

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

SUMMARY RECORD

1. Opening remarks by the Chair

The Chair welcomed the participants, thanked the outgoing Chair of the Standing Committee for his good service and thanked the Committee for electing Norway as the new Chair. He also welcomed the new Secretary-General.¹

2. Report of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General outlined the main work done by the Secretariat since his appointment, the development of cooperation with other organizations, and the successes of CITES as well as the challenges faced by the Parties and the Secretariat. He concluded that CITES was more relevant now than it had ever been.²

Administrative matters

3. Agenda

The Committee adopted the draft agenda in document SC61 Doc. 3 (Rev. 2) without amendment.

There were no interventions.³

4. Working programme

The Committee adopted the draft working programme in document SC61 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1) without amendment.

There were no interventions.

5. Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee

The Committee noted the current Rules of Procedure in document SC61 Doc. 5 (Rev. 1).

There were no interventions.

6. Credentials

The Secretariat reported that 60 Parties were represented at the meeting. Credentials had been received from the delegations of all the members of the Standing Committee and from all except three of the observer Parties. They reported that two of the intergovernmental organizations represented by observers

¹ The Chair's opening remarks are available at http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/61/chair_speech.php.

² The Secretary-General's remarks are available at http://www.cites.org/eng/com/sc/61/sec_gen_speech.php

³ As the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat intervene on all items, their names are not included in the lists of speakers.

and 19 of the non-governmental organizations had not provided letters indicating the names of their representatives.

There were no interventions.

7. Admission of observers

The Committee noted the list of organizations that had been invited to attend the meeting and the list of other non-Party observers attending and not requiring an invitation, as contained in document SC61 Doc. 7.

There were no interventions.

8. Rules of Procedure of the Animals and Plants Committees

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 8. Some members of the Committee thought that there was merit in establishing a working group to assist the Committee with the implementation of Decision 15.9. It was suggested that a code of conduct or a voluntary register of interests rather than an amendment to the Rules of Procedures for the scientific committees might be a possible way forward.

Other members of the Committee and some observer Parties opposed the establishment of a working group, noting that the Animals and Plants Committees had already considered and rejected the possibility of amending their Rules of Procedure to address potential conflicts of interest. The Chair of the Animals Committee also opposed further work under Decision 15.9, stating that there had never been any problem in the scientific committees related to a potential conflict of interest.

The Standing Committee agreed that there was no need for the Rules of Procedure of the Animals and Plants Committees to address potential conflicts of interest of their members relating to their activities in the Committees. The Committee noted the suggestion by the regional representative of Europe (the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland⁴) that codes of conduct or voluntary registers of interests might be considered in relation to the prevention and handling of potential conflicts of interest. The Committee also noted the opposition expressed by the regional representatives of Asia (Kuwait) and North America (the United States of America), and China, Indonesia and the Chair of the Animals Committee to the proposed means for handling potential conflicts of interest of members of the scientific committees via rules of procedure.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Kuwait), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China, Indonesia, the Chair of the Animals Committee and The Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA).

9. Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme

9.1 Report of UNEP

The representative of UNEP presented document SC61 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1). A Committee member welcomed the report but requested further clarity on how some of the activities referred to in the document related to CITES. One observer urged the Secretariat to engage with the Rio + 20 process, in order to raise the level of attention to CITES and attract resources. Another hoped that such interest would not detract from the Secretariat's 'key' activities.

The Secretary-General agreed to enquire with the UNEP Executive Director about posting the *Delegation of authority on administrative and financial matters* on the CITES website. He stressed the need to show how the work of CITES was relevant to a broader political agenda in order to attract greater resources in support of CITES implementation. He also drew attention to the CITES Strategic Vision and the Secretariat's work in this connection, sometimes supported by UNEP funding.

Document SC61 Doc. 9.1 (Rev. 1) was noted.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of North America (the United States), and by Humane Society International, Pew Environment Group and Species Survival Network (SSN).

⁴ Speaking also on behalf of the European Union and its Member States during the present meeting, unless otherwise indicated.

9.2 Report on the Working Group on Revising the Agreement between the CITES Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP

The Secretary-General introduced document SC61 Doc. 9.2. A number of Committee members and other Parties expressed great appreciation of the work done and the open process for preparing the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) annexed to the document, and broadly supported it. A member expressed concern about specifying the percentage of the programme support costs. One member asked how much of the various processes was governed by rules and how much was governed by practice or policy. Some members suggested that the latest draft should be submitted to UNEP for a reaction and others noted the possible impacts of Rio + 20 and the debate on International Environmental Governance. A contact group was established, comprising Australia, China, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and UNEP. The group was requested to discuss the issues that had been raised and to report at a later session.

At a subsequent session, taking account of the discussions that had taken place in the interim, the Standing Committee agreed that the following changes should be made to the draft MoU in Annex 2 to document SC61 Doc. 9.2:

- paragraph 17 would be amended to replace the words "which shall normally be 67 %" with the words "which shall initially not be less than 67 %", and to replace the words "which shall normally be 33 %" with "which shall initially not be more than 33 %"; and
- a new paragraph 45 would be included to read: "This MoU is entered into without prejudice to the negotiations on administrative arrangements between UNEP and UNEP-administered conventions, including any future negotiations between CITES and UNEP", and paragraphs 45 to 47 would be renumbered.

One observer expressed support for the developments in the relationship between the Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP.

The Committee adopted the MoU, as amended, and authorized the Chair of the Standing Committee to sign it on behalf of the Committee and to transmit it to the Executive Director of UNEP. The Committee directed the Secretariat to prepare a report for its 62nd meeting (SC62) to inform it of any decisions taken by the UNEP Governing Council at its 12th Special Session, in February 2012, concerning paragraph 18 of UNEP decision 26/9, noting that this report would not include any recommendations.

The Committee noted that, if the MoU were not accepted, or if the Executive Director of UNEP proposed further changes, the matter would be referred back to the Standing Committee and its Working Group. The Secretariat would advise the Committee as soon as it became aware of the decision of the Executive Director of UNEP.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by China and IWMC – World Conservation Trust.

10. Financial matters

10.1 Costed programme of work for 2010

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 10.1. Switzerland, as Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, read out the recommendation that the Subcommittee had drafted during its meeting held earlier in the day⁵.

Following the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, the Standing Committee accepted the report of the Secretariat contained in document SC61 Doc. 10.1.

No interventions were made.

⁵ The report of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee is available at <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/sc/61/FBSC61-01.pdf>.

10.2 Costed programme of work for 2011

The Secretariat presented document SC61 Doc. 10.2 (Rev. 1) and the Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee read out the Subcommittee's recommendations, which were that the Committee should:

- a) note the difficulties arising from exchange rate fluctuations, which might require an extraordinary drawdown from the Trust Fund Reserve amounting to approximately 5 to 10 % of the costed programme of work for 2011;
- b) request that the Secretary-General, under the terms of Resolution Conf. 14.1, continue to inform the Standing Committee through the Subcommittee on the implementation of the costed programme of work for 2011;
- c) decide to retain the salary costs column in the costed programme of work for the current budget year and for the 2012-2013 budget cycle; and
- d) decide to retain the current format of the costed programme of work for 2011-2013.

An intervention was made to urge the Secretariat to prioritize activities in its budgeting.

The following statement was made by Kuwait and supported by Japan:

Kuwait had noted with concern that various workshops and regional activities for Central and South America and the Caribbean region seem to be coincidentally organized in one selected country. Kuwait noted this in documents SC61 Doc. 10.1 and SC61 Doc. 10.2, where two of these events are mentioned and a third workshop is planned also to be organized. Therefore, Kuwait would like to have a more regional balance on all capacity-building activities organized for CITES purposes.

As representative for West Asia, we recommend that the Standing Committee agree to request from the Secretariat to adopt a country and a regional rotation when it supports host countries on their initiatives to organize regional CITES-related events.

We request that this comment to be included on the record for this meeting. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Following the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, the Standing Committee accepted the report of the Secretariat contained in document SC61 Doc. 10.2.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by the Depositary Government in its capacity as Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee.

10.3 Non-payment of contributions

The Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee presented the report of the subcommittee on document SC61 Doc. 10.3⁶. Some delegations stressed their concern with arrears in contributions. Others indicated that the right to vote was one of the most fundamental rights recognized under the Convention and that, therefore, they could not support any proposals to restrict those rights. Bulgaria⁷ was in favour of penalizing the countries that had contributions in arrears for several years, whereas the United States reiterated that it considered their contributions to the Trust Fund as voluntary and therefore, did not support penalizing Parties.

Following the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, the Committee instructed the Secretary-General to continue its efforts in the collection of contributions from Parties. The

⁶ See <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/sc/61/FBSC61-01.pdf>.

⁷ Speaking also on behalf of the European Union and its Member States during the present meeting, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee also encouraged the Secretariat to engage in bilateral discussions with the Parties concerning their contributions and to report at SC62.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (Bulgaria, Norway and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by the Previous Host Country (Qatar) and India.

11. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties

11.1 Structure and length of future meetings

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 11.1, which was welcomed as an initiative. Some support was expressed for the option of reducing the second working week of meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoPs) to four days, but there was no support to shorten the two-day break in the middle of the meetings. Some speakers suggested the need to explore other ways of reducing the length and cost of CoPs, such as: increasing the length of all working sessions by 30 minutes; reducing the length of the pre-CoP Standing Committee meeting and holding it on the day of the opening ceremony of the CoP; making greater use of 'breakout' sessions and holding working groups in parallel to the official CoP sessions; and extending the period between CoPs to four years.

The Committee instructed the Secretariat to prepare a further document on this subject for consideration at SC62, taking account of the comments made during the discussion. The Committee noted that the Secretariat would invite further comments through the forum section of the CITES website.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana), Europe (Norway and United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Indonesia, Malaysia and SSN.

11.2 Arrangements for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Thailand, as the Next Host Country, reported on the progress in the arrangements made for the organization of CoP16. He noted that the opening ceremony would take place on 3 March 2013, being the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the text of the Convention. Regarding the venue, he indicated that Thailand was considering the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, in Bangkok, and the Pattaya Exhibition and Convention Hall, and that a decision would be made when the new Minister of Environment took the chair of the organizing committee.

No interventions were made.

11.3 Improving transparency of voting during meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Poland introduced document SC61 Doc. 11.3, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. Regarding the matter of voting, they noted that their proposal concerned only electronic voting, and announced a correction to the proposed amendment to Rule 25 of the CoP, by the addition of the words "In the case of votes taken using an electronic voting system" at the beginning of the proposed new text.

They also stressed that, with regard to secret ballots, their main concern was that these were overused.

One Party provided an example of a case where they were sure that they had voted one way at CoP15 but the result published later showed that they had been recorded as having voted in a different way. If the votes had been displayed on a screen after taking place, any such error could have been dealt with immediately in accordance with the rules. All participants who spoke on this issue supported the proposal for the amendment of Rule 25, paragraph 1. It was clarified that the existing final part of that paragraph should remain unchanged.

