

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

SNAKE TRADE AND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (DECISION 15.76)
(Agenda item 17)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Co-Chairs: representative of Asia (Mr Soemorumekso) and alternate representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher);
- Parties: China, Indonesia, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and United States; and
- IGOs and NGOs: IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature, Animal Welfare Institute, Conservation International, Eurogroup for Animals, Helholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Humane Society of the United States, ProWildlife, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Species Management Specialists, Species Survival Network and TRAFFIC International.

Mandate

In support of the activities of the Standing Committee Working Group on Snakes (WGS), the working group shall:

1. Review the collation and evaluation of existing identification materials for live snakes, parts and derivatives, and make recommendations regarding additional materials and ways to bring these to the attention of the Parties;
2. Review the outputs of the IUCN Red Listing process for Asian snakes and make recommendations for consideration by the Parties with regard to amending the CITES Appendices; and
3. Consider other actions that could support the work of the WGS.

The membership was decided as follows:

Recommendations

1. In an intersessional working group, the AC shall until the end of 2012
 - a) Compile a list of existing identification materials for live snakes, skins and products made of snake leather from the Asian Regions, including national and local enforcement guides;
 - b) Search for existing scientific literature about the identification of parts and derivatives of snakes, including meat, gall bladders, blood and body fat etc.; and
 - c) Provide this information to the CITES Secretariat.

The Secretariat shall be instructed to make this information available to the Parties in a notification with an indication where this information can be found on the CITES website.

2. In a Notification to the Parties, the Secretariat shall:
 - a) inform the Parties about the IUCN red listing assessments of Asian snakes when the red list update has been published; and
 - b) encourage those Parties that are range states for species which are classified as vulnerable (VU), endangered (EN) or critically endangered (CR) and affected by international trade to consider appropriate actions.
3. Recommend a decision to be forwarded to CoP16

Decision directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall at its 27th meeting consider the final IUCN red list assessments for Asian snake species and, if available, incorporate new information and data and make appropriate recommendations, including recommendations to the Standing Committee.

4. The Standing Committee's Working Group on Asian snakes shall in its deliberations and recommendations consider the results of the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative's Working Group about the "International Traceability System for Snake Skins" as well as the results of the ITC study on the "Trade of Python snakes in Asia" and make appropriate recommendations to CoP 16.