

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

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. Decision 12.41, directed to the Parties, states that:

All Parties that authorize commercial trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles should submit a report, according to an agreed format, to the Secretariat at least six months before the 13th meeting of the Conference of Parties, detailing progress in implementing the recommendations contained in Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12) on Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles.

3. Decision 12.42, directed to the Secretariat, states that:

The Secretariat shall develop a standard format for these reports, evaluate the reports, as well as any information it has received, and submit a written summary of these for consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

4. The Secretariat developed a reporting format in compliance with Decision 12.42 (see Annex 1). In March 2004, this was sent to the Parties that participated in the technical workshop on Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles (Kunming, March 2002), and which are the principal focus of attention of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12). Furthermore, through Notification to the Parties No. 2004/032 of 30 April 2004 the Secretariat informed Parties of the format and the reporting requirements in case they had authorized commercial trade in tortoises or freshwater turtles.
5. At the time of writing the present document, the Secretariat had received reports from China (from the Management Authorities of China and of Hong Kong SAR), Japan and Malaysia. The latter report only covers Peninsular Malaysia, but states that Peninsular Malaysia is the main exporter of tortoises and that trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles from Sabah and Sarawak was almost negligible. The Secretariat is grateful to these Parties for submitting these reports. It will report orally at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on any further reports that are received.

General issues

6. In recent years, a considerable amount of information on tortoises and freshwater turtles has been generated, in particular on their biology and conservation status, *in situ* and *ex situ* management, domestic and international use and socio-economic aspects thereof, and illegal or unregulated trade. This has been disseminated through a wide range of publications, websites, meetings, workshops, etc. Much of this global attention was generated by the significant growth of Asian food markets for tortoises and freshwater turtles during the 90s, and concerns amongst local and international conservation communities, scientists, stakeholders and range States about the long-term conservation of many of the species in trade. These concerns relate *inter alia* to unsustainable and

unregulated trade to supply the demand for food, medicine and pets in Asia, the vulnerability of many species to overexploitation, inadequate *in situ* conservation efforts and habitat destruction.

7. It would be difficult for the Secretariat to synthesize all information on tortoises and freshwater turtles that it has received or been made aware of since 2002, which include hundreds of communications and dozens of publications. Generally, the situation as described to the Parties at CoP12 prevails (see documents CoP12 Doc. 39 and CoP12 Inf. 8). An update of the status of and the threats to Asian species of tortoise and freshwater turtles, and of commercial and conservation breeding of these species was presented to the Animals Committee at its 19th meeting [Geneva, August 2003; see documents AC19 Doc. 15.1 and AC19 Doc. 15.2 (Rev. 1)]. The conservation 'crisis' for Asian species remains of particular concern. However, as outlined below, some Asian Parties that play an important role in the trade in these species have started to take important measures to improve the situation.
8. At its 19th and 20th meetings (Johannesburg, March-April 2004) the Animals Committee discussed mid- and long-term conservation measures for tortoises and freshwater turtles, and tried to prioritize recommendations emanating from the Kunming workshop. The Secretariat is of the opinion that it would be useful to complement these recommendations with practical advice, examples and case study information to provide further guidance to Parties on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12). This should particularly focus on Asian countries and Asian species.
9. The Secretariat recommends that Parties and others interested in this issue consult the websites and publications of organizations with a particular interest and expertise in the conservation and management of tortoise and freshwater turtles, including the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, Chelonian Research Foundation and TRAFFIC.

Summary of the reports submitted by China, Japan and Malaysia

10. Compliance and enforcement activities from 2002 to the time of writing (2 April 2004)

a) Examples of enforcement activities concerning trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles

China, Japan and Peninsular Malaysia all report having undertaken specific activities to monitor and control the trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles. Examples include the following:

- i) In 2003, Customs officers in Xiamen (Fujian Province of China) investigated two cases of illegal importation of *Cuora amboinensis* from Malaysia, resulting in the confiscation of over 5,000 live specimens. In consultation with the Malaysian CITES Management Authority, China disposed of the animals in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.7.
- ii) Hong Kong (China) documented 17 cases of illegal import, two cases of illegal export and two cases of illegal transit of CITES-listed tortoises or freshwater turtles between January 2002 and April 2004. Those involving more than 50 specimens are summarized in the table below.