Regarding the matter of secret ballots, several Parties supported the proposal to instruct the Secretariat to prepare a report for SC62 indicating the recent history of the use of the secret ballot. They noted in particular the desirability of transparency and the need to minimize the use of secret ballots. Some Parties, noting that the Secretariat had previously provided a study on this issue, felt that there was no need for a further study. Some Parties noted that the current rule on the use of secret ballots was a compromise and were opposed to reducing the scope for requesting a secret

ballot. Some pointed out that the use of the secret ballot enabled them to vote without fear of intimidation or pressure from certain developed countries or non-governmental organizations. Some Parties suggested the need for a working group on this subject.

The Committee agreed that, at CoP16, the Standing Committee would recommend that, in Rule 25, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the following text be inserted after the first sentence:

In the case of votes taken by an electronic system, the individual votes of all Parties shall be displayed on a screen for all participants to see immediately after a vote has taken place.

The Committee also agreed that the Secretariat should conduct a study on the recent history of the use of secret ballots. This decision was taken following a vote of eight in favour and eight against, with the tie broken by the Depositary Government, in accordance with Rule 25.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia and Dominica), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by Canada, China, Germany, Mexico, Nigeria, Humane Society International and IWMC – World Conservation Trust.

12. Provision of support for committee members

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 12. Two Committee members supported the suggestion that the Parties whose committee members were eligible to receive support from the Trust Fund be the Small Island Developing States and all Parties not in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index categories of High Human Development and Very High Human Development. Some others were concerned that this would mean that some Parties that have received support in the past would no longer be eligible, including some countries whose economies were considered to be 'in transition'. Two members suggested that the membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) continue to be used as an indicator of the States that are developed and thus not eligible to receive support. Some speakers suggested that, instead, CITES should follow the approach used in other conventions, such as CBD, which had its own guidelines. One observer Party noted that the members of the scientific committees were individuals, serving in a personal capacity. In response, it was pointed out that Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) called on Parties that put forward candidates for election to one of these committees to also confirm that they would provide adequate support. It was important not to exclude developing countries from providing candidates and to find a balance between Parties' needs and their commitments.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to invite further comments through the CITES website forum, and to prepare a document on this issue for SC62 with a draft proposal for a decision, taking into account the comments made at the present meeting and in the forum.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Ukraine, Norway and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by India, Malaysia and Mexico.

Strategic matters

13. Committee reports

13.1 Animals Committee

The Chair of the Animals Committee provided an oral report, highlighting the large variety of work undertaken at the recent 25th meeting of the Committee and stressing the importance of discussions concerning non-detriment findings.

The Committee noted the report.

There were no interventions.

13.2 Plants Committee

Apologizing for the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair of the Plants Committee reported orally on the recent 19th meeting of the Committee, which had been attended by some 130 participants. He too stressed the importance of ongoing discussions about non-detriment findings.

The Committee noted the report.

There were no interventions.

14. CITES Strategic Vision

The Secretary-General introduced documents SC61 Doc. 14.1 'Progress report on the implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*' and SC61 Doc. 14.2 'Planning for 2014-2016'. In the discussion that followed, there was considerable support for extending the validity of the existing Strategic Vision to 2016, 2019 or 2020, with some adaptation to integrate indicators of the contribution of CITES to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. One Party felt that this would be a good time to consider preparing a new Strategic Vision aligned with the global environmental agenda.

The Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on the Strategic Vision to report at SC62 on:

- a) whether to extend the validity of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* to 2016, 2019 or 2020; and
- b) how to incorporate the Post-2010 Biodiversity Targets into the Strategic Vision.

The working group should work through electronic means.

The members of the working group were specified as follows: China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, the United States, IUCN, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), IWMC – World Conservation Trust, SSN and TRAFFIC.

The Committee also asked the Secretariat to:

- a) prepare a revised draft of the Strategic Vision incorporating the Post-2010 Biodiversity Targets and taking into account the comments made at the present meeting;
- b) distribute this draft to the working group; and
- c) otherwise provide general support to the working group.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Mexico, Nigeria, IUCN, IFAW, Humane Society International, Pew Environment Group and SSN.

15. Cooperation with other organizations

15.1 Overview

The Secretary-General introduced document SC61 Doc. 15.1, stressing the various ways in which the CITES Secretariat cooperates with other organizations in line with the Strategic Vision, particularly to: raise the level of awareness of the Convention and the level of attention it was given; to obtain support, including financial support, for activities to implement the Convention; and to support the work of CITES Parties.

The Committee noted the report of the Secretariat in document SC61 Doc. 15.1.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the regional representative of Europe (the United Kingdom).

15.2 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

and

15.3 Convention on Biological Diversity

The Secretariat introduced items 15.2 and 15.3 together, as document SC61 Doc. 15.3 also addressed the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. The Secretariat reported that it had worked with the CBD Secretariat and the Government of Switzerland to organize the European launch of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity in the margins of the present meeting. It drew attention to a proposed memorandum of cooperation between Heads of Agencies and CBD on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which CITES and others would sign on 20 September 2011 in New York. Finally, it mentioned the development of a draft *modus operandi* for the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions.

In the discussion that followed, it was acknowledged that CITES could not operate in a vacuum and that cooperation at the national and international levels was not only crucial for the Convention's successful implementation but could also help Parties access additional sources of funding. One member also noted that CITES could not be all things to all people and should focus on its core mission. One Party mentioned that the Secretary-General's visit to the country had facilitated links between CITES authorities and other ministries.

Positive references were made to cooperation between CITES and other organizations on science, monitoring schemes, e-permitting systems, the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and other law enforcement activities, the Global Strategy on Plant Conservation, bushmeat and capacity building.

Going back to specific cooperation with CBD, opinions differed. It was suggested that care be exercised with regard to collaboration on invasive alien species, as the mandate under Resolution Conf. 13.10 was limited. One NGO also stated that CITES should maintain its focus, and not be subsumed under CBD. On the contrary, another thought that CITES had not engaged enough with CBD and that CITES authorities needed to work more closely with their CBD counterparts.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Secretariat on item 15.2 and its report in document SC61 Doc. 15.3.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of North America (the United States), and by Brazil, China, the Pew Environment Group and TRAFFIC.

15.4 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 15.4 (Rev. 1), highlighting the strong thematic links between the two Conventions which had been strengthened through Resolution Conf. 13.3 [*Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*], and a Memorandum of Understanding and joint activities programme between the Secretariats. This cooperation was welcomed by speakers who highlighted the focus on the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), the dugong (*Dugong dugon*), gorillas (*Gorilla* spp.), saiga antelopes (*Saiga* spp.), the snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) and marine turtles (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae spp.). Several speakers requested more time to consider the draft action plan for 2012-2014.

The Committee noted document SC61 Doc. 15.4 (Rev. 1) and requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties inviting comments on its Annex 2, in time for these to be considered at the 38th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee in November 2011.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by China, Kenya, the Russian Federation and CMS.

15.5 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Secretary-General introduced document SC61 Doc. 15.5, drawing attention to the Annex which contained a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) jointly prepared by the Secretariats of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and CITES. He advised members that

several minor editorial changes had subsequently been agreed by the two Secretariats and explained that the draft MoU was an 'umbrella agreement' aimed at broadening the scope of cooperation between CITES and FAO to include not only commercially exploited aquatic species but also forests, non-timber forest products and wildlife. An existing MoU between CITES and FAO on commercially exploited aquatic species had been incorporated without change into the draft MoU as an annex. The Secretary-General also informed the Committee that the Secretariat had submitted a request to FAO to join the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, which was chaired by FAO.

The representative of FAO noted the fruitful cooperation that currently existed between FAO and the CITES Secretariat (e.g. on aquatic species such as sharks, introduction from the sea and proposed amendments to the Appendices). Acknowledging Decision 15.18 of the Conference of the Parties, which envisaged the enhancement of FAO-CITES cooperation on forestry issues, he highlighted the benefits of enhancing their cooperation on wildlife and other issues as well.

General support was expressed for the cooperation between CITES and FAO as well as the efforts of the two Secretariats to develop the draft MoU. One member expressed concern over the breadth of the MoU and the fact that the draft went well beyond the directions to the Standing Committee contained in Decision 15.18. Several NGOs also expressed concern regarding the scope of the draft MoU. It was suggested, however, that the draft MoU be circulated to CITES Parties for comment and the matter be reconsidered at SC62. As certain interventions reflected some confusion about the annex to the draft MoU, the Secretary-General explained that the existing MoU on commercially exploited aquatic species had already been concluded and was not open for discussion.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to invite further comments from Parties through a Notification and prepare a further document for consideration at SC62.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia) and North America (the United States), and by the Depositary Government, China, FAO, International Environmental Law Project, Pew Environment Trust and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

15.6 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC61 Doc. 15.6 (Rev. 1). Speakers stressed the importance of the continued engagement of CITES with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity Services. Nevertheless, some cautioned that it should not duplicate the work of the CITES scientific committees or focus too heavily on the economic value of biodiversity.

The Committee endorsed the recommendations in paragraph 5 of the Annex to document SC61 Doc. 15.6 (Rev. 1) and noted the observation in paragraph 6.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of Europe (the United Kingdom), and by Mexico and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

15.7 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 15.7. It noted that the ICCAT Secretariat had written recently to clarify that the proposed guidelines for cooperation contained in the Annex to that document had not yet been agreed within ICCAT and that some ICCAT Parties wished to discuss the matter at their next meeting in November 2011 before initiating discussions on the matter with CITES.

A number of Standing Committee members, observer Parties and others welcomed closer cooperation between CITES and ICCAT, particularly in the areas of enhanced communication, information exchange and collaboration on matters of mutual concern. It was suggested that such cooperation give due recognition to ICCAT's responsibility for tuna fisheries.

Some concern was expressed about the inclusion of provisions on listing criteria and amendment proposals (e.g. paragraphs 3-5). Many speakers also noted that the document seemed quite preliminary in nature.

It was recommended that any future instrument aimed at enhancing cooperation between CITES and ICCAT clarify the parties to the instrument, use consistent terminology (which would make the nature of the agreement more clear), contain some provision for the handling of confidential information, and cover by-catches in tuna fisheries.

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should continue liaising with the ICCAT Secretariat until the ICCAT meeting in November 2011. The Committee further agreed that, if a draft document on enhancing cooperation between ICCAT and CITES resulted from that meeting, the Secretariat should report back at SC62 on that matter and make its report available well ahead of SC62 to enable consultations by Committee members. The Secretary-General noted that there would be no agreement without the approval of the Standing Committee.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the Pew Environment Group and IWMC – World Conservation Trust.

15.8 World Trade Organization

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 15.8 and provided an oral update. It mentioned that government representatives of WTO had been invited to the Geneva launch of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 (see agenda item 15.3 above), that an updated WTO Matrix of Trade-Related Measures in Multilateral Environmental Agreements was now available on the WTO website and that the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility Working Group had agreed to go forward with organization of a global seminar on international trade and invasive alien species in 2012. The Secretariat and the International Trade Centre were now also reviewing a draft memorandum of understanding on cooperation.

The Committee noted that its requests for observer status in the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade were still under consideration in those committees. The Committee expressed general support for continued efforts to seek *ad hoc* observer status in WTO committees on issues of direct relevance to CITES that arose in relevant committees.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the regional representative of North America (the United States).

16. Access to finance, including GEF funding

The Secretary-General introduced document SC61 Doc. 16, highlighting the lack of a financial mechanism such as the GEF for the Convention.

