

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

Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 30th meeting (Brussels, September 1993), the Standing Committee recommended to all Parties that they suspend imports of specimens of *Cacatua sulphurea* and *Ptyas mucosus* from Indonesia in the context of the implementation of the Review of Significant Trade. These recommendations are still in effect, although at its 41st meeting (Geneva, February 1999), the Standing Committee decided that the suspension did not apply to 102,289 marked skins of *Ptyas mucosus* acquired before the trade prohibition entered into force. The skins of this registered stock could only be exported from Indonesia and imported after confirmation from the Secretariat that the export permits were valid (see Notification to the Parties No. 2004/028 of 30 April 2004).
3. The recommendations that had not been implemented by Indonesia in 1993 and that caused the Standing Committee decision were as follows:

Cactua sulphurea

Primary recommendation: the Management Authority of Indonesia should institute a moratorium on exports until island surveys have been carried out, particularly in Sumba and eastern Nusa Tenggara.

Secondary recommendation: the Management Authority of Indonesia should initiate population surveys of the species.

Ptyas mucosus

Secondary recommendation: the Management Authority of Indonesia should advise the Secretariat of the scientific basis for the harvest quotas and should introduce a system to ensure that the number of skins permitted for export does not exceed the quotas.

4. In May 2005, the CITES Secretariat received information from the Management Authority of Indonesia on *Cacatua sulphurea* and *Ptyas mucosus*, that was seeking to lift the 12-year old trade suspensions for both species.
5. Concerning trade suspensions recommended by the Standing Committee, the relevant paragraphs in Resolution Conf. 12.8 on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species state that:
 - u) *a recommendation to suspend trade in the affected species with the State concerned should be withdrawn only when that State demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee, through the Secretariat, compliance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a); and*
 - v) *the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Animals or Plants Committee, shall review recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years and, if appropriate, take measures to address the situation.*

6. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairman of the Animals Committee, concluded the following regarding the information provided by Indonesia:

Cacatua sulphurea

The species was included in Appendix I at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2004), and compliance with Article IV is no longer relevant for trade in this species. The recommendation to suspend trade in specimens of *Cacatua sulphurea* from Indonesia should be withdrawn.

Ptyas mucosus

- a) Indonesia's discussion document (see document SC53 Inf. 3) outlines the measures that are envisaged to ensure that the future harvest of and trade in *Ptyas mucosus* will be conducted in a non-detrimental manner. These include: the establishment of annual quotas; marking of skins; monitoring programmes (based on catch per unit effort, size, sex ratio, etc.) to adapt the management and levels of offtake; field surveys; trade controls through a permitting system along the chain of custody; awareness raising activities for relevant official agencies, the commercial sector and other stakeholders; and efforts to build broad consensus on and support for the management regime. Compared to 12 years ago, the general knowledge of the biology of the species has improved, as well as the understanding of the trade dynamics, threats, management options, necessary controls, etc.
 - b) The Management Authority argues that the resumption of legal trade will allow this to become more transparent and better regulated (it is suspected that specimens of *Ptyas mucosus* are being smuggled to neighbouring countries for further export), and create opportunities for population monitoring, research and adaptive management with support of the industry.
 - c) The Secretariat believes that Indonesia has established the conditions to comply with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a) and 3 for export of specimens of *Ptyas mucosus*. Indonesia has not included population estimates, but this may be difficult for such a common species. The levels of harvest and export that would be allowed in 2005 or 2006 are not communicated, but this may be due to the timeframes and process in the establishment of quotas as outlined in the document, i.e. through research and consultation in the second half of the year and based on harvest levels of previous years. The Secretariat would encourage Indonesia initially to establish a cautious export quota. The Secretariat notes that the information from Indonesia largely addresses the old secondary recommendations. It would also like to draw attention to the provisions in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) whereby the Animals Committee can again select the species for a Review of Significant Trade if levels of export become of concern.
 - d) The recommendation to suspend trade in specimens of *Ptyas mucosus* from Indonesia should be withdrawn.
7. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee act upon the recommendations concerning *Cacatua sulphurea* and *Ptyas mucosus* in paragraph 6 above.