, ESWATINI, NAMIBIA, ZAMBIA, the US, and TANZANIA rejected the document, with several elephant range states arguing that they had not been consulted in its creation, and SOUTH AFRICA calling it "mischievous and divisive." Several opposed reference to the disposal of ivory and rhino horn stocks as a prerequisite to financing for elephant conservation.

Chair Ollerenshaw proposed, as a bridging proposal, to consider the Secretariat's proposed draft decisions contained in CoP19 Doc.66.6.2. SOUTH AFRICA opposed. ESWATINI proposed establishing a new "inclusive, consultative" process on the issue. The issue went to a vote.

A motion to accept Kenya's proposal was rejected, with 50 against, 24 for, and 33 abstaining. The CoP rejected the draft decisions in CoP19 Com.II.9. KENYA made a statement concerning its intentions to carry the work proposed in CoP19 Doc.66.2.2 forward outside CITES.

Implementing aspects of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on the closure of domestic ivory markets: On CoP19 Doc.66.3, Committee II Chair Fleming reported that the draft decisions were rejected by vote. BURKINA FASO proposed two new draft decisions. MALI seconded BURKINA FASO's proposal to reopen the debate. JAPAN and ZIMBABWE opposed it.

The CoP voted on whether to reopen debate, which required one-third approval to pass. With 28 in favour, 40 against, and 57 abstaining, the agenda item was reopened. BENIN, NIGER, and SENEGAL supported the new draft decisions proposed by BURKINA FASO. ZAMBIA, JAPAN, BOTSWANA, and THAILAND opposed them.

The CoP voted on the two new draft decisions proposed by BURKINA FASO. With 69 in favour, 27 opposed, and 34 abstaining, the two draft decisions passed.

Doc 66.4.1: International Trade in Live African Elephant Specimens: Proposed Revision to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. Cop18) on Trade in Elephant Specimens

Introduction:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Niger, Senegal and Togo propose revisions to Resolution Conf. 10.10 on Trade in elephant specimens to address trade in live wild-caught African elephants. Notably, the proponents recommend adding to Res. Conf. 10.10, as new paragraph 15, “AGREES that trade in live African elephants taken from the wild should be limited to in situ conservation programmes or secure areas in the wild, within the species’ natural and historical range in Africa.”

Summary of discussion:

CoP19 Doc.66.4.1, introduced by BURKINA FASO and CoP19 Doc.66.4.2, introduced by the EU, were considered together. Views strongly diverged on approaches. BENIN, KENYA, ZIMBABWE, MALI, and others supported the proposal BURKINA FASO introduced. SENEGAL, NAMIBIA, and BOTSWANA supported the proposal by the EU. The US, CHINA, and the UK supported further dialogue on the matter. Discussions will continue on Friday.

Outcome:

By a vote, Committee II agreed to establish a dialogue meeting of African range states, including by inviting relevant expert groups and interested parties. It further approved by vote a separate proposal to limit live elephant trade to in situ conservation within historical and natural habitats.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Docs.66.4.1 and CoP19 Doc.66.4.2.

Doc 66.4.2: Clarifying the Framework: Proposal of the European Union

Introduction:

The European Union recommends adoption of a draft Decision that would direct the Standing Committee to (1) provide guidance regarding reservations made to changes in scope of a listing introduced through amendment of an annotation and relevant resolutions; (2) consider ways to avoid references to Resolutions in annotations; and (3) consider whether to call a dialogue meeting for African elephant range states to consider harmonisation of the conditions to trade in live African elephants, including possible changes to annotation 2.

Summary of discussion:

CoP19 Doc.66.4.1, introduced by BURKINA FASO and CoP19 Doc.66.4.2, introduced by the EU, were considered together. Views strongly diverged on approaches. BENIN, KENYA, ZIMBABWE, MALI, and others supported the proposal BURKINA FASO introduced. SENEGAL, NAMIBIA, and BOTSWANA supported the proposal by the EU. The US, CHINA, and the UK supported further dialogue on the matter. Discussions will continue on Friday.

Outcome:

By a vote, Committee II agreed to establish a dialogue meeting of African range states, including by inviting relevant expert groups and interested parties. It further approved by vote a separate proposal to limit live elephant trade to in situ conservation within historical and natural habitats.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Docs.66.4.1 and CoP19 Doc.66.4.2.

Doc 66.7: Review of the National Ivory Action Plan Process

Introduction:

Malawi, Senegal, and the United States of America recommend adoption of draft Decisions that direct the Secretariat to contract a consultant to review the National Ivory Action Plan process and associated Guidelines with an aim to, among other things, improve effectiveness, efficiency, and equity in application.

Summary of discussion:

MALAWI introduced CoP19 Doc.66.7, noting discrepancies in reporting requirements and the need for better alignment between reporting in NIAP and other processes under CITES. The US called for a review of the effectiveness of NIAP. The EU did not support review of the entire process.

Outcome:

Committee II established a working group chaired by the EU to consider drafting terms of reference for the review of the NIAP.

BELGIUM introduced CoP19 Com.II.7 prepared by the working group on the basis of CoP19 Doc.66.7. She noted that the timing for the SC to consider recommendations could be left more flexible. The US, supported by SENEGAL and the UK and opposed by SINGAPORE and CHINA, proposed an additional instruction in the terms of reference to consider consultations with experts to strengthen the resolution.

Committee II agreed to the document as proposed, while striking out a reference to a specific meeting of the SC.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.66.7

Doc 67: CITES Big Cats Task Force (Felidae spp.)

Introduction:

CoP18 adopted a Decision that directed the Secretariat to draft terms of reference (TOR) and a modus operandi for the Big Cats Task Force (BCTF), establish and convene the task force, and provide support for addressing illegal trade issues. The virtual SC73 was unable to discuss this agenda item, so the Secretariat's progress was communicated online, including an invitation for comments from Parties and Observers on the TOR and modus operandi, which were presented to SC74. Parties are invited to adopt the draft Decisions in Annex 1, which include edits to the CoP18 Decisions. Annex 2 includes the TOR and modus operandi as agreed at SC74.

