

CITES CoP19 Report

Panama 14-25 November 2022

This was a super hectic and exhausting CITES CoP, but it was worth it as it was a success to protect so many endangered species. CITES CoP19 was the most pro-conservation proposals adopted in any CoP to date, with an outstanding total of 52 proposals (put forward individually or jointly by 47 parties) were up for decision by the CITES member countries. The delegates adopted 46 proposals to increase or decrease controls on international trade in wildlife and wildlife products, bringing many species of sharks, lizards, turtles, fish, birds, frogs, and plants under the CITES Convention's control to secure the sustainable use of these species in the wild while allowing their international trade.

One hundred species of sharks and rays, over 150 tree species, 160 amphibian species, 50 turtle and tortoise species, and several species of songbirds will now benefit from increased trade restrictions and conservation-oriented management.

The parties also adopted a record 365 decisions

One of the highlights of the CITES CoP19 was after so many attempts in so many decades of CITES CoP's, to include all African elephants in Appendix I, it was finally adopted.

One of the most successful proposals was to adopt 54 species of requiem harks in Appendix II in one single proposal.

Overall, it was a great success.

SPECIES SURVIVAL NETWORK called CITES a "powerful and influential" forum that should protect species "beyond monetary gains."

CEWS work at the CITES CoP19

CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society (CEWS) was again on the stage of a side event at a CITES CoP.

Three years ago, we organized a presentation about the e-commerce of primates. This time CEWS and IPPL presented the side event: "WANTED: How do we stop the trade in primates". Ericka Ceballos (CEWS) and Ian Redmond OBE (IPPL).

We were very honored to have Dame Jane Goodall send a 3-minute introduction to our event. Our guests were Adams Cassinga of ConservCongo, Ofir Drori of LAGA and EAGLE and we got our colleague the also illegal expert wildlife Patricia Tricorache, who shared some of the disturbing videos of apes stolen from the wild, which are sold as exotic pets in the illegal market of apes.

We showed the preview of the great eye-opening documentary: "A planet without apes" where Ian and Adams are featured.

Ian prepared a lovely memorial for our colleague and amazing primatologist Shirley McGreal OBE, who passed away 1 year ago. Ian also invited a lady from the Liberia Chimpanzee Sanctuary to speak for 3 minutes.

It was a quite successful side event.

CITES CoP19 Side Event



CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society



How do we stop the trade in primates?

Introduction by Dame Jane Goodall DBE

Adams Cassinga

Founder and CEO for Conserv Congo
Wildlife Criminal Investigator

Ericka Ceballos

Founder CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society
E-commerce of protected wildlife expert

Ofir Drori

Founder of LAGA Wildlife Law Enforcement
Founder of the EAGLE Network

Ian Redmond OBE

Ambassador for the UN's Convention on Migratory Species
Chairman Ape Alliance and The Gorilla Organization

Patricia Tricorache

Illegal Wildlife Expert
Alliance to Counter Crime Online (ACCO)