Offence and date	Species	Number of specimens
Illegal import; 13/06/02	<i>Geochelone elegans</i>	95
Illegal import; 05/03/03	<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>	570
Illegal import; 25/04/03	<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>	1,050
Illegal import; 01/03/04	<i>Testudinidae</i> spp.	307
Illegal export; 03/04/03	<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>	658
Illegal transit; 06/07/03	<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>	10,260
Illegal transit; 06/07/03	<i>Manouria emys</i>	17

- iii) Since April 2002, the Japanese CITES authorities have inspected different pet shops in the country on 22 occasions and investigated the offering for sale of specimens of CITES Appendix-I species through dozens of covert operations. However, no illegal offers or trade were discovered during these actions.
- iv) The Management Authority of Peninsular Malaysia investigated trade in *Cuora amboinensis* from the Solomon Islands, resulting in a temporary trade ban with this non-Party when it failed to respond to Malaysia's requests for information on exports of wild-caught specimens. It also worked closely with the Management Authority of Hong Kong (China) in monitoring trade in tortoises, and exchanged import and export data to look for discrepancies in permits used by traders.

b) Enactment of national regulations to protect and manage tortoises and freshwater turtles

The reports from China, Japan and Peninsular Malaysia indicate that regulatory provisions to protect and manage tortoises and freshwater turtles are usually part of general CITES or species conservation legislation. In addition to amending national legislation to reflect the inclusion of species in the Appendices at CoP12, a number of specific measures were undertaken.

- i) China has taken significant measures to reduce levels of authorized trade. The exportation for commercial purposes of all species of tortoises and freshwater turtle (except *Pelodiscus sinensis* and *Chinemys reevesii*) was suspended in June 2000. Since June 2001, the importation of CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles has only been allowed from countries with annual quotas and through designated ports of entry, while imports from Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand have been suspended. Since July 2002, the import of specimens with carapaces of less than 10 cm have been suspended to control alien species and diseases. The commercial import and export of all live and dead specimens (the latter meaning fresh, cold, frozen or dried bodies, carcasses and meat products) were suspended in 2003, with the exception of *Trachemys scripta elegans*, *Macrolemys temminckii* and *Pelodiscus sinensis*. China also states to consider submitting proposals to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to include all its native tortoises and freshwater turtles in Appendix III in as far as they are not included in the other Appendices.
- ii) Malaysia reported that since 1998, trade in *Manouria emys*, *Testudo elongata* and *Indotestudo impressa* from Peninsular Malaysia has been regulated through the establishment of national export quotas. Since 2003, administrative quotas have been established by the Management Authority for all native tortoises and freshwater turtles, while the export of wild *Notochelys platynota*, *Malayemys subtrijuga* and *Cyclemys dentata* has been suspended.

c) Measures concerning seized and confiscated specimens (referring to Resolution Conf. 10.7)

China, Japan and Malaysia reported on their policies for confiscated tortoises and freshwater turtles.

- i) In China, seized and confiscated live animals are disposed of in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.7. Ninety-six rescue centres are designated in mainland China to house seized, confiscated or rescued animals. If animals are in good health and originate in China, they are released into their original habitat. If they are from other countries, the Management Authority of that country is consulted. When animals are not in good health, they are killed for sanitary reasons. Finally, when they are in good health but unsuitable for release, they are sold to traders.
- ii) In Hong Kong (China), the Director of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is empowered to dispose of forfeited specimens, including live specimens, in such a manner as he/she sees fit. When making these decisions, account is taken of Resolution Conf. 10.7. The table below summarizes information on the disposal of forfeited tortoises and freshwater turtles for the period of January 2002 to March 2004. Whenever a significant seizure is made, the Management Authority of the exporting country is informed for follow-up action. This was the case in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