Summary of discussion:

CANADA presented CoP19 Doc.67.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the documents as amended.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.67 as amended.

Doc 68: Asian Big Cats (Felidae spp.)

Introduction:

The issue of Asian big cats, particularly concerning commercial captive bred operations, has been discussed at CITES meetings since CoP14. CoP17 directed Parties with these facilities to review their national management practices, prevent specimens from entering illegal trade, and ensure necessary regulation. CoP18 directed Parties affected by illegal trade to work together to pursue cooperative enforcement efforts, share samples of seized specimens, and take demand reduction actions. SC74 recommended Parties to implement regular monitoring of captive facilities among other actions. The Secretariat noted that the activity of Parties to address illegal trade is encouraging but more needs to be done, and that continued seizures originating from captive breeding facilities and potential impact of this illegal trade on wild populations are concerning. All Appendix-I Asian big cat species are included in the BCTF. Annex 1 proposes relatively minor amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.5. Annex 2 contains draft Decisions, including encouragement for Parties to share genetic research, samples, and identification materials.

Summary of discussion:

The Secretariat introduced CoP19 Doc.68. The UK, US, EU, BANGLADESH, INDIA, and TRAFFIC did not support deletion of decisions calling on parties affected by illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens to: pursue enforcement efforts to address illegal trade and strengthen law enforcement cooperation with neighboring parties; and take serious consideration of the concerns regarding illegal trade in leopard parts and derivatives.

Committee II agreed to the document, including the recommendation not to delete the decisions as discussed.

Outcome:

Asian big cats (Felidae spp.): The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.68 as amended.

The CoP directs parties to inform the Secretariat of genetic forensic research projects, including genetic and other methods, undertaken in their territory focusing on the development of techniques to support addressing illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, and for this information to be made available to parties.

In the resolution, the CoP recommends that the consumer states of specimens from the tiger and other Asian big cat species: work with relevant specialists such as those in consumer behaviour change to end demand for big cat parts and derivatives; and social marketing and communication experts, to undertake evidence based targeted behaviour change initiatives, including establishing baselines and strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess its efficacy.

Doc 72: African Lions (Panthera leo)

Introduction:

CoP17 and CoP18 directed the Secretariat to support implementation of activities in joint conservation plans that relate to trade and regarding the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa (GCLA), work with CMS to undertake a study of population trends, management practices, such as lion hunting, and the role of international trade, and maintain a web portal on lions.

The Secretariat was further directed to research legal and illegal trade of lions and other big cats to understand linkages between trade in species, assess purpose code “H” to ensure it follows permit guidance, and develop guidance materials for identification and forensic techniques, among other tasks. Parties are encouraged to increase enforcement efforts to detect illegal trade, use South Africa’s barcode of wildlife project and to improve traceability of lion specimens from South Africa, detail observed body parts in illegal trade, and cooperate in sharing information. Some of the activities directed to the Secretariat under Decision 18.244 were funded by the European Union, Switzerland, and United States of America, but to date, no external funding has been secured to undertake the comparative study. The Secretariat received funding from the United States to support NDF capacity-building. The Secretariat secured funding from the Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the study on legal and illegal trade under Decision 18.246, and it will be made available for consideration by the Big Cats Task Force (BCTF). The Secretariat reports that the assessment of purpose code “H” is not needed. Findings of identification guidance materials will also be shared with the BCTF. Priority conservation actions for lion will be reviewed at the 2nd African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) meeting. Due to lack of funding and COVID-19 meeting delays, further intersessional work on lions is suggested. Annex 1 edits existing Decisions. Annex 2 includes a tentative budget for these activities.

Summary of discussion:

The Secretariat introduced CoP19 Doc.72. UGANDA, MALI, ZIMBABWE, LIBERIA, and others agreed with the recommendations.

Outcome:

Committee I agreed to the document.

African lions (*Panthera leo*): The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.72.

Doc 73.1: Jaguars (*Panthera onca*): Report of the Standing Committee

Introduction:

CoP18 directed the Secretariat to commission a study on illegal trade in jaguars, present it to the SC, and notify Parties for information. Range states were encouraged to take various actions to support the study, in addition to recognizing jaguar as a flagship species, adopting legislation and enforcement controls to eliminate poaching and illegal trade, and promoting regional conservation, transboundary corridors, and other cooperation mechanisms. At SC74, the Secretariat reported on the completed study and gave an overview regarding cooperation with partners including ICCWC, CMS, and UNDP. Annex 1 of Doc. 73.1 contains draft Decisions which encourage Parties to urgently adopt legislation and enforcement controls aimed at eliminating poaching and illegal trade, include jaguar as a priority species for enforcement operations, document illegal trade in annual reports, promote the design and implementation of conservation corridors and other regional level cooperation mechanisms, support development of a long-term monitoring system for illegal killings, raise awareness, and other actions. The Secretariat is directed to continue cooperating with CMS and UNDP to integrate conservation efforts and demand reduction strategies, develop a proposal for the monitoring system, convene a range state meeting that identifies opportunities for collaboration, and review options for an intergovernmental platform to support jaguar conservation and combat illegal trade.

Summary of discussion:

CANADA introduced document CoP19 Doc.73.1. COSTA RICA introduced document CoP19 Doc.73.2, which proposes a number of amendments, including: encouraging parties to strengthen their capacity to monitor and end illegal jaguar trade; and establishing an intersessional working group on jaguars. The US, BRAZIL, PANAMA, CMS, and PANTHERA supported the proposal with these amendments.

Outcome:

Committee II agreed to the documents as amended.

Jaguars (*Panthera onca*): The CoP adopted CoP19 Docs.73.1 and 2 as amended.

Doc 73.2: Jaguars (*Panthera onca*): Proposed Amendments to the Draft Decisions on Jaguars Agreed at SC74**Introduction:**

In Doc. 73.2, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru invite the Parties to adopt additional amendments to the draft Decisions found in Annex 1 of Doc. 73.1. During the intersessional period following SC74, the CITES-CMS sub-Working Group on jaguars held several virtual meetings to promote implementation of actions in the draft Decisions. The proposed amendments to the draft Decisions direct the Standing Committee to establish an intersessional Working Group to develop a work program for actions that jaguar range states are encouraged to take and assess whether a specific draft Resolution on jaguars would be appropriate taking into consideration the conclusions of range state meetings.