Date: November 24, 2022
Time: 12.15-14.00 Room: Salon 2
Panama Convention Center

PLANET WITHOUT APES

Documentary

Q&A with

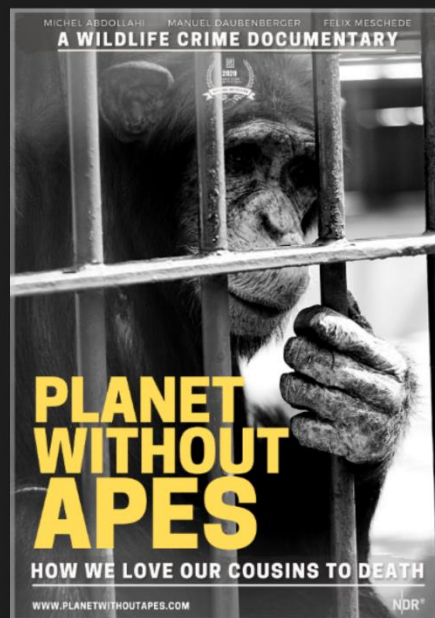
Felix Meschede
Filmmaker

Manuel Daubenberger
Filmmaker

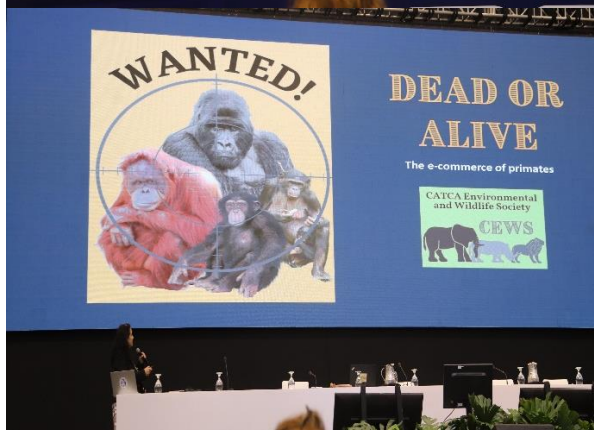
Friday 18th, November 2022
Panama Convention Center

CANAL 2

7-8 PM



Organized by CEWS and IPPL





Ericka Ceballos researched, wrote and delivered hundreds of fliers about our CEWS e-commerce reports of wildlife, which we brought to the CITES CoP19.

The CEWS American reptile species pamphlet about the e-commerce of these species, was a huge success with all the member countries with reptile proposals, which most of them were to be adopted and protected by the CITES Appendices.

CEWS reports and presentations on the e-commerce of wildlife prepared for the CITES CoP19

CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society
CEWS

E-commerce reports

Side Event

How do we stop the trade in primates?

CEWS & IPPL

...and much more

WANTED
Dead or Alive

For media enquiries / questions contact us at:
cewscitescop19@gmail.com



American Reptiles found on the e-commerce of wildlife

Prop. 11 Broad-snouted caiman (*Caiman latirostris*)
This species of caiman, has been found in the e-commerce in its range countries. Live: as exotic pets. Death: skin, meat, skulls and bones.
The broad-snouted caiman is widely traded in Brazil and Argentina.

Prop. 17 Desert horned lizard (*Phrynosoma* spp.)
The Desert horned lizard has been found commonly sold on the internet in reptile forums, reptile websites, classified advertisements and in social media, such as Facebook.
They are commonly sold as exotic pets worldwide (Germany, Spain, UK, US, Canada and all over LATAM. Skulls have been found for collectors)

Prop 15 Horned lizards (*Phrynosoma* spp.)
Horned lizards also appear frequently on the international e-commerce. They appear frequently in social media, classified websites, reptile forums and reptile websites.
CEWS found them in The Netherlands, Poland, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Malaysia, US, Canada, Mexico and in many LATAM countries, they are sold as exotic pets.
They are quite popular on the e-commerce.

Prop 20 Puerto Rican Boa (*Epicrates inornatus*)
CEWS found advertisements of Puerto Rican boas for sale in Germany, Spain, US and Latin America. More commonly the advertisements were found as website classifieds.
All specimens found were alive, for the exotic pet trade.

Prop. 21 Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*)
Crotalus horridus has been found in all of our monitoring's of the American continent.
Mostly its derivatives are used in the form of pills, tint and pearls for homeopathic purposes, which ranges from pseudo cures for HIV, tongue problems, photophobia, bleeding rectum, varicose veins, depression and more.
CEWS found products from the UK, Spain, Brazil, Colombia, India, Canada and US. Skins are common to find as wallets, belts, cases and even as boots and bags. Pirfts are also sold. Timber snakes are also found for sale on the international exotic pet trade in various countries.
Since colonists arrived in North America, they have attempted to eradicate *Crotalus horridus* and were successful in at least five states and provinces. Although still widely, *C. horridus* habitat is highly fragmented and they continue to decline throughout their range. Today *C. horridus* is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in 27 of the 31 states where they occur in the US. *Crotalus horridus* have complex social lives that involve large aggregations in winter shelters and at communal nesting sites. These aggregations have been exploited and continue to be an easy way to collect and/or kill unsustainable numbers of snakes. In their 2021 Conservation Action Plan for *C. horridus*, Partners in Reptile Conservation identified inadequate protection, collection, and emerging diseases the most important threats and recommended protecting populations and prohibiting collecting. The inclusion of *C. horridus* in Appendix II would address those threats and facilitate the recommended conservation actions.

