

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

Reports on the actions taken by regional representatives and additional information from Parties,
relevant to regional cooperation and the work of the Animals Committee

EUROPE

1. This document has been prepared by Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom) and Mathias Loertscher (Switzerland)**.

General information

2. Animal Committee (AC) members: Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain) and Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom). Alternate members: Mathias Loertscher (Switzerland) and Radu Suciú (Romania).
3. With Carlos Ibero Solana (CIS) elected as Chair of the Animals Committee, Mathias Loertscher (ML) continues to undertake the duties of the regional representative as provided for in paragraph e) under the 1st DETERMINES in Annex 2 of Res. Conf. 11.1 (Rev. Cop15).
4. The representatives divide their duties as follows: Vincent Fleming (VF) represents those Parties (27) in the European Union (EU); Mathias Loertscher represents the remainder of Parties in the region not in the EU.
5. Number of Parties in region: 47; number of non-Parties: 3.

Overview of major developments

6. Review of Significant Trade – no action reported
7. Periodic Review of the Appendices - Belgium noted they had made proposals in September 2011 to the Nomenclature Specialist on the scope for higher taxon listings of some mammalian taxa. See below relating to the work of the inter-sessional group.
8. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes – no action reported.
9. Non-detriment findings – no action reported over and above that related to the inter-sessional working groups (below).

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Activities of regional representatives

10. Regional representatives have participated in the following inter-sessional work of the Committee:
 - a) joint Animals & Plants Committee (PC) working group on non-detriment findings (VF);
 - b) working group on criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendices (VF);
 - c) working group capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas and NDF (VF)
 - d) identification of CITES-listed corals in trade (VF);
 - e) Standing Committee (SC) working group on implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens (VF, ML);
 - f) joint inter-sessional WG on climate change (ML)
 - g) working group on the use of taxonomic serial numbers (ML)
 - h) inter-sessional WG on identification material for Asian snakes (ML)
 - i) SC WG on electronic permitting (ML Chair)
 - j) SC WG on special reporting requirements (ML)

11. Carlos Ibero Solana, as Chair of this committee since the 15th Conference of the Parties (March 2010), has been involved in the following activities for the Committee:
 - a) attendance at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva in 15-19 August 2011. At this meeting, the chair of the AC reported orally on the following agenda items:
 - i) Agenda item 13.1. Animals Committee: global overview of the 25th meeting of the AC;
 - ii) Agenda item 46.2: Snake trade and conservation management: report from the AC;
 - iii) Agenda item 47: Tortoises and freshwater turtles;
 - iv) Agenda item 52: Periodic Review of the Appendices;
 - b) ongoing co-ordination with the AC membership and the Secretariat, as well as assistance to them on very varied issues;
 - c) co-chairmanship of the inter-sessional working group of the AC and the PC (Plants Committee) on Non Detriment Findings. Submission of 3-4 documents to the joint meeting of the AC-PC to be held in Dublin (Ireland) in 22-24 March 2012;
 - d) co-chairmanship of the inter-sessional working group of the AC on periodic review of the Appendices - review of Galliformes and submission of a document to AC26;
 - e) review of the draft Summary record of the 25th meeting of the AC prepared by the Secretariat prior to its publication;
 - f) co-ordination with the Secretariat and with the AC membership on the organization of the 26th meeting of the AC and the joint meeting of the AC-PC: elaboration of the agenda, the working programme, other documents and general planning for the meeting;
 - g) a planned visit (to be confirmed) to the Secretariat to prepare AC26 with the Secretariat's staff.

12. No specific problems have been encountered or raised by the Region with their representatives.

Regional cooperation and priorities

13. The Belgian CITES Management Authority, in cooperation with the UNEP-WCMC, produced and published a new checklist list of all animal species protected by CITES and /or EU CITES Regulation 338/97 and is available [here](#) (see links in the third paragraph of the webpage).

14. In 2010/2011 the German Scientific Authority commissioned a study on the "*Application of CITES listing criteria to commercially exploited marine species*" as a contribution to the CITES criteria discussion currently underway (see AC25 Inf.10).

Meetings and workshops

15. The proceedings of a conference on '*The relevance of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) to the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species in exporting countries*' are now available here. This symposium, held in Vienna, Austria between 18-20 May 2011, was organised by the government of Austria and the European Commission.