Summary of discussion:

As above

Outcome:

As above

Doc 75: Rhinoceroses (*Rhinocerotidae* spp.)**Introduction:**

Doc. 75 reports on efforts to implement Decisions 18.110 to 18.116 which were adopted to address concerns related to African and Asian rhinoceros. Annex 1 contains the CoP18 Decisions. Annex 2 provides proposed amendments to Resolution. Conf. 9.14 on Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses. Annex 3 contains draft Decisions that the Parties are invited to adopt at CoP19 to encourage further engagement on addressing rhino issues. An extensive report in Annex 4 was conducted by the IUCN African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC as directed prior to each CoP. Doc. 75 further provides an overview of recent efforts taken to address rhino poaching, illegal trade, and other issues related to rhino and rhino horn. Notably, the document focuses on seven Parties most affected by illegal trade in rhino horn from 2018 to 2020, plus Botswana. The Secretariat and Standing Committee conclude that more engagement on these issues is needed, including development of demand reduction programmes, increased efforts to collect and exchange forensic samples of seized rhino horn, and other actions directed to Parties most impacted by illegal trade in rhino horn.

Summary of discussion:

The Secretariat introduced CoP19 Doc.75. (Rev.1), which proposes a number of draft decisions on the illegal killing of rhinoceroses and illegal trade in rhinoceros specimens. The UK, opposed by ZIMBABWE, SOUTH AFRICA, KUWAIT, and BOTSWANA, and supported by the US, KENYA, and TOGO, proposed amending the draft decisions to request a number of specific countries, including Botswana and South Africa, to report relevant information on illegal rhinoceros trade. Parties approved draft decisions on scaling up efforts to facilitate forensic analysis, develop demand reduction programmes for key audiences, as well as facilitate contact between relevant agencies on rhinoceros poaching and illegal trade.

Outcome:

Committee II established a working group to consider select draft decisions.

The UK introduced CoP19 Com.II.12, prepared by the working group on the basis of CoP19 Doc.75 (Rev.1). The US proposed language empowering the SC to lead on this issue.

Committee II agreed to the document.

Rhinoceroses (*Rhinocerotidae* spp.): The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.75 as amended in CoP19 Com.II.12.

Doc 76: Saiga Antelope (*Saiga* spp.)

Introduction:

Decision 18.270 directed saiga antelope range states and consumer countries to fully implement measures in the Medium-Term International Work Programs developed in support of the MOU concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Saiga Antelope and its Saiga Antelope Action Plan, including internal market controls. Decision 18.271 directed the Secretariat to assist CMS in organising the 4th meeting of the MOU, review the conservation and trade of saiga antelope, and consult with range and consumer states regarding management of stockpiles. Doc. 76 reports on implementation of the two Decisions. Noting the report of the Animals Committee, SC74 commended the saiga antelope range states for their efforts in restoring saiga populations. The Parties are invited to adopt the draft Decisions in Annex 1, which largely repeat the directives from the Decisions adopted at CoP18.

Summary of discussion:

The AC Chair presented CoP19 Doc.76. The US supported the proposal. CMS highlighted the cooperation between CITES and CMS.

Outcome:

Committee I agreed to the proposal.

Saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.): The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.76 as amended.

Doc 83: Identifying Species at Risk of Extinction for CITES Parties

Introduction:

The Gambia, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal recommend adoption of a new draft Resolution that would direct the Secretariat to maintain a database of species categorised as critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable in the IUCN Red List and include the CITES status of each species identified. The proponents also recommend adoption of draft Decisions aimed at establishing a procedure by which the Animals and Plants Committees can provide requesting Parties with technical support in the preparation of listing proposals.

Summary of discussion:

Nigeria introduced CoP19 Doc.83. The Committee I Chair noted that the Secretariat was not supportive of the proposal. SENEGAL, NIGER, BENIN, GABON, COSTA RICA, CAMEROON, and KENYA called for more technical support to parties in drafting listing proposals and supported the proposed database. The EU, MEXICO, INDONESIA, CHINA, COLOMBIA, JAPAN, ZIMBABWE, and SWITZERLAND did not support the proposal, noting it would impose a workload and financial burden on the Secretariat and scientific committees.

Outcome:

The Committee I Chair suggested postponing consideration of this agenda item until the proponents refined their draft decisions for later consideration.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.83 as amended.

Doc 87.1: Proposed Amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

Introduction:

Noting that CITES Parties have long had an interest in securing livelihoods and food security, Botswana, Cambodia, Eswatini, Namibia and Zimbabwe propose to amend Resolution Conf. 9.24 to include livelihoods and food security as two factors that must be taken into account in proposals for amendment to the Appendices.

Summary of discussion:

NAMIBIA introduced CoP19 Doc.87.1.

SENEGAL, LIBERIA, the US, MALI, the UK, GABON, INDIA, and others opposed the document, stressing that to amend the listing criteria to include socio-economic considerations would significantly undermine the Convention's conservation outcomes. BOTSWANA, JAPAN, ZIMBABWE, and others supported the document.

Outcome:

Committee I voted to reject the document, with 31 for, 86 against, and 11 abstained.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Docs.87.1 and 2 as amended.

Doc 88: Communications Concerning Amendments to the Appendices Received by the Depositary Government after the 18th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Introduction:

Doc. 88 discusses the novel issues of whether Parties can enter reservations after amendment of a listing annotation; the scope of such reservations, if they are permitted; and whether the reservations entered after CoP18 after amendment of annotation 2 are valid. The Secretariat also explains the rationale it followed for updating the references to the Resolutions in annotation 2 and discusses the implications of different interpretations regarding the impact of updating those references. The Secretariat proposes amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.21, Resolution Conf. 4.6, and Resolution Conf. 4.25 that would help prevent similar issues that might otherwise arise in the future.

