

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Shepherdstown (United States of America), 11-15 December 2000

Regional Reports

NORTH AMERICA  
(July 1999 - December 2000)

This report is prepared by the Regional Representative for North America, Dr. Susan Lieberman (USA), who is in regular contact with the Scientific Authorities of Canada and Mexico. This report covers the period between the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Animals Committee, held in Madagascar 5-9 July 1999, and the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Animals Committee. At the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP11), Lieberman was re-elected to be the North American Regional Representative, and was re-elected as Vice-Chair of the Animals Committee (Dr. Marinus Hoogmoed, representative for Europe, was elected Chair). On both Animals Committee and COP issues, all three countries in North America are in close contact. All three countries also regularly coordinate with NGOs within their respective countries, in preparation for meetings and on other CITES-related issues. Due to recent changes in both the Scientific Authority of Canada, and the CITES Authorities of Mexico, representatives of Mexico and Canada may also provide oral remarks on their countries' activities during AC16.

**Follow-up from the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Animals Committee in July 1999 (AC15)**

Review of the Appendices: At AC15, the United States (Scientific Authority) offered to review the listing of four taxa in the CITES Appendices, as part of an ongoing process. Those taxa are: *Saiga tatarica*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Dermochelys coriacea*, and *Antipatharia* spp. Questionnaires were sent to all range states for these taxa, and the U.S. Scientific Authority prepared detailed analyses of the status of the species, in the context of Resolution Conf. 9.24. Those documents were submitted to the Secretariat and will be discussed at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Animals Committee (AC16).

Trade in hard corals: AC15 established a working group to consider aspects of the trade in hard coral. This led to discussions at COP11 and adoption of Resolution Conf. 11.10. The U.S. Scientific Authority is an active member of working group, and coordinates with other U.S. government offices, Mexico, and Canada on this issue. The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, as well as the U.S. Scientific Authority, are very active on this issue.

Significant Trade: The U.S. Scientific Authority, and Dr. Lieberman as regional representative, are very active on this issue. Lieberman coordinated with the previous chair of the AC (H. Jenkins) on many significant trade

issues, including Phase IV of the process, and development of primary and secondary recommendations for Phase IV (prior to COP11). She continues to coordinate with the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat on these issues.

Trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises in Southeast Asia: In response to discussions at AC15, the U.S. and Germany co-sponsored a document that was submitted to COP11 on this issue. The U.S. Scientific Authority provided funding towards a workshop on the Asian turtle trade held in Cambodia in December 1999, which was well received and led to fruitful discussion and adoption of a Decision at COP11. The U.S. Scientific and Management Authorities are in close contact with herpetologists active on this issue.

#### **Preparations for COP11:**

Proposals: The U.S. submitted or co-sponsored several proposals to amend the Appendices at COP11. There was extensive coordination within North America on these proposals, particularly for those species of animals and plants shared in North America (*e.g.*, *Falco rusticolus*, *Clemmys guttata*).

Resolutions and Decisions: The U.S. submitted or co-sponsored several resolutions or discussion papers at COP11, and there was coordination within North America on these as well.

Regional coordination in preparation for COP11: There was a regional meeting in February 2000 in preparation for COP11, held in Washington, DC. All COP11 issues were discussed, and the Management and Scientific Authorities of the USA, Canada, and Mexico participated actively in the meeting. There was thus extensive pre-COP11 coordination within the region, and when possible regional positions were developed.

Strategic Plan: The United States Chaired the Strategic Plan Working Group between COP10 and COP11, and Dr. Lieberman was invited (for the Animals Committee) to participate in a meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group, and provided input into the plan from a Scientific Authority and Animals Committee perspective.

#### **Follow-up from COP11**

Review of the Criteria: Dr. Lieberman was selected by the Chair of the Animals Committee to serve as the North American representative on the Criteria Working Group (CWG). She attended the first meeting of the CWG in Canberra, Australia August 2-4, 2000. The United States submitted extensive comments in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2000/51, on the listing criteria.

Animal species bred in captivity: The U.S. submitted extensive comments in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2000/44. The U.S. Scientific Authority communicated with Canada and Mexico on this issue, and incorporated the views received in its submission to the Secretariat.

Trade in *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*: In response to the decision of COP11 to ask the Animals Committee to evaluate this issue, the U.S. submitted a document on the biological status of and trade in the species, for consideration at AC16.

Conservation of Seahorses and Other Members of the Family Syngnathidae: In response to discussions and decisions at COP11, Dr. Lieberman coordinated with Project Seahorse and other NGOs involved with the conservation of syngnathids. Working in cooperation with the Secretariat and Project Seahorse, Lieberman (as regional representative) submitted a document for consideration at AC16, dealing with implementation of Decision 11.97.

Trade in time-sensitive research samples: The U.S. Scientific Authority coordinated on this issue within the regional, particularly with Mexico, and with several U.S. research institutions. Mexico was asked at COP11 to take the lead on this issue, and is expected to provide input at AC16.

Other:

December 2000 Animals and Plants Committee meetings: Dr. Lieberman and the staff of the U.S. Scientific Authority, with assistance from the U.S. Management Authority, worked to host the Joint Meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees, and separate meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center.

COP11: All three countries of the region participated actively in COP11 in Gigiri, Kenya in April 2000.

Trade in alien invasive species: The U.S. is very active on this critical conservation issue. The U.S. Scientific Authority is very active on this issue, and will discuss these activities at AC16.

IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group: Dr. Lieberman has been active in activities of the North American subgroup of the IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group.

NAFTA CEC: The U.S. Scientific and Management Authorities coordinate closely with Mexico and Canada on programs of the NAFTA CEC (Center for Environmental Cooperation) projects that relate to plant and animal trade within the region (not limited to CITES-listed species).

Masters Course in Spain: Dr. Lieberman was invited in October, 1999 and November, 2000 as a lecturer at the CITES Masters Course in Baeza, Spain. She lectured on many different Scientific Authority-related issues, including the role of the U.S. Scientific Authority, and how non-detriment findings are made in the United States.

IUCN and Non-detriment Findings: The U.S. Scientific Authority worked to provide funding from the U.S. State Department annual contribution to IUCN, to allow IUCN to host a workshop to develop guidance for CITES Scientific Authorities on the making of required non-detriment findings. Dr. Lieberman was invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop, in October 1999, in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and is active in the IUCN efforts on this issue.

U.S. CITES regulations: The U.S. Scientific and Management Authorities have been very involved in issuing revisions of the U.S. CITES-implementing regulations.