

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

Third session: 5 October 2004: 09h10-11h55

Chairman: H. Dublin

Secretariat: T. De Meulenaer
D. Morgan

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
J. Gray
M. Jenkins
A. St. John

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

32. Conservation of *Saiga tatarica*

The delegations of the Netherlands and Germany introduced document CoP13 Doc. 32 on behalf of the 25 Member States of the European Community. The document was supported by the delegations of China, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan and the observers from IFAW - International Fund for Animal Welfare, TRAFFIC and WWF. The delegation of Germany, supported by the delegation of the Russian Federation, stated that they would welcome the establishment of a drafting group which included representatives from saiga antelope range States, to revise the draft decisions in the Annex to document CoP13 Doc. 32. Alluding to the draft Memorandum of Understanding referred to in paragraph 10 of that document, the observer from the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species reported that discussions were ongoing and that two range States had indicated their willingness to sign the agreement. The Chairman established a group, comprising China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, the European Community, the Secretariats of CITES and CMS, IFAW, TRAFFIC and WWF, to be chaired by a Member State of the European Community, to revise the draft decisions in the Annex of document CoP13 Doc. 32. She asked the group to report to the Committee by Thursday morning.

33. Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles

The Secretariat introduced document CoP13 Doc. 33, noting that China, Japan and Malaysia had submitted reports in response to Decision 12.41 by the reporting deadline, and Germany, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Peru, Singapore, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania had submitted reports subsequently. The delegation of Malaysia clarified that the administrative quotas referred to in its report were voluntary domestic measures undertaken to regulate better the offtake of a number of species. They did not report such quotas to the Secretariat. The delegation of Spain encouraged Parties to report their quotas to the Secretariat in order to assist in the monitoring of imports.

The Secretariat recommended that Parties continue reporting on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12) either through the mechanism described in the draft decisions in Annex 2 to document CoP13 Doc. 33 or in the biennial reports called for under Article VIII of the Convention. The delegations of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands on behalf of the 25 Member States of the European Community, and Viet Nam agreed on the value of some form of continued

reporting. The Chairman noted general support for reporting in biennial reports and it was agreed that Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12) be amended to include an operative paragraph k) reading:

range States of tortoises and freshwater turtles that authorize trade in these species are encouraged to include in their periodic reports under Article VIII, paragraph 7 (b), progress in implementing this Resolution; and

In response to an enquiry from the delegation of Switzerland, the Chairman clarified that the reporting format contained in Annex 1 to document CoP13 Doc. 33 would now serve as guidance only.

The delegation of Australia, supported by the delegations of Cameroon, the Netherlands, on behalf of the 25 Member States of the European Community, and the United States of America, proposed amending the draft decision directed to the Secretariat, contained in Annex 2 to document CoP13 Doc. 33, to read:

The Secretariat shall submit a written summary of the information relating to Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles contained in the biennial reports for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

This was agreed.

The delegation of the United States raised some concerns regarding the recommendations relating to the conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles in the Report of the Chairman of the Animals Committee (document CoP13 Doc. 9.1.1), noting: that they did not fully support the development of guidelines for making non-detriment findings that were specific to wild tortoises and freshwater turtles; that shipments of CITES-listed wildlife must already be transported in compliance with the IATA guidelines; and that three of the draft decisions were already contained in the recommendations from the Kunming workshop. They suggested that the relevant recommendations be incorporated into Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP12) if the Parties believed that they required special emphasis. The delegations of Australia echoed the views of the delegation of the United States. The Chairman of the Animals Committee responded in brief and the Chairman called for the establishment of a drafting group, comprising the Chairman of the Animals Committee, Australia, the United States and the Secretariat, to consider the concerns raised and report back to the Committee the next day.

34. Conservation of hawksbill turtle

The Secretariat introduced document CoP13 Doc. 34, noting that, despite the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland having offered a substantial sum, it had not been possible to raise sufficient funds to hold the dialogue meeting.

The delegation of Cuba, supported by the delegations of Australia, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands on behalf of the 25 Member States of the European Community, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States, took issue with the wording in paragraph 7 of the document, averring that it implied that there was no interest in regional approaches to conservation of hawksbill turtles in the wider Caribbean region, which was not the case. The delegations of Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Jamaica, Japan, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom briefly outlined their activities regarding conservation and sustainable management of marine turtles. The delegations of Brazil, Mexico and the United States stressed the importance of coordination with other multilateral environmental agreements. The delegation of Mexico noted that the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles would be held in November 2004, and recommended that any decision of the present meeting be conveyed to that meeting. The delegation of the United States drew the attention of the participants to the proposed standard protocols for monitoring sea turtles that had been a product of the hawksbill turtle dialogue meetings. They further suggested that the Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans under the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region could serve as a model for implementing these protocols in the field.

The delegation of Cuba, supported by the delegations of Jamaica, Japan, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago, stated that they considered conservation of hawksbill turtle to be an important CITES issue. The delegation of Japan proposed amending Decisions 12.44 and 12.46 so that both would now refer to CoP14, rather than CoP13. The delegation of the United States proposed inserting in collaboration with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and intergovernmental organizations active in the region or on the conservation and sustainable use of the species and after the word "strategy" in paragraph (b) of Decision 12.44. This was accepted. Following a suggestion by the Secretariat, it was further agreed to insert wording indicating that States and territories in the wider Caribbean region should report on progress with the implementation of the regional conservation strategy and national management plans to the Secretariat six months before CoP14 and that the Secretariat would report at CoP14 on the information received. The Chairman stated that the Secretariat would draft an amended decision reflecting this for discussion in a future session of the Committee. The amendment to Decision 12.46 was accepted.

The delegations of Australia, Fiji, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago thanked the United Kingdom for the generous contribution and urged them to continue supporting the conservation of hawksbill turtles in the wider Caribbean area. The delegation of Fiji commended the Secretariat for its efforts in seeking funds and urged them to continue seeking sponsorship.

The session closed at 11h50.