

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 20-24 April 2009

Regional reports

AFRICA

1. This report has been prepared by Dr Khaled Zahzah as the representative of French-speaking Africa on the Animals Committee*.

General Information

2. Members on the Animals Committee: 2

Communication with the Parties in the region since AC23

3. All of the Parties in French-speaking Africa were contacted with the request that they send me their reports, but only Morocco, Mauritania and Madagascar responded.

Tunisia

4. Participation in national and international meetings:
 - Meeting of the Animals Committee held in Geneva in April 2008;
 - Workshop on the implementation of CITES held in December 2008; organized jointly by the Directorate-General for Forests (CITES Management Authority in Tunisia), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the National Association for Sustainable Development and Wildlife Conservation. Participants in the workshop comprised Tunisian NGOs, border control personnel (Customs, police, animal and plant health personnel) and lawyers;
 - Meeting in December 2008 to prepare the national CITES Act;
 - Workshop on conservation of marines species planned to take place in Tunis on 24-26 February 2009 to mark the inclusion of *Anguilla anguilla* in CITES Appendix II. The workshop will be organized by the Directorate-General for Forests and IFAW, and will bring together eel exporters, Customs officials, veterinary services, the Directorate-General for Fisheries, the Institute for Marine Science and Technology, and other interested parties;

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

- Meeting on 19 February 2009 to set the annual eel export quota with effect from 13 March 2009.

Morocco

5. Meetings were called by the CITES Management Authority to draft the national CITES Act.

Mauritania

6. The heads of the CITES Management Authority in Mauritania reported that they were having difficulties in determining the identity of the falcons being imported owing to a lack of electronic chip readers.

Madagascar

7. Madagascar provided a very detailed report on the activities of the CITES Management Authority.

- a) Establishment for action plans for flagship species:

- i) Crocodiles action plan:

- The Management Authority has an action plan drawn up in line with real needs and balancing utilization and preservation of the species;
- The action plan is based on a participatory approach;
- The action plan has made allowance for the requirements of Resolution Conf. 11.16;
- The principal achievements in 2008 are:
 - Establishment of the Steering Committee;
 - Implementation of the recommendations on ranching of Nile crocodiles;
 - Organization of a round table with people working in the crocodile business;
 - Study of human/crocodile conflicts and assessment of the crocodile population;
 - Biological, ecological and socio-economic studies on crocodiles in the Mahavavy-Kinkony complex (financed by WWF);
 - Tracking and enhancement of the system of supply of skins for local handicrafts markets;
 - Establishment of export quotas, with that for skins of source code 'W' being lowered to a maximum of 200 units in line with the recommendations in document SC55 Doc. 13;
 - Tagging operations; and
 - Issue of egg-collection licences to operators commensurately with their capacities; and

- ii) Tortoise management action plan:

This is intended to supervise, coordinate, direct, seek funding for and monitor the implementation of the action plan.

- b) Annual visits to centres:

So that the operators could be selected, and the quotas distributed, in accordance with the guidelines in the procedures manual for the management of Madagascar's wild fauna and flora, visits were first made to the centres. In the interests of enhanced credibility and transparency,

the costs of the visits were covered by funds from the World Bank or the GTZ. So far, 14 centres have been visited, in four regions.

c) Establishment of the CITES action plan:

In conjunction with the CITES Secretariat, Madagascar has drawn up an action plan to reorganize trade in wild species. With most of the activities having been completed, Madagascar is no longer required to report on the progress in implementing the plan at each joint Animals Committee and Plants Committee meeting, but will submit a report on the species-specific studies.

d) Responses to CITES Notifications:

i) *Mantella aurantiaca*

Trade in this species has been suspended for about a decade. The species is found in four zones, at a density of 836 to 1,317 specimens per hectare. The precautionary quota has been set at 2,500 specimens.

ii) *Mantella baroni*

Five harvesting sites, density of 605 to 900 specimens per hectare; the quota has been set at 5,500 specimens.

iii) *Mantella bernhardii*

Zero quota imposed since 2005; density of 600 to 4,480 specimens per hectare; precautionary quota of 650 specimens.

iv) *Mantella betsileo*

The species has been split: *M. ebenau* (northern region) and *M. betsileo* (south-western region).

Precautionary quota of 2,500 specimens for each species.

v) *Mantella expectata*

The species is found within the Isalo National Park and at 17 sites outside the protected area. Precautionary quota of 250 specimens.

vi) *Mantella milotympanum*

Zero quota.

vii) *Mantella viridis*

Quota of 250 specimens.

e) Participation in national and international meetings and workshops:

- 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva)
- 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva)
- Animals quota 2008 (April 2008)
- Crocodiles Steering Committee (May 2008)
- Crocodiles Steering Committee (July 2008)
- Crocodiles Steering Committee (October 2008)
- Amphibians Committee (November 2008)
- Coordination meeting for Management and Scientific Authorities, operators (December 2008) and more.