

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Animals Committee
Shepherdstown (United States of America), 11-15 December 2000

Regional Reports

EUROPE
(July 1999 – November 2000)

A) General Information

Members: Dr. Marinus S. Hoogmoed (The Netherlands) and Dr. Katalin Rodics (Hungary). Because of logistics Dr. Hoogmoed keeps regular contacts with the Scientific Authorities for CITES of the members of the European Union through meetings of the EU Scientific Review Group, which in 1999 met on September 16, and in 2000 met on February 22, July 11 and November 7, 2000. Dr. Rodics keeps contacts with the non-EU Parties in Europe.

The last full-fledged Animals Committee meeting was in Madagascar 5-9 July 1999. During COP 11 in Gngiri, Kenya, new members of AC were elected. For the European region the representatives remained the same, the alternates were elected newly to their positions. After the closure of COP 11, the newly elected members of AC that were present, convened in order to elect a Chair-person and a Vice-Chair person. There was a quorum and the Secretariat was present. The representative for Europe, Dr. M.S. Hoogmoed was elected Chair-person of Animals Committee. The representative for North-America, Dr. S. Lieberman was elected Vice-Chair.

- Alternate members: Dr. Vincent Fleming (U.K.) for M.S. Hoogmoed and Dr. Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) for K. Rodics.
- Number of Parties in Europe: 35
- Number of Parties responding to communications: in 2000: 0
- Names of other institutions, NGO's contacted: none

B) List of the items

FOLLOW-UP ON AGENDA ITEMS SINCE LAST ANIMALS COMMITTEE

- Ranching and related subjects. M.S. Hoogmoed, as member of a delegation (5 persons) of the EU Scientific Review Group visited Cuba between 18 and 25 September 1999 to get acquainted with the Cuban turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) program, both the ranching aspect and the sustainable use. Members of the delegation visited a harvesting area and the locality where scutes were stocked and registered. The Cuban proposal for COP 11 of down-listing the Cuban 'population' of *E. imbricata* was discussed with the Cuban CITES Authorities in general terms. The group prepared a report that was submitted to the EU SRG as a document to help prepare the EU opinion on the issue at COP 11.
- Review of the Criteria. As decided by COP 11 the Chairs of AC and PC selected 6 members from among the representatives and alternates of each Committee, one per region, for the Criteria Working Group. Hoogmoed participated in the meeting (Canberra, Australia 2-4 August 2000) as European representative. The results of that meeting will be discussed during the Joint meeting of AC and PC 7-9 December 2000.
- Review of the Appendices. During AC 15 Hoogmoed was charged with this subject and was the focal point for revisions prepared. The Indonesian representative sent in the reviews of the species he was supposed to review by September 1999. Other reviews received from the UK, Namibia and USA arrived in 2000. Other parties that promised to do certain reviews did not (yet) do them. One Party reported it would be unable to follow up on the matter. The documents received now are part of the discussions in AC 16 (AC 16. 8.1).
- K. Rodics was a member of the Transport Working Group (chaired by Dr. Irina Sprotte from Germany).
- On 26-28 September 2000 Hoogmoed took part in a roundtable on Chelonian relocation and heritage collections in Orlando, U.S.A. During that meeting the consequences of the large-scale trade in chelonians, especially in South-East Asia were extensively discussed, as were remedies.
- At the request of the Chair of Animals Committee, Dr. V. Fleming, alternate member for Europe continued working on coral issues. The results of his work will be discussed at AC 16.
- On September 29 Hoogmoed visited the US SA and MA and NCTC in Shepherdstown in preparation of the 16th meeting of Animals Committee. The venue seemed well equipped to receive both AC and PC, and also the joint meeting of both Committees.
- Communication with other parties in the region.

On September 17, 2000 a letter was sent to all SA's of Europe, informing them about the up-coming meeting of AC in Shepherdstown, USA and asking them about issues they wanted to see discussed at the meeting. Only one substantial answer was received from the Czech Republic concerning an up-date on the situation with microchips.

Hoogmoed had regular contacts with SA's of EU memberstates, during the meetings of the Scientific Working Group in Brussels. There also were bilateral contacts with EU members in between meetings. Mainly with Spain, Germany and UK.

It may be noted here that although Parties elect regional representatives for AC, with the emphasis on representatives, it seems that Parties forget what the role of a representative in AC is. He/she is supposed to take care of the interests of the Parties that elected him/her and on their behalf speak up(= represent them) at meetings of AC. When no reactions are received it is difficult for representatives to do what they are supposed to do. One might start to wonder whether the Parties do have faith in their representatives or not.

K. Rodics had regular contacts with Eastern European countries, especially with Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- M.S. Hoogmoed participated in the second IUCN workshop to develop guidance for CITES scientific authorities on the making of non-detriment findings, 7-11 October 1999 in Cambridge.
- M.S. Hoogmoed had regular contacts with scientists in the National Museum of Natural History, Leiden, Netherlands (his home-institution) about matters pertaining to animal groups he is not an expert in.
- Both Hoogmoed and Rodics participated in COP 11 in Gigiri, Kenya (10-20 April 2000), respectively as members of the Dutch and Hungarian delegations.
- Hoogmoed participated in the Workshop on Caprinae Taxonomy in Ankara, Turkey, May 8-10 2000, mainly as Chair of the Nomenclature Committee, but also promoting the work of AC.
- Hoogmoed participated in the 2nd and 3rd CITES Masters Degree Course in Baeza, Spain, in, respectively, November 1999 and November 2000. He gave talks for the students on the Animals Committee, the Nomenclature Committee and the consequences of captive breeding of CITES species.

DIFFICULTIES OF IMPLEMENTATION ENCOUNTERED IN THE REGION

Within the EU several SA's again noted that several countries apparently were trying to circumvent quota numbers, by claiming captive breeding (C) for species, that formerly only were claimed as having been taken from the wild. When asked for information about the breeding operations, no answers, or very insufficient answers were received from the authorities. Generally no information at all was available on such claimed breeding operations. The effect of stricter measures adopted by the EU under its regulation has been that changes in quota from several countries were critically approached and justification for large changes was asked. When satisfying answers were received objections were withdrawn.

Corals remain a problem as to identification.

OTHER TOPICS RELATED TO CITES AND ANIMAL SPECIES

Since his election as Chair of AC Hoogmoed has been maintaining close contact with the Secretariat and was involved in the preparations for the 16th meeting of AC. He invited several persons to prepare discussion documents for the up-coming meeting of AC. Also he maintained contacts with Chair of AC Working Groups that continued in between meetings of AC. During a short visit to Baeza, Spain some aspects of the up-coming joint meeting of AC and PC were discussed with the Chair of PC, Margarita Clemente. There also has been regular contact with her concerning the invitation process of NGO's.

WORK TO BE DONE UNTIL NEXT ANIMALS COMMITTEE

Depends on decisions taken at AC 16. At least the work on the review of the Appendices will continue.

Report written by M.S. Hoogmoed
Leiden, 23 November 2000