	2002	2003	2004 (till 31 March)
Donated to local organization	66	17	0
Donated to the Management Authority of China or overseas organizations	1,447	458	0
Humanely killed/died because of poor health conditions	56	2,381	3

- iii) The Management Authority of Japan takes care of animals, including turtles, that are seized and confiscated by the Customs or the police. Live animals are sent to rescue centres (mainly zoos) or returned to exporting countries (in cooperation with relevant Management Authorities). Live specimens of native *Cuora flavomarginata evelynae* that are confiscated in Japan outside their natural range and of which the exact origin in the country is unknown are isolated from the wild turtle populations to prevent intra-specific or inter-specific hybridization and placed in zoos or other facilities.
- iv) In August 2003, Malaysia successfully repatriated 515 live specimens of *Geochelone elegans* to India. Five hundred and eighty animals had been smuggled in luggage by an Indian citizen, who was intercepted by an officer of the CITES Management Authority at the international airport of Kuala Lumpur (65 animals died).

d) Examples of international collaboration concerning trade controls

As indicated above, China, Japan and Malaysia reported collaboration with other Parties in the context of seizures and confiscations, investigations, or the repatriation of tortoises and freshwater turtles. The reports include additional examples of international efforts to improve the control of the trade:

- i) The Management Authorities of China and Viet Nam held a bilateral meeting in November 2003 to discuss enforcement and wildlife management in common border areas, focusing on CITES-listed wildlife, including tortoises and freshwater turtles.
 - ii) The Management Authority of Peninsular Malaysia undertook a four-day mission to Viet Nam in November 2003 to discuss the increased illegal trade in freshwater turtles and pangolins between the two countries. This resulted in an agreement to exchange information on the issuance of CITES export permits. The validity of Malaysia's export permits to Viet Nam was agreed to be reduced to two weeks to improve controls.
 - iii) The Japanese Management Authority sometimes exchanges information or collaborates with other Parties on permits that are to be issued in Japan before importations can take place.
- e) Exchange of information and enhancement of regional collaboration also occurred during regional meetings and capacity-building activities. Malaysia notes in this regard that at a wildlife crime investigation course which took place in Bangkok in September 2003, illegal trade in freshwater turtles and other wildlife was discussed by the participating countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam) and that contact persons in the different countries were identified.

11. Management and conservation activities from 2002 to date

a) Exports of tortoises and freshwater turtles since 2002

The levels of export reported by the three countries suggest a significant decrease since 2002 owing to the various restrictive measures detailed below.

- i) Only live *Pelodiscus sinensis* and *Chinemys reevesii*, which are native to China, were legally exported from mainland China. Hong Kong (China) reported no commercial exports of tortoises or freshwater turtles in the period 2002-2003.

- ii) Japan did not export specimens of the native Emydidae in 2002-2003. It reported re-exports of a total of 1,288 live tortoises and freshwater turtles of 11 species in 2002 and of 261 specimens (five species) in 2003. The main species concerned were *Testudo horsfieldii* (570 live specimens), *Testudo graeca* (430), *Geochelone pardalis* (150), *Geochelone elegans* (137) and *Malacochersus tornieri* (114).
- iii) The numbers of tortoises and freshwater turtles exported from Peninsular Malaysia in 2002 and 2003 are presented in the table below, showing a significant decline in levels of authorized trade. This is due to the establishment of administrative quotas by the Management Authority since 2003, following an analysis of volumes of exports in previous years, especially to China.