Prop 22 Matamata (*Chelus fimbriata*), Matamata del Orinoco (*Chelus orinocensis*)
Commonly found as exotic pet in the e-commerce of Europe, Latin America and North America. CEWS found them in LATAM, US and Canada, in Germany, Italy, with many found in Spain. They are sold in classified ads sites, and in reptile seller webpages. Many specimens of both species have been found for sale on the e-commerce on Central and Eastern Europe (Classified sites and specialized reptile websites).
As the newly recognized species of Matamata del Orinoco (*Chelus orinocensis*), it is not so easy to find, as it is sold widely as Matamata (*Chelus fimbriata*).



Prop 23 Alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)
Commonly found in the US and Canada. Alive: as exotic pets Dead: as meat, skulls, bones and carapace. In the US, the common snapping turtle has long been the main turtle species used for turtle soup, and its meat, especially in the south of the US. Chinese supermarkets often sell the meat frozen in Metro Vancouver, Canada. CEWS found its meat in Amazon, eBay, butchers and supermarket websites, classified ads and social media. Alligator snapping turtles are also commonly found in Poland and Central and Eastern Europe, mostly in herp trade platforms.

Prop. 24 Broad headed map turtles: Barbouri map turtle (*Graptemys barbouri*), Excambria map turtle (*G. exasii*), Pascagoula map turtle (*G. pascuensis*), Alabama map turtle (*G. pulchra*)
These species of map turtles are more difficult to find on the e-commerce. *G. pascuensis* is the one more easy to find for sale in classified ads and herp websites in the US and in Mexico.

Prop. 28 Narrow-bridged musk turtle (*Claudius angustatus*)
Narrow-bridged musk turtles are very popular as exotic pets. We found them in Canada, Mexico and LATAM, but mostly in the US, in reptile forums, blogs and classifieds, as well in Facebook. In Europe they are sold widely on the e-commerce of Germany, Italy and Spain.

Prop. 27 Neotropical wood turtles *Rhinoclemmys* spp
The Neotropical wood turtles are common to find in the e-commerce in Canada, US, Mexico and the rest of LATAM.
CEWS found them in social media, classified websites, reptile forums and webpages. Eggs are also found for sale online.

Prop. 29 Mud turtles *Kinosternon* spp.(19 species)
Many mud turtles are very commonly found on social media, classified websites, reptile blogs/forums and reptile blogs sites in Canada and the US.
These turtles are also popular in Central and Eastern Europe as exotic pets.

Prop. 30 Mexican musk turtle (*Staurotypus triporcatus*) and giant musk turtle (*S. salvinii* *Staurotypus salvinii*)
These two species are quite popular in Central and Eastern Europe. Common on Kijiji Canada and classified websites. Also found in Mexico and in many classified websites in the US.
The stinkpot musk and the loggerhead musk turtles are very common on all platforms checked, but specially in Canada and US. We found dozens in Kijiji in Canada, Facebook in LATAM and other social media.
It is very common to find them in Central and Eastern Europe classified websites, as well on Spain, Italy and UK.

Prop 52 American softshell turtles *Apalone* spp
The 3 species of Apalone turtles were easily found on our monitoring of the e-commerce of wildlife in Latin America and North America, as exotic pets. The *A. spinifer* is the most sold and common to find in social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok, so on), classified websites, reptile forums and websites, etc. Commonly found in Central and Eastern Europe.



Special thanks to Melissa Amarillo Executive Director of ASP and Boris Kala of PTOP Salamandra and CEE web for their collaboration to create this pamphlet.






Ericka was as usual active for the elephants, sharks, so on, but this time also for hippos and more animal species, as well offering to help whenever she could with her SSN Colleagues during their side events.