Committee members noted that the Finance and Budget Subcommittee had discussed this issue. They congratulated the Secretariat and expressed support for the Secretariat's efforts, with the Subcommittee, to explore the GEF and other potential funding mechanisms that could support activities under the Convention. One Party referred to the relevance of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans and pointed out that a link between CITES and the GEF would need to take account of the GEF's sixth phase in 2014. It was suggested that a working group under the Subcommittee could guide efforts on this matter and compile the results for discussion at SC62. As the Depositary Government (Switzerland) was currently the only member of the Subcommittee from the European region, the European Union and its Member States would consider membership and inform the Chair of the Subcommittee.

The Committee requested the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) to establish an intersessional working group on access to finance, including GEF funding, whose members would be Parties. The Annex to document SC61 Doc. 16 should provide the basis for its work. The Committee also requested the FBSC to report at SC62 on the outcome of the discussions of the working group.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Mexico and Humane Society International.

17. Cooperation between Parties and promotion of multilateral measures

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 17, noting that Indonesia had expressed its willingness to join the Standing Committee Working Group on Multilateral Measures.

Following clarification from the Secretariat that more than one Party from the Asian region could participate in the Working Group, Kuwait stated that it would also like to join the group. Several non-governmental organizations also expressed interest in participating in the working group.

One Committee member stressed that the activities of the working group should not put into question the right of Parties to adopt stricter domestic measures, whilst another member suggested that a proposed inventory of stricter domestic measures need not give an opinion on the effectiveness of those measures.

The Committee agreed to continue the Working Group on Multilateral Measures and appointed South Africa as Chair of the Working Group. The Committee requested the Working Group, if consistent with its mandate under Decision 14.29 (Rev. CoP15), to compile an inventory of Parties' stricter domestic measures.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Humane Society International, IFAW and International Environmental Law Project.

18. CITES and livelihoods

The Secretariat gave a general introduction to document SC61 Doc. 18, noting that the United Kingdom was also a member of the Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods. It then indicated that the Chair of the Working Group (Peru) would provide a more detailed introduction to the matter. The Chair drew attention to the importance of considering the impacts of CITES implementation on the livelihoods of the poor and highlighted the new work plan being proposed by the Working Group. The Chair also recommended expansion of the Group and invited additional Parties to join it.

There was general support for the Working Group's new work plan, and a number of Committee members and Parties expressed interest in joining the Group. The Standing Committee's attention was drawn to the symposium organized by Austria and the European Commission on 'The relevance of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) to the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species in exporting countries' (Vienna, May 2011). It was noted that communities used wildlife for social or cultural as well as economic purposes, and that such use was both consumptive and non-consumptive.

One Committee member mentioned its concern about the amount of attention paid to this issue and suggested that it was better addressed by CBD and the Commission on Sustainable Development. In response, several Parties indicated that the issue of livelihoods was of great interest to them. It was suggested that CITES's work on livelihoods offered a new channel for the Convention and a good area for cooperation with other conventions such as CBD.

The Committee approved the revised Working Group timetable and agreed to expand the membership of the Working Group on CITES and livelihoods to additional Parties and organizations. The members of the Working Group were: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, India, Indonesia, Israel, Mali, Nicaragua, Nigeria, South Africa, Suriname, the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Conservation Force, FAN Bolivia, Humane Society International, IFAW, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Pro Wildlife, Safari Club International, SSN, TRAFFIC, WWF and the CITES Secretariat.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia) and North America (the United States), and by Austria, Canada, China, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, IFAW, Pro-Wildlife and WWF.

19. Capacity building

The Secretariat presented document SC61 Doc. 19, outlining progress in its delivery of capacity-building support, with a renewed framework and the launch of the CITES Virtual College. The main findings of a needs assessment questionnaire submitted to Parties in the framework of the European Commission capacity-building project on *Strengthening the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to*

ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade were described, noting that improving both communication between CITES authorities and Customs and the making of non-detriment findings were urgently required. Several speakers praised the work of the Secretariat on the use of electronic-based materials, and in particular the development of the Virtual College, and stressed its importance and the need for further South-South exchanges.

The Committee noted the report of the Secretariat.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and Oceania (Australia), and by China, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Mexico, South Africa, Spain and Zimbabwe.

20. CITES logo

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 20. The regional representative of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) commented that his country should have been included in the list of respondents contained in paragraph 3 of the document.

There was general support for a slight loosening of the current policy governing use of the CITES logo, as for instance proposed by the Secretariat in paragraph 8, to raise consumers' awareness of the Convention. Any change should nevertheless be approached with some caution as the logo should not be misinterpreted as a form of trade endorsement. A suggestion was made to seek assistance from experts in branding issues. In response to a query, the Secretariat clarified that Parties had no obligation to report on use of the logo on their territories, but that it sought the Parties' assistance in stopping any abuse that came to their attention.

The Committee requested that the Secretariat submit at SC62 a document proposing a slightly less restrictive policy on the use of the CITES logo, on the basis of the options presented in paragraph 8 of document SC61 Doc. 20.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by the Depositary Government, India, Indonesia and SSN.

21. Secretary-General's certificates of commendation

The Secretary-General introduced document SC61 Doc. 21. He noted that recipients of certificates of commendation, generally front-line enforcement officers, have been selected on the basis of information received by the Secretariat in the course of its daily work, and that they had always been very appreciative of the international recognition of their efforts.

Considerable support was expressed for the award of certificates of commendation and for the suggestion of extending the current scheme to recognize achievements in the fields of science and CITES administration or implementation. Some stressed the need to ensure, however, that the operation of the scheme should not place a burden on the limited resources of the Secretariat. One Party suggested that nominations could be made by Parties. Another preferred the current approach. One Party suggested that the criteria should be refined and made more inclusive. One observer stressed that the giving of awards should be non-controversial. The Secretary-General stated that his intention would be to continue following the same approach as in the past, not to add any further burden to the Secretariat's resources and that his intention would always be to have a positive influence on the implementation of the Convention and not to create divisiveness.

The Committee agreed that the scheme for granting the Secretary General's certificate of commendation should be extended to cover the work of Management and Scientific Authorities, with the understanding that this would not draw heavily on the time of the Secretariat, and that the Secretary-General would exercise his good judgement in ensuring that the granting of certificates would have a positive influence.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China, India, Indonesia, Kenya and Humane Society International.

Review of Resolutions

22. Review of Resolutions following Decision 14.19

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 22. All changes recommended in the document were supported, with the change of one word in suggested text for Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev.). Speakers also expressed their appreciation of this review and stated that it was a useful exercise that should be continued. In view of the lack of resources in the Secretariat, it was proposed that the working group explore other ways to take the review forward in the three languages.

The Committee adopted the changes proposed in the Annex to document SC61 Doc. 22, with an amendment to the suggested change in the preamble of Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev.), under ACKNOWLEDGING, namely to replace the word 'authorize' with allow. It also requested that the working group look at different ways to continue the review that would not be so demanding on the Secretariat's resources, and to submit proposals at SC62.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States).

Compliance and enforcement

23. National laws for implementation of the Convention

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 23 and drew the Committee's attention to the updated legislative status chart contained in Annex 2, in particular the addition of Equatorial Guinea and Iceland to the list of Parties with legislation in Category 1. The Secretariat also reported that all 24 countries that had received written cautions in 2009 had subsequently complied with Decision 14.25 and therefore no additional action was required in that regard.

Several Committee members stressed the critical importance of all Parties having legislation for adequate implementation of the Convention and expressed concern about the large number of countries whose legislation remained in Categories 2 and 3. There was general support for the list of available measures for increasing legislative momentum contained in paragraph 6 of the discussion document. Parties whose legislation was in Category 1 were urged to assist other Parties, and one Committee member offered to work with the Secretariat to develop a simpler and 'lighter' model CITES law.

A number of Parties reported on their legislative progress, or the legislative progress in their region, and two Parties stated that they believed their legislation now qualified for Category 1. The Secretariat undertook to work bilaterally with those two Parties.

The Committee agreed that the adoption of national laws for implementation of the Convention was a serious issue and urged Parties and dependent territories whose legislation was in Category 2 or 3 to make use of the means listed in paragraph 6 of document SC61 Doc. 23 to increase legislative momentum. It decided to consider appropriate compliance measures for Parties which it had identified as requiring attention as a priority, if those Parties had not submitted legislation for parliamentary, Cabinet or ministerial approval by SC62. Finally, the Committee asked the Secretariat to issue a Notification requesting Parties and dependent territories whose legislation was in Category 2 or 3 to submit information on their legislative progress 90 days in advance of SC62.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Malaysia, Nigeria and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

24. National reports

The Secretariat gave a general introduction to document SC61 Doc. 24. The United Kingdom, speaking as the Chair of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements Group, explained further that the breadth of CITES reporting requirements was a challenge for many Parties and that a strategy, rather than simply a set of requirements, was needed for reporting. He informed the Committee about the work underway, *inter alia*, to develop a spreadsheet of reporting requirements and to map the CITES Strategic

Vision indicators against the biennial report format. Finally, he announced that the Working Group would be meeting in the margins of the present meeting and would report later in the meeting.

Committee members emphasized that timely submission of trade data was needed for decision-making under the Convention and supported ongoing efforts to reduce the reporting burden, particularly in relation to reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants. The Secretariat was requested to name Parties which had failed, without adequate justification, to submit annual reports for three consecutive years so that regional representatives might provide necessary assistance.

The new CITES trade data dashboards were seen as a positive development and it was suggested that future reporting be focused on outcomes rather than processes. In this connection, the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements was urged to link its work to the development of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and its Aichi targets, adopted at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP10, Nagoya, 2010).

The Committee asked the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties, 30 days from the conclusion of the present meeting (i.e. on 18 September 2011), recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with the Congo⁸, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Sierra Leone until they provided the requisite number of annual reports.

The Committee re-established the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements, chaired by the United Kingdom and comprising Australia, Canada, Costa Rica and Kenya. The Committee requested the Working Group to include in its terms of reference the issues addressed in document SC61 Doc. 24 and to report at SC62 on progress made in addressing them.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (the United Kingdom, also in its capacity as Chair of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements) and North America (the United States).

25. Review of the guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual reports

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 25. All speakers supported the recommendation to review the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual reports*, and it was suggested that this task be given to the Committee's Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements. China offered to participate and was included in the Group.

The Committee instructed the Working Group to add to its terms of reference the task of drafting a revision of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual reports* and to report at SC62.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by China, Indonesia and SSN.

26. Ranching operations

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 26 and noted that no representative of Madagascar was attending the present meeting. It had not been able to undertake the mission to Madagascar envisaged in the discussion document and, therefore, had no additional information to report.

The Committee agreed to maintain the recommendation to suspend trade with Madagascar in *Crocodylus niloticus* and to defer consideration of this item until SC62.

There were no interventions.

27. Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens

Poland, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, introduced document SC61 Doc. 27. General support was expressed for the proposal in the document. In response to a question, the Secretariat noted that it was awaiting results of the present discussion before preparing a manual on the use of source codes.

⁸ Note from the Secretariat: the Congo submitted its missing reports later on in the meeting.

