

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

Summary record of the third session of Committee I

5 March 2013: 14h20 – 17h35

Chair: C. Caceres (Canada)
Secretariat: T. de Meulenaer
D. Morgan
M. Sosa Schmidt

Rapporteurs: P. Cremona
L. Garrett
S. Glaser
A. Mathur

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

57. Snake trade and conservation management

The draft decision directed to the Animals Committee in paragraph 84 of document CoP16 Doc. 10.2.1 (Rev. 1) was accepted.

The Chair noted that Indonesia would provide written clarification on its proposed amendments to the draft decisions in the annex to document CoP16 Doc. 57 (Rev. 1) by the afternoon of 6 March.

61. Sharks and stingrays

New Zealand, as co-chair of the Animals Committee intersessional working group on sharks and stingrays, introduced document CoP16 Doc.61 (Rev.1), which contained two draft decisions, some amendments to three operative paragraphs in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on conservation and management of sharks, and a proposal to delete Decision 15.85. It emphasized the successful collaboration between CITES, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Convention of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and proposed amending the draft decision in paragraph 25 by replacing “including by prohibiting” with to prohibit.

Colombia believed that Decision 15.85 should not be deleted as its implementation was still relevant to CITES and would improve trade data. It supported the recommendation to transfer Decision 15.85 to Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15). Australia, Honduras, Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, and IUCN, also on behalf of TRAFFIC, agreed. Australia and Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, were concerned about illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and felt that cooperation with FAO and involvement in other relevant fora was crucial. Australia applauded the emphasis on the development of national action plans but expressed continuing concerns over the status of many freshwater stingray species.

In response to comments made by Russia and Senegal regarding the inclusion of various species in the Appendices, the Chair observed that these would be better addressed in discussion on relevant proposals under agenda item 77.

The CMS welcomed ongoing cooperation with CITES and FAO and supported the draft decisions in document CoP16 Doc. 61 (Rev. 1) with the amendments proposed by the Secretariat in the document. FAO drew attention to the summary of the Review on the Implementation of the International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Sharks in Annex 2 of the document and reported that it continued to produce species identification guides for sharks.

China drew attention to duplication within the proposed new Operative paragraphs 6 and 8 of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) with regard to the reporting of data. It suggested that the words and to report these data to the relevant national, regional and international authorities not be included in Operative paragraph 6. This was supported by Colombia and New Zealand.

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, acknowledged the need for more information. Japan, supported by Mexico, noted the difficulty in providing data on dry weight and wet weight. New Zealand and IUCN, also on behalf of TRAFFIC, suggested the addition of the following text at the end of Operative paragraph 8: Data provided to FAO be preferably accompanied by details on the form of data (e.g. live weight, dressed weight). Furthermore, FAO are encouraged to make that information publicly available.

The amendments to Operative paragraph 2 of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) proposed in document CoP16 Doc.61 (Rev.1) were accepted. The proposed amendment to Operative paragraph 6 was not accepted. The Chair deferred a decision on Operative paragraph 8 until New Zealand had provided written text of its proposed amendment the following day. The Committee agreed that the existing text of Decision 15.85 should be inserted into Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) as a final operative paragraph.

64. Sea cucumbers

New Zealand, as co-chair of the Animals Committee intersessional working group on sea cucumbers, introduced document CoP16 Doc. 64 (Rev. 1), noting that the publications produced by FAO listed in Notification No. 2013/007 provided relevant information to Parties for effective management of sea cucumbers. The Animals Committee considered Decision 14.100 (Rev CoP15) had now been fulfilled. A new mandate would be required were the Animals Committee to continue working on matters related to sea cucumbers. Parties had the option of including their sea cucumbers populations in Appendix III.

China, Japan, Norway and the United States of America agreed that Decision 14.100 (Rev CoP15) had been fulfilled.

Yemen reported that it was affected by sea cucumber harvest and asked for quick action to protect these species. Colombia requested further clarification of the appropriate follow-up actions specified in the Decision.

Ecuador did not agree that the Decision had been fulfilled. It noted that it had listed a species of sea cucumber in Appendix III in 2003 and had implemented harvest quotas and developed management plans. It requested further information on the technical documentation by FAO, and proposed retaining the Decision until the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This was supported by Australia, also representing Oceania, which raised concerns regarding the impact of problems in the management of sea cucumbers on livelihoods in the region and believed further work was required to ensure the sustainable use of sea cucumbers. However, it did not wish to block consensus.

