

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



Fifty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 2-6 October 2006

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

Sturgeons and paddlefish

STRATEGY FOR STURGEON CONSERVATION

1. This document has been submitted by the Russian Federation.

Basis for the present document

- Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13) of the Conference of the Parties; and
- Report of the informal discussion group on Acipenseriformes established by the Animals Committee at its 22nd meeting (Lima, July 2006) (see document SC54 Doc. 30.3 Annex).

Actions needed

2. It is necessary to develop a mechanism to coordinate activities between the interested Parties in order to improve sturgeon conservation and restocking.
3. It is necessary to improve the provision of information to the general public (for example through the creation of public portals).
4. In the past years, the share of aquaculture has grown in both the international and domestic caviar markets, and caviar of wild origin has been entering trade illegally as caviar produced through aquaculture. Efforts should therefore be strengthened to combat this illegal trade, given that CITES imposes no export quotas on aquaculture production.
5. It is necessary to develop the collection of sturgeon genetic samples at the national and international levels in order to increase the efficiency of sturgeon restocking and promote biodiversity conservation.

Recommendations

6. It is suggested to convene a meeting (before the 55th meeting of the Standing Committee) in partnership with national Scientific Authorities, specialized scientific research institutes and the IUCN Sturgeon Specialist Group in order to coordinate the activities of the interested Parties to ensure sturgeon conservation and restocking. The results of this meeting should be made public.
7. It is suggested to conduct and implement a project to register sturgeons used to produce export-bound caviar at the individual and group levels (through electronic markings and DNA profiling, and the registration of brood stocks respectively). Such a system could be essential in allowing to distinguish wild from farmed-produced caviar and therefore in combating illegal trade.

8. Finally it is suggested to consider the possibility for the CITES Secretariat to create a database of sturgeon genetic collection (genetic samples) using the national sturgeon genetic collections. This would be necessary to implement the provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13) and to improve sturgeon conservation and restocking as well as promote biodiversity conservation.