Other points that arose in the discussion were: that incorrect use of source codes can negatively affect implementation of the Convention and result in non-consideration of species in the Review of Significant Trade when they should in fact be considered; that the export of species from non-range States should be considered; that the definition of source code 'C' should be examined; that the incorrect use of code 'A' for plants should also be considered, although perhaps at a later stage; that non-matching source codes of the importing and exporting countries should be examined; that an important consideration was possible benefit sharing for countries of origin of species bred in captivity; that the use of captive-bred and artificially propagated specimens can help to reduce pressure on wild populations and should therefore not be made more difficult; that it would be useful to consider the effects of import bans on sustainable use and resulting shifts in trade to captive-bred specimens; and that the Animals Committee should be involved in the deliberations on this subject.

The Committee established a working group on this subject, chaired by the United States, and requested Poland and the United States to draft the mandate for the working group, to be considered later in the meeting. The membership of the working group was agreed as follows: Australia, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, the United States, Zimbabwe, the European Commission, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Conservation International, Defenders of Wildlife, Elephant Family, Eurogroup for Animals, Humane Society International, International Alligator/Crocodile Trade Study, IUCN, Pro Wildlife, SSN, TRAFFIC and WWF.

At a later session, the Chair of the Working Group introduced document SC61 Com. 2, containing a draft decision of the Standing Committee on how to progress this issue, including terms of reference for the working group. Regarding the draft decision, the Committee agreed to the following changes to the list of possible challenges under paragraph 1.i):

- under the third indent, the following words should be appended: "including specimens bred in captivity outside their natural range"; and
- under the final indent, the entire text should be moved to the end of paragraph 1. ii) and preceded by the word "including".

With these amendments, the Committee adopted the draft decision in the document.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Uganda), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by the Depositary Government, Canada, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Poland, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Humane Society International, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, SSN, TRAFFIC and WWF.

28. Review of Significant Trade

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 28. It drew attention to the Committee's decision at its 59th meeting to withdraw its recommendation to Parties to suspend trade in chameleon species in the genera *Calumma* and *Furcifer* from Madagascar, pending the approval by the Animals Committee of conservative annual export quotas established by that country. At its 25th meeting (Geneva, July 2011), the Animals Committee had approved such quotas for the species *Calumma amber*, *C. ambreense*, *C. andringitraense*, *C. boettgeri*, *C. capuroni*, *C. cucullatum*, *C. fallax*, *C. furcifer*, *C. gallus*, *C. glawi*, *C. globifer*, *C. guibei*, *C. guillaumeti*, *C. hafahafa*, *C. hilleniusi*, *C. jeji*, *C. linota*, *C. malthe*, *C. marojezense*, *C. oshaughnessyi*, *C. peltierorum*, *C. peyrierasi*, *C. tsaratanaense*, *C. tsyscorne*, *C. vatosoa*, *C. vencesi*, *Furcifer bifidus*, *F. petteri*, *F. rhinocerotus* and *F. willsii*. Consequently, the Standing Committee's recommendation to Parties to suspend trade in these species from Madagascar could be withdrawn.

Speakers supported the conclusions in document SC61 Doc. 28, but stressed the need for the Advisory Working Group on the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade to consider how to make the Review of Significant Trade clearer and easier to follow. India drew attention to the recommendation to suspend trade in the Himalayan yew (*Taxus wallichiana*) and red sandalwood (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) from India made at the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee. India stated that it did not allow export of wild harvested products of Himalayan yew and had clarified to the Secretariat the legislative status of exports of specimens of red sandalwood, the level of artificial propagation, the permit process and perceived discrepancies between reported Customs data and CITES data, as recommended by the Plants

Committee at its 17th meeting (Geneva, April 2008). It had also commissioned a study by one of their scientific authorities to respond to the long-term recommendation of the Plants Committee concerning red sandalwood. The results of this study were expected in November 2011.

The Committee noted the information presented document SC61 Doc. 28 and the oral update by the Secretariat. It endorsed the actions suggested in paragraph 5. f), 6. h) and 9 of the document. It agreed to withdraw its recommendation to Parties to suspend trade in *Taxus wallichiana* from India with immediate effect. It further agreed that its recommendation to Parties to suspend trade in *Pterocarpus santalinus* from India should be lifted once the Secretariat received the completed study being undertaken by one of the Indian Scientific Authorities in compliance the long-term recommendations formulated by the Plants Committee at its 17th meeting (Geneva, April 2008).

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by India, the Chair of the Animals Committee and Pro Wildlife.

29. E-commerce of specimens of CITES-listed species

Speaking as Chair of the Working Group on E-commerce, the United Kingdom introduced document SC61 Doc. 29. Canada had graciously offered to develop the toolkit which the Standing Committee had requested at its 58th meeting (Geneva, 2009). It would be made available to Enforcement Authorities only, owing to the confidential information it would contain. Consequently, the Working Group would need to obtain feedback from Enforcement Authorities on the usefulness of the toolkit. The Working Group would also need to consider whether there was a need for a separate toolkit for Management Authorities. Support was expressed for extending the mandate of the Working Group, but not for commissioning of an independent report. Nevertheless, the working group would be free to look at and use such a study if one were independently funded.

The Standing Committee noted the Chair's report and re-established the Working Group on E-commerce, chaired by the United Kingdom and comprising Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Kenya, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, the United States, the European Commission, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Humane Society International, IFAW, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, TRAFFIC and VC International. The Committee decided not to accept the recommendation to commission an independent report on the impact of e-commerce on trade of specimens of CITES-listed species, but invited Parties, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to submit studies and reports on e-commerce for review by the Working Group.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Europe (Bulgaria) and North America (the United States), and by IFAW and TRAFFIC.

30. Enforcement matters

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 30, highlighting the situations in Nigeria and Guinea. With regard to Nigeria, the Secretariat reported that Nigeria had enacted new legislation, which had been placed in Category 1 under the National Legislation Project, and that it had conducted the necessary *in situ* verification activities.

Participants welcomed the progress made by Nigeria and several supported the Secretariat's proposal for a mission to Guinea. The establishment of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime was welcomed and the Secretariat was congratulated on its enforcement-related activities.

The Committee noted the document. It also accepted the Secretariat's oral recommendation that the recommendation for a suspension of trade in relation to Nigeria be withdrawn. The Committee further accepted an oral recommendation from the Secretariat that Guinea should be requested to issue an invitation, by 30 November 2011, for the Secretariat to conduct a mission to Guinea to examine illicit trade issues. The Committee agreed, should such an invitation not be forthcoming by 30 November 2011, that the Secretariat would issue a Notification to the Parties recommending a suspension in commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species to and from Guinea.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China, Nigeria, CMS, LAGA and SSN.

31. Gathering and analysis of data on illegal trade

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 31 and encouraged the Committee to consider whether this working group should continue.

There was general agreement that it was impractical for the Secretariat to maintain such a database and several delegations encouraged the use of existing regional or international databases, such as that operated by INTERPOL.

The Committee noted the document and adopted the Secretariat's recommendation in paragraph 10.

During discussions on this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by China, New Zealand and the Environmental Investigation Agency.

Trade control and marking

32. Introduction from the sea

The Vice-chair of the Working Group on Introduction from the Sea introduced document SC61 Doc. 32 and then introduced document SC61 Com. 1 as well, which contained a revised Annex to Annex 1 of document SC61 Doc. 32. He explained that the Working Group had reached consensus on document SC61 Com. 1, including on text regarding chartered vessels. This text on chartered vessels would serve as interim text until the Working Group could further explore the chartering issue.

General appreciation was expressed for the work done by the co-chairs. The importance of finding a way forward on the chartering issue was stressed.

Some concern was expressed about the challenge of implementing the Convention's provisions on introduction from the sea (e.g. making non-detriment findings for specimens taken from the high seas, the humane handling of live specimens, and related law enforcement issues) and the ability of the Convention to be effectively applied to marine species. It was pointed out that other bodies and instruments also dealt with marine species on the high seas such as FAO, Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. It was suggested that a working group might review whether the provisions on introductions from the sea were implementable as a type of trade under the Convention, evaluate their relevance to and potential benefit to wildlife conservation, determine whether it was an appropriate mechanism for managing the catch and trade of marine species, and consider the need for possible revision of relevant articles in the Convention. In response, it was noted that Parties made a commitment under the Convention to conduct non-detriment findings, the second part of the current Working Group's mandate would address implementation issues and the Working Group had not been instructed by the Conference of the Parties to question the treaty or its provisions. It was suggested that there was no need for another working group and that its proposed remit would go beyond Decision 14.48 (Rev. CoP15). It was also suggested that the Secretariat might advise the Standing Committee on whether there was a legal basis for the Committee to establish unilaterally a working group to review the text of the Convention and to address other terms of reference proposed during the present meeting.

The Standing Committee noted with satisfaction the significant progress made by the Working Group on Introduction from the Sea, which had agreed by consensus to document SC61 Com. 1. It approved the Working Group's plans to continue working on the further development of this document and to report at SC62. With regard to a new proposal for action arising from the floor, the Committee decided to continue its discussion of this agenda item until the next day.

When discussion of this item began again, the proposal to establish a new working group was withdrawn and the current Working Group was asked to consider, if possible, the various concerns that had been raised.

The co-chairs were also asked to present the following questions to the Working Group as it continued its discussion of the chartering issue:

1. If the products of chartered vessels caught in the high seas were brought to the flag State of the chartered vessels, were these products recognized as introduction from the sea to the flag State?

2. If the products of chartered vessels caught in the high seas were brought to a third country, were these products recognized as export from the flag State to the third country?

The Standing Committee noted the withdrawal of a proposal by the regional representative of Asia (Kuwait) to establish a new working group to consider additional issues related to introduction from the sea. The Committee also noted the wish expressed by the regional representative of Asia (Kuwait) that the concerns it had raised on behalf of some countries in the Asian region be considered by the Working Group on Introduction from the Sea, if possible. The Committee further noted the explanation provided by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group (the United States) that the Group would be exploring a range of implementation issues during its intersessional work before SC62 and that this work would include consideration of many of the various concerns that had been put forward by the regional representative of Asia.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by the Next Host Country (Thailand), Brazil, China, Indonesia, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Humane Society International, International Environmental Law Project, Pew Environment Trust and WWF.

33. Electronic permitting

As Chair of the Working Group on E-commerce, Switzerland introduced document SC61 Doc. 33, summarizing in particular the lessons learned from the joint project to exchange CITES export permit data electronically. Speakers expressed strong support for the work of the Working Group.

The Standing Committee noted the Chair's report and extended the mandate of the Working Group, in accordance with the recommendation made in paragraph 27 of document SC61 Doc. 33. Japan expressed its interest in joining the Working Group.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Norway), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by China, India, Indonesia and SSN.

34. Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 34, drawing attention in particular to the requirement, in Decision 14.54 (Rev. CoP15), to re-establish the working group on purpose-of-transaction codes. Parties that intervened stressed the need for clear definitions of these codes, and one noted the need to avoid oversimplification.

The Committee re-established the Working Group on Purpose Codes, chaired by Canada, and with the following membership: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the United States, Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Humane Society International, International Environmental Law Project and Safari Club International.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (Norway) and North America (the United States), and by Canada and China.

