

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Opening of the meeting (No document)

Participants were welcomed by Mr Hesiquio Benitez, on behalf of the Mexican CITES authorities, and H.E. Victor Alvarado Martinez, Minister of Environment of the State of Veracruz.

2. Election of the Chair and Vice-chair..... (No document)

Ms Carolina Caceres (North America) was elected Chair and Mr Vincent Fleming (Europe) was elected Vice-Chair, by acclamation.

The Committee noted that no member present declared any financial interests that he or she considers calls into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the meeting agenda.

3. Rules of Procedure..... (AC27 Doc. 3)

With the incorporation of the changes detailed in paragraphs 6 and 7 of document AC27 Doc. 3, the Committee adopted the Rules of Procedure in the Annex of that document. There was broad support for the proposed changes to Rule 22 in paragraph 4 of document AC27 Doc.3 and the Committee agreed to consult with the Plants Committee about these prior to AC28.

4. Adoption of the agenda and working programme

- 4.1 Agenda (AC27 Doc. 4.1)

With the addition of the consideration of queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) under agenda item 27: Any other business, the Committee adopted the agenda in document AC27 Doc. 4.1.

- 4.2 Working programme (AC27 Doc. 4.2)

The Committee adopted the working programme in document AC27 Doc. 4.2.

5. Admission of observers (AC27 Doc. 5)

The Committee noted the list of observers provided in document AC27 Doc. 5.

6. Animals Committee strategic planning for 2013-2016 (CoP16-CoP17)

6.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee..... (AC27 Doc. 6.1)

The Committee noted document AC27 Doc. 6.1.

6.2 Animals Committee workplan..... (AC27 Doc. 6.2)

The Committee agreed to finalize the Annex to document AC27 Doc. 6.2 and present it later in the meeting.

12. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species
[Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)]

12.2 Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade (AC27 Doc. 12.2 (Rev.1))

The Committee noted document AC27 Doc. 12.2 (Rev. 1).

12.3 Species selected following CoP13 and CoP14..... (AC27 Doc. 12.3)

The Committee noted document AC27 Doc. 12.3.

12.4 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP15..... (AC27 Doc. 12.4)

12.5 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP16..... (AC27 Doc. 12.5)

The Committee established a working group on agenda items 12.3, 12.4 and 12.5 (AC27 WG1) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 12.3:

1. Review information on *Tridacna* spp. provided by the Solomon Islands concerning the implementation of recommendations of d) and g) (for *Tridacna derasa*) and c) and i) (for *Tridacna crocea*, *T. gigas*, *T. maxima* and *T. squamosa*) contained in Annex 1 of document AC27 Doc. 12.3 and any additional information, and formulate findings for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Concerning agenda item 12.4:

2. For the 23 taxa selected following the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) and retained in the review after the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee:

2.1 In accordance with paragraphs k) and l) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13):

- a) Review the reports in the Annex to document AC27 Doc. 12.4 and the responses received from range States (made available by the Secretariat to the working group) and, if appropriate, revise the preliminary categorizations proposed by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) for the species/range State concerned; and
- b) Identify and refer to the Secretariat problems that are not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a); and

2.2 In accordance with paragraphs m) to o) of the same Resolution, formulate recommendations for species of urgent concern and of possible concern with deadlines for their implementation.

Concerning agenda item 12.5

3. In accordance with paragraph b) of the same Resolution:

- 3.1 Review the information contained in the Annexes to document AC27 Doc.12.5, as well as information available to the Animals Committee, the Secretariat, Parties or other relevant experts; and
- 3.2 On the basis of that information, recommend species of priority concern for trade reviews by the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: representative of Europe (Mr Fleming) and acting representative of North America (Ms Gnam);

Parties: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: European Commission, International Trade Centre (ITC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), UNEP-WCMC, Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, Conservation Force, Conservation International, Fundación Cethus, Humane Society International, International Professional Hunter's Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, ProWildlife, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Users Network, Swan International, TRAFFIC International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

17. Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens (Decision 16.65) [AC27 Doc. 17 (Rev. 1)]

The Committee established a working group on agenda item 17 (AC27 WG2) with the following mandate:

Taking account of discussions in plenary and using information in document AC27 Doc. 17, and recognizing: a) that not all of the outputs requested under Decision 16.63.a) are yet available; and b) that discussions under other AC agenda items are relevant, the working group shall:

1. Identify common themes, difficulties and challenges with respect to the trade in specimens [claimed to be] derived from captive breeding, captive production or ranching (source codes D, C, R & F);
2. Review and consider the factors that result in these difficulties and challenges and elucidate any conservation implications arising from the concerns identified;
3. Suggest mechanisms which may help to mitigate the issues identified; and
4. Draft recommendations for consideration by the Committee and submission to the Standing Committee in accordance with Decision 16.63.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: representative of Europe (Mr Fleming) and the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Calvar Agrelo);