Summary of discussion:

The Secretariat introduced CoP19 Doc.88, highlighting the conclusion that changes to references to resolutions are amendments that ought to follow the procedure set out in Article XV and that these may be subject to reservations.

The US, UK, PERU, CANADA, and BENIN supported the amendments proposed with some changes.

Outcome:

Committee II established a drafting group.

BELGIUM reported back on CoP19 Com.II.4, prepared on the basis of CoP19 Doc.88 and information document CoP19 Inf.17 (Rev.1).

Committee II agreed to the proposed amendments.

The CoP adopted CoP19 Doc.88 as amended.



Appendix Proposal Listings (Agenda Item 105)

Prop 1: Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

Introduction:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo propose to transfer hippopotamus from Appendix II to Appendix I. Although hippopotamus has not experienced a 50% or more decline over the past 10 years or over three generations—the definition of “marked decline” pursuant to Resolution Conf. 9.24—the proponents assert that criteria for Appendix I are met by a marked decline in the population due to a decline of more than 30% over 10 years or 3 generational periods and due to the species’ low reproductivity.

Summary of discussion:

BENIN presented CoP19 Prop.1 on transfer of hippopotamus (*H. amphibius*) from Appendix II to Appendix I with a zero export quota annotation.

ZAMBIA, ESWATINI, SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE, and MOZAMBIQUE opposed the proposal, arguing that it was not based on scientific data. The EU proposed to amend the annotation by setting a quota for proponent countries, which was supported by various parties.

ESWATINI noted that the hippo population differs across range states in Africa, and suggested that a sensible approach would be a split listing. ISRAEL rejected the proposal, calling it impractical.

The Committee I Chair called for a vote on the proposal as amended by the EU, which failed to pass. He then called for a vote on the original proposal.

Outcome:

Committee I rejected it with 56 votes for and 56 votes against.

The CoP introduced CoP19 Prop.1 (Rev.1) to transfer the hippo from Appendix II to I, a decision which was rejected in Committee I. TOGO motioned to reopen the debate, highlighting that the emergency evacuation during debate in Committee I prevented due consideration. BOTSWANA and TANZANIA opposed the motion. The motion was approved, with 44 in favour, 37 against, and 48 abstaining.

TOGO, supported by BENIN, urged to retain the hippo on Appendix II with a zero export quota to protect the few hippo left. The EU agreed that improved conservation measures are needed, but that trade restrictions could have negative consequences for the conservation of the species.

SOUTH AFRICA and DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO emphasised that their hippo populations are not impacted by trade. TOGO asked for a vote.

The CoP voted to reject the proposal, with 53 in favour, 58 against, and 21 abstaining.

Prop. 2: Southern White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) Transfer of the Population of Namibia from Appendix I to Appendix II with a Specific Annotation

Introduction:

Namibia proposes to transfer its population of southern white rhinos from Appendix I to Appendix II for the exclusive purpose of international trade in live animals for in-situ conservation only, and hunting trophies. The proposal includes a precautionary measure by limiting the scope of trade to these activities, which are valuable management tools for raising revenue for conservation and have beneficial impacts on population growth.

Summary of discussion:

NAMIBIA introduced CoP19 Prop.2 to transfer the Namibian population of southern white rhinoceros (*C. simum simum*) from Appendix I to Appendix II, with an annotation to allow international trade exclusively in live animals for in-situ conservation and in hunting trophies. SENEGAL, PANAMA, KENYA, ISRAEL, BENIN, NIGER, and the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO opposed downlisting the Namibian population, citing the ongoing vulnerability of the southern white rhinoceros. ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA, SOUTH AFRICA, and other parties supported the proposal, arguing that the Namibian population no longer met the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

The EU, supported by UGANDA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, and MEXICO, supported allowing trade in live animals for in-situ conservation purposes, but only within the species' natural and historical range in Africa, and did not support allowing international trade in hunting trophies. The proponents agreed to the EU's amendments.

Outcome:

Committee I accepted the proposal as amended by the EU, with 83 in favour, 31 against, and 13 abstaining.

Prop. 3: Southern White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) Remove the Existing Annotation on the Appendix II Listing of Eswatini's Population

Introduction:

Eswatini proposes to remove the current annotation applicable to its population of southern white rhino, which is listed on Appendix II. Removing the annotation will allow Eswatini to realise the full Appendix II status and permit regulated commercial trade in white rhino horn. Eswatini plans to sell its existing stockpile of horns with proceeds directed to a conservation endowment fund for security of rhino park areas and other anti-poaching needs.

Summary of discussion:

ESWATINI presented the amended CoP19 Prop.3 to remove the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of Eswatini's southern white rhino (*C. simum simum*), so as to enable Eswatini to realize full Appendix II status for its population.

PANAMA, SENEGAL, ISRAEL, the EU, GHANA, and NIGERIA objected to the proposal, highlighting that country-level precautionary safeguards are not in place. JAPAN, BOTSWANA, TANZANIA, LESOTHO, and MOZAMBIQUE supported the proposal.

Outcome:

Committee I rejected the proposal with 85 votes against, 15 for, and 26 abstained.

Prop. 4: African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) Amend Annotation 2 Pertaining to the Elephant Populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe

Introduction:

Zimbabwe proposes to amend the current annotation pertaining to African elephants to allow for regulated, pre-approved commercial sale of ivory.

Summary of discussion:

ZIMBABWE introduced CoP19 Prop.4 to amend the annotation for the Appendix II listing of elephant populations (*L. africana*) in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. BENIN, LIBERIA, BURKINA FASO, PANAMA, KENYA, the EU, GABON, the UK, and ETHIOPIA opposed the proposal on the grounds that it would reopen international trade in ivory. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, ESWATINI, ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, and LESOTHO supported the proposal, highlighting the relative stability of Southern African elephant populations.

IUCN stressed the endangered status of the African savannah elephant.

Outcome:

Committee I rejected the proposal, with 15 in favour, 83 opposed, and 17 abstentions.

Prop. 5: African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) Transfer the Populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I

Introduction:

Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Senegal, and the Syrian Arab Republic propose to transfer the four populations of Appendix II-listed elephants to Appendix I. The proposal is justified on the basis of alleged marked population declines, avoiding split-listings and the precautionary principle for impact of trade.

