

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 20-24 April 2009

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF APPENDIX-II SPECIES
(AGENDA ITEM 7)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chairman: AC Chair

Parties: Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: European Community, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, Alliance of Marine Parks and Aquariums, Animal Welfare Institute, Conservation International, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Institute for Ocean Conservation Science, International Caviar Importers Association, International Environmental Resources, IWMC World Conservation Trust, Pet Care Trust, Pro Wildlife, Safari Club International Foundation, Species Management Specialists, Swan International, TRAFFIC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, and WWF.

Mandate

Regarding agenda item 7.1: *Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade:*

- a) Agree on the Parties and experts listed in paragraph 5 of AC24 Doc. 7.1 to be invited to form the advisory working group;
- b) Nominate a representative from the Committee to serve on the group; and
- c) Identify and prioritize the case studies referred to in paragraph 7 b) of the terms of reference and endorse the *modus operandi* for conducting the evaluation set out in Annex 2 to Doc. 7.1.

Regarding agenda item 7.2: *Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade:*

- a) Review the information provided in the Annex to document AC24 Doc. 7.2;
- b) Re-evaluate recommendations concerning the Malagasy chameleons and day geckos; and
- c) Determine whether the provisions of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 of the Convention are being complied with.

Regarding agenda item 7.3: *Species selected following CoP13:*

- a) Revise the preliminary categorization of species from genus *Mantella* proposed by IUCN and, in doing so, either eliminate the species from the review, or formulate recommendations to address problems related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, differentiating between short-term and long-term actions and setting deadlines; and
- b) Identify any problems in the course of the review that are not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, that should be addressed by the Secretariat.

Regarding agenda item 7.4: *Selection of species following CoP14:*

- a) Consider replies received from affected Parties and eliminate species where it appears that Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 are being correctly implemented; and
- b) Decide whether or not to include *Balearica* spp. in the Review of Significant Trade

Regarding agenda item 7.5: *Scientific information from the range States of Huso huso:*

- a) Review the information from the range States; and
- b) Decide whether or not to include the species *Huso huso* in the Review of Significant Trade in accordance with paragraph c) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13).

Regarding agenda item 7.6: *Activities with regard to the population of Tursiops aduncus of the Solomon Islands*

- Decide whether or not to include the species *Tursiops aduncus* in the Review of Significant Trade in accordance with paragraph c) of Resolution Conf. 12.9 (Rev. CoP13).

Recommendations

Regarding agenda item 7.1: *Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade*

- a) Membership in the Advisory Group

The Chairman informed the WG that the AC representative would be Thomas Althaus until CoP15 when a new representative would have to be appointed.

Under AC24 Doc.7.1 Paragraph 5 d, in addition to the four invited experts mentioned, the WG **recommended** that the Canadian Scientific Authority Working Group should also be listed.

It further **recommended** that if a country is unable to participate, a regional representative should nominate another country to maintain the appropriate balance.

- b) Case Studies

The Working Group **agreed to** the following case studies, listed in order of priority:

1. *Psittacus erithacus*
2. *Strombus gigas*
3. *Cuora amboiensis*
4. *Hippopotamus amphibius*
5. Madagascar, country study

- c) *Modus operandi*

The Working Group supported the *modus operandi* proposed by the Secretariat and **recommended** that it be treated as general guidelines and not restrain the Advisory Group from making further amendments.

The Working Group agreed with PC 18 that the Secretariat should utilize the expertise of the Advisory Group and the Technical Committees in identifying consultants with appropriate expertise to carry out the Review.

Regarding agenda item 7.2: *Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade*

Concerning AC24 Doc 7.2, paragraph 25, the Working Group **recommended** that the Secretariat should investigate trade in *Psittacus erithacus* reported in the UNEP-WCMC trade database from Cameroon and Guinea to determine whether these countries are observing the zero export quota established at SC 55 and should inform the Standing Committee if there are compliance issues.

Malagasy Chameleons and day geckos

The WG agreed on the **recommendations** listed below.

Concerning species categorized by UNEP-WCMC as C1 and C2 in the annex to AC24 Doc 7.2, the trade suspension should remain.

Where a species is categorized by UNEP-WCMC in more than one category, the lower category is relevant.

Concerning species categorized as C3 and C4 in the annex to AC24 Doc 7.2, the trade suspension may be lifted provided the following recommendations are met.

- a) Establish conservative annual export quota for wild specimens intended for trade, based on estimates of sustainable off-take and scientific information.
- b) The Management Authority should forward the quota details to the Secretariat (including zero quotas) and provide information and data used by the Scientific Authority to determine that the quantities would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.
- c) The Secretariat after consultation with the Animals Committee will publish the quota agreed by the AC (including any zero quotas). No export should occur until the agreed quotas have been published on the Secretariat's website¹.
- d) Ensure that specimens produced from captive production systems are distinguished in trade from genuine wild-harvested specimens, that separate export quotas are established and notified to the Secretariat.
- e) Conduct a status assessment, including an evaluation of threats to the species; develop and implement an internationally agreed standard population monitoring programme for the species; and advise the Secretariat of the details of the assessment and the programme.
- f) Any changes to the conservative annual export quota for wild taken specimens should be based on the results of the assessment and monitoring programme.

The WG encourages MG to provide further information on species categorized in the study in groups C1 and C2 for consideration at the next AC meeting.

Concerning Tridacnidae from the Solomon Islands

At AC21 the Solomon Islands were eliminated from the significant trade review based on information provided in a letter (dated 10 of June 2004) by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources which stated that "exports of Tridacna species from the Solomon Islands are of hatchery produced juvenile clams" and that they "prohibit the export of wild clams". However, since trade data from the UNEP-WCMC trade database showed exports of several thousand specimens of source W since 2004, the WG **recommended** that the Secretariat should write to the Solomon Islands to request