35. Physical inspection of timber shipments

The Secretariat introduced the topic orally and provided background on the work completed by the Working Group on Physical Inspection of Timber Shipments towards implementation of Decision 14.61 (Rev. CoP15). The Chair of the working group (Italy) presented the findings of the group on methods used by Parties to identify and measure timber shipments. Unfortunately, Italy was not in a position to continue as Chair of the Working Group.

The Committee noted the oral report of Italy, re-established the Working Group and requested the United States to consult with the other members of the Working Group in order to elect a new chair to progress the work of the group.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of North America (the United States) and by China.

36. Use of taxonomic serial numbers

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 36.1 and Canada introduced document SC61 Doc. 36.2, stressing the benefits of using taxonomic serial numbers to monitor and identify species in international trade. It encouraged Parties to examine these benefits through a working group.

The Standing Committee noted the reports of Canada and of the Secretariat and established a working group on the use of taxonomic serial numbers, chaired by Canada and comprising Australia, China, France, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Switzerland, the United States, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre and Conservation International. It also extended the terms of reference of the Working Group contained in Decision 15.68 to include the recommendations in paragraphs 9 and 10 of document SC61 Doc. 36.2.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by the Depositary Government, China, France, Mexico, Nigeria and Conservation International.

37. Identification manual

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 37, underlining that the Identification Manual, a significant body of knowledge compiled by the Parties over more than 30 years, now existed as a Web-based database that could be modified by registered users. Interventions supported the development of the Identification Manual, and a request was made for a stand-alone version for Parties having difficulty in accessing the Internet.

The Committee noted document SC61 Doc. 37 and welcomed news that the original Identification Manual pages would also be added to the Wiki pages.

During discussion on this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and Oceania (Australia), and by Canada, China, Indonesia, Nigeria, Humane Society International and TRAFFIC.

As this was the last CITES meeting for the Chief of Capacity Building of the CITES Secretariat, Mr Stephen Nash, who would soon be leaving the Secretariat, the Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation of his exceptional service for the CITES Secretariat and the Parties over 11 years, his strong personal commitment and his deep knowledge of the Convention. He presented to him the CITES gold pin in recognition of his contribution.

Exemptions and special trade provisions

38. Personal and household effects

The Chair of the Working Group on Personal and Household Effects (China) introduced document SC61 Doc. 38, noting that agreement had been reached on some aspects of its mandate but that others needed more discussion. He invited other interested Parties to join the Working Group.

There was general support for continuation of the Working Group, and several Parties expressed their desire to participate in the Group. It was suggested that clear, consistent and easily understandable rules for the handling of personal and household effects would facilitate effective implementation of the Convention.

The Committee extended the operation of its Working Group on Personal and Household Effects until the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, noting that it would continue working under the mandate provided in Decision 14.64 (Rev. CoP15). It thanked the Working Group for its work in the margins of the present meeting and noted that the regional representatives of Asia (Japan) and Oceania (Australia), and Canada would join the Working Group.

During discussion of the item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom) and Oceania (Australia), and by Canada and China.

39. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

The Philippines introduced document SC61 Doc. 39.

The direct submission of the registration applications to the Standing Committee without following the procedure laid out in Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) was criticized. The Secretariat confirmed receiving the applications from the Philippines in line with the regular procedure earlier in the year, but had not had time to review them until right before the present meeting. It nevertheless confirmed that it had found the applications to meet the registration criteria.

Indonesia, which was a range State of the four species proposed for registration, explained that it had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Philippines in 2009 to support *in situ* conservation efforts. It had sent to the Philippines a draft action plan to implement this MoU earlier in the year, but was still awaiting a response. It therefore recommended postponing discussion of these applications until SC62 to allow for further discussions between the two countries. The Philippines clarified that the MoU they had signed with Indonesia was a voluntary initiative to implement Resolution Conf. 13.9 (*Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes*) and referred to the type of support that was envisaged in that Resolution. It argued that the *ex situ* operation must be able to generate income to provide that support, and explained that it was currently reviewing the feasibility of the ambitious action plan drafted by Indonesia.

There was general agreement that the applications should be circulated in accordance with the procedure established by the Conference of the Parties and, if necessary, looked at again at SC62. Several members stressed that this postponement should not be regarded as a rejection of the proposals.

The Committee asked that the registration applications be circulated for comments in compliance with the procedure laid out in Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), noting that, if a Party objected to the registration, the applications would be submitted again at SC62 for consideration.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Kuwait), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Indonesia.

Species trade and conservation

40. Great apes

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 40.

Speakers supported the proposal of the Secretariat, welcomed the work conducted by the World Customs Organization and encouraged the undertaking of the technical missions.

The Committee noted the document and adopted the Secretariat's second suggestion in the final line of paragraph 4.

During discussions of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom).

41. Asian big cats

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 41.

The progress being made by the Global Tiger Initiative was welcomed and China and India described their ongoing tiger conservation efforts. The Global Tiger Forum described how its activities had recently been re-vamped. Delegations noted that tigers remained under considerable threat of extinction.

The Committee noted the document and adopted the Secretariat's suggestion that the Senior Experts Group of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime be asked to conduct the review required in Decision 15.70.

During discussion on this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of Europe (the United Kingdom), and by China, India, Global Tiger Forum, Environmental Investigation Agency (also on behalf of IFAW) and TRAFFIC (also on behalf of WWF).

As this was the last CITES meeting for the Chief of Enforcement of the CITES Secretariat, Mr John Sellar, who would soon be retiring, the Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation of his exceptional service for the CITES Secretariat and the Parties over 14 years, his strong personal commitment and his deep knowledge of the Convention. He presented to him the CITES gold pin in recognition of his contribution.

42. Bushmeat

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 42, drawing attention to a successful joint CITES/CBD meeting on bushmeat held in June 2011 in Gigiri, Kenya, and bringing together the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat, the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group and relevant organizations and experts. The Secretariat highlighted the comprehensive recommendations emanating from the joint meeting, presented in information document SC61 Inf. 8, and their importance for CITES.

The Chair of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) provided a verbal update on the implementation of Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP15). Referring to the relevant information in document SC61 Doc. 42, he mentioned the key outputs of the half-day meeting of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group that had been held after the joint meeting mentioned above. He stressed that the control of trade in bushmeat for domestic and international markets remained a major challenge in Central Africa, with particularly serious impacts on the subregion's forest fauna. The findings and recommendations of the joint CBD/CITES meeting on bushmeat provided a broad framework to address these issues, and the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group encouraged the Standing Committee to endorse them. The Working Group recognized the importance of several initiatives pertaining to the management of bushmeat in Central Africa, including SYVBAC (Central African Bushmeat Monitoring System), the Action Plan of the Central African Forests Commission for the implementation of legislation on trade in wild fauna 2011-2016, and targeted projects conducted by FAO and TRAFFIC.

The Working Group remained committed to implement the Decisions that the Conference of the Parties had directed to it, and was also prepared to review Resolution Conf. 13.11 on *Bushmeat*, particularly to incorporate relevant recommendations from the joint CBD/CITES meeting on bushmeat. However, it needed support from CITES to undertake this work, and the Chair called upon the Standing Committee to provide or facilitate this assistance.

The Committee noted the report of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group.

No other interventions were made.

43. Tibetan antelope

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 43 and highlighted that conservation of Tibetan antelope could be regarded as a CITES success. International efforts appeared to have significantly reduced illegal trade in Tibetan antelope wool products, whilst anti-poaching efforts in China had enabled population numbers to increase notably.

The Committee noted the document and adopted the second suggestion of the Secretariat in the final line of paragraph 4.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of North America (the United States) and by China.

44. Elephants

The regional representative of Asia (Kuwait) requested that agenda items 44.1 to 44.6 be discussed in closed session. This request was carried with 7 votes in favour, 6 against and 3 abstentions, with the agreement that the Chairman of the Animals Committee and the European Commission would be allowed to attend the session for all items, and that IUCN and TRAFFIC would be allowed to attend discussions of agenda items 44.2 and 44.3.

However, after discussion of items 44.1 and 44.2, the regional representative of Europe (Norway) presented a motion to open discussion on whether the session should remain closed. This was carried by 11 votes in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions. The Committee then voted on a proposal to continue to

meet in closed session. This was rejected by 3 votes in favour, 8 against and 5 abstentions and the session was therefore reopened to non-Party observers for items 44.3-44.7.

44.1 Control of trade in elephant specimens⁹

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 44.1, highlighting the progress made by Nigeria and the current situation in Thailand. It also commended the work being done in Ethiopia and Rwanda. Several delegations commended the progress by Nigeria but also expressed concern regarding Thailand and agreed that a deadline should be established, as proposed by the Secretariat. Some speakers disagreed with the Secretariat's proposal that a trade suspension relating to Gabon and Somalia should be withdrawn, and the Secretariat withdrew its proposal.

Following a query, the Secretariat reported that it had distributed the results of the TRAFFIC analysis of the *Elephants and ivory trade questionnaire* to African range States, but not to Asian elephant range States. It stated that it would review the results to see how they could be shared, but noted that it did not have the resources to make best use of the questionnaire responses.

There was general concern that illegal trade in ivory continued at significant levels. The importance of implementing the *Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory* was emphasized, as was DNA profiling to identify the source of seized ivory. Support to the African Elephant Action Plan and Fund was also called for.

The Committee noted that the Secretariat would maintain the current recommendation of a suspension of trade in relation to Gabon and Somalia until the two countries submitted the necessary questionnaires. The Committee requested Thailand to submit a written report at SC62 describing its progress in regulating internal trade in ivory and combating illegal trade in ivory.

During discussions on this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan and Kuwait), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by the Next Host Country (Thailand), China, Kenya and South Africa.

44.2 Elephant management and conservation⁹

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 44.2 (Rev. 1), referring in particular to the report contained in Annex 1 that had been produced with input from the Secretariat's MIKE programme, IUCN/SSC African and Asian Elephant Specialist Groups, UNEP-WCMC and TRAFFIC. The Secretariat expressed its gratitude to the European Union for the financial support that had allowed it to implement Decision 14.78 (Rev. CoP15). After this introduction, IUCN, the Secretariat and TRAFFIC presented their key findings and drew attention to the 8 recommendations on pages 21 and 22 of the document.

The report was commended for its comprehensiveness and quality, and appreciation was expressed for the integrated information it provided. The findings of the report, which indicated an increasing trend in the illegal killing of elephants and the illegal trade in ivory, caused general concern.

All recommendations received broad support, with the exception of the suggestion in recommendation 3 to explore the feasibility of integrating an 'early warning system' within MIKE. The Standing Committee shared the view of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup that MIKE should strengthen its current monitoring and capacity building functions, maintain its delivery capacity, and not try to assume an 'early warning' role.

Concerning recommendation 4, it was stressed that isotope and DNA-based ivory identification techniques should be conducted professionally, timely and independently, and that, to avoid any suspicion of partiality, laboratories using these techniques should not be involved in advocacy campaigns concerning trade in ivory. Attention was also drawn to the research project that Germany supported regarding the determination of age and geographical origin of African elephant ivory, described in information document SC61 Inf. 4.

⁹ This item was discussed in closed session.

