

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

SEA CUCUMBERS

1. This document has been prepared by the Animals Committee\*.

Background

2. In Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15), the Animals Committee was directed to evaluate the outcomes of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries, conducted in the Galapagos, Ecuador, in November 2007, and recommend appropriate follow-up actions at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to support this initiative.
3. The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 516 "Sea cucumbers: A global review of fisheries and trade" (Rome, FAO. 2008) was made available at the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC24, Geneva, 2009). This publication contained a paper "Galapagos Islands: a hotspot of sea cucumber fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean" which included on pages 249 and 250 an evaluation of the pros and cons of the listing of *Isostichopus fuscus* in Appendix III of CITES, the only species of sea cucumber that is at present included in the CITES Appendices.
4. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010) the Conference of the Parties considered the information on sea cucumbers contained in the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee (see document CoP15 Doc. 7.2.1, paragraphs 48-51). The Conference of the Parties congratulated the Animals Committee on the detailed work undertaken and the positive collaboration with the FAO, and highlighted the need for these efforts to continue by the adoption of Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15).

Recent progress

5. The Secretariat contacted FAO about the progress it had made in publishing other pertinent publications on sea cucumbers on the FAO website. FAO advised that the Secretariat that the remaining publications would be available online early in 2011.
6. At the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, July 2011), FAO circulated Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper. No. 520 "Managing sea cucumber fisheries with an ecosystem approach" (Rome, FAO. 2010) (see document AC25 Inf. 8). It announced that two further publications pertaining to sea cucumbers would be available soon.

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\* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

7. At the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, March 2012) the Committee recommended that the Secretariat issue a Notification to the Parties drawing their attention to the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Papers No. 516 (Sea cucumbers: A global review of fisheries and trade) and No. 520 (*Managing sea cucumber fisheries with an ecosystem approach*), which arose from the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries, conducted in 2007. Furthermore, the Animals Committee recommended that in this Notification, the Secretariat draw attention to FAO's abridged version of Technical Paper No. 520 entitled "*Putting into practice an ecosystem approach to managing sea cucumber fisheries*" (Rome, FAO, 2010) and the forthcoming publication of a FAO catalogue "*Commercially important sea cucumbers of the world*".
8. The Animals Committee also recommended that range countries promote conservation and management of sea cucumbers which occur in their own jurisdiction; take advantage of the information in the various FAO publications, the report from the CITES workshop in 2003 (see document CoP14 Doc. 62), and other relevant publications; take into account the status of stocks, fisheries and use of sea cucumber as well as social, economic and historical factors in each region; and, where appropriate with the help of FAO and/or regional fisheries-related bodies, manage their sea cucumber fisheries in a sustainable way.

#### Recommendation

9. The Animals Committee is of the opinion that its recommendations in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the present document fulfil the mandate of Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15), and that the work of the Animals Committee on sea cucumbers is completed.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. With regard to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the present document, the Secretariat intends to issue a Notification to the Parties that lists all recent publications by FAO concerning sea cucumbers (including those specified by the Animals Committee) and that conveys the recommendations of the Animals Committee to sea cucumber range States concerning the conservation and management of these species.
- B. The Secretariat supports the conclusion of the Animals Committee in paragraph 9 of the document and concurs with the Animals Committee that Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15) can be deleted.