Species	2002		2003	
	Quota	Exported	Quota	Exported
<i>Callagur borneoensis</i>	1,000	482	600*	375
<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>	50,000	44,980	15,000*	11,650
<i>Heosemys spinosa</i>	-	47,321	6,000*	3,625
<i>Heosemys grandis</i>	-	106,890	6,000*	3,849
<i>Hieremys annandalii</i>	-	97,682	6,000*	3,954
<i>Indotestudo elongata</i>	500	500	500	300
<i>Manouria emys</i>	500	170	500	235
<i>Orlitia borneensis</i>	-	53,086	6,000*	3,756
<i>Siebenrockiella crassicollis</i>	-	202,375	15,000*	14,842
Total		553,486	55,600	42,586

* Administrative quotas

b) Measures to manage and conserve native tortoises and freshwater turtles

- i) In China, a programme on wild fauna and flora conservation and the establishment of nature reserves was initiated in 2001, and many new nature reserves were established in the last two years, some of which offer habitat for tortoises and freshwater turtles. Furthermore, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of Hong Kong (China) regularly patrols the territory to curb illegal collection or hunting of native tortoises and freshwater turtles. The Department initiated conservation projects for native turtle species. A study on *Distribution, population status and illegal trapping of Cuora trifasciata in Hong Kong* was completed in February 2004, and its findings and recommendations will guide further conservation action. The Department is also implementing a joint project with a local conservation organization that focuses on *Cuora trifasciata* and includes breeding for subsequent re-introduction of the species into the wild.
- ii) Japan reports on conservation and research activities focusing on three native freshwater turtles: *Cuora flavomarginata evelynae* (inhabiting Ishigaki and Iriomote islands in south Japan), *Mauremys mutica kami* (occurring on the same islands and on Yonaguni), and *Mauremys mutica mutica* (distributed in the Kyoto and Shiga Prefectures). Research on the biology and conservation of *Cuora flavomarginata evelynae* was conducted from 2001 to 2003, resulting in a scientific report and an international publication. The species was designated as a 'natural monument' whereby capturing became prohibited. Furthermore, some scientific papers on *Mauremys mutica kami* were published in 2004.
- iii) As indicated above, Peninsular Malaysia has established export quotas for all species of tortoises and freshwater turtles since 2003 in an effort to reduce the levels of trade and the pressure on wild populations. In 2004, the Management Authority only allowed trade in wild-caught specimens of native species from existing stocks that had been collected in previous years. In December 2003, the enforcement units of the Department of Wildlife and

National Parks checked and inventoried these stocks, and future trade in wild specimens will be based on these inventories. Peninsular Malaysia has reported that it would establish zero quotas for wild-caught native tortoises and freshwater turtles in the near future. Furthermore, the Department has been actively involved in the conservation of *Batagur baska* since 1968 with the establishment of the River Terrapin Breeding Centre at Bota Kanan, Perak. By 2003, a total of 45,000 immature animals had been released into the Perak River. The success of the programme encouraged the Department to establish two more *Batagur baska* breeding centres in 1981 (at Kuala Berang and Sungai Pinang) which by 2003 had released 10,251 immature terrapins in the Terengganu, Dungun and Besut Rivers. The Department was given the responsibility to manage and protect a sanctuary for *Batagur baska* and *Callagur borneoensis* in the State of Terengganu that provides habitat during the nesting season, and embarked upon an *in situ* hatchery programme in this sanctuary.

c) Commercial breeding and ranching activities

Whereas commercial captive breeding in China is mostly aimed at large scale production of animals for food and medicine, breeding in Japan is reportedly mainly for the pet industry. The reports from China and Malaysia suggest that both countries are taking measures to encourage a shift from trade in wild-caught animals to captive-bred or ranched specimens.

- i) Commercial breeding and ranching of turtles and tortoises were the subject of research in mainland China in 2002. Detailed information was provided at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see document CoP12 Inf. 8). While acknowledging that captive breeding could reduce pressures on wild populations, China considers it difficult to evaluate the conservation risks or benefits of commercial breeding because during the last three years a series of measures were adopted to control the trade. Their impact is not yet known. It was also noted that there are no commercial breeding and ranching activities for these species in Hong Kong (China).
- ii) In Japan, captive breeding is primarily aimed at pet markets. Japan reported in this context that after inspections by the Scientific Authority, captive-breeding certificates were issued for a small number of live *Geochelone radiata* and *Geochelone elegans*.
- iii) To date there are no commercial breeding operations for native tortoises and freshwater turtle species in Peninsular Malaysia. However, the Management Authority plans to suspend trade in wild-collected tortoises and freshwater turtles in 2004, and has therefore urged traders to set up breeding operations and to stop depending on wild populations. The Management Authority intends to work together with the traders in establishing these operations.

d) Examples of regional and international collaboration on conservation and management

Japan and Malaysia did not report specific activities concerning international collaboration to improve conservation of tortoises and freshwater turtles. However, Hong Kong (China) notes that it actively participated in meetings and workshops at the regional and international levels where the improvement of the conservation and management of tortoises and freshwater turtles was discussed. This is probably the case for many countries in the region.