Summary of discussion:

BURKINA FASO introduced CoP19 Prop.5 to include all populations of African elephants (*L. africana*) in Appendix I through the transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I of the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. BENIN, TOGO, KENYA, NIGER, SENEGAL, PANAMA, NIGERIA, and BURUNDI supported the proposal, calling for the single listing of all African elephants in Appendix I. CONGO, BOTSWANA, the EU, TANZANIA, ESWATINI, ZIMBABWE, JAPAN, RWANDA, ZAMBIA, NAMIBIA, INDONESIA, ERITREA, UGANDA, and MALAWI opposed the proposal.

The US highlighted Committee II discussions exploring the establishment of a fund accessible to range states upon the non-commercial disposal of their ivory stockpiles.

Outcome:

Committee I rejected the proposal, with 44 in favour, 59 opposed, and 13 abstentions.

Prop. 11: Broad-Snouted Caiman (*Caiman latirostris*) Transfer the Population of Brazil from Appendix I to Appendix II

Introduction:

Brazil proposes to transfer its population of broad-snouted caiman to Appendix II. The transfer will not harm or risk wild populations because the species is widely distributed in Brazil, fully protected in other range states, and farming is the only management allowed.

Summary of discussion:

BRAZIL introduced CoP19 Prop.11 to downlist the broad-snouted caiman (*C. latirostris*) of Brazil from Appendix I to Appendix II, amended with an annotation establishing a zero annual export quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes.

BAHRAIN, the EU, GUATEMALA, CUBA, PERU, and KENYA supported the proposal as amended. ARGENTINA, IUCN, and TRAFFIC supported the amended proposal but requested information on management mechanisms to be implemented once the species is listed in Appendix II.

Outcome:

Committee I recommended that this proposal as amended be adopted.

Prop. 12: Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) Transfer the Population of Palawan Islands, Philippines from Appendix I to Appendix II with a Zero Export Quota for Wild Specimens

Introduction:

The Philippines proposes to transfer the population of saltwater crocodiles from Palawan Islands, Philippines from Appendix I to Appendix II with a zero-export quota for wild specimens. The proponent asserts that the Palawan population of saltwater crocodiles has recovered significantly, and that a split-listing will not adversely affect the national population because Palawan is geographically isolated and captive-breeding farms are separated from wild populations.

Summary of discussion:

The PHILIPPINES introduced CoP19 Prop.12 to transfer the Philippine population of Saltwater crocodiles (*C. porosus*) in Palawan Islands, Philippines, from Appendix I to Appendix II, amended with a zero annual export quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes. SOLOMON ISLANDS, CHINA, the EU, and others supported the proposal as amended. IUCN and TRAFFIC cautioned that a split listing in the Philippines might create implementation problems.

Outcome:

Committee I recommended that this proposal as amended be adopted.

Prop. 21: Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) Include in Appendix II

Introduction:

The United States of America proposes to include timber rattlesnake in Appendix II in keeping with the precautionary approach to ensure trade is legal and non-detrimental.

Summary of discussion:

The US introduced CoP19 Prop.21 to include the timber rattlesnake (*C. horridus*) in Appendix II. MALI, PANAMA, LIBERIA, SRI LANKA, and others supported the proposal. The EU and SWITZERLAND opposed it.

Outcome:

CoP19 Prop.21 was withdrawn from consideration.

Prop. 23: Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) and Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) Include in Appendix II

Introduction:

The United States of America proposes to include alligator snapping turtles in Appendix II pursuant to Article II and to include common snapping turtles in Appendix II as a lookalike species. Both species are currently included in Appendix III by the United States.

Summary of discussion:

The US introduced CoP19 Prop.23 to transfer the alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) and the common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) from Appendix III to Appendix II.

COSTA RICA, MALI, the UK, GUATEMALA, CHINA, and others supported the proposal.

Outcome:

Committee I voted to accept the proposal, with 82 for, 32 against, and 11 abstaining.

Prop. 32: Softshell Turtles (*Apalone spp.*) Include in Appendix II

Introduction:

The United States of America proposes to include the genus *Apalone* to Appendix II, except for *Apalone spinifera atra* which is currently in Appendix I. The proposal focuses on three species in the genus that are native to the United States, Canada, and Mexico and are all included in Appendix III by the United States.

Summary of discussion:

The US introduced CoP19 Prop.32 to transfer *Apalone spp.* to Appendix II, with the exception of those subspecies already listed in Appendix I.

Outcome:

Committee I agreed to the proposal.

Side Events & Meetings, & Press Conference

IPHA attended many side events, especially on communities and livelihoods. IPHA, together with Conservation Force, CIC, SCIF and Resource Africa assisted in arranging a press conference that was held by the communities to advocate their request for a seat at the table at CITES. The press conference was filmed and the written press release is still to be released in regional media.

Furthermore a side event for communities was also held at the Bio-Museum in Panama which was very well attended.

IPHAA attended a meeting every morning from 8-9 with CIC, DSC, Conservation Force, CLN, some IUCN members and SCI and SCIF where we recapped the previous day as well as made preparations for each day. This was very useful as we could communicate and prepare together for better and constructed interventions.

Interventions

Prop 87.1 (IPHA delivered)

I am making this intervention on behalf of IPHA and more than 10 other organisations whose names will be provided to the rapporteurs.

CITES is a platform for the protection of the endangered species from the threats of international trade. Supposedly it must be based on science and facts, but I have seen decisions taken here that are most certainly not based on that.

Surely we have a responsibility towards all stakeholders on our decisions and actions that comes from this convention.

Gabon and others mention that these issues should be taken into account nationally, but decisions here are enforced on countries by this convention which leaves hands bound by governments. This is not a rational, deliberate process. It's the rogue enactment of a prepared script that forces rangestate leaders to render decisions determining the fate of the planet and mankind under excruciating pressure.

Education is the key to a betterment of life - and I cannot imagine living in a world where this would be withheld. Alleviation of poverty, providing food security and human wellbeing, are words being used to soothe some souls - but the only way for this to become reality, is to involve and sincerely respect those whom any decisions might have an effect on. Ultimately, the local people are the implementers of these decisions.

