

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AFTERNOON

49. Humphead wrasse..... SC61 Doc. 49

The Chair requested Australia to take responsibility for convening the working group that had been established.

Adoption of the executive summaries

The Committee adopted the executive summary of the sixth session (SC61 Sum. 6), with the following amendments:

- under item 32 (*Introduction from the sea*), the text was amended to read as follows:

The Standing Committee noted with satisfaction the significant progress made by the Working Group on Introduction from the Sea, which had agreed by consensus to document SC61 Com. 1. It approved the Working Group's plans to continue working on the further development of a further elaborated consensus this document and to report that would be presented for consideration at the 62nd meeting. With regard to a new proposal for action arising from the floor, the Committee decided to continue its discussion of this agenda item until the next day.

- under item 44.4 (*Decision-making mechanism for authorizing ivory trade*) the text was amended to read as follows:

The Committee agreed to the proposal for work towards the implementation of Decision 14.77. The Committee also agreed that the following stakeholders should be consulted in the conduct of the proposed study: China and Japan as trading partners, African and Asian elephant range States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America as donors, and the MIKE-ETIS TAG, and the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Elephant Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC as technical experts. The Committee requested that consultations with the African elephant range States be conducted in English and French, as appropriate, and that the draft report thereof be shared with Committee members as early as possible, and be presented in English and French.

45. Rhinoceroses

45.2 Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses..... SC61 Doc. 45.2

The Committee established an intersessional working group, chaired by the United Kingdom, to identify measures that could be taken by CITES Parties to reduce the impact of illegal trade on the conservation of rhinoceroses and to enhance existing controls on trade in rhinoceros horn products. It also:

- a) Instructed the working group to:

- i) taking account of SC61 Doc 45.1 and SC61 Doc 45.2, the responses to Decisions 15.71 and 15.72, and on the basis of other currently available information, work with the Secretariat to

assess how trade patterns have developed since CoP15, and, taking account of illegal activities, consider the drivers for trade and measures that could be taken to prevent rhinoceros horn entering the illegal market;

- ii) collect and assess available scientific evidence and documented evidence of traditional cultural practices and beliefs that exists relating to the medicinal properties of rhinoceros horn, and in particular any which relates to the curative properties for cancers and strokes;
 - iii) work intersessionally, and by electronic means as necessary, to identify urgent, short-term measures and longer-term measures that can be taken by CITES Parties to reduce the illegal trade in rhinoceroses and their parts and derivatives, and to enhance existing controls on trade in rhinoceros horn products and live rhinoceroses to ensure the long-term conservation of the species;
 - iv) allocate tasks to its members to assess specific measures that may reduce the impact of illegal trade and enhance existing controls; and
 - v) report at SC62 with a view to developing recommendations for consideration at CoP16;
- b) Urged Parties to, urgently, introduce precautionary measures to control the trade in rhinoceros horn and live rhinoceroses;
 - c) Urged Parties to provide information on trade in rhinoceroses and their parts or derivatives to IUCN and TRAFFIC, as detailed in Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15); and
 - d) Encouraged Parties to engage in public awareness campaigns highlighting the current serious levels of criminality associated with the illicit trade in rhinoceroses and rhinoceros horn.

41. Asian big cats..... SC61 Doc. 41

The Committee noted the document and adopted the Secretariat's suggestion that the Senior Experts Group of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime be asked to conduct the review required by Decision 15.70.

42. Bushmeat..... SC61 Doc. 42

The Committee noted the report of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group.

33. Electronic permitting..... SC61 Doc. 33

The Standing Committee noted the Chair's report and extended the mandate of the Working Group, in accordance with the recommendation made in paragraph 27 of document SC61 Doc. 33. Japan expressed its interest in joining the Working Group.

34. Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates..... SC61 Doc. 34

The Committee re-established the Working Group on Purpose Codes, chaired by Canada, and with the following membership: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the United States, Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Humane Society International, International Environmental Law Project and Safari Club International.

35. Physical inspection of timber shipments..... No document

The Committee noted the oral report of Italy, which had been the Chair of the Working Group but was unable to continue. The Committee re-established the Working Group and requested the United States to consult with the other members of the Working Group in order to elect a new chair to progress the work of the group.

36. Use of taxonomic serial numbers.....SC61 Doc. 36.1 and SC61 Doc. 36.2

The Standing Committee noted the reports of Canada and of the Secretariat and established a working group on the use of taxonomic serial numbers, chaired by Canada and comprising Australia, China, France, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Switzerland, the United States, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre and Conservation International. It also extended the terms of reference of the Working Group contained in Decision 15.68 to include the recommendations in paragraphs 9 and 10 of document SC61 Doc. 36.2.

37. Identification manual..... SC61 Doc. 37

The Committee noted document SC61 Doc. 37 and welcomed news that the original Identification Manual pages would also be added to the Wiki pages.

As this was the last CITES meeting for the Chief of Capacity Building of the CITES Secretariat, Mr Stephen Nash, who would soon be leaving the Secretariat, the Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation of his exceptional service for the CITES Secretariat and the Parties over 11 years, his strong personal commitment and his deep knowledge of the Convention. He presented to him the CITES gold pin in recognition of his contribution.

9. Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme

9.2 Report on the Working Group on Revising the Agreement between the CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP..... SC61 Doc. 9.2

The Standing Committee agreed that the following changes should be made to the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Annex 2 to document SC61 Doc. 9.2:

- paragraph 17 will be amended to replace the words "which shall normally be 67 %" with the words "which shall initially not be less than 67 %", and to replace the words "which shall normally be 33 %" with "which shall initially not be more than 33 %"; and
- a new paragraph 45 will be included to read: "This MoU is entered into without prejudice to the negotiations on administrative arrangements between UNEP and UNEP-administered conventions, including any future negotiations between CITES and UNEP", and paragraphs 45 to 47 will be renumbered.

The Committee adopted the MoU, as amended, and authorized the Chair of the Standing Committee to sign it on behalf of the Committee and to transmit it to the Executive Director of UNEP. The Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare a report for the 62nd meeting to inform it of any decisions taken by the UNEP Governing Council at its 12th Special Session, in February 2012, concerning paragraph 18 of UNEP decision 26/9, noting that this report would not include any recommendations.

The Committee noted that, if the MoU were not accepted, or if the Executive Director of UNEP proposed further changes, the matter would be referred back to the Standing Committee and its Working Group. The Secretariat would advise the Committee as soon as it became aware of the decision of the Executive Director of UNEP.

44. Elephants

44.3 MIKE-ETIS Subgroup SC61 Doc. 44.3

The Committee noted the oral the report of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup and endorsed its recommendations.

56. Reports of regional representatives

The Committee noted the written reports that had been submitted under this agenda item and requested that, if there were any questions, Parties contact the Secretariat after the meeting.

58. Determination of the time and venue of the 62nd meeting No document

The Committee noted that the 62nd meeting would be held in Geneva from 23 to 27 July 2012.

59. Closing remarks..... No document

Following remarks by Humane Society International, on behalf of the Species Survival Network, by the IWMC – World Conservation Trust, and by the Secretary-General, the Chair thanked all participants, the Secretariat and the interpreters, and closed the meeting.