Norway was concerned that some Parties required further clarification on the respective roles of CITES and FAO. The latter added that they had organized two regional training workshops and that there were plans to hold similar workshops in other regions in future. It welcomed requests from Parties for assistance on this.

Ecuador agreed to join the consensus, and the Committee agreed to repeal Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15).

65. Regional cooperation on the management of and trade in the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*)

Colombia introduced document CoP16 Doc.65 (Rev. 1) concerning regional cooperation on the management of and trade in the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*). It stated that discussions within the region had taken place and comments had been received on the draft decision outlined in the document. It

proposed the establishment of a working group to address these comments and report back to the Committee.

Belize, while agreeing in principle with the draft decision, expressed concern that some recommendations from the two workshops held in Miami and Panama had not been fully incorporated. They asked to be included in a working group and urged key Queen Conch range States to join. Antigua and Barbuda also urged small English-speaking island states, particularly in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, to participate.

FAO offered to assist with the development of a regional plan for the management and conservation of Queen Conch. They further added that they were willing to work with other stakeholders to develop regionally agreed conversion factors for standardization of data on catch of *S. gigas* and auditable chain-of-custody measures to provide traceability back to the area of catch.

A working group to revise the proposed decision in document CoP16 Doc. 65 (Rev. 1) was established comprising Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Colombia (chair), Cuba, the Dominican Republic, France, Jamaica, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States. The Chair asked the working group to report back to the Committee on the morning of 6 March.

66. Madagascar

The Chair and the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP16 Doc. 66 (Rev. 1) concerning the implementation of Decision 15.97. The flora nomenclature specialist stated that this work had culminated in the submission of proposals CoP16 Prop. 51, 58, 63-65 and 71. He added that following the completion of the document, further work had been carried out including field surveys to assist with non-detriment findings and development of novel timber identification methods.

Madagascar presented a detailed report on activities relating to Decision 15.97. They noted that although several methods had been proposed for identification of timber species, they favoured simple, less costly techniques. They described a number of training and capacity-building activities that had taken place during 2012 involving the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities of Madagascar and other stakeholders.

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, welcomed the document. The Committee noted document CoP16 Doc. 66 (Rev. 1) and agreed to repeal Decision 15.97.

67. Agarwood-producing taxa

67.1 Report of the Plants Committee

and

67.2 Draft resolution on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP16 Doc. 67.1 (Rev. 2) referring to Decision 15.94 on agarwood-producing taxa. She described the recommendations of the working group formed at PC19 (Geneva, 2011), highlighting the possible ramifications of the deletion of the word 'monospecific' in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15). She introduced the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and the two draft decisions in the annex to the document.

Kuwait, supported by Indonesia and Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, agreed with the Chair's suggestion to consider documents CoP16 Doc. 67.1 (Rev. 2) and CoP16 Doc. 67.2 (Rev. 1) together, as the documents represented different approaches to addressing the same issue with the former applicable to all timber species and the latter to agarwood-producing species.

Kuwait introduced document CoP16 Doc. 67.2 (Rev. 1) containing a draft resolution on implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa. They provided detailed background information concerning the process by which the document had been drafted, highlighting the workshops that had taken place in Kuwait and Indonesia with the goal of

increasing cooperation between range States and key importers in order to strengthen the management, conservation and control of trade in agarwood-producing taxa.

Indonesia provided further details on document CoP16 Doc. 67.2 (Rev. 1), expressing the view that the unique nature of the agarwood trade merited a specific resolution. They expressed their concern that the current definitions of “artificially propagated” and “under controlled conditions” in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) were not readily applicable to plantations in the tropics.

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, and supported by the United States, were opposed to certain aspects of document CoP16 Doc. 67.1 (Rev. 2) but supported the draft decisions contained in it. Australia, Canada, China, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States all broadly supported the draft resolution in the annex to document CoP16 Doc. 67.2 (Rev. 1). They proposed the formation of drafting group to revise it. Indonesia did not support the proposal to form a drafting group, as the resolution had been drafted on the basis of several working groups with representation from key stakeholders. Kuwait added that they would like to hear the views of range States before coming to a decision.

Qatar expressed its support for both documents.

The Chair suspended discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 17h35.