

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

REGIONAL COOPERATION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF AND TRADE
IN THE QUEEN CONCH (*STROMBUS GIGAS*)

1. This document has been submitted by Colombia².

Introduction

2. We wish to call to attention of the Parties, two recently convened meetings, a Queen Conch Expert Workshop, convened in Miami, 22-24 May 2012, and CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch, convened in Panama City, Panama, 23-25 October 2012. Under this agenda item, we propose to discuss the recommendations of the Expert Workshop (attached and submitted as an information document) and results of the Working Group meeting to improve regional communication and cooperation in the implementation of the Convention to this Appendix II species.

Proposed Actions

3. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:
 - a) Takes note of the information document of the two recently convened meetings, a Queen Conch Expert Workshop, convened in Miami, 22-24 May 2012, and CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM Working Group on Queen Conch, convened in Panama City, Panama, 23-25 October 2012.
 - b) Also takes note of the discussions on the subject, the results of the meetings, and welcomes the conclusions of the two recent meetings.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. As indicated in the present document, a meeting of the joint species-specific Working Group on Queen Conch (QCWG) of the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (CFMC), the Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) took place in Panama City in October 2012, shortly after the deadline for the submission of documents for CoP16. The Secretariat took part in this meeting, which was particularly constructive. *Strombus gigas* is one of the largest and most valuable fisheries regulated under the Convention. The QCWG formally recognized *that*:

¹ This document has been provided in these languages by the author.

² The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

in recent years, national efforts for the management and conservation of Queen Conch have increased in the region, leading to encouraging developments such as better stock protection, improved understanding of the species ecology and management needs, and enhanced enforcement to combat illegal catch and trade, and that most of this progress made was CITES driven.

- B. The members of the QCWG adopted a joint 'Declaration of Panama City' (with an annex containing the technical recommendations emanating from a Queen Conch Expert Workshop held in May 2012), as well as a working programme 2012-2013 for the QCWG. Both contain substantial references to the implementation of CITES provisions for trade in and conservation of *Strombus gigas*. The Declaration recommends that "the Conference of the Parties [to CITES]...adopt recommendations as appropriate to support the sustainable utilization, conservation and international trade in Queen Conch". The Secretariat is aware that, in order to prepare such recommendations, the QCWG established a working group that is tasked with developing, in consultation with queen conch range States and regional stakeholders, a number of draft decisions for consideration at CoP16. These would be based on the regional findings and actions that were agreed at the meeting of the QCWG in October 2012.
- C. It is expected that, at CoP16, further draft decisions concerning the trade in and conservation of *Strombus gigas* will be proposed by Colombia, to complement or replace those contained in the present document.