16. The UK SA organised a workshop (Aberdeen, September 2011) to enable expert review of the report of their research, commissioned from TRAFFIC International: '*Fish and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): a methodology to identify high risk commercially-exploited aquatic organisms in trade*

and an analysis of the potential application of MEAs' as mentioned in AC25 Doc.6.4. Further work has been commissioned from TRAFFIC to apply a revised method to identify shark species at greatest risk from harvest for international trade and so to contribute to the work of the Animals Committee. The outcome of the peer review and the various research reports will be available as information documents for the 26th Animals Committee.

Communication with Parties since CoP15 (Qatar, March 2010)

17. All EU Scientific Authorities in the region were contacted on 21st December 2011 to request that they provide relevant information to the regional report.
18. Carlos Ibero Solana and Vincent Fleming regularly attend all meetings of the EU Scientific Review Group (see below) enabling them to be kept in constant contact with all the other Scientific Authorities of the 27 EU Member States.

ADDENDUM
(14 January 2012)

Overview of major developments

1. The European Commission has provided funding to the CITES Secretariat for two large and important CITES projects:
 - a) €500.000 EUR available for implementation of the CITES CoP 15 decisions
 - b) A total of €2.500.000 EUR for a CITES capacity building project (running until end 2012), focusing on capacity building to Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities in developing countries. This project will be implemented through regional workshops, including a focus on non-detriment finding (NDF) implementation. Based on an assessment of needs from countries, follow up implementation projects on, for example, NDFs and implementation / enforcement can be set up to support countries in CITES implementation. Additional funding for a second phase for in-country support is presently in preparation.

Regional co-operation and priorities

2. The Scientific Review Group (SRG) of the European Union (EU) with the CITES Scientific Authorities of the 27 Member States meets regularly (usually 4 times a year) in order to discuss scientific aspects of the CITES implementation, including the importation into the EU of several animal species. The Group also works inter-sessionally to deliver advice on scientific issues.
3. European eels. The European Union adopted in 2007 internal legislation on eel conservation, namely Council Regulation (EC) No. 1100/2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel in order to improve the conservation status of the species.
4. In accordance with the obligations set out in this Regulation, Member States of the EU have developed eel management plans at national level and/or river basin level. These plans, which are to be approved by the European Commission, include management measures (e.g. reduction in fisheries, improving river continuity, reducing pollution) aiming to ensure that the escapement of adult eels towards their marine spawning grounds reaches at least 40% of a 'pristine' baseline in the long term.
5. Since the entry into force of the listing of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) in CITES Appendix II in March 2009, the situation of the species has been closely monitored by the SRG. This information is essential for the SRG to assess whether export from and import into the EU of European eels and derived products can take place without having a harmful effect on the conservation status of the species. Such a common assessment is the basis of opinions delivered by national scientific authorities in the EU Member States on import and export applications, in line with Council Regulation 338/97.
6. The SRG has reviewed the situation of European eels extensively at its meetings on 7 October 2011 and 2 December 2011. At the latter meeting, it concluded unanimously that available information about the conservation status of European eels would not change the existing assessment. Therefore, it is not possible for scientific authorities in the EU to deliver a "non detriment finding" for any export from, or import into, the EU of European eels.
7. As a consequence, the SRG concluded that all national scientific authorities in the EU should continue to issue negative opinions concerning applications for exports from or import into the EU of European eels.
8. Detailed letters on the confirmation of trade regime on eel trade have been sent again to range states, as well as to relevant trade partners.
9. Specific meetings on eel trade regime have been convened to liaise with Russian Federation.

Other activities

10. The European Commission has concluded a number of contracts in order to ensure assistance in CITES implementation, enforcement and scientific matters. UNEP-WCMC has been contracted to provide the trade data which the Member States and the Commission need to implement Community legislation. The contract provides for reviews and studies of species as well as the EC wildlife trade database which contains up-to-date information on the species and the legislative framework in the EC. They are also responsible for synthesis of Member States' annual reports. TRAFFIC has been contracted to assist the Commission in the management of the CITES website, and to provide studies and assessments on particular topics.
11. The Commission is now carrying out the revision of the implementing regulations and further guidance.
12. The European Union is about to publish a new Council Regulation reflecting recent changes to the Appendices (Appendix III listing), plus porbeagle *Lamna nasus* (Appendix III for all European Union States), and three invasive alien species of squirrel amending the Annexes to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97.