Regarding the status of elephants and conservation strategies, some remarked that an Asian elephant action plan similar to the African elephant action plan could be developed. Elephant range States also requested continued support for conducting regular elephant population surveys

With regard to the analysis of MIKE data, it was noted that it could be useful to determine levels of illegal killing of elephants that would be cause for major concern. The poor reporting performance of some elephant range States was criticized.

In relation to the ETIS analysis, concerns were expressed about the role of China in the illegal trade in ivory, with a suggestion to undertake a mission to the country to verify its domestic ivory markets. Nigeria, which was cited in recommendation 6 as being a problematic country for illicit trade in ivory, provided examples of recent ivory seizures to demonstrate that wildlife trade controls and compliance with CITES were improving substantially. It stressed that it would conform to ETIS reporting obligations.

China deplored that it had found several major errors in the ETIS analysis of ivory seizures in China, although these had been corrected in the revised version of the report. It questioned the findings of MIKE concerning the relationship between household consumption levels in China and levels of illegal killing of elephants. It concurred with the authors that closer attention should be paid to illegal trade in live Asian elephants.

As the major Asian elephant range State, India commented that its Asian elephant populations showed a positive trend with very low poaching levels. Major threats were habitat degradation and human-elephant conflicts. It informed about its recent initiative (the Elephant 50:50 Forum), aimed at bringing together all 50 African and Asian elephant range States to discuss and agree on the long-term conservation of elephants, and invited elephant range States to take part in the forum.

The Committee endorsed the report in Annex 1 of document SC61 Doc. 44.2 (Rev. 1) and all recommendations made therein, with the exception of recommendation 3.

In compliance with a further provision of Decision 14.78 (Rev. CoP15), the Secretariat had invited African elephant range States to provide information on the implementation of the *African elephant action plan*. But it explained that this was difficult for range States as long as the accompanying African Elephant Fund was not operational. It provided an update of the relevant information in document SC61 Doc. 44.2 (Rev. 1), declaring that, in compliance with Decision 14.79 (Rev. CoP15), it had now established the African Elephant Fund and its Steering Committee. It would be issuing a Notification to the Parties announcing these developments, and inviting donors to join France, Germany and the Netherlands in contributing to the African Elephant Fund. The Steering Committee had agreed to meet in the sidelines of SC61 to discuss *inter alia* its terms of reference and the activation of the Fund.

Committee members expressed appreciation for the progress made in relation to the African Elephant Fund and called on other donors to contribute to the Fund. The Secretariat was asked to assist the Steering Committee in organizing its first meeting and otherwise becoming operational.

In response to a query from a potential donor State, the Secretariat explained that donor States only had three seats on the Steering Committee. If other donor States qualified for a seat on the Committee, an election or rotational process would be needed to ensure that all eligible donor States had an opportunity to participate in the Committee at some point.

The Committee congratulated the three donor countries that had contributed to the African Elephant Fund and encouraged other donors to do likewise. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to provide assistance to the Steering Committee of the African Elephant Fund.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China, India, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe, IUCN, SSN and TRAFFIC.

44.3 MIKE-ETIS Subgroup

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 44.3. As has been the case after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties since 1997, the Standing Committee had re-established a MIKE-ETIS Subgroup at its 60th meeting, composed of Botswana (Vice-Chair), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Japan, Mali, Thailand, Uganda (Chair), the United Kingdom and the United States. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup had started to convene in the sidelines of the present meeting to deal with the tasks described in document SC61 Doc. 44.3.

The participants stressed the importance of the continued work of MIKE and ETIS. The programmes were encouraged to develop further synergies, maintain their independence and integrity and strengthen their collaboration with the IUCN African and Asian Elephant Specialist Groups. The United Kingdom announced that the European Union was exploring options to provide further funding for the MIKE programme in Africa, and called upon other donors to step in and commit to similar support for the operations of MIKE in Asia. China declared to have established an elephant fund in support of small-scale elephant projects, and that it would welcome applications from ETIS and MIKE to the fund. Finally, there was a suggestion for the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to look into the levels of illegal killing of elephants (as expressed in the value of PIKE - Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants) that would warrant concern.

The Committee took note of the progress made by the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup in addressing the items outlined in paragraphs 7 and 8 of document SC61 Doc. 44.3. It also agreed to consider the report of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup later in the meeting.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup reported on the conclusions and recommendations concerning each of the issues that had been assigned to it.

Committee members generally expressed support for the work and recommendations of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup. It was clarified that the revised Terms of Reference of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup provided that its meetings would be open to members of the ETIS and MIKE Technical Advisory Groups, Party representatives, representatives of the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Elephant Specialist Groups, and any other observers as agreed to by the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup.

The Committee noted the oral report of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup and endorsed its recommendations as follows:

a) Progress evaluation of the MIKE Phase II project in Africa

The Committee agreed that the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup should consider further the recommendations in the progress evaluation of the MIKE Phase II project in Africa, particularly in the context of the review of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15). It also took note of the concerns expressed by TRAFFIC with regard to the recommendations made about ETIS in the evaluation.

b) Ongoing and planned fund-raising efforts in support of ETIS and MIKE

The Committee asked the CITES Secretariat and IUCN to continue to collaborate in the further development of a project for implementing MIKE Phase III in Africa. It acknowledged the broad support that this project had received from African elephant range States and all other stakeholders, and expressed its desire that it be financially supported by the European Commission, including the project's ETIS and IUCN components. The Committee encouraged donors to support the global MIKE programme, and particularly its operations in South and Southeast Asia.

c) Amendments to the Terms of Reference for the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup

The Committee agreed to the revised Terms of Reference of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup.

d) Statement by the MIKE Technical Advisory Group at its 10th meeting (May 2011)

The Committee endorsed the statement by the MIKE Technical Advisory Group, presented in paragraph 8 of document SC61 Doc. 44.3.

- e) Proposal to establish an overarching elephant working group with a mandate to coordinate all elephant-related issues directed to the Standing Committee, including ETIS and MIKE

The Committee agreed that the mandate of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup should not be extended to include other elephant matters, and that the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup should firmly remain under the direct purview of the Standing Committee with focused attention on MIKE and ETIS.

- f) Oversight of MIKE and ETIS by the Technical Advisory Group

and

- g) Implementation of Decision 15.74 on the revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15)

and

- h) Other matters brought to attention of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup by ETIS or MIKE

The Committee agreed that the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup should address issues f) to h) intersessionally, and the implementation of Decision 15.74 in a time-frame compatible with that of the Working Group established by the Standing Committee to review the rest of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15).

During discussions of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by China, Kenya and SSN.

44.4 Decision-making mechanism for authorizing ivory trade

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 44.4, outlining Decision 14.77 calling on the Committee to propose a decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties, and reiterating the Committee's recommendation from its 57th meeting (Geneva, 2008) on the terms of reference for an independent study on the development of a mechanism. The Secretariat thanked Botswana and the European Commission for providing financial support for the study, and stressed that the study was not to determine whether there should or should not be international trade in ivory, which was a distinct matter.

The Committee agreed to the proposal for work towards the implementation of Decision 14.77. It also agreed that the following stakeholders should be consulted in the conduct of the proposed study: China and Japan as trading partners, African and Asian elephant range States, the United Kingdom and the United States as donors, and the MIKE-ETIS TAG, the IUCN/SSC African and Asian Elephant Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC as technical experts. The Committee requested that consultations with the African elephant range States be conducted in English and French, as appropriate, and that the draft report thereof be shared with Committee members as early as possible.

During discussion on this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Germany, Kenya, Environmental Investigation Agency, Humane Society International, IFAW and SSN.

44.5 Review of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15)

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 44.5, providing suggestions on how Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) could be amended, and explaining that input had been received from African elephant range States but not yet from Asian elephant range States.

Participants generally supported the Secretariat's recommendation to establish a working group to review Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) intersessionally, agreeing that it should work in parallel with the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, which was tasked with the revision of the sections in the resolution that concerned MIKE and ETIS. It was emphasized that these revisions would benefit from broad consultations.

The Committee agreed on the need to revise Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15). It instructed the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to review those sections of the Resolution that concerned MIKE and ETIS, and established a Working Group to review the other sections. The Working Group comprised China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, India, Japan, Kenya, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, Zimbabwe, IUCN, Humane Society International, IFAW, International Elephant Foundation, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, LAGA, SSN, TRAFFIC and WWF. This Working Group was to elect its own chair, establish a process and timetable for conducting its work, and report back on these matters later in the meeting.

Later in the meeting, India, as the elected Chair, reported that the Working Group had agreed on a process to revise the sections of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) that did not relate to MIKE and ETIS. The Working Group would mainly operate via a Web forum, which the Secretariat was asked to help establish. An initial revised version of the Resolution, based on the suggestions contained in document SC61 Doc. 44.5, would be circulated widely for input from African and Asian elephant range States and other stakeholders, and then merged with the amendments proposed by the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup. A draft of a revised Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) should be ready by April 2012 for presentation at SC62 in July 2012. The working group would seek to collaborate closely with the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup throughout the review.

The Committee noted the report of the working group and endorsed the encouragement to range States of the Asian elephant to develop an action plan for this species.

During discussions of these items, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by India, Kenya and WWF.

44.6 Consideration of proposals for the transfer of African elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 44.6, requesting that any proposal to transfer an African elephant population from Appendix I to II for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties be submitted as far in advance as possible to allow time for the appointment and work of the panel of experts.

The Committee took note of the document.

There were no interventions.

44.7 First technical exchange meeting between producing, consuming, and transiting nations to reduce the illegal trade in African elephant ivory

The United States introduced document SC61 Doc. 44.7, with IUCN providing further details of the awareness raising and outreach activities concerning illegal trade in ivory from Africa to Asia that were envisaged under the initiative, and drawing attention to the conclusion in paragraph 17 of the document.

The Secretary-General expressed his thanks for this excellent work and the hope that it would be continued.

China, Thailand, the United States and IUCN were congratulated for the excellent work they had undertaken and encouraged to continue this initiative.

The Committee endorsed the recommendation contained in document SC61 Doc. 44.7, expressed its gratitude to the Parties involved in the initiative and to IUCN, and encouraged other countries and partners to undertake similar activities.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of North America (the United States), and by IUCN and WWF.

In relation to agenda item 44 in general, the United Kingdom made reference to information document SC61 Inf. 11, in which it proposed the creation of an 'overarching' African and Asian elephant working group of the Standing Committee that would oversee the implementation of all Decisions and Resolutions

concerning elephants that were directed to or requested input from the Standing Committee. Participants commented that it was difficult to discuss this suggestion on the basis of an information document only. Several felt that an additional working group on elephants was not necessary, and that the existing ones, namely the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup and the Working Group on the revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15), were sufficient. The United Kingdom thanked the participants for their views, and indicated that it would withdraw its proposal.

During discussion of this proposal, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by India, Kenya, South Africa and SSN.

45. Rhinoceroses

45.1 Implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) and Decisions from CoP15

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 45.1 and provided an oral update on its missions to Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe, describing the seminars that had been held and the training undertaken. It also described a video on the poaching of and illegal trade in rhinoceroses that it was preparing in collaboration with the United Nations Television (UNTV) and with external funding.

Delegations welcomed the work being done by the Secretariat and that of the CITES Ivory and Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force. Several range States described the activities they were undertaking to counter poaching and illegal trade in rhinoceros horn, whilst some non-range States described their work in combating illegal trade. There was consensus that both poaching and illegal trade had reached serious levels and that urgent action was needed to counter these.

