

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 seventh session of Committee I

7 March 2013: 14h15-17h35

Chair: C. Caceres (Canada)
Secretariat: D. Morgan
Rapporteurs: P. Cremona
S. Delany
J. Gray
A. Mathur

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Amendment of the Appendices

77. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

Australia introduced proposal CoP16 Prop. 4 to delete *Pteropus brunneus* (dusky flying-fox) from Appendix II, as requested by the Animals Committee. It noted that the species had been included in the Appendices when *Pteropus* spp. had been included in Appendix II at CoP7 but was no longer considered to be valid, the single known specimen from which it was described having very likely been misidentified. It therefore did not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

Paraguay, supported by Chile, expressed the view that, if the name were invalid, the species would not be included in the listing of *Pteropus* spp., and that the proposal was therefore redundant. The nomenclature specialist for fauna clarified that since the name *Pteropus brunneus* was included in the CITES standard reference for mammals, the species was automatically included in Appendix II, but could be excluded either via an annotation to the listing for *Pteropus* spp. or a note in the Annex of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev CoP15) that the CITES standard reference for mammals did not apply to this name.

Mexico, New Zealand and Qatar supported the proposal. Mexico recommended that any taxon considered by IUCN to be extinct should be systematically removed from the Appendices; the Chair noted that a draft decision addressing this issue had been approved by the Committee the previous day.

Proposal CoP16 Prop. 4 was accepted by consensus.

Following a ruling by the Chair that they be considered together, Australia introduced proposals CoP16 Prop. 5-9 to delete, respectively, *Thylacinus cynocephalus* (Tasmanian tiger), *Onychogalea lunata* (crescent nailtail wallaby), *Caloprymnus campestris* (buff-nosed rat-kangaroo), *Chaeropus ecaudatus* (pig-footed bandicoot) and *Macrotis leucura* (lesser rabbit-eared bandicoot) from Appendix I. It stated that all five species were now considered extinct and therefore did not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I, noting that three of them had been recommended for deletion from Appendix I by the Animals Committee. It highlighted the fact that trade had not been implicated in the extinction of any of the species. Following a query from China, Australia clarified that use of genetic material from the Tasmanian tiger was currently subject to strict national law.

China, New Zealand, Paraguay and Qatar supported the proposals, which were accepted by consensus.

Kenya introduced proposal CoP16 Prop. 10 regarding an amendment to the existing annotation for the Appendix-II listing of *Ceratotherium simum simum* (white rhinoceros). It stated that, following discussion with South Africa, Swaziland, the Standing Committee Working Group on Rhinoceroses and Member States of the European Union, it had withdrawn proposal CoP16 Prop. 10. It urged all Parties to support draft decisions emerging from the consideration of Agenda items 54.1 and 54.2.

Consideration of proposal CoP16 Prop. 11 was deferred.

Proposal CoP16 Prop. 13 to transfer *Trichechus senegalensis* (West African Manatee) from Appendix II to Appendix I was introduced by Benin, Senegal and Sierra Leone, all three proponents emphasizing the vast and fragmented range of the species, the extreme difficulty in studying it, and the socio-economic conditions prevailing in range States as factors affecting the ability to collect high quality data. They noted that the best available data and expert opinion did nevertheless suggest that the species met the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. Reports of illegal trade were scarce but there was a thriving black market in oil, bushmeat and medicinal products from the species which led to unsustainable levels of poaching. The species had been included in Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in 2008.

The proposal was supported by Brazil, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Comoros, Egypt, Gambia, Ireland on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, Israel, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and the United States of America, CMS and Humane Society International supported the proposal. Niger noted that a national census clearly demonstrated a decline.

The proposal CoP16 Prop. 13 was accepted by consensus.

As a co-proponent with Kenya, Burkina Faso explained it was withdrawing proposal CoP16 Prop. 12 regarding an amendment of the annotation for *Loxodonta africana* (African elephant) stating it had not been its intention to divide African nations. Kenya said it hoped that withdrawal of the proposal would increase focus on important elephant conservation business, such as advancement of the *Action plan for control of trade in elephant ivory*, African Elephant Fund, and development of a task force for combating illegal killing and trade. However, Kenya wanted it noted that it and Burkina Faso supported the nine-year "moratorium" on elephant ivory proposals agreed in 2007, urging all Parties to do the same, as it believed it had been intended to apply to all Parties.