Parties: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, South Africa and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: European Commission, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, Colombian Agroindustrial Company, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Conservation International, Defenders of Wildlife, Eurogroup for Animals, Fundación Cethus, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Professional Hunter's Association, Natural Resources Defense

Council, Ornamental Fish International, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, ProWildlife, Responsible Ecosystems Resourcing Platform, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

18. Illegal trade in cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) (Decision 16.72).....(AC27 Doc. 18)

The Committee established a working group on agenda item 18 (AC27 WG3) with the following mandate:

Taking account of the presentations and discussions in plenary, the working group shall:

1. Review the study contained in the Annex to document AC27 Doc. 18, undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.71, make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Committee; and
2. Focus its recommendations on the impacts of the legal and illegal trade on the species conservation in the wild, and on measures concerning the disposal of confiscated live specimens.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: The AC Chair (Ms Caceres);

Parties: Austria, Kuwait, Namibia, South Africa and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free USA, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, TRAFFIC International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

19. Snake trade and conservation management (Serpentes spp.)

19.1 Review of studies [Decision 16.103, paragraph a) and d)].....(AC27 Doc. 19.1)

19.2 Reptile sourcing and traceability systems [Decision 16.103, paragraph b) to d)].....(AC27 Doc. 19.2)

19.3 IUCN Red List assessments of Asian snake species (Decision 16.104).....(AC27 Doc. 19.3)

19.4 Requirements for a traceability system for reptile skins(AC27 Doc. 19.4)

The Committee established a working group (AC27 WG4) on agenda item 19 with the following mandate:

Taking account of the presentations and discussions in plenary, the working group shall:

Concerning agenda item 19.1

1. Review results of studies commissioned, when available, as well as the ITC study on python snakes in Asia, the UNCTAD/CITES study on Traceability Systems for a Sustainable International Trade in South-East Asian Python, and other relevant studies and information; formulate guidance and recommendations that are pertinent to Decision 16.102, paragraphs a) to d), i.e. relating to:
 - Production systems for Asian snakes listed in CITES Appendix II (use of source codes; guidance for monitoring and controlling production systems);
 - Guidance for NDFs for Appendix-II snake species in trade;
 - Methodologies to differentiate between wild and captive-bred CITES-listed snakes in trade;
 - High-value snake species in the pet trade; and
 - Forensic identification of specimens of CITES-listed snakes in trade.

Concerning agenda items 19.2 and 19.4

2. Examine the findings and recommendations concerning traceability of snake skins presented in the UNCTAD/CITES study on Traceability Systems for a Sustainable International Trade in South-East Asian Python and in the Annex to document AC27 Doc. 19.4.
3. Examine any additional relevant information that is available concerning existing marking and tracing systems for snakes, accompanying certification schemes, and current technologies to implement such traceability and marking systems.
4. Based on these examinations, initiate the drafting of advice on the feasibility, development and implementation of a traceability system for snakes for the Committee to consider and report to the Standing Committee (SC65: progress reporting; SC66: final reporting).

Concerning agenda item 19.3

5. Review the information on Asian snake species presented in the Annex to document AC27 Doc. 19.3, and any additional information, as relevant, on the IUCN Red List assessments for Asian snake species.
6. Formulate appropriate recommendations for consideration by the Committee, and communication to the Standing Committee, Parties or others as appropriate. Such recommendations may focus on species currently not included in the CITES Appendices, and that are or may be threatened by unregulated international trade.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher) and the representative of Asia (Mr Soemorumekso);

Parties: Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, South Africa, Thailand and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: European Commission, International Trade Centre, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC and Development Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Western Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Humane Society International, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, ProWildlife, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Users Network and TRAFFIC International.

21. Sturgeons and paddlefish [Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16)]

21.1 Report of the Secretariat.....(AC27 Doc. 21.1)

21.2 Implementation by the Animals Committee of relevant provisions in Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16)(AC27 Doc. 21.2)

21.3 Evaluation of the “Register of licensed exporters and of processing and repackaging plants for specimens of sturgeon and paddlefish species” established in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16).....(AC27 Doc. 21.3)

The Committee established a working group (AC27 WG5) on agenda item 21, with the following mandate:

1. Identify key challenges and needs in order for the Committee to implement its mandates under Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16), including any resources required to address those needs.
2. Review the requirements of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16) in the light of changes in trade, taking into account the issues raised in document AC27 Doc. 21.3, and provide advice on the revision of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16) that may be required.
3. In doing so, identify aspects which may require input or consideration from the Standing Committee, particularly in relation to administrative and compliance matters.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher);

Parties: Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Poland, Republic of Korea and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ITC, IUCN, Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, International Caviar Association, TRAFFIC International and WWF.