

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 ninth session of Committee II

8 March 2013: 14h15-17h30

Chair: R. Gabel (United States of America)  
Secretariat: J. Barzdo  
B. Janse van Rensburg  
Rapporteurs: L. Garrett  
J. Gray  
R. Parry-Jones  
C. Rutherford

***Interpretation and implementation of the Convention***

Species trade and conservation

54. Rhinoceroses

54.1 Report of the Working Group

and

54.2 Report of the Secretariat

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as Chair of the Standing Committee working group on rhinoceroses, introduced the group's report in document CoP16 Doc. 54.1 (Rev. 1), noting with concern the increased levels of poaching and recommending that the working group be given a new mandate at the present meeting.

Document CoP16 Doc. 54.2 (Rev. 1) was introduced by the Secretariat, IUCN and TRAFFIC. The Secretariat emphasized the importance of strong penalties to deter illegal trade and drew attention to the draft decisions in Annex 1 of the document, suggesting that the Committee produce a revised version of these taking into account the recommendations in the working group's report.

Mozambique and Zimbabwe assured the Parties of their continued commitment to reducing the poaching of rhinoceroses, requesting support from the Parties in the implementation of any decisions. Kenya, as a member of the working group, confirmed that they were in the process of approving stricter penalties for wildlife crime. China drew attention to its current national legislation, and noted an increased demand for permits covering pre-Convention hunting trophies. South Africa referred the Parties to document CoP16 Inf. 38 which provided details of current national legislative provisions and conservation initiatives. Supported by Swaziland, it urged all Parties to implement Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15).

Viet Nam recognized the concerns regarding the current loophole in their national legislation and directed Parties to document CoP16 Inf. 24, which provided information on the memorandum of understanding signed between Viet Nam and South Africa in December 2012. It stated that a total ban on the import of rhinoceros horn into Viet Nam horn would come into force on 15 March 2013.

The Environmental Investigation Agency suggested that Viet Nam had taken insufficient measures to stop the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn and that a suspension of trade with Viet Nam should be imposed until it did so. WWF felt that measures to control trade needed to be identified as well as measures in cases where progress was not made. Humane Society International supported the reports of the working group and the Secretariat.

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, together with the United States of America, supported the formation of a working group to revise the draft decisions. The Chair formed such a group, consisting of China, Indonesia, Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, United Kingdom (chair), United States, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, with IUCN and TRAFFIC as technical advisors and Safari Club International, SSN and WWF as observers.

#### Trade control and marking

#### 44. Identification Manual

##### 44.2 Report of the Plants Committee

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP16 Doc. 44.2 (Rev. 1) regarding the Identification Manual. Two draft decisions in the Annex to this document were proposed for consideration. She noted that the United States had proposed amendments to these with which she agreed. The United States stated these were as indicated below:

In the draft decision directed to the Plants and Animals Committees and the Secretariat, change paragraph d) as follows:

"d) review, in collaboration with the Secretariat, and, taking into account new web-based technologies, make recommendations, including amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.19 – *Identification Manual*, ~~taking into account new web-based technologies~~, to promote accuracy and availability of identification and guidance material; and"

In the draft decision directed to the Parties: at the end of the chapeau, append the words support the efforts of the working group by; in paragraph a), change "provide" to providing; in paragraph b), change "evaluate" to evaluating; and change paragraph c) as follows:

"c) consulting with enforcement and inspection officials to assess current needs with regard to identification materials and guidance needs and possible improvements to meet those needs thereof"

Add a new draft decision as follows:

#### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

16.XX. *The Secretariat is directed to issue a Notification to the Parties within six months of the close of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties requesting information on available identification and guidance materials for compilation by the Secretariat and report on its contents at the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee to assist in the establishment of the Working Group and in the implementation of this Decision.*

The Chair suggested deferring a decision on these proposed amendments until all Parties had received them in writing.