Mexico introduced proposal CoP16 Prop. 14 to delete *Caracara lutosa* (Guadalupe caracara) from Appendix II, adding that the species, which had been endemic to Mexico, was extinct. It did not agree with the Secretariat's recommendation to postpone consideration of this until CoP17. Australia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supported Mexico whose proposal was then accepted by consensus. The Chair of the Animals Committee believed the species should be removed from the checklist and database of CITES species and that this would then avoid the need for an annotation to the listing of Falconiformes spp. in Appendix II.

Proposals CoP16 Prop. 15-20 had been proposed by the Depository Government (Switzerland) at the request of the Animals Committee. They had resulted from the Periodic Review of the Appendices. Echoed by the United States and Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, the Chair of the Animals Committee expressed frustration over the limited participation by many range States in the Periodic Review of Appendices and asked the Secretariat to help find ways to improve their engagement.

Proposal CoP16 Prop. 15 to delete *Gallus sonneratii* (Sonnerat's junglefowl) from Appendix II was introduced by New Zealand, speaking as the representative for Oceania on the Animals Committee, which had prepared it for submission. As the only range State, India was opposed to the proposal, but as this had not been communicated during the period designated for comment on proposals, New Zealand explained that neither New Zealand nor Switzerland, as the Depository Government, had a mandate to withdraw it. China, Ireland on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, Pakistan, Qatar, the United States and Humane Society International were opposed to the proposal, several citing the importance of taking range State views into consideration. Proposal CoP16 Prop. 15 was rejected.

Proposal CoP16 Prop. 16 to delete *Ithaginis cruentus* (blood pheasant) from Appendix II was introduced by New Zealand, speaking as the representative for Oceania on the Animals Committee, which had prepared it for submission. As range States, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal, supported by Pakistan, opposed the

proposal noting it could lead to further threats to the species from international trade. The proposal was rejected.

France had prepared proposal CoP16 Prop. 17 for the deletion of *Lophura imperialis* (imperial pheasant) from Appendix I and amendment of the standard reference for birds. It explained that specimens of this “species” had been determined as hybrids one of the parents of which was *Lophura edwardsi*, listed in Appendix I. The Secretariat elucidated that the original intent of a listing must be maintained, despite nomenclatural changes. In order to effect this, the Secretariat referred to its recommendation in document CoP16 Doc. 77 Annex 1 for an appropriate amendment to the standard reference in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15). Paraguay and Vietnam supported the proposal. The proposal was accepted by consensus with the following annotation to the standard reference for birds:

[For all bird species – except for the taxa mentioned below and for Lophura imperialis, specimens of which should be treated as specimens of L. edwardsi]

Proposal CoP16 Prop. 18 to transfer *Tetraogallus caspius* (Caspian snowcock) from Appendix I to Appendix II was introduced by New Zealand, speaking as the representative for Oceania on the Animals Committee, which had prepared it. Armenia opposed the proposal, stating that the species was listed as Vulnerable in its national redbook. Georgia supported Armenia, noting that the stability of its population of Caspian snowcock was dependent on those of Armenia and Turkey. The proposal was rejected.

Proposal CoP16 Prop. 19 to transfer *Tetraogallus tibetanus* (Tibetan snowcock) from Appendix I to Appendix II was introduced by New Zealand, speaking as the representative for Oceania on the Animals Committee, which had prepared it. China, supported by Bhutan, India and Nepal as range States, opposed the proposal, stating that insufficient scientific evidence was available on population status and that the proposal could potentially increase trade in the species. Qatar supported the range States. The proposal was rejected.

Switzerland introduced proposal CoP16 Prop. 20 to transfer *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri* (Attwater’s greater prairie chicken) from Appendix I to Appendix II. The United States as the only range State supported the proposal and it was accepted by consensus.

Mexico introduced proposal CoP16 Prop. 21 to delete *Campephilus imperialis* (imperial woodpecker) from the Appendices noting that the species was extinct. Australia, Paraguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supported the proposal and it was accepted by consensus.

New Zealand introduced proposal CoP16 Prop. 22 to delete *Sceloglaux albifacies* (laughing owl) from Appendix II, noting that the species was extinct. Australia and Paraguay supported the proposal, which was accepted by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 17h35.