Some highlights of our CEWS work during the CITES CoP19





Proposals to amend the Appendices:

FAUNA

- 1- Prop.1 on transfer of [hippopotamus \(*H. amphibius*\)](#) from Appendix II to Appendix I with a zero-export quota annotation. **Rejected.**
- 2- 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. **Adopted.**
- 3- Prop.3 to remove the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of [Eswatini's Southern White Rhinos \(*C. simum simum*\)](#), to enable Eswatini to realize full Appendix II status for its population. **Rejected.**
- 4- Prop.4 to amend the annotation for the Appendix II listing of elephant populations (*L. africana*) in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. **Rejected.**
- 5- 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.** **Adopted.**
- 6- Prop.6 for the transfer of [Mexican prairie dog \(*C. mexicanus*\)](#) from Appendix I to Appendix II, noting that the species has recovered. **Adopted.**
- 7- Prop.7 to transfer the [Aleutian cackling goose \(*B. canadensis leucopareia*\)](#) from Appendix I to Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 8- Prop.8 (Rev.1) to include the [white-rumped shama \(*K. malabarica*\)](#) in Appendix II, emphasizing in the detrimental volume of international trafficking and illegal trade of this songbird. The CoP **adopted** the amended proposal.
- 9- Prop.9 (Rev.1) to transfer the [straw-headed bulbul \(*P. zeylanicus*\)](#) from Appendix II to Appendix I. **Adopted.**
- 10- Prop.10 to transfer the [short-tailed albatross \(*P. albatrus*\)](#) from Appendix I to Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 11- 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. **Adopted.**
- 12- Prop.12 to transfer the [Philippine population of Saltwater crocodiles \(*C. porosus*\)](#) in Palawan Islands, from Appendix I to Appendix II, amended with a zero annual export quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes. **Adopted.**
- 13- Prop.13 to transfer the [Thai population of the Siamese crocodile \(*C. siamensis*\)](#) from Appendix I to Appendix II, amended with an annotation for a zero annual export quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes. **Adopted.**
- 14- Prop.14 to include the [Indo-Chinese water dragon \(*P. cocincinus*\)](#) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 15- Prop.15 to include [Jeypore hill gecko \(*C. jeyporensis*\)](#) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 16- Prop.16 (Rev.1) for the inclusion of [helmethead gecko \(*T. chazaliae*\)](#) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 17- Prop.17 for the inclusion of [desert horned lizard \(*P. platyrhinos*\)](#) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 18- Prop.18 to include [horned lizards \(*Phrynosoma* spp.\)](#) in CITES Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 19- Prop.19 to include the [pygmy blue-tongued lizard \(*T. adelaidensis*\)](#) in Appendix I. **Adopted.**
- 20- Prop.20 to transfer the [Puerto Rican boa \(*E. inornatus*\)](#) from Appendix I to Appendix II. **Adopted.**

