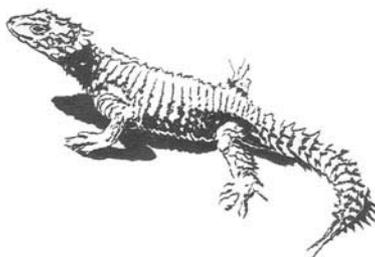


CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



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

TRADE IN HARD CORALS [RESOLUTION CONF. 11.10 (REV. COP12) AND DECISION 12.62] –
REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the Chairman of the working group on trade in hard corals.
2. At the 19th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC19, Geneva, August 2003) a working group was formed consisting of the regional representative of Oceania, and the observers from Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Chairman), United States of America, Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association (OATA) and Ornamental Fish International (OFI). The Committee noted that a number of former members of the coral working group were not present in Geneva and gave the Chairman the discretion to invite former members of the coral working group and any other relevant specialists to participate in the group, especially from coral exporting countries and trade organizations. Such invitations were extended to Australia, Belgium, Fiji, Indonesia, Indonesian Coral, Shell and Ornamental Fish Association (AKKII/CSOFA), European Pet Organization, TRAFFIC, UNEP-WCMC and representatives of the aquarium trade in Fiji. The composition of the group is presented in the annex to this document.
3. The group met to discuss its approach to advising the Animals Committee on Decision 12.62, namely to "consider and recommend a practical means of distinguishing fossilized corals from non-fossilized corals in international trade, and provide a report at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties". The working group agreed on the following work programme (in italics below) to achieve this task. It has been annotated to reflect progress made.
 - a) *The Chairman would invite members of the group to suggest approaches to defining fossilized corals by the end of September 2003.*

The working group, including the invited members referred to above, were contacted by the Chairman by email on 11 September 2003. They were invited to share with the working group any approaches or methods they proposed to achieve this task. Participants were reminded of the document produced by the United Kingdom on this subject that was distributed to the Committee at the AC18 (San José, April 2002) and is available at www.ukcites.gov.uk/pdf_files/Full_text_pics.pdf; this of course being just one possible approach to the issue.

- b) *Participants in the working group would then be invited to consider and comment on the different approaches suggested by the group members, if necessary in consultation with relevant expertise, and to provide comments by end October 2003.*

Comments and suggested alternative approaches have been provided by OATA, Fijian aquarium traders and by the Mexican Scientific Authority. In addition, the United States of America has initiated a discussion forum on the website of the International Coral Reef Initiative (<http://www.icriforum.org>) on the fossil coral issue. To date this has not received any input. There has, otherwise, been no other input by email to the work of the group.

Working group participants would then be asked to:

- c) test the different approaches for their practicality of implementation (at relevant stages in the process from collection through export to import); and*
- d) comment on the implications of adopting the different approaches (e.g. on the implications for the conservation of coral reefs, on the implications for traders, etc.) and to list the risks and benefits of different approaches.*

4. The work outlined in paragraph 3c) and d) above was programmed to take place during the period from the end of October 2003 to immediately before the present meeting. At the time of preparing this report the work is still ongoing. During the present meeting the working group will meet to discuss its experiences with the various approaches and report to the Committee with any agreed recommendations.

Working group participants

Member of Animals Committee

Regional representative of Oceania: Rod Hay

Parties

Australia: Tom Kaveney, Randall Owen

Belgium: Philippe Jouk

Fiji: Manasa Sovaki

Indonesia: Messrs Samedi and Suharsono

Switzerland: Ruth Landolt, Bruno Mainini

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Chairman): Vin Fleming

United States of America: John Field, Andy Bruckner

Trade, NGOs and other specialists

AKKII: Indra Wijaya

European Pet Organization: Bernard Pontanier

Fiji aquarium trade: Ed Lovell

PFO: Sven Fossa

OATA: Keith Davenport

TRAFFIC: Craig Hoover (North America), Rob Parry-Jones (Fiji)

UNEP-WCMC: Ed Green