The Committee noted the document.

During discussions on this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

45.2 Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses

The United Kingdom introduced document SC61 Doc. 45.2 and highlighted the efforts being taken by the European Union to combat illicit trade in rhinoceros horn. It also introduced the proposals that the Committee was encouraged to adopt, particularly the establishment of a working group to consider measures to improve rhinoceros conservation and combat poaching and illegal trade.

As in the discussions in relation to document SC61 Doc. 45.1, considerable concern was expressed over the plight of rhinoceroses and several delegations voiced the need to work with traditional medicine associations and consumer States. There was general agreement that a multi-agency approach was needed and that Africa and Asia had to work together to safeguard rhinoceroses.

The Committee noted the document and established an intersessional working group consisting of China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States, Zimbabwe, IUCN, Safari Club International, SSN, TRAFFIC and WWF. The group was to work overnight to draft terms of reference and review the proposals in paragraph 4 of document SC61 Doc. 45.2.

Later in the session, and following the recommendations of the working group, the Committee decided that the intersessional working group, chaired by the United Kingdom, would identify measures that could be taken by CITES Parties to reduce the impact of illegal trade on the conservation of rhinoceroses and to enhance existing controls on trade in rhinoceros horn products. The Committee also:

a) Instructed the working group to:

- i) taking account of SC61 Doc 45.1 and SC61 Doc 45.2, the responses to Decisions 15.71 and 15.72, and on the basis of other currently available information, work with the Secretariat to assess how trade patterns have developed since CoP15, and, taking account of illegal

activities, consider the drivers for trade and measures that could be taken to prevent rhinoceros horn entering the illegal market;

- ii) collect and assess available scientific evidence and documented evidence of traditional cultural practices and beliefs that exists relating to the medicinal properties of rhinoceros horn, and in particular any which relates to the curative properties for cancers and strokes;
 - iii) work intersessionally, and by electronic means as necessary, to identify urgent, short-term measures and longer-term measures that can be taken by CITES Parties to reduce the illegal trade in rhinoceroses and their parts and derivatives, and to enhance existing controls on trade in rhinoceros horn products and live rhinoceroses to ensure the long-term conservation of the species;
 - iv) allocate tasks to its members to assess specific measures that may reduce the impact of illegal trade and enhance existing controls; and
 - v) report at SC62 with a view to developing recommendations for consideration at CoP16;
- b) Urged Parties to, urgently, introduce precautionary measures to control the trade in rhinoceros horn and live rhinoceroses;
 - c) Urged Parties to provide information on trade in rhinoceroses and their parts or derivatives to IUCN and TRAFFIC, as detailed in Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15); and
 - d) Encouraged Parties to engage in public awareness campaigns highlighting the current serious levels of criminality associated with the illicit trade in rhinoceroses and rhinoceros horn.

During discussions on this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda), Asia (Japan) and Europe (Norway), and by Canada, China, India, Environmental Investigation Agency, Humane Society International, IUCN, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, ProWildlife, TRAFFIC and WWF.

46. Snake trade and conservation management

46.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 46.1, reiterating its thanks to China, the United States and the European Union for their support which had made the workshop possible. The importance of capacity-building in connection with regulating trade in snakes was stressed.

The Committee noted the report.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the regional representative of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran).

46.2 Report of the Animals Committee

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC61 Doc. 46.2. Speakers welcomed the document and supported the Committee's recommendations. They also noted the need for capacity-building and the linkages between the item under discussion and the Animals Committee's work on captive-breeding and ranching on the one hand, and tortoises and freshwater turtles on the other hand.

The Standing Committee noted the recommendations of the Animals Committee in the Annex to document SC61 Doc. 46.2 and agreed that these would be considered by an intersessional working group that would also develop draft recommendations for consideration at SC62. The working group would comprise: the regional representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Ukraine and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Switzerland, the European Union, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Conservation International, Eurogroup for Animals, Humane Society International, International Alligator/Crocodile Trade Study, Pro Wildlife, SSN and TRAFFIC. The working group would select its own chair.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by the Depository Government, China, India, Humane Society International and TRAFFIC.

47. Tortoises and freshwater turtles

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC61 Doc. 47 (Rev. 2), clarifying that, in relation to this item and item 46.2, the Animals Committee itself could not submit proposals to amend the Appendices to the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee noted the recommendations of the Animals Committee in Annex 1 to document SC61 Doc. 47 (Rev. 2) and agreed that these would be taken into account by an intersessional working group. This group was also tasked with reviewing the pertinent sections, conclusions and recommendations in Annex 2 to the same document, and with preparing draft recommendations for consideration at SC62. The working group would comprise: the regional representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan), Europe (Ukraine and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and China, India, Kenya, Switzerland, Thailand, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Conservation International, Eurogroup for Animals, Humane Society International, SSN and TRAFFIC. The working group would select its own chair.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan), Europe (Ukraine and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by India, Kenya, Humane Society International and TRAFFIC.

48. Sturgeons

48.1 Caviar trade database

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 48.1 and highlighted its suggestion that the Committee might wish to consider whether regular reporting on this item was still needed. Several delegations agreed that such regular reporting was no longer necessary but there was also general agreement that input to, and use of, the database remained important. The importance of ensuring the accuracy of data, as referred to in paragraph 4 of the document, was also noted.

The Committee noted the document and adopted the Secretariat's proposal in paragraph 6.

During discussions on this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by the Russian Federation and IUCN.

48.2 Monitoring of progress

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC61 Doc. 48.2. Several speakers supported the Animals Committee's recommendations, but one believed that they were unacceptable as this issue was a matter of national sovereignty and that the Animals Committee's working methods were flawed. Attention was drawn to the fact that Heads of State at the Third Caspian Summit in November 2010 had agreed to work towards a five-year moratorium on sturgeon fishing in the Caspian Sea. Many speakers stressed the need for capacity-building to ensure the implementation of the recommendations.

The Committee endorsed the recommendations in the Annex to document SC61 Doc. 48.2 and requested the Secretariat to facilitate their implementation. It noted the offer of the United States to provide funding if timelines were established for their implementation, and agreed to reconsider this matter at SC62.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China and the Russian Federation.

49. Humphead wrasse

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 49, drawing attention to the directive, in Decision 15.87, to establish a working group.

The Committee noted the document and adopted the Secretariat's recommendation in paragraph 5. It established an intersessional working group consisting of Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, the United States, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society International, TRAFFIC and Wildlife Conservation Society.

The Chair requested Australia to take responsibility for convening the working group that had been established.

There were no interventions.

50. Bigleaf mahogany

50.1 Overview

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 50.1 and provided updated information, including its efforts to engage with the Dominican Republic on clarification of its bigleaf mahogany trade statistics in the CITES trade database.

It was suggested that the document focused too much on Peru and not enough on other bigleaf mahogany range States, especially those with volumes of trade that were now greater than that of Peru. Attention was drawn to the work of the Plants Committee on the bigleaf mahogany, including its determination of those Parties whose non-detriment findings were consistent with the Convention.

The Committee agreed that there was merit in revising Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) to encourage Parties to use box 5 of CITES permits and certificates voluntarily to reflect information on the authorized and verified concessions or other forest management areas where the timber was harvested. It also noted that the exchange of information between countries that exported and imported bigleaf mahogany could be improved through the use of electronic permitting and other information technologies. The Committee further agreed that, if external funds could be made available for this purpose, the Secretariat should compile the lessons learned from the Committee's work on bigleaf mahogany and link them to those learned from the ITTO-CITES programme and the activities of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species of the Plants Committee.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China, Mexico, TRAFFIC and WWF.

50.2 Management of bigleaf mahogany in Peru

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc. 50.2 and provided a correction to paragraph 29, specifically it informed the Standing Committee that Peru's 2011 bigleaf mahogany quota had been established in accordance with the new Supreme Decree. The Secretariat proposed an additional recommendation for the Standing Committee's consideration, namely, continued monitoring of Peru's on-the-ground implementation of relevant compliance indicators and another review of the matter at SC62.

Peru stated that a number of improvements in its management of bigleaf mahogany had been made since 2006. Specifically it now had Category-1 legislation, an action plan adopted at the highest political level, appropriate coordination among relevant institutions, a completed study of the national mahogany population, a conservative export quota based on a related non-detriment finding, new and continuously improving information systems for forest and wildlife resources, on-the-ground compliance with mahogany management and monitoring and a specialized law enforcement body. It explained how it had worked hard, in consultation with the Secretariat, to address the three compliance indicators adopted at SC60 and asserted that all of them had now been fully met. It nevertheless recognized that work on an electronic timber tracking system would continue until 2014

and that its efforts to ensure the sound management of mahogany harvest and trade would be ongoing.

A number of participants congratulated Peru on its significant progress and considered that it had fulfilled the three compliance indicators. They suggested that the work done and lessons learned by Peru offered a useful model or example for other countries. Three Committee members expressed appreciation for Peru's progress but thought that the compliance indicators had not yet been fully implemented, and they proposed that the matter be reviewed again at SC62 on the basis of an update from Peru. Another Committee member proposed that Peru could report its follow up activities to the Plants Committee instead. Peru offered to continue providing information on its management of bigleaf mahogany trade, particularly the development of a timber tracking system, and to liaise with the Secretariat on this point in advance of SC62.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia advised the Committee that it had adopted a zero export quota for bigleaf mahogany in July 2011 and that it needed support from the Secretariat in order to strengthen its capacity to make non-detriment findings.

The Committee agreed that Peru had fulfilled the three compliance indicators adopted at its 59th meeting (SC59). It accepted Peru's offer to send a report to the Secretariat on its continuing efforts to improve the management of trade in bigleaf mahogany. The Committee also agreed that Peru would send a brief update on Indicator 1 to the Secretariat, which would submit this information at SC62.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Africa (Botswana), Asia (Kuwait), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia and Dominica), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

51. Ramin

Malaysia presented an oral report on ramin, elaborating on the changes to its export quotas since the inclusion of *Gonystylus* spp. in Appendix II in January 2005. Malaysia expressed its commitment to protecting these species and explained that the ITTO-CITES programme has tremendously contributed to building capacity for their management and conservation. Malaysia detailed the activities that had been funded under the ITTO-CITES programme and expressed its gratitude to the Secretariats of CITES and of ITTO, and to the European Union for providing financial and technical assistance. Malaysia had now collected information and produced tools and materials on distribution, inventories, sustainable harvest levels, non-detriment findings (NDFs), monitoring systems, DNA database, recovery and enforcement for ramin species. A regional workshop had also been held in December 2010 to share experiences with Indonesia. The issuance of ramin export permits was closely controlled and Malaysia concluded by stating that trade in ramin species was not detrimental to the wild populations.