The rural communities and indigenous peoples are surely getting tired of ducking bullets and from being stripped of their identity – to conform with society and to be politically correct. Until they can speak their truth and have others not only listen to them, but BELIEVE them, by offering them the opportunity to have a voice, they will never truly be free.

We fully support and strongly encourage this proposal.

Thank you Chair

Prop 2 (IPHA delivered)

I am making this intervention on behalf of IPHA and more than 10 other organisations whose names will be provided to the rapporteurs.

The facts speak for themselves and I take exception to the countries who state that the criteria does not meet appendix 2 - how is it possible for voices to state such when the facts and science clearly show otherwise - Proffering baseless assertions as truth is not only immoral and unethical, it also undermines the stability of a democratic society. Reliable information is the bedrock of any institution, be it science, government or private enterprise. If we cannot tell the difference between fact and fiction, then the entire project of civilization turns to dust.

I live with both black and white rhino every day on our land - in excess of 65,000 hectares - but my children's lives are at stake every day and the risks are extremely HIGH.

The costs of combating these risks is exceeding profits that we generate through conservation hunting and photo-tourism.

Congo does not support the proposal but their president received a gift from a whole group of white rhinos from Zimbabwe.

I thank the UK for their positive and proactive response with relevant requests which Namibia can surely provide. I also thank the Namibian government for their hard work and conservation efforts

CoP19 Prop. 2

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II (IPHA added to list for intervention)

Thank you, Mr Chair. I make this intervention on behalf of (XXXX), SUCO SA and several other observers, a list which can be provided in written form.

Through you Mr Chair, when will the conservation successes of range states be recognised by CITES? When will CITES celebrate and reward countries for their achievements? Surely it is a proud day for CITES when requests to down list species from Appendix I to Appendix II are made? This demonstrates the triumphant success of CITES! The success of conservation and HOPE for the Southern White Rhino.

Most importantly, the proponents of this proposal have demonstrated the success in conserving the Southern White Rhino, restoring a species that was once extinct within this historical distribution range. For the first time at CITES CoP19 we are hearing of habitat expansion, with Namibia securing in excess of 300 000 kms of potential habitat, sufficient to carry 14 000 Southern White Rhinos.

The proponents have demonstrated that their proposal is based on sound scientific fact on why they meet the specific criteria of an Appendix II listing. They have demonstrated that they can, and have, curtailed illicit trade with less than 0.9% poaching thanks to strict environmental laws with hefty penalties, lengthy imprisonment for contravention, and effective enforcement. They have demonstrated that their management plans, monitoring and strict permit controls are working, with an annual population growth rate of 6.7% over a twenty-year period.

Namibia and Botswana are not asking for donations or handouts; they are merely asking for supportive CITES protocols to facilitate a means of ensuring continued conservation success. A success that South Africa has also demonstrated as it grew the Southern White Rhino through legal trade from just 2,000 to 19,000 animals over a period of 35 years.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Nelson Mandela once said, “May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears”. Namibia and Botswana’s proposal is a story of hope, a story of success, a story of achievement, a story of a CITES triumphant victory.

SUCo-SA implores this convention to make its decision based on the scientific fact in front of you and the hope of expanded habitat for the Southern White Rhino. We fully support this proposal.

To ignore the truth in front of you, and by voting “no” on this proposal, will place blood on your hands as it is as criminal as killing the Southern White Rhino yourself. Vote for Hope, vote for Southern White Rhino, vote YES!

Thank you, chair.

Doc 13 (CIC delivered) (IPHA added to list of participants for intervention)

The CIC supports that the Parties adopt the revised decisions contained in Annex 1 to the Doc. 13. However, we are very concerned that without a system for IPLCs to participate in the CITES decision-making, it will be impossible to advance species and habitat conservation. It comes as a great concern that contrary to other MEAs, currently CITES which has been in existence for 50 years, still does not have a mechanism allowing for robust participation of IPLCs in the CITES decision-making processes.

Without a proper system or an established process which would allow for IPLCs to participate in the decision-making, CITES will fail to significantly enhance the principal conservation objectives that it might otherwise achieve by fully including IPLCs in the decision-making mechanisms of the Convention.

One way forward to which the CIC would fully agree would be encouraging Parties to allow IPLCs both on the national and international levels to better engage in the decision and implementation processes as proposed by the CITES Secretariat through the annexed draft Decision.

However, having dealt with this issue for the last 6 years, we do not have the luxury to further delay this process. There is a sense of urgency in establishing a comprehensive mechanism for IPLC engagement in CITES decision-making processes.

Thank you Chair

Doc 15 Thank you for the floor madam Chair, all protocol observed

I am making this intervention on behalf of IPHA and more than 10 other organisations whose names will be provided to the rapporteurs.

CITES is a platform for the protection of the endangered species from the threats of international trade. And it is evident through the agenda items that a multitude of tools, strategies, systems and services are being developed and introduced to assist the CITES mandate.

I therefore find it disturbing that the greatest asset to enhancing and assisting these tools and systems – the people that live with these species on a 24/7 basis, not only as tourists from the back of a land rover – are being disregarded through this process.

The rural communities and indigenous peoples have and take custody of the resources that the world seeks to protect - whether in a consumptive or a non-consumptive way - They should be allowed their voice and expertise on these issues. We shouldn't disregard our most effective resource.

The rural communities and indigenous peoples are surely getting tired of ducking bullets and from being stripped of their identity – to conform with society and to be politically correct. Until they can speak their truth and have others not only listen to them, but BELIEVE them, by offering them the opportunity to have a voice, they will never truly be free.

We fully support and strongly encourage that this proposal submitted by the governments of Eswatani, Namibia and Zimbabwe is adopted.

Thank you Chair

(Prop 5) (IPHA)

Mr chair, with all due respect, our time is wasted on a proposal that clearly does not meet the Conference's own guidelines and is based on false and ill-natured strategies.

This is not a rational, deliberate process. It's the rogue enactment of a prepared script that forces rangestate leaders to render decisions determining the fate of the planet and mankind under excruciating pressure.