#### Species trade and conservation

#### 49. Great apes

The Secretariat introduced document CoP16 Doc. 49 which comprised the Standing Committee's report on great apes to CoP16, including, *inter alia*, findings of the Secretariat's technical missions to gorilla range States, in Annex 2, and proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.4 on *Conservation of and trade in great apes*, in Annex 1. The Secretariat then read out additional revisions to the proposed amendment to

the Resolution, and invited the Committee to note document CoP16 Doc. 49, to accept the amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.4, to note the recommendations from the technical missions contained in Annex 2, and to agree to the deletion of Decisions 15.44 and 15.45.

Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Uganda believed that a system for tracking trade akin to the Elephant Trade Information System was needed for great apes, and asked whether they could participate in a drafting group to assess this and other amendments.

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, supported the amendments proposed to Resolution Conf. 13.4, the recommendations contained in Annex 2, and the proposal to delete Decisions 15.44 and 15.45. It considered the recommendations in the Rapid Response report "Stolen Apes" produced by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to be of considerable potential help to great apes. The Secretariat indicated that more information on Operation Hope, referred to in document CoP16 Doc. 49, was available via the website of the World Customs Organization.

TRAFFIC, speaking also on behalf of WWF and the Wildlife Conservation Society, supported the recommendations in Annex 2 and the idea to establish a reporting system to track trade. It wished to join any drafting group.

UNEP-GRASP noted that a requirement for regular reporting to the CITES Secretariat prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties would be an important step towards raising the international profile of great apes. It referred to illegal trade in great apes from Guinea to China. In response, China pointed out that the imports in question had been carried out in accordance with CITES requirements.

The Chair requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision directing the Standing Committee to review the revised Resolution with a view to establishing an illegal trade reporting mechanism.

The Committee then noted document CoP16 Doc. 49, accepted the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.4, noted the recommendations from the technical missions contained in Annex 2, and agreed to the deletion of Decisions 15.44 and 15.45. Further discussion was deferred.

#### 50. Asian big cats

The Secretariat introduced document CoP16 Doc. 50 (Rev. 1) concerning Asian big cats, and proposed a large number of substantive amendments to the draft decisions in Annex 1 of the document. The Chair elucidated that not all Parties had received a copy of these amendments, and suggested postponing their discussion until 11 March.

The United States ventured a means of expediting the process and, in response to an intervention from Malaysia noting the difficulty of involvement in further working groups, the Chair suggested that interested Parties (China, India, Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, Malaysia and the United States), provide preliminary feedback electronically before the Committee reconvened on 11 March.

#### 51. Illegal trade in cheetahs

Ethiopia introduced document CoP16 Doc. 51 (Rev. 1) concerning international illegal trade in cheetahs. It asked the Committee to approve the draft decisions in the Annex, including the Secretariat's suggested revisions contained in the document.

Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe supported the draft decision to initiate a study on the illegal trade in cheetahs but expressed concern over the process for handling sensitive enforcement information. The Secretariat confirmed that it would act as the recipient and filter of all sensitive information, taking guidance from the Parties. Uganda requested the Secretariat to include range States in the review of the eventual study.

The United Arab Emirates and Qatar doubted the reliability of information on illegal trade in cheetahs, the former querying in particular the information referred to in paragraph 8 of document CoP16 Doc. 51 (Rev. 1). Qatar emphasized that it was the lack of law enforcement in range States that was the main reason for illegal trade, and the United Arab Emirates suggested a review of law enforcement capacity of implicated Parties. The Chair responded that there was already an ongoing CITES process to review the

status of national CITES-implementing legislation, and that the point of the study was to determine how the illegal trade in cheetahs operated.

The Committee noted the Secretariat's proposal to triage sensitive information submitted for the study and accepted the draft decisions as presented in document CoP16 Doc. 51 (Rev. 1), under paragraph D of the comments from the Secretariat.

The meeting was adjourned at 17h30.