

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Summary record of the 13th session of Committee I

13 June 2007: 10h15-11h00

Chairman: G. Leach (Australia)

Secretariat: D. Morgan
T. De Meulenaer
S. Nash

Rapporteurs: J. Boddens Hosang
C. McLardy

The Chairman announced a delay in the start of the meeting due to the anticipated arrival of some ministers of African elephant range State countries. This, however, was postponed to the afternoon session.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Amendment of the Appendices

68. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

The United States of America introduced proposal CoP14 Prop. 36 to amend the listing of *Taxus cuspidata* in Appendix II but added that China had expressed concerns, citing enforcement difficulties in the country if the proposal were to be adopted. The United States therefore withdraw the proposal and suggested replacing it with a draft decision directed to the Plants Committee, in line with the IUCN study on hybrids and cultivars:

Decision 14.XX: Directed to the Plants Committee:

The Plants Committee shall discuss hybrids and cultivars, and other entities recognized in horticulture (e.g. forms and varieties), and provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at CoP15 regarding their treatment under the Convention, particularly with regard to Article I, paragraph (b).

Senegal sought clarification of the word 'entities' and it was agreed that the Plants Committee could address this query. China, Germany on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, Japan, Mexico and Switzerland supported this draft decision, which was accepted by consensus.

Switzerland, as Depositary Government, on behalf of the Standing Committee, introduced document CoP14. Prop. 37 to delete an annotation for *Taxus* spp. adopted at CoP13 which the Secretariat later deemed to be in contravention of the Convention, and to further add an annotation exempting artificially propagated hybrids and cultivars of *T. cuspidata* from the Convention.

Canada supported the proposed annotation for *T. cuspidata* considering it in line with Resolution Conf.11.11 (Rev. CoP13). They noted that hybrids and cultivars within trade were easily identifiable on the basis of leaf arrangement, bud morphology and general form and recognized that if adopted, the proposal would lessen harvesting pressure on wild populations and reduce regulatory burdens for range States.

China expressed concern that excluding all parts and derivatives of hybrids and cultivars of *T. cuspidata* from the Convention would pose the same difficulties as outlined in the previous proposal, and suggested an amendment to include the words live plants following “Artificially propagated”. This amendment was supported by Thailand.

Japan could not support the overall proposal and recommended that the issue of hybrids and cultivars should first be discussed by the Plants Committee and the Chairman expressed the view that such discussion would occur.

The Secretariat suggested an alternative text to the proposed amendment to read: “*Taxus cuspidata*, live in pots”. This was accepted by China. The United States supported the proposed amendment, as did Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, who asked the Secretariat to confirm the legality of the proposed amendment.

Quoting Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP13), the Secretariat explained that all hybrids are subject to the provisions of the Convention unless they are otherwise specifically excluded, and concluded that the proposed amendment would be in line with the Resolution and the provisions of the Convention. Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States wished this clear statement by the Secretariat to be formally recorded.

The proposal, as amended by the Secretariat, was accepted by consensus.

Species trade and conservation issues

57. Tortoises and freshwater turtles

Germany introduced document CoP14 Com. I. 12 which was based on document CoP14 Doc. 57 and followed discussions at the 11th session of Committee I, and contained draft decisions directed to the Parties and to the Secretariat.

The United States, in accordance with the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, suggested two additional draft decisions to the document, offering financial contribution to the proposed study:

Decision 14.XX: Directed to the Secretariat:

The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, contract with the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group to undertake a study which would assist in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9

Decision 14.XX: Directed to the Animals Committee:

The Animals Committee shall review the study and make recommendations at CoP15.

Conservation International welcomed the draft decisions and pledged practical and financial support. IUCN-The World Conservation Union concurred, and would contribute pending funding.

All four decisions were accepted by consensus.

The session closed at 11h00.