IPHA Strongly opposes not only this proposal, but also the continuation of hearing agenda items like these.

(Doc 15) (IPHA added to list of participants for intervention) (CF delivered)

Madam Chair, thank you for the floor, all protocol observed.

I am making this intervention on behalf of Conservation Force and more than 10 other organisations whose names will be provided to the rapporteurs. These organisations collectively represent a network of millions of stakeholders who advocate for sustainable use of natural resources and conservation worldwide.

Madame Chair. There is no real conservation of natural resources and wildlife without the informed and active participation of IPLCs. They are the best protectors of wildlife provided they receive benefits from legal trade. Vague objections to these absolute facts are carried out mainly by organisations that try to deny IPLCS a voice in CITES decision-making as they profit off of IPLCs with donor-driven projects.

People who live alongside wildlife undoubtedly decide its fate; not armchair disingenuous NGOs that are more interested in fundraising than in on-the-ground conservation and the livelihoods of the people who live alongside wildlife.

How can we speak of zoonotic diseases if we do not see the malaise in our rural people that are nearly always the poorest of the poor? How can we continue to allow that they are ignored, or worse mistreated and harassed, by NGOs in the name of fortress conservation projects?

How can we resolve the biodiversity crisis without IPLCs, as rightly explained in the latest IPBES assessment on Sustainable use?

How can we have an informed discussion on gender-related matters without IPLCs?

How can we ensure legal trade of wildlife without mechanisms to involve IPLCs in the value chain?

Madame Chair, IPLCS around the world have an unsurpassed knowledge of Biodiversity. Is CITES willing to isolate itself as one of the few MEAs which does not yet recognize a role for IPLCs? Parties, this is a wakeup call!

Through the mechanism foreseen in Document 15 you will have a quiet and unpressured platform to begin discussions regarding the best way to give IPLCs a voice in CITES decision-making. Do not deny yourselves this unique, fair and overdue opportunity. Give the system envisaged in Document 15 a chance for the benefit of the people that you are representing and for the benefit of your biodiversity.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

(Doc 66.3) IPHA added to list of participants for intervention

Thank you Madam Chair (South African Taxidermy and Tannery Association delivered),

I am making this intervention on behalf of the South African Taxidermy and Tannery Association as well as Suco-Sa and several other organisations, representing 100 000 businesses and individuals, supporting over 400 000 livelihoods.

The domestic ivory market is a national issue and not inline with the mandate of CITES that is a convention on INTERNATIONAL trade in endangered species.

Elephants are not endangered

There are programmes currently underway in Southern Africa to introduce contraceptives to prevent the Elephant population from expanding.

Elephant populations in Southern African range states are destroying biodiversity on a massive scale. It seems that one species has preference over others.

We do not support 66.3

(Doc. 66.4.1) (IPHA added to list of participants for intervention)

Thank you, madam chair, I make this intervention on behalf of SUCO SA and several other observers, a list which can be provided in written form.

A fellow observer from the Community Leaders Network highlighted it perfectly, in an earlier session, take away incentives and the benefits of the sustainable use of natural resources from communities and they will convert key wildlife habitat to other land use options to ensure they can provide for their families. Echoing the comments made by numerous parties, CITES main objective is to ensure that trade does not jeopardise species survival.

With specific reference to in situ conservation in South Africa, we have an abundance of elephants with an excess of over 1 000 adult elephant breeding females now under some form of contraception to prevent them from breeding. As this project is predominantly funded by HSIA (something which baffles many, is either a species is endangered and requires protection under CITES to ensure its growth and protection or it is overpopulated and requires population control, it can not be both) Clearly it is not trade in live exports, legal trophy hunting or even poaching that is a threat but rather the lack of habitat. Hence the relevance of the split-listing between CITES Appendix I and Appendix II with populations of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia listed in Appendix II.

Madam chair, I'd like to remind the parties that you all might be free to choose, but you are not free from the consequences of your choice. As the overpopulation of elephants in many areas of Southern African countries are having a devastating impact on fauna and flora, with the vanishing top canopy trees and the subsequent destruction of key vulture nesting sites, as well as many other threatened bird species, to demonstrate a brief example.

Any form of further trade restrictions of any kind on domestic trade and export will merely further disincentivize local communities that in most instances carry the burden of tolerating an already overpopulated elephant population. Communities hold the key as the custodians of the most essential component ensuring elephant survival, which is the habitat in which they live. Furthermore, the limitations proposed on in situ conservation within its historic or natural distribution range in Africa will have conservation impacts on movements of the southern white rhino within Africa through unintended consequences, undoing many rewilding conservation initiatives. Considering doc 66.4.1 & 2 are about elephants, we suggest all references to southern white rhino be removed.

In conclusion; SUCO SA reminds the parties that this prestigious convention is not a welfare forum and these discussions are outside of its mandate and are an infringement on sovereign rights. It is the view of SUCO SA that proposals Doc. 66.4.1 is an overreach by the proponent parties and should not be supported.

Thank you Chair, (Doc 13)

The CIC supports that the Parties adopt the revised decisions contained in Annex 1 to the Doc. 13. However, we are very concerned that without a system for IPLCs to participate in the CITES decision-making, it will be impossible to advance species and habitat conservation. It comes as a great concern that contrary to other MEAs, currently CITES which has been in existence for 50 years, still does not have a mechanism allowing for robust participation of IPLCs in the CITES decision-making processes.

Without a proper system or an established process which would allow for IPLCs to participate in the decision-making, CITES will fail to significantly enhance the principal conservation objectives that it might otherwise achieve by fully including IPLCs in the decision-making mechanisms of the Convention.

One way forward to which the CIC would fully agree would be encouraging Parties to allow IPLCs both on the national and international levels to better engage in the decision and implementation processes as proposed by the CITES Secretariat through the annexed draft Decision.

However, having dealt with this issue for the last 6 years, we do not have the luxury to further delay this process. There is a sense of urgency in establishing a comprehensive mechanism for IPLC engagement in CITES decision-making processes.

