

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

Twenty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 20-25 May 2005

SEA CUCUMBERS

Chairman M. Pourkazemi (AC- Asia)

CITES secretariat, Party Observers: Alternative member for Asia, Belgium, China, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, United States of America.

NGO Observers: TRAFFIC, Swan International, FAO, Species Management Specialists

The consultant shall:

- a) review the proceedings of the International technical workshop on the conservation of sea cucumbers in the families Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae (March 2004, Kuala Lumpur), as well as those of the forum on Advances in Sea Cucumber Aquaculture and Management (ASCAM) convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (October 2003; Dalian);
- b) prepare, for consideration at the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee, a condensed discussion paper (max. 20 pages), according to the format in the Annex, on the biological and trade status of sea cucumbers in the above families and based on analysis, to provide scientific guidance on the actions needed to secure their conservation status; and
- c) subject to the availability of funding, submit a draft report to the Secretariat by 1 April 2006.

Note: In undertaking the foregoing tasks the consultant should take account of,

- any other referenced relevant information, and
- incorporate wherever possible the activities undertaken by the proposed FAO initiative on sea cucumbers

Format of discussion paper

Executive summary with recommendations

I Biological and trade status

- i) Background (history of sea cucumber in CITES; summary of two workshops, their purpose and structure)
- ii) Biology of sea cucumbers
 - summarized taxonomy, ecology, distribution and population status
- iii) Production methods and volumes
 - aquaculture
 - capture fishery (targeted, bycatch)
 - regulatory controls (including protective measures)
- iv) utilization of sea cucumbers
 - levels and types of utilisation
- v) trade (legal/illegal/unreported)
 - volume/value
 - regulatory measures
 - identification and implementation issues
- vi) social and economic aspects

II Management and conservation strategy

- i) identify the type of management to be applied to reduce impacts on the wild populations
- ii) relationship between aquaculture, capture fisheries and conservation of the wild populations
- iii) implementation and enforcement of national and international measures (respective roles and relationship of CITES and FAO)
- iv) identify gaps for managing the resource on a regional, or, if possible range State level

III Conclusions and recommendations

IV References