

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

MORNING

Adoption of executive summaries

The Committee adopted executive summary 2 (SC61 Sum. 2), with the following amendments under agenda item 10.3:

- in the first sentence, the words "in arrears" were deleted;
- in the second sentence, the word "concerned" was replaced by concerning their contributions.

The Committee adopted executive summary 4 (SC61 Sum. 4), with the following amendments:

- under agenda item 15.8, the final sentence was amended to read "The Standing Committee expressed general support for continued efforts to seek *ad hoc* observer status in WTO committees on issues of direct relevance to CITES that arose in relevant committees.";
- under agenda item 23, the reference to "paragraph 5" was amended to paragraph 6; and
- under agenda item 27, the Philippines and the Animal Welfare Institute were added to the list of members of the working group.

The Committee adopted the executive summary of the fifth session, in document SC61 Sum. 5, without amendment.

50. Bigleaf mahogany

50.1 Overview..... SC61 Doc. 50.1

The Committee agreed that there was merit in revising Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) to encourage Parties to use box 5 of CITES permits and certificates voluntarily to reflect information on the authorized and verified concessions or other forest management areas where the timber was harvested. It also noted that the exchange of information between countries that exported and imported bigleaf mahogany could be improved through the use of electronic permitting and other information technologies. The Committee further agreed that, if external funds could be made available for this purpose, the Secretariat should compile the lessons learned from the Committee's work on bigleaf mahogany and link them to those learned from the ITTO-CITES programme and the activities of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species of the Plants Committee.

50.2 Management of bigleaf mahogany in Peru..... SC61 Doc. 50.2

The Committee agreed that Peru had fulfilled the three compliance indicators adopted at its 59th meeting (SC59). It accepted Peru's offer to send a report to the Secretariat on its continuing efforts to improve the management of trade in bigleaf mahogany. The Committee also agreed that Peru would send a brief update on Indicator 1 to the Secretariat, which would submit this information at SC62.

51. Ramin..... No document

The Committee noted the oral reports of Indonesia and Malaysia, and agreed that there was no need to include the issue of ramin in the agenda of SC62.

39. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes SC61 Doc. 39

The Committee asked that the registration applications be circulated for comments in compliance with the procedure laid out in Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), noting that, if a Party objected to the registration, the applications would be submitted again at SC62 for consideration.

30. Enforcement matters SC61 Doc. 30

The Committee noted the document. It also accepted the Secretariat's oral recommendation that the recommendation for a suspension of trade in relation to Nigeria be withdrawn. The Committee also accepted an oral recommendation from the Secretariat that Guinea should be requested to issue an invitation, by 30 November 2011, for the Secretariat to conduct a mission to Guinea to examine illicit trade issues. The Committee agreed, should such an invitation not be forthcoming by 30 November 2011, that the Secretariat would issue a Notification to the Parties recommending a suspension in commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species to and from Guinea.

31. Gathering and analysis of data on illegal trade SC61 Doc. 31

The Committee noted the document and adopted the Secretariat's recommendation in paragraph 10.

40. Great apes SC61 Doc. 40

The Committee noted the document and adopted the Secretariat's second suggestion in the final line of paragraph 4.

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

The Committee opened discussions on this item, but they were then adjourned until the afternoon session.

As this was the last CITES meeting for the Chief of Enforcement of the CITES Secretariat, Mr John Sellar, who would soon be retiring, the Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation of his exceptional service for the CITES Secretariat and the Parties over 14 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.