Thank you Chair

Doc 15 Thank you for the floor madam Chair, all protocol observed

I am making this intervention on behalf of IPHA and more than 10 other organisations whose names will be provided to the rapporteurs.

CITES is a platform for the protection of the SPECIES. And it is evident through the agenda items that a multitude of tools, strategies, systems and services are being developed and introduced to assist the protection of our treasured species.

I therefore find it disturbing that the greatest asset to enhancing and assisting these tools and systems – the people that live with these species on a 24/7 basis, not only as tourists from the back of a land rover – are being disregarded through this process.

This is not a rational, deliberate process. It's the rogue enactment of a prepared script that forces leaders to render decisions determining the fate of the planet and mankind under excruciating pressure.

The rural communities and indigenous people have and take custody of the resources that the world seeks to protect - whether in a consumptive or a non-consumptive way - They should be allowed their voice and expertise on these issues. Why are we disregarding our most effective tool?

The rural communities and indigenous people are getting tired of ducking bullets and from being stripped of their identity – to conform with society and to be politically correct. Until they can speak their truth and have others not only listen to them, but BELIEVE them, by offering them the opportunity to have a voice, they will never truly be free.

We fully support and strongly encourage that this proposal submitted by the governments of Eswatani, Namibia and Zimbabwe is adopted.

Thank you Chair

Relevant articles

[Restricting the trade in hippo parts is not necessarily the best option for African conservation](#)

[Indigenous Peoples And Local Communities Call For Change At CITES CoP19](#)

Conclusion & Summary

In her opening remarks, CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero noted that it was a time for reflection on the Convention's past and its future and on how well it had achieved its original goals.

Delegates adopted 46 of the 52 proposals put forward to increase or decrease controls on international trade in wildlife and wildlife products, bringing many species of sharks, lizards, turtles, fish, birds, frogs, and more than a hundred tree species under CITES control to ensure the sustainability of these species in the wild while allowing their international trade. In addition, a record 365 decisions were adopted to advance protection of threatened wildlife species while at the same time allowing international trade.

In what was a surprising twist for some, and contrary to rumours, certain contentious issues that had been voted on in committees were not re-opened in plenary. Instead, a motion to reopen the debate on whether to move hippopotamus from Appendix II to Appendix I saw passionate interventions from several countries. Calls for a zero export quota to protect the few hippos left were met with arguments that, while improved conservation measures are needed, trade restrictions could have negative consequences for the conservation of the species.

Another surprise was Nigeria calling for a zero quota on all leopard quotas, which, with the amazing strategic moves by Conservation Force who suggested a crucial break in the meeting, and met with SADC parties to assist with their intervention, and which caused this move by Nigeria to fail.

During impassioned closing remarks, parties thanked Panama for hosting a "phenomenal" conference and reminded each other that while the CoP was done, the real work of CITES implementation continues apace. In a powerful moment for many, Ukraine took the floor and condemned the Russian Federation for "its unprovoked invasion" of their territory and announced hopes of someday hosting a future CITES meeting. "Ukraine will stand, Ukraine will win," the delegate said, to loud applause in the room.

Even though the CoP had a slight move towards hope from the previous one, and strategic planning has been much better, a continuous basis as a long term goal by IPHA, together with pro-sustainable groups is urgently needed. We have been trusting logic and science too much. It is time to become much more proactive and anticipate much worse results at future CITES Cop's. It is highly suggested that IPHA either employ a person to manage this on a continuous basis, or give financial and strategic support to Conservation Force.

IPHA, DSC, CF, CIC and SCIF had a debrief where the following points were raised regarding lessons learned:

CITES_CoP19 lessons learned

- Develop Information documents and circulate the findings to other Parties
- Develop proposals / Offer some draft proposals to the Range States (some of the proposals were too extreme and hard to adopt)
- Do more lobbying and brief Parties during the intersessional period
- Approach governments as a unified group with a coordinated message.
- Interventions should be coordinated beforehand and be more specific. Preferably with some specific suggestions to the decisions.
 - Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's intervention changed the outcome of the decision
- Work more closely with the range states in the intersessional periods
- The EU had interventions backed by good science. There should be more communication between EU and range states.
- Work beyond Africa. Engage with South America / East Asia / Central Asia / Middle east.
- Morning briefings are very useful to coordinate the upcoming day and reflect on the outcomes of the previous one
- We have to reach the new audience with the side events and any additional programs.
- The issues with Leopards and Hippos are expected to come up at the next CoP.
- A proper communication strategy is needed
- Explore the timber industry and which species are traded in West Africa. → highlight the wildlife conflict.
- Standing Committee will be chaired by the US
- IPLC WG is chaired by Canada
- Notification will be issued to the Parties to participate in the Working Groups.
- There is a 60-day consultation for "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision to the Section 4(d) Rule for the African Elephant" open for the public to send in comments (ends on 17 January 2023) Everyone, especially the Range States are encouraged to provide input. [Link here](#)
- Born free expressed an interest to join the CPW (To keep an eye out)
- Hunting organisations express an interest to join the CPW
- IUCN African elephant specialist group and SULi (To keep an eye out)

Lastly, I would like to thank IPHA for trusting me in representing them and the membership at this CoP.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. M. C.', written in a cursive style.

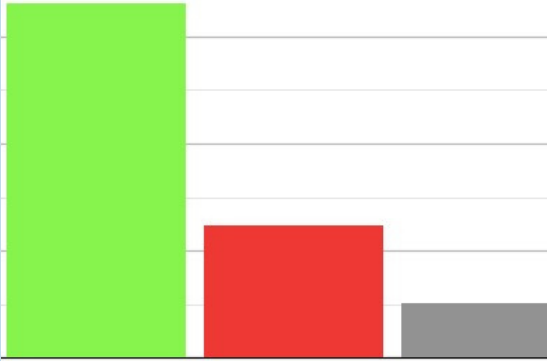




VOTE RESULTS COM I

– White rhinoceros, Population of Namibia App I-> App II with a (Botswana, Namibia)

■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Abs



83	31	13
72.81%	27.19%	
TOTAL: 127		
Adopted by 2/3 majority		