12. Examples of capacity building, training and public awareness activities

The three countries provided information on a large number of CITES-related capacity-building activities and awareness-raising programmes, during which (at least to some extent) attention was also paid to tortoises and freshwater turtles.

- a) China reported significant training activities in which more than 2,000 government staff participated in 2002 alone. These activities included a national workshop on wild fauna and flora management (organized by the Management Authorities of China and of Hong Kong and Macao SARs, with technical assistance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service); a training course on endangered species management in Xiamen, Fujian Province (organized by the general Customs bureau, the Management Authority of China and its Fuzhou branch office, with

support from IFAW); a training course on wildlife import and export management in Panyau, Guanzhou, Guangdong Province (organized by the Management Authorities of China and of Hong Kong SAR); and several other training courses organized by branch offices of the Management Authority of China, Customs offices or other governmental departments and to which the Management Authority sent trainers.

- b) The Management Authority of China and its branch offices published awareness-raising materials for distribution in airports, seaports and other areas. An identification guide for common tortoises and freshwater turtles was produced in 2002 and disseminated to Customs officers, policemen and wildlife officials in the country.
- c) In Hong Kong (China), many relevant activities are undertaken on a regular basis, including: circulars to traders and private collectors; advisory leaflets; posters for border control points; leaflets for tourists for distribution at airline counters; display cabinets at airports; television and radio announcements; advertisements and exhibitions in public places; the inclusion of species protection in school curricula; training workshops for CITES officers; talks in schools and at workshops; regular meetings with traders; and the running of an Endangered Species Resource Centre that is open to the public.
- d) In Japan, a manual for CITES authorities on the inspection of pet shops was revised. The manual now includes advice on computer searches of Internet pet shops and auctions. The CITES authorities published a brochure on Japanese CITES-related regulations for importers, pet shops and consumers in March 2004. The Management Authority furthermore: promoted the provision of information on CITES to Japanese importers and exporters, and to Japanese tourists before leaving the country; gave lectures on CITES to Customs and police officers; and met regularly with relevant ministries on CITES enforcement.
- e) The Management Authority of Peninsular Malaysia reported on governmental programmes to raise awareness of conservation of all wildlife. Apart from this, pamphlets on the importance of conservation and the preservation of wildlife resources are sometimes distributed during the Department's monthly public meeting event, when staff also gives talks on wildlife conservation, trade procedures, harvesting management and related topics. Communication and collaboration with traders on the future management of tortoises and freshwater turtles were referred to above.

Conclusions

- 13. Reports from only three Parties were received by the agreed deadline. This document therefore gives a positive but very incomplete picture of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12) by the Parties.
- 14. The reports received are factual and comprehensive. They provide valuable information on recent efforts by China, Japan and Malaysia to improve the conservation and management of tortoise and freshwater turtles. These are particularly far-reaching in China and Malaysia, which have both taken measures to phase out harvesting of specimens from the wild and are promoting a shift towards trade in ranched and captive-bred specimens (Malaysia should be encouraged to explain the distinction that it makes between an 'administrative' quota and an 'export' quota). Both Parties feature prominently in international trade in these taxa, and their new trade policies may have a significant impact on the conservation status of Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles.
- 15. The Secretariat notes particularly the attempts to prohibit much of the trade in wild-caught animals, enact enforcement measures, and promote captive breeding. These policies are addressing immediate concerns, and are likely to have positive effects in the short term if well implemented. They can be strengthened further by including more species of Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles in the CITES Appendices. However, the market for wild tortoises and freshwater turtles in Asia is probably going to remain important in the near future as production from captive-breeding facilities may not fully satisfy demand, and wild animals will be required to set up breeding or ranching operations. As a consequence, trade could be (partially) driven underground, while shifts to new species for which no measures exist may occur. Enforcing trade restrictions will therefore remain challenging. Targeted capacity building and training efforts for Customs officers and other agencies in charge of monitoring

