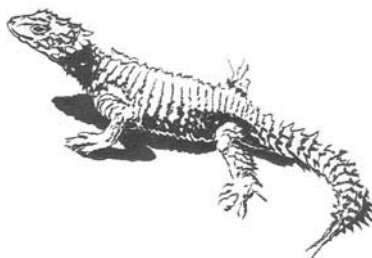


CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twentieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Johannesburg (South Africa), 29 March-2 April 2004

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN SEA CUCUMBERS IN THE FAMILIES
HOLOTHURIDAE AND STICHOPODIDAE (DECISIONS 12.60 AND 12.61)

1. At its 12th meeting (CoP12, Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 12.60 and 12.61 on sea cucumbers within the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae. The CITES Secretariat was directed through Decision 12.61 to convene a technical workshop on this issue in cooperation with relevant bodies. In accordance with Decision 12.60, the Animals Committee is to review the outcomes of the workshop, develop appropriate recommendations, and prepare for consideration at CoP13 a discussion document on the biological and trade status of these sea cucumbers.
2. The CITES Secretariat consulted the Animals Committee at its 19th meeting (Geneva, August 2003) concerning the workshop's objectives, timing, participation, format and proposed agenda (see documents AC19 Doc. 17 and AC19 WG9 Doc. 1).
3. The Animals Committee defined the following objectives for the workshop:
 - a) to review information on the status, catches and bycatches of and trade in specimens of sea cucumbers within the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae; and on domestic measures for their conservation, including consideration of the adequacy of these measures;
 - b) to establish conservation priorities and actions to ensure the conservation of sea cucumbers within the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae, addressing inter alia trade monitoring and controls, national legislation and regulations, fisheries management options, conservation management and research, enforcement and capacity building; and
 - c) to formulate findings and recommendations that would contribute towards the discussion paper on the biological and trade status of sea cucumbers within the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae to be prepared by the Animals Committee for discussion at the present meeting.
4. The technical workshop is scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 1 to 3 March 2004. The provisional agenda is presented in the Annex to this document. The participation will be limited to around 40 persons and the discussions will be conducted in English.
4. With Notification to the Parties No. 2003/069 on 12 November 2003, the Secretariat announced the details of the technical workshop and asked for expressions of interest to attend it. Those Parties that expressed an interest, as well as the main exporting and importing Parties, were subsequently officially invited by the Secretariat. Representatives of the fisheries sector, intergovernmental

organizations such as FAO, knowledgeable non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders, invited experts and the CITES Secretariat will also participate.

5. The Secretariat will give a report at the present meeting of the main results of the workshop.

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON THE CONSERVATION OF SEA CUCUMBERS
IN THE FAMILIES HOLOTHURIDAE AND STICHOPODIDAE
(DECISIONS 12.60 AND 12.61)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and working programme
2. Background to the workshop – CITES and sea cucumbers
3. Sea cucumber biology
 - Taxonomy and distribution
 - Biology
 - Conservation status
4. Utilization of sea cucumbers
 - Utilization as food
 - Utilization in traditional East Asian medicines
 - Other uses
5. Sea cucumber fisheries and current trade
 - Legal trade
 - Illegal, unreported and unregulated trade
 - Bycatch
 - Socio-economic characteristics of the trade in sea cucumbers
6. Management and conservation strategies and practices
 - Fisheries management approaches
 - Wild harvest (e.g. minimum size limits, closed seasons, closed areas, etc.)
 - Aquaculture
 - Restocking
 - Trade controls and enforcement, including identification of specimens in trade
7. Reports from key sea cucumber trading countries and territories
8. Plenary discussion and agreement of terms of reference for working groups
9. Working group sessions (addressing conservation strategies; fisheries management; national and international measures; and potential CITES implementation issues)
10. Reports of working groups
11. Identification of priorities and actions to ensure the conservation of sea cucumbers
12. Implementation of Decision 12.60 by the Animals Committee
13. Closure of the workshop