Later in the meeting, Indonesia gave an oral report and also thanked the Secretariats of CITES and ITTO, and the European Union for their financial and technical assistance. It described the activities that had been funded under the joint programme and the achievements and impacts of this work. Many publications had been produced under that programme, which included up-to-date data on inventory designs and estimated growing stocks of ramin, genetic diversity, silviculture, conservation, monitoring, trade control, training materials, etc. New terms of references had been agreed by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore for the Tri-National Task Force for Ramin, and these as well as the proceedings of a meeting held in Jakarta in January 2011 had now been published for reference. Indonesia mentioned that the primary beneficiaries of the CITES-ITTO programme (CITES authorities, research institutions, universities and forest concession companies) had all been actively involved in its implementation. Regional cooperation had also been fostered through the involvement of Malaysia and Singapore in several activities. The programme had improved the sustainability utilization of the resource and the capacities to formulate NDFs in Indonesia. Given this fruitful outcome, Indonesia recommended that a similar project be developed for agarwood species.¹⁰

The Committee noted the oral reports of Indonesia and Malaysia, and agreed that there was no need to include the issue of ramin in the agenda of SC62.

¹⁰ The information presented by Indonesia and Malaysia on the implementation of the activities under the ITTO-CITES programme can be found at http://www.itto.int/cites_programme/

There were no other interventions.

CITES Appendices

52. Periodic Review of the Appendices

The Chair of the Animals Committee gave an oral report, highlighting the backlog of periodic review cases due to a lack of volunteers to undertake the reviews. He considered that financial support for this exercise may help. One speaker stressed that the periodic review, which was essentially for downlisting or delisting species, needed to be revitalized with time-limits for the completion of reviews and assistance sought from outside experts.

The Committee noted an oral report from the Chair of the Animals Committee. It agreed that there was a need to accelerate the Periodic Review of the Appendices and that the matter should be reconsidered at SC62. The Committee further noted that Parties that were members of the European Union would be prepared to submit concrete suggestions to this effect, and that other Parties should also submit ideas.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of Europe (the United Kingdom) and by Poland, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

53. Time-bound listings of species in the Appendices

The Secretary-General introduced document SC61 Doc. 53, seeking the views of the Committee on whether it wished to initiate a policy dialogue on measures available to improve the complementarity of CITES with other regimes, which might include the introduction of time-bound listings in the Appendices.

The establishment of an intersessional process was supported by one member. Other members, Parties and observers did not support the proposal but suggested that more emphasis be placed on the periodic review. One intergovernmental body supported the proposal.

The Committee decided not to accept the recommendation to establish a working group and noted that, instead, additional work was required to strengthen the Periodic Review.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by Mexico, Poland, FAO and Pew.

54. Development and application of annotations

The regional representative of North America (the United States) introduced document SC61 Doc. 54, noting that the development of a simplified approach to annotations, to make them less cumbersome in terms of their interpretation and implementation, might be considered by a working group.

Several Committee members and observer Parties said that they had encountered problems with the application of annotations and expressed support for the Standing Committee undertaking a review of the matter through a working group. Two speakers said that the working group should not duplicate activities already being undertaken by the Plants Committee on annotations. The Chair of the Animals Committee suggested that annotations were not normally a problem in relation to animal species but, as they related to both plant and animal species, the Animals Committee should be present in relevant discussions.

The Standing Committee established a working group on annotations, under the chairmanship of the regional representative of North America (the United States), which would work intersessionally on the mandate provided in paragraph 7 of document SC61 Doc. 54. The Committee agreed that the Chair of the Standing Committee Working Group on Annotations would liaise with the Plants Committee's intersessional Working Group on Annotations and with the Chair of the Animals Committee to determine how best to work in a collaborative, non-duplicative and coherent manner on this issue.

The members of the working group were specified as follows: Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Indonesia, Japan, Switzerland, Thailand, the United States, the European Commission, IUCN, Human Society International, International Environmental Law Project, IWMC – World Conservation Trust and TRAFFIC.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by Canada, China, France, Mexico and the Chair of the Animals Committee.

55. Dialogue meetings

The Secretariat introduced document SC61 Doc 55, recommending that, if any proposals to amend the Appendices at CoP16 were considered to be contentious among range States, these be brought to the attention of the Standing Committee at SC62, so that it could decide whether to call for a dialogue meeting. Speakers noted that dialogue meetings could be very helpful but felt that providing notice so far in advance might not be possible.

The Committee noted document SC61 Doc. 55.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and by Kenya.

Regional matters

56. Reports of regional representatives

The Chair requested that the Committee take note of the written reports that had been submitted for consideration under this agenda item. Speakers suggested that the Committee members look at the documents and follow up as necessary after the meeting with the Secretariat. Canada noted that it had adopted new legislation to implement the amendments to the Appendices adopted at CoP15 and that it would therefore be withdrawing its reservations.

The Committee noted the written reports that had been submitted under this agenda item and requested that, if there were any questions, Parties contact the Secretariat after the meeting.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Canada and Kenya.

Concluding items

57. Any other business

The Chair noted that there was no request to discuss any other business.

58. Determination of the time and venue of the 62nd meeting

The Secretariat reported that, in consultation with the Chair, the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG) had been reserved for SC62, from 23 to 27 July 2012.

The Secretariat added that the 63rd and 64th meetings were expected to take place at the venue of CoP16 in Thailand, on 2 March and 15 March 2013 respectively. However, if it were possible for SC63 to be kept very short, and if an appropriate arrangement could be made with the Host Country, that meeting could be planned for the morning of 3 March 2013.

Finally, regarding the year 2014, the CICG had been reserved for SC65 from 21 to 25 July 2014, with a possible option for 16 to 20 June if that became free. The Secretariat noted, however, that offers to host the Standing Committee meeting were welcome.

The Committee noted this information.

There were no interventions.

59. Closing remarks

Following remarks by Humane Society International, on behalf of SSN, by IWMC – World Conservation Trust, and by the Secretary-General, the Chair thanked all participants, the Secretariat and the interpreters, and closed the meeting.

MIKE-ETIS SUBGROUP REPORT

1. The Standing Committee is reminded that its MIKE-ETIS Subgroup had been re-established at the fifty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee in 2010 (SC59) and that it is composed of Botswana (Vice-Chair), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Japan, Mali, Uganda (Chair), the United Kingdom, the United States and Thailand.
2. Paragraph 7 of document SC61 Doc 44.3 summarizes the issues that the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup is addressing. This is based on the existing Terms of Reference of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup (see Annex 1 of the document) and the outcomes of the latest meeting of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup held in the sidelines of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) (see Annex 2 of the document). Paragraph 8 contains a statement from the MIKE Technical Advisory Group, directed to the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup.

Conduct of the meeting of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup at SC61

3. The Subgroup convened on 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 August 2011 in the sidelines of the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61) under the chairmanship of Uganda.
4. An agenda of the meeting, as proposed by the Secretariat and based on paragraphs 7 and 8 of document SC61 Doc. 44.3, was adopted. The Secretariat was asked to assist in the preparation of a report on the findings and recommendation of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup for presentation to the Standing Committee by the Chair.
5. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup agreed to consider the following at SC61:
 - The updated MIKE and ETIS analysis presented in document SC61 Doc 44.2 (Rev. 1);
 - The progress evaluation of the MIKE Phase II project in Africa;
 - Ongoing and planned fund-raising efforts in support of the ETIS and MIKE programmes;
 - The current Terms of Reference for the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup and possible amendments thereto;
 - The statement by the MIKE Technical Advisory Group (May 2011) mentioned above;
 - Other matters brought up for the attention of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup by ETIS or MIKE;
 - The oversight of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that it provides to ETIS and MIKE; and
 - Implementation of Decision 15.74 on the revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15)
6. Because of issues raised during the meeting, particularly through document SC61 Inf. 11 submitted by the United Kingdom, the Subgroup added the following to its agenda:
 - Views on a proposal to establish an overarching Working Group with a broader mandate to coordinate all elephant-related issues directed to the Standing Committee, including ETIS and MIKE.
7. Despite having convened on five occasions, the Subgroup was unable to finalize this agenda and agreed to work intersessionally on outstanding items.

Conclusions and recommendations

Agenda item a): MIKE and ETIS analysis in document SC61 Doc 44.2 (Rev. 1)

8. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup reviewed the ETIS and MIKE analyses presented in document SC61 Doc. 44.2 (Rev. 1) and the ensuing 8 recommendations. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup recommended that they all should be endorsed by the Standing Committee with the exception of the suggestions in recommendation 3 to explore the feasibility of integrating an “early warning system” within MIKE. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup

was of the opinion that MIKE should maintain and strengthen its current monitoring functionality and delivery capacity, which it considered adequate. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup recognized that MIKE had not been designed to operate as an “early warning system”, and advised against altering the system at this point in time to try to assume such a role.

Agenda item b): Progress evaluation of the MIKE Phase II project in Africa

9. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup noted the progress evaluation of the MIKE Phase II project in Africa, and agreed to consider its recommendations further, particularly in the context of the review of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15). The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup also took note of the concerns expressed by TRAFFIC with regard to the recommendations made about ETIS in the evaluation.

Agenda item c): Ongoing and planned fund-raising efforts in support of ETIS and MIKE

10. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup noted the ongoing fundraising efforts by ETIS and MIKE. With regard to a project concept for MIKE Phase III in Africa, it recommended that the CITES Secretariat and IUCN continue to collaborate in the further development of the project, acknowledging the broad support that the project concept had received from African elephant range States and all other stakeholders, and expressing its desire that it be financially supported by the European Commission, including the project's ETIS and IUCN components. With regard to ETIS, the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup welcomed the successful efforts by TRAFFIC to secure funding from the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union, WWF and the CITES Secretariat, and hoped that China would join the funding of ETIS in the near future. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup recommended that donors be encouraged to support the global MIKE programme, and particularly its operations in South and Southeast Asia, recognizing the difficulties in funding the MIKE programme in Asia.

Agenda item d): Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup

11. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup revised its Terms of Reference as presented in Annex 1 of document SC61 Doc. 44.3, particularly in the areas the chairmanship, tasks, composition, and *modus operandi*. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup recommended that the Standing Committee agreed to these revised Terms of Reference.

Agenda item e): Statement by the MIKE Technical Advisory Group at its 10th meeting (May 2011)

12. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup considered the statement by the MIKE Technical Advisory Group, presented in paragraph 8 of document SC61 Doc. 44.3. It recommended that the statement be endorsed by the Standing Committee.

Agenda item f): Proposal to establish an overarching elephant working group with a mandate to coordinate all elephant-related issues directed to the Standing Committee, including ETIS and MIKE

13. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup discussed the merits of a new elephant working group of the Standing Committee with a broader mandate, as suggested in document SC61 Inf. 11 submitted by the United Kingdom. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup recommended that its mandate should not be extended to include other elephant matters, and that the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup should firmly remain under the direct purview of the Standing Committee with focused attention on MIKE and ETIS.

Agenda item g): Oversight of MIKE and ETIS by the Technical Advisory Group

Agenda item h): Implementation of Decision 15.74 on the revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15)]

Agenda item i): Other matters brought to attention of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup by ETIS or MIKE

14. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup agreed to address issues g) to i) on its agenda intersessionally. It recognized the mandate given to it by the Standing Committee to review those sections of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev CoP15) that are relevant to MIKE and ETIS. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup committed to undertake its review in a timeframe compatible with that of the working group which the Standing Committee had established to review the rest of this Resolution. It observed that the levels of PIKE and their significance for the conservation status of the affected elephant populations would need to be explored further by the MIKE Technical Advisory Group.