shipments should therefore be initiated or continue. Some good examples are given of bilateral collaboration on enforcement measures and exchange of relevant information, but this will need to be enhanced and expanded in future to keep abreast of market evolutions and changing trade channels.

16. The medium- and long-term conservation of Asian tortoise and freshwater turtles will require significant efforts to improve *in situ* management and protection. It would appear that Asian range States should be more proactive in this area, for instance by developing and implementing regional strategies referred to in paragraph j) of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12). It is noteworthy in this regard that the reports show no or very limited new efforts to preserve ecosystems where tortoises and freshwater turtles occur. It would also appear that in the three countries concerned, no or very few specific programmes exist whereby these animals are harvested in a well-planned, non-detrimental manner, with associated benefits for habitat conservation and local stakeholders. Although the economic and biological viability of such programmes would need to be tested, it might nevertheless be worthwhile exploring these options. Good guidance and scientific assistance (which could be facilitated through the Animals Committee), or model projects might be helpful in this regard.
17. It would be useful to fully consider the risks and benefits of intensive captive breeding of a limited number of Asian species for the food trade. As indicated in paragraph 8, the Secretariat is of the opinion that the Animals Committee can play a useful role in this regard, for instance by revisiting document AC19 Doc 15.2 (Rev. 1).
18. The Secretariat recommends that in particular range States of Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles assess the need to maintain the reporting as required under Decision 12.41 beyond CoP13. These countries may regard it as a useful tool to exchange experiences on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12) and collect updated information on regional progress on this issue. However, the Secretariat would not be in favour of maintaining reporting obligations that would not be of interest or helpful to these range States. In case the Conference of the Parties agrees that further special reporting on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12) is required, it may consider the draft decisions proposed in Annex 2. Parties, and particularly Asian range States, could also look at the biennial report as a means to provide information on legislative, management, conservation and enforcement actions related to tortoises and freshwater turtles.

Proposed format

Report on progress with the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12) on
Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles during the period 2002-2004

Country

Authors and date of the submission

1. Compliance and enforcement activities during 2002 to date:
 - 1.1 Examples of enforcement activities concerning controls of trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles
 - 1.2 Enactment of national legislation and regulations to protect and manage these species (where appropriate)
 - 1.3 Measures concerning seized and confiscated (live) specimens (with reference to Resolution Conf. 10.7)
 - 1.4 Examples of international activities or collaboration concerning control of trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles.
2. Management and conservation activities during 2002 to date:
 - 2.1 Levels of exports of tortoises and freshwater turtles for the period 2002 to date, species exported, and an evaluation of the impact of these exports on wild populations
 - 2.2 Measures to manage and conserve native tortoises and freshwater turtles (including research activities, establishment of quotas, management plans, etc.)
 - 2.3 Commercial breeding and ranching activities, with an indication of trends and an evaluation of the conservation risks and benefits
 - 2.4 Examples of regional or international collaboration to improve conservation and management of tortoises and freshwater turtles.
3. Examples of capacity building, training activities, and public awareness (including towards collectors, traders, exporters and consumers of tortoises and freshwater turtles; training activities for enforcement staff; etc.).
4. Other relevant information on the conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles (taking into consideration the recommendations formulated at a technical workshop on Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles held in Kunming, China, 25-28 March 2002; see document AC18 Inf. 12).

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Parties

- 13.XX Range States of Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles that authorize commercial trade in these species should submit a report, according to an agreed format and preferably electronically, to the Secretariat at least six months before the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties, detailing progress in implementing the recommendations contained in Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12) on conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 13.XX The Secretariat shall circulate a standard format for these reports and submit a written summary of these for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.