

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

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Twenty-third meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva, (Switzerland), 19-24 April 2008

REVISION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS COMMITTEES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties decided: "The Animals and Plants Committees should evaluate the need to further review and revise the terms of reference in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) and as necessary revise the terms of reference for presentation at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties." [Decision 14.7]
3. In addition to the specific terms of reference in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14), Committee members may wish to consider the instructions from the Conference of the Parties to the Committees for the period between CoP14 and CoP15, which are indicated in the Annex to this document (for the Animals Committee) and in document PC17 Doc. 12.1 (for the Plants Committee).
4. The Secretariat invites the Animals and Plants Committees to evaluate the need to review and revise their respective terms of reference.

**Specific instructions from CoP to AC for the period between CoP14 and CoP15**

Reference	Action required (AC/PC joint activities indicated in bold)
Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev.): Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor developments in microchip-implant technology and application techniques and advise the Secretariat about such developments, for the information of the Parties</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14): Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and advise about problems in compliance with the management measures and export quotas for species transferred from Appendix I to II subject to an export quota or other special measure.</li> <li>• Advise of amendment proposals for transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I of species subject to the Review of Significant Trade</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev CoP14): Inclusion of species in Appendix III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an opinion on the potential effects of inclusion in Appendix III of species being considered for such inclusion</li> <li>• Assist Parties in reviewing the status of species in Appendix III</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14): Transport of live specimens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA in order to amplify or update the <i>Live Animals Regulations</i> and the <i>Perishable Cargo Regulations</i></li> <li>• Examine new or additional references for transport of live specimens for incorporation into the Resolution, if appropriate</li> <li>• Examine regularly high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 11.12: Universal tagging system for the identification of crocodilian skins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider reports of deficiencies or specific instances of concern related to the universal tagging system for the identification of crocodilian skins</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14): Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise on appropriate sources of scientific and technical advice needed to review information and assurances and verify that the criteria for transferring from Appendix I to Appendix II for ranching purposes have been met</li> <li>• Advise on whether changes proposed to existing ranching schemes substantially alter the original ranching programme, and undermine or jeopardize the conservation of the wild population</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 12.2: Procedure for approval of externally funded projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise on approval and prioritization of externally funded projects</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 12.6: Conservation and management of sharks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine information provided by range States in shark assessment reports and other available relevant documents, with a view to identifying key species and examining these for consideration and possible listing under CITES</li> <li>• Consider reports from Parties on progress on implementation of IPOA-Sharks</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make species-specific recommendations if necessary on improving the conservation status of sharks and the regulation of international trade in these species</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 12.7: (Rev. CoP14): Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive a written report, including references to relevant documents from the Secretariat on its activities related to the conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish</li> <li>• Monitor progress on the relevant provisions of the Resolution and carry out, using information from preceding years, an evaluation of the assessment and the monitoring methodologies used for stocks of Acipenseriformes species shared between different range States</li> <li>• Provide to the Standing Committee with its recommendations on actions to be taken based upon the above-mentioned monitoring of progress and three-year cycle evaluation</li> <li>• Contribute to the continued exploration of the development of a uniform DNA-based identification system for parts and derivatives and aquaculture stocks of Acipenseriformes species to assist in the subsequent identification of the origin of specimens in trade and the development and application of methods for differentiating wild from aquaculture origin caviar in cases where DNA-based methods are not useful</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13): Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select species of priority concern for review on the basis of recorded trade levels and information available</li> <li>• Review consultant's reports on <i>Testudo graeca</i> (Lebanon) and <i>Mantella</i> spp. and the responses received from the States concerned. If appropriate, revise the preliminary categorization proposed and for urgent and possible concern cases, formulate recommendations</li> <li>• Review country-based Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP14): Guidelines for a procedure to register and monitor operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review major changes in the nature, or in the type(s) of products being produced for export, from registered captive-breeding operations</li> <li>• Respond to objections from any Party to an application to register an operations that breeds Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14): Standard Nomenclature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend names for the wild and domestic forms where there are domesticated forms of listed taxa</li> <li>• Advise on the correct names to use for the species or other taxa included in proposals to amend the Appendices</li> <li>• Advise on changes in the name of taxa to assess if the scope is redefined, and if so propose amendments to the Appendices accordingly to maintain the original intent of the listing</li> <li>• Determine the most appropriate taxonomic authority where no standard reference has been adopted by the CoP and exporting Parties do not agree on the authority to use</li> <li>• Evaluate the implications for the implementation of the Convention where recommendations to a change the name of a taxon used in the Appendices are made</li> <li>• Initiate, or consider submissions proposing updating of current standard nomenclatural references and adoption of new ones</li> <li>• Advise on orthographical changes in the lists of species included in the Appendices</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 13.4: Conservation of and trade in great apes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with GRASP, and explore and implement other measures through which the Convention can contribute to the conservation of great apes and promote public awareness of the threat posed to great ape populations by illegal trade</li> </ul>
Resolution Conf. 14.1: Financing and the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman to advise on the assignment of scientific consultants and definition of terms of reference for</li> </ul>

costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2009-2011	specific science-based projects
Resolution Conf. 14.8: Periodic Review of the Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Share experiences with PC regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of taxa included in the Appendices</b></li> <li>• Identify a list of taxa for review between CoP13 and CoP15 and establish a review schedule</li> <li>• Conduct or organize the reviews, seeking information, participation and support from the range States <i>via</i> regional representatives</li> <li>• Consider completed reviews and if appropriate prepare (or arrange the preparation of) a proposal to amend the Appendices</li> </ul>
Decision 12.91: Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise on the Secretariat's capacity-building programme dealing with the scientific basis for development, establishment, and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species including materials used and information from the Committees on methods used for establishing quotas and for relevant case studies on the establishment of quotas</li> </ul>
Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP14): Review of the Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the Felidae in the Periodic Review of the Appendices focussing initially on the listing of the <i>Lynx</i> spp. and assess the management and enforcement measures available to achieve effective control of trade in these species (including a review of trade information to determine whether these species are actually confused in trade or whether the look-alike problem is merely hypothetical), so as to resolve the continued need for look-alike listings</li> </ul>
Decision 14.7: Review of the scientific committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Evaluate the need to further review and revise the terms of reference in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14)</b></li> </ul>
Decision 14.8: Review of the scientific committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out internal monitoring through the regional reports (using Table 3 of document SC54 Inf. 5) and the Chairman's report to the CoP</li> </ul>
Decision 14.18: Harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy with other MEAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nomenclature specialists to advise on ways of harmonizing the taxonomy and nomenclature of species with other biodiversity-related MEAs.</li> </ul>
Decision 14.50: International expert workshop on non-detriment findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review the proceedings resulting from the NDF expert workshop and prepare a discussion paper and, if considered appropriate, a draft resolution on the making of non-detriment findings.</b></li> </ul>
Decision 14.52: Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review use of source code 'R' in CITES trade data and information on management programmes for species other than for crocodylians where ranching or similar techniques are applied. Propose a definition of ranching and the use of source code R for CITES purposes.</b></li> </ul>
Decision 14.53, Revision of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14): Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the Resolution with a view to proposing revisions to make its structure more logical, clarify certain recommendations, edit text and reduce overlap between sections</li> </ul>
Decision 14.59: Transport of live specimens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission meetings and in the ongoing reviews of the OIE <i>Guidelines for the Transport of Animals by Sea, Land and Air</i></li> <li>• Collaborate with OIE in the development of its Web portal with information on national regulations and other guidelines applicable to modes of transport for live animals other than by air, and verify its pertinence to the CITES Parties</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine new or additional references for transport of live animals</li> <li>• Review the Secretariat’s analysis of the Parties’ legislative provisions on the transport of live animals by road, rail and ship and its draft legislative guidance for the transport of live specimens</li> <li>• Propose amendments to the Resolution on Transport of live specimens where appropriate</li> </ul>
Decision 14.62: Review of the universal tagging system and trade in small crocodylian leather goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a representative for the Standing Committee Working Group reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of the universal tagging system and the trade in small crocodylian leather goods</li> </ul>
Decision 14.81: Great whale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the moratorium by the International Whaling Commission is in place</li> </ul>
Decision 14.100. Sea cucumbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the outcomes of the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries (Nov 2007) and recommend appropriate follow-up actions to support this initiative</li> </ul>
Decisions 14.104, 106-110, 114, 115, 117: Sharks and stingrays.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider reports from Parties identifying endangered shark species that require consideration for inclusion in the Appendices, if their management and conservation status does not improve</li> <li>• Consider Secretariat’s report on replies from Parties to Notification about commodity codes for fish products, imports, exports and re-exports, for both CITES-listed and non-listed species</li> <li>• Refine list of shark species of concern, in collaboration with FAO, taking account of those referenced in Annex 3 to document CoP14 Doc. 59.1</li> <li>• Consider reports from Parties on the fisheries, environmental and international trade management measures adopted, levels of landings and exports, and the status of these stocks and fisheries for shark species of concern</li> <li>• Receive report of regional workshop on South American freshwater stingrays and in consultation with workshop participants, shall make any necessary species-specific recommendations to range States on improving the conservation status and regulation of international trade in these taxa</li> <li>• Consider recommendations from a capacity-building workshop on the conservation and management of sharks</li> <li>• Consider reports from shark fishing and trading entities on opportunities identified to improve the monitoring and reporting of catch, bycatch, discards, market and international trade data and on the establishment of systems to provide verification of catch information</li> <li>• Examine and report on linkages between the international trade in shark fins and meat and IUU shark fishing activities, including where possible the main species of sharks taken by IUU fishing and the relative importance of fins compared to meat in international trade arising from IUU fishing</li> </ul>
Decision 14.129: Tortoises and freshwater turtles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group study aimed at assisting the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP13) and make recommendations</li> </ul>