

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AFTERNOON

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Exemptions and special trade provisions

31. Personal and household effects SC58 Doc. 31

The Committee requested the Working Group on Personal and Household Effects to prepare a report, pursuant to Decision 14.64, for direct submission to and consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting. This report should indicate that it had not received the prior endorsement of the Standing Committee.

Amendment of the Appendices

43. Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II SC58 Doc. 43

The Committee agreed to reopen the debate on this subject. In addition to its previous conclusions on this matter, the Committee:

- a) noted that, in the past, Parties and organizations had had different interpretations as to whether a species met criterion B to Annex 2 a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), insofar as it related to commercially-exploited aquatic species;
- b) asked the Conference of the Parties to give guidance at its 15th meeting (CoP15) as to a common interpretation of the criteria B given in Annex 2 a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), paying particular attention to the flexibility contained in the Resolution and situations where only few data were available for the species concerned;
- c) asked Parties, as they prepared for the upcoming CoP15, to clearly define in their listing proposals how they interpreted and applied Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) using sound and relevant scientific information, and recognizing flexibility and data-poor cases; and
- d) highly appreciated the work of the FAO *ad hoc* Expert Panel on proposals submitted to CoPs and looked forward to the continuing cooperation with FAO as outlined in the FAO-CITES Memorandum of Understanding.

Species trade and conservation

34. Bushmeat no document

The Committee noted that there was no report from the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group and instructed the Secretariat to encourage the Group to report at future Committee meetings.

35. Tibetan antelope..... SC58 Doc. 35

The Committee noted the report of the Secretariat and agreed to the Secretariat's suggestion in paragraph 7 of document SC58 Doc. 35.

37. Rhinoceroses..... SC58 Doc. 37

The Committee noted document SC58 Doc. 37 and the oral update of the Secretariat.

38. Sturgeons

38.1 Caviar trade database..... SC58 Doc. 38.1

The Committee noted document SC58 Doc. 38.1.

38.2 Recommendations of the Animals Committee no document

The Committee urged the range States concerned to consider all recommendations in document AC24 Doc. 12.2, including those provided in the Appendices, in working with the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources to continue to improve the sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology.

The Committee asked the Caspian range States to implement the above recommendations and report at the 25th meeting of Animals Committee (AC25) on progress made in improving the existing sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology through a detailed report describing how the recommendations in document AC24 Doc. 12.2 have been implemented and whether they have been accepted by all range States. This report should be submitted to the Secretariat four months prior to AC25 for the purposes of external review.

The Committee asked the range States concerned to provide a report at CoP15 on progress made in improving the existing sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch determination methodology.

The Committee recognized that, contrary to the information provided in the report of the FAO and CITES Technical Workshop (document AC24 Doc. 12.2), the Islamic Republic of Iran had been applying, since 2002, the unified methodology for sturgeon stock assessment and TAC estimation.

40. Ramin..... no document

The Committee agreed that this issue would remain on the agenda for future meetings.

The Standing Committee requested that exporting range States submit written reports on trade in ramin for consideration at the 59th (SC59) and future meetings of the Committee. These reports should provide information on progress and results of projects undertaken under the ITTO-CITES timber programme and the activities of the Tri-National Task Force on Ramin. The Committee also requested that exporting range States that had not reported on conservation and management of the species at SC57 and SC58 do so at SC59.

The Committee invited importing Parties to report on trade in ramin when there were achievements or problems they wished to draw to the attention of the Committee.

The Committee also requested that the Secretariat consult with concerned Parties regarding any information it received on illegal trade in ramin and, if information were provided, report to the Committee.

39. Bigleaf mahogany SC58 Doc. 39

Discussion of this item was adjourned until the following day to allow for the distribution of a document that had been read out by the Secretariat.

Regional matters

46. Improving the participation of Parties in the African region in CITES and strengthening the implementation of CITES throughout Africa SC58 Doc. 46

The Committee endorsed the initiative presented in document SC58 Doc. 46.