- 21- Prop.21 to include the timber rattlesnake (*C. horridus*) in Appendix II. **The proposal was withdrawn due to lack of support.**
- 22- Prop.22 to include the Amazon matamata (*C. fimbriata*) and Orinoco matamata (*C. orinocensis*) turtles in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 23- Prop.23 to transfer the alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) and the common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) from Appendix III to Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 24- Prop.24 to transfer five species of broad-headed map turtles (*G. barbouri*, *G. ernsti*, *G. gibbonsi*, *G. pearlensis*, and *G. pulchra*) from Appendix III to Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 25- Prop.25 (Rev.1) to transfer the red-crowned roofed turtle (*B. kachuga*) from Appendix II to Appendix I. **Adopted.**
- 26- Prop.26 to transfer the Indochinese box turtle (*C. galbinifrons*) with two non-typical subspecies (*C. g. bourreti* and *C. g. picturata*) from Appendix II to Appendix I. **Adopted.**
- 27- Prop.27 for the inclusion of wood turtles (*Rhinoclemmys* spp.) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 28- Prop.28 for the inclusion of narrow-bridged musk turtle (*C. angustatus*) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 29- Prop.29 to include twenty species of mud turtles (*Kinosternon* spp.) in Appendix II, and the *K. cora* and *K. vogti* in Appendix I. **Adopted.**
- 30- Prop.30 to include the Mexican giant musk turtle (*S. triporcatus*) and the Chiapas giant musk turtle (*S. salvinii*) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 31- Prop.31 to include all species of musk turtles (genus *Sternotherus* spp.) in Appendix II.
- 32- Prop.32 to transfer *Apalone* spp. to Appendix II, with the exception of those subspecies already listed in Appendix I. **Adopted.**
- 33- Prop.33 on the transfer of Leith's softshell turtle (*N. leithii*) from Appendix II to Appendix I. **Adopted.**
- 34- CoP19 Prop.34 for the inclusion of 12 species of glass frogs (family *Centrolenidae*) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 35- Prop.35 to include the lemur leaf frog (*A. lemur*) in Appendix II with a zero annual export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes. **Adopted.**
- 36- Prop.36 (Rev.1) to list the Laos warty newt (*L. laoensis*) in Appendix II with a zero-export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes. **Adopted.**
- 37- Prop.37 to include the requiem shark family (*Carcharhinidae* spp.) in Appendix II, a total of 54 species, and said proponents had agreed to amend the proposal to allow a 12-month delay before it enters into force. **Adopted.**
- 38- Prop.38 to include hammerhead shark (*Sphyrnidae* spp.) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 39- Prop.39, proposing the inclusion of freshwater stingrays (*P. wallacei* and *P. leopoldi*) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 40- Prop.40 to list guitarfishes (*Rhinobatidae* spp.) in Appendix II, noting that of five families of shark-like rays, four are already listed in CITES, but guitarfishes have been "overlooked" despite being vulnerable to over-exploitation. **Adopted.**
- 41- Prop.41 to uplist zebrafish (*H. zebra*) from Appendix III to Appendix I. **Adopted.**
- 42- Prop.42 (Rev.1) to include all three species of Thelenota sea cucumber (*T.ananas*, *T.Anax*, and *T. rubralineata*) in Appendix II. **Adopted.**
- 43- Consideration of Proposal for Amendment of Appendices I and II: Canada introduced CoP19 Prop.43. **Adopted.**

Other issues discussed in the agenda: Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade and reducing human and animal health risks from wildlife trade, Illegal trade in cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Elephants (*Elephantidae* spp.): Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on trade in elephant specimens; Ivory stockpiles: Implementation of Resolution Conf.10.10 (Rev.CoP18) on Trade in elephant specimens, Implementing aspects of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on the closure of domestic ivory markets, International trade in live African elephant specimen, Asian big cats (*Felidae* spp.), Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.), Pangolins (*Manis* spp.), African lions (*Panthera leo*), Jaguars (*Panthera onca*), Eels (*Anguilla* spp.), Songbird trade and conservation management (*Passeriformes* spp.), Rhinoceroses (*Rhinocerotidae* spp.), etc.

Another issue was the Transport of live specimens: improving implementation of the transport regulations: The CoP encourages parties to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health, or cruel treatment for live CITES-listed specimens by taking measures to transport these specimens during the domestic portions of international CITES transports according to the transport standards provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

One of the main topics discussed and exposed during the CoP19 side events was the status of the Vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*), its decimation at the Gulf of Cortez in Mexico, Mexico's lack of seriously to protect them and demanding for or a commercial sanction if they would not take urgent action to protect the remaining estimated 10 vaquitas left.

Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*): parties agreed to provide financial and in-kind support for the implementation of the study called for in Decision 18.294, and to support efforts to eliminate the supply and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba, to successfully address and prevent their illegal trade.

Mexico is to further strengthen measures to effectively prevent fishers from using gillnets in the vaquita refuge and vessels from entering the zero-tolerance areas and to maintain these areas completely gillnet-free, by implementing a strict zero-tolerance policy concerning unauthorized fishing and fishing gear in these areas, ensuring surveillance on a full-time basis, and imposing strict penalties where irregularities are detected, including the seizure of both vessels and unauthorized fishing gear combined with administrative or criminal penalties as applicable;

Mexico is to deploy the appropriate authorities with legal powers of seizure and arrest, together with the Mexican Navy, to successfully prevent fishers and vessels from fishing with prohibited gear in the Vaquita Refuge and from entering the Zero Tolerance Area; and

Mexico is to submit a comprehensive report to the Secretariat in a timely manner (at least 60 days in advance of SC77) support efforts to eliminate supply of and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba to address and prevent their illegal trade.