

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twentieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Johannesburg (South Africa), 29 March-2 April 2004

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF APPENDIX-II SPECIES
(RESOLUTION CONF. 12.8 AND DECISION 12.75)

Members of the working group

The Chairman of the Animals Committee (Chair);

Regional representatives: Europe and Africa;

Observers from Parties: Canada, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Italy, Malaysia, Namibia, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

Observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations: European Commission, IUCN – The World Conservation Union, Conservation Force, Fauna and Flora International (rapporteur), Humane Society of the United States, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Pet Care Trust, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC (rapporteur), UNEP-WCMC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund USA;

The zoologist of the Nomenclature Committee; and

The CITES Secretariat.

Terms of reference

1. Examine the information on *Falco cherrug* and formulate recommendations in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.8, paragraph f);
2. Identify reporting requirements and time-frames for the implementation of the Action Plan for Madagascar; and
3. Select a limited number of species for Phase VI of the Review of Significant Trade.

Summary of the discussions and recommendations

Doc. 8.1 Review of Significant Trade in *Falco cherrug*

Secretariat reported that the joint budget for 2004 for the Animals and Plants Committees for Significant trade process was USD 73,000 while experience shows that each review costs approximately USD 10,000.

These financial constraints suggested to the Secretariat that the Committee should consider prioritising just one species per taxonomic group.

Falco cherrug came into the Review of Significant Trade at AC19 as an 'exceptional' case according to Resolution Conf. 12.8. The range States were contacted by the Secretariat regarding possible problems of implementing Article IV for trade in this species, and to comment upon the report of the United Arab Emirates that had been the basis for the selection of the species by AC (the report is presented in Doc. AC20 Doc. 8.2, Annex 2). Range States had 60 days to reply. These responses were available to the Working Group in Doc AC20 Doc. 8.1 Annex 1. It was agreed that the Working Group should select from the listed range States to eliminate those which are clearly implementing Article IV and identifying those which require further attention.

Considerable discussion followed about information available from importing Parties.

It was agreed that the Animals Committee should refer all the range States that have not responded to the initial information request for further action by the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph g) of Resolution Conf. 12.8. The working group also agreed that none of the Parties that sent in responses should be kept in the process. Some discussion resulted as to whether the United Arab Emirates should be kept in the process. However, it was noted that the United Arab Emirates had responded to Resolution Conf. 12.8 in a very positive way, detailing the way it is now dealing with the non-detriment findings required under Article IV and as such it is an example to the Parties. It was therefore not included in the further review process.

The European representative on the Animals Committee stressed that it was important to focus on the key range States where implementation of Article IV seemed problematic, and the Working Group identified the following countries in this regard: Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

After further discussion regarding the situation in China, it was determined that it be left in the category of other countries that had not yet reported.

In response to concerns raised about lack of sufficient controls of captive breeding operations and illegal trade in some countries, it was noted that there will be a workshop in Abu Dhabi in May 2004 involving both falconry countries and countries with captive breeding operations in an effort to address these issues.

Doc. 8.3 Progress on the first country-based Review of Significant Trade (Madagascar)

After some discussion about how best to proceed in developing milestones and timeframes for the Action Plan, it was determined that the working group would focus its efforts on identifying timeframes for short term activities only, and that these actions would be separated into Urgent Short Term Actions and other Short Term Actions.

Urgent Short Term Actions must be reported on by Madagascar to the Secretariat prior to SC51, while all other Short Term Actions must be reported on by Madagascar to the Secretariat prior to AC21. These categories are based on all activities labeled as 'Short Term' in AC20 Inf. 10. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairman of AC, should report on the compliance by Madagascar with Urgent Short Term Actions at SC51.

Urgent Short Term Activities are:

- a. Draw up a set of terms of reference for the Scientific Authority to be agreed by the SA and MA (p. 5);
- b. Identify and provide background information on the conservation status of Malagasy species (p. 5);
- c. Establish a mechanism, to be agreed by the SA and MA, to ensure that advice from the SA is acted on in a timely fashion (p. 6);
- d. Design and implement an agreed, transparent quota setting system (p. 7);

- e. Design and implement a system to allow MA to track actual exports against quotas allocated (p. 8);

Other Short Term Actions [to be reported on by AC21] include:

- a. Undertake a cost-benefit analysis of wildlife trade and use the results of this analysis to inform the policy framework (p. 3);
- b. Draw up revised legislation and submit this to the national legislature for adoption (p. 4);
- c. Identify and provide background resources concerning the different roles of the SA (p. 5);
- d. Design and implement a mechanism for monitoring implementation of the action plan (p. 7);
- e. Implement a coordination and communications strategy (p. 7);
- f. Formalize exporters' association (p. 8);
- g. Design a training programme (p. 9);
- h. Implement a coordination and communication strategy (p. 9);
- i. Produce and distribute identification manuals (p. 10);
- j. Produce and distribute manuals of procedure (p. 10);
- k. Procure other resources as needed (p. 10);

The working group recommends that the Secretariat contact Madagascar to express its concern about Madagascar's failure to adequately explain its current export policy for CITES-listed species, and to clarify urgently whether there is a moratorium in place for trade in CITES-listed species.

