

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

Summary record of the 14th session of Committee II

23 March 2010: 14h15 - 14h50

Chairman: W. Dovey (New Zealand)
Secretariat: W. Wijnstekers
A. Abalos
J. Barzdo
M. Silva
UNEP: T. Kapiga
Rapporteurs: K. Malsch
C. McLardy

51. Humphead wrasse: additional management measures needed to combat IUU fishing

The draft decisions regarding humphead wrasse, as proposed by Indonesia, were read aloud by the Chair in lieu of written translation into Spanish and French. The Chair noted that, if agreed, the text would be provided in a Com. document¹. China proposed an alternative text for paragraph a) of the first draft decision, as follows:

- a) Consider adopting appropriate stricter domestic measures under the remit of the legislation of the Party, including limiting the international trade in humphead wrasse to be conducted by air only, to strengthen the control and enforcement of the Appendix-II listing for the species.

The United States of America supported this amendment. There being no objections, the draft decisions were accepted with the amendment from China.

6. Financing and budgeting of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Switzerland, as the Chair of the Budget Working Group, introduced the draft resolution contained in document CoP15 Com. II. 38. They reported that the working group had widespread regional representation, a cross-section of developed and developing Parties, and the participation of non-governmental organizations. They expressed gratitude for the professionalism and support provided by UNEP and the Secretariat. It was noted that the working group faced tough decisions, but they felt that the outcome, reached by consensus, was well-balanced and addressed the needs of the Convention and the financial capacity of Parties. They recommended a 6 % budget increase to be met by Parties through their contributions, in addition to an exceptional drawdown of USD 450,000 annually from the Trust Fund reserve for 2012 and 2013. They added that possible repercussions for the next budget were reflected in the draft resolution. They recognized the importance of strengthening the Secretariat's enforcement capacity and suggested the appointment of an additional professional enforcement officer, but expressed regret that this may mean staff losses elsewhere. They explained that the shift in Parties contributions was dependent on the most recent UN Scale of Assessment.

Japan supported the draft resolution. Chile, the Czech Republic and Norway noted that, despite their original positions on the budget, they supported the working group's recommendation.

¹ Note from the Secretariat: The text appears in document CoP15 Com. II 40.

Swaziland stressed the importance of the role of the Secretariat and, in recognition, volunteered to increase their contribution by 100 %, encouraging other Parties to follow their initiative.

Australia considered the budget to be a generous outcome in light of the global financial crisis and, noting that the Convention could not rely on drawdowns from the Trust Fund or voluntary contributions, welcomed the suggestion that the Standing Committee work with the Secretariat towards a more sustainable long-term solution.

The Secretary-General congratulated the working group on their success at reaching consensus and stated that, while the initial proposed budget increase of 16 % had not been possible, he was confident that he could hand over a workable budget to the new Secretary-General. He noted the success in obtaining voluntary contributions in 2008 and 2009 and hoped this would continue in the future. He thanked Swaziland for their initiative and encouraged other Parties to make similar voluntary contributions. The United States reiterated that they had always considered their contributions to the CITES Trust Fund to be voluntary.

After thanking the Host Country, delegates, interpreters, rapporteurs and the Secretariat, the Chair declared Committee II closed at 14h50.