

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

May 2022

Updates



COMMUNICATIONS

INPUT NEEDED:

Share information on the management and conservation of potential CITES species listings with the AFWA Technical Work Group and or provide comments directly to the USFWS.

IMPORTANT ACTIONS:

Reach out to Fawziah (ZuZu) Gadallah, Environment and Climate Change Canada, to review and have input on the IPBES sustainable use summary for policymakers.

RECENT/UPCOMING MEETINGS AND DATES OF INTEREST:

- UN Environment Assembly: (Adopts environmental policies): February 28 - March 2
- CITES Standing Committee (SC): March 7-11
- CBD Open-ended Working Group (GBF Framework Text Negotiations): March 13-29, June 21-26
- USFWS Federal Register Notice about potential CITES species listings: Comment deadline May 26th
- International Relations Committee meeting: May 3rd
- IPBES Sustainable Use Summary: Comment deadline June 15th

UPDATES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee met on May 3rd with 46 attendees. The Committee discussed priorities for CITES, IUCN, and CBD; the work of the CWDC; the IPBES sustainable use summary; potential CITES species listings; and USFWS updates. A summary will be made available soon.

CBD

The Open-ended Working Group is responsible for developing the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) for adoption at the CBD CoP in 2022. The GBF text negotiations were conducted in March. Parties (Countries) were not able to finalize the text and will meet again in June. AFWA will update our recommendations as needed.

CITES

The SC met in March with over 400 attendees. They discussed over 80 agenda items including the conservation of eels, paddlefish, seahorses, corals, and freshwater turtles; captive bred and ranched specimens; CITES and zoonotic diseases; and the CITES Strategic Vision. The USFWS released information on potential CITES species listings for the 2022 CoP. See the next page for more information.

IPBES

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services summary for policymakers of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species is available for review and comment before June 15th at 5 pm EDT. The Summary is 31 pages long. Comments can be submitted through your country focal point. The final summary will be approved in July.

PRODUCTS/ACTIONS OF INTEREST



CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS OF INTEREST

Issues discussed at the CITES SC that may be of interest to the Directors include the following.

- Zoonotic Disease and Trade: The recommendations included identifying opportunities for collaboration with OIE, WHO, and FAO; developing a CITES One Health resolution as it pertains to international wildlife trade; and considering amendments to the CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants.



CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS OF INTEREST (CONT.)

- CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030: The SC agreed to submit the draft indicators for the Strategic Vision to CoP19 including indicators that support sustainable use.
- American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*): The decisions on eel conservation directed to range states remain voluntary and are simply encouraged.
- For the full report see the IR Committee [website](#).



USFWS FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE

The USFWS published a [notice](#) with the list of species that they are considering for listing in CITES Appendices at the November CoP. Species whose range includes Canada are caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), northern map turtle (*Graptemys geographica*), spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifer*), American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), and rhodiola spp. (58 species). Comments are due by May 26th. You can comment through AFWA and/or as an agency via the [notice website](#).



CONTACTS

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