It was noted that funding is critically needed to ensure that the Action Plan is fully implemented. The working group also recommended that funding be made available to ensure that Madagascar can attend the AC, PC and SC meetings to report on progress with the implementation of the Action Plan.

The working group also recommended that Madagascar be requested to identify timeframes for accomplishing medium and long term actions, and that these timeframes be reported to the Secretariat prior to AC21.

The Secretariat advised that it was important to establish a position for a technical adviser in Madagascar to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan. The working group recommended that efforts to establish such a position should proceed.

Doc. 8.5 Selection of Species for Review of Significant Trade

The working group determined species for review of significant trade by analyzing species that appeared as candidates both in Doc. 8.5 prepared by UNEP-WCMC and AC20 Inf. 12.

- a. *Monodon monoceros*: Narwhal was not selected for review in Phase VI. The working group noted that the species remained in Phase III because secondary recommendations for Denmark (Greenland) and Canada, formulated in 1996, had not been complied with. That secondary recommendation reads: "The responsible authorities of Canada and Greenland should initiate a scientifically based survey programme for the Baffin Bay stock. If one is not already in operation, to form the basis of an improved population monitoring programme." It was agreed by the working group, including Canada and Denmark (Greenland), that this secondary recommendation should be addressed by Canada and Denmark (Greenland) by 31 July 2004. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairman of the Animals Committee, will determine whether the recommendation has been implemented, and report to the Standing Committee accordingly.

- b. *Poicephalus senegalus*: Accepted for Phase VI. Particular concerns were raised for Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Togo.
- c. *Psittacus erithacus*: Accepted for Phase VI. Particular concerns were raised for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Congo, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire.
- d. *Gracula religiosa*: Accepted for Phase VI.
- e. *Callagur borneoensis*: Accepted for Phase VI.
- f. *Phelsuma comoroensis*: Accepted for Phase VI.
- g. *Phelsuma dubia*: Accepted for Phase VI.
- h. *Phelsuma v-nigra*: Accepted for Phase VI.
- i. *Uromastyx spp.*: Though there are 16 recognised species in the genus, based on trade figures and other information, the working group selected five species for review in Phase VI, including: *U. acanthinura*, *U. benti*, *U. dispar*, *U. geyri*, and *U. ocellatus*. It was also suggested that, in the Secretariat's letters to range States, that a specific inquiry to Mali about trade reported only at the genus level be made.
- j. *Furcifer cephalolepis*: Accepted for Phase VI.
- k. Tridacnidae: Despite the fact that there are nine recognized species of Tridacnidae, based on trade figures and other information the working group selected six species for review in Phase VI, including: *Tridacna crocea*, *T. maxima*, *T. squamosa*, *T. derasa*, *T. gigas*, and *Hippopus hippopus*.

The observer from the United Kingdom noted that the European Union Scientific Review Group had independently concluded that the international trade in these species was of concern.

There were several other species discussed for consideration of entry into Phase VI, though no further species were added.

Arctocephalus pusillus was discussed at length. Based on additional information provided by Namibia regarding quotas and export volumes, it was not selected for review.

For *Mantella* species it was noted that the working group has concerns about the status of several critically endangered species, including *M. aurantiaca*, *M. cowani*, *M. milotympanum*, and *M. viridis*. If Madagascar does not currently have an export moratorium in place, it was recommended that the AC reconsider whether these species or the entire genus be included in the significant trade process.

Pandinus imperator was also discussed as a potential candidate for review. Though it was not discussed, it was agreed that future trade be monitored for possible significant trade review in the future.

Prioritization of Species Selected for Phase VI

The working group was tasked with prioritizing the species it selected for consideration for Phase VI. The top priorities for the working group are as follows:

- a. *Psittacus erithacus*
- b. *Callagur borneoensis*
- c. *Uromastyx acanthinura*, *U. benti*, *U. dispar*, *U. geyri*, *U. ocellatus*
- d. *Phelsuma dubia*, *P. comorensis*, *P. v-nigra* and *Furcifer cephalolepis* (considered together because all are at least in part traded from the Comoros).
- e. Tridacnidae [see paragraph k) above]