

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



Twenty-second meeting of the Animals Committee
Lima (Peru), 7-13 July 2006

SEA CUCUMBERS

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- a) The representative for Asia (Ms Prijono – Chairman), the alternate representative for Asia (Mr Giam) and representative for Africa (Mr Bagine);
- b) Observers from Parties: China, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Republic of Korea and the United States of America; and
- c) Observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: Charles Darwin Foundation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Sharkfin and Marine Products Association Ltd, Species Management Specialists and TRAFFIC International (rapporteur).

Mandate

1. Review and finalize the discussion paper in Annex to document AC22 Doc. 16 for presentation at CoP14.
2. Provide scientific guidance on the actions needed to secure the conservation status of sea cucumbers in the families Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae.

Recommendations:

1. The Working Group endorses AC22 Doc. 16, with the following changes:
 - a) Some arithmetic and editorial errors were noted in Annex 4 of the document and will be corrected in the final document. The consultant will verify if these errors are reflected in figures used in the main body of the text.
 - b) Kenya noted that there were a number of landlocked countries (Ethiopia and Sudan) identified in Annex 4. These are probably transient countries. Kenya and Hong Kong SAR will confirm the data with the relevant authorities.
 - c) Mexico also noted that minimum weight should also be taken into account in addition to minimum length for fresh sea cucumbers.
 - d) In the light of the current lack of comprehensive population data, the document needs to stress the importance of applying the precautionary approach to managing the fisheries.

- e) Mexico also noted that it has implemented a new management plan based on an adaptive approach, which is going to be revised yearly. The first evaluation of this management plan is being conducted soon and Mexico will provide additional information for inclusion in the report.
- f) Some additional wording on new information provided by the Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council and Ornamental Fish International on the live aquarium trade.
- g) Korea and TRAFFIC noted that the conclusions and recommendations in the document focused primarily on recommendations related to the merits of inclusion in Appendix II and, in addition, should reflect other recommendations in the main body of the text dealing with other issues such as development and distribution of identification guides, capacity building for enforcement, and others.

It was recommended that the Animals Committee request the author or a consultant to finalize the document, taking into account the comments above, by November 2006.

2. The Working Group recommends that the Animals Committee request CoP14 to note the following recommended actions:

- a) Encourage range States to produce adaptive national management plans for species of high conservation concern (such as those identified as of 'high concern' and 'concern in certain countries of its range' in Annex 3 of AC22 Doc. 16), including minimum harvest size and total allowable catch, and applying the precautionary approach, such as restrictive fisheries measures where appropriate.
- b) Encourage regional management strategies to manage the resource
- c) Develop a standardized approach to collection and reporting of fisheries and trade data, including species collected, locations, habitat, weight, size and number of individuals
- d) Develop harmonized codes for reporting international trade in sea cucumber products
- e) Increase significantly basic biological and ecological research and stock assessments, particularly for species of high conservation concern, such as those identified as of 'high concern' and 'concern in certain countries of its range' in Annex 3 of AC22 Doc. 16
- f) Development and distribution of identification guides that clearly distinguish sea cucumbers subject to international trade
- g) Enhancement of enforcement capacity to reduce illegal fishing, transshipment and landings, as well as capacity to implement the current Appendix III listing
- h) Encourage range States to consider the merits of inclusion of their species of conservation concern in Appendix III, where appropriate
- i) Explore the potential of mariculture in promoting the sustainable use of the resource, with experience from China, and identify best practices
- j) Encourage greater communications and cooperation between fisheries authorities and CITES authorities at the national level
- k) Promote greater cooperation between CITES and FAO, particularly in the area of capacity building
- l) The Animals Committee to evaluate the outcomes of the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumbers fisheries to be conducted in late 2007 and recommend appropriate follow-up actions to support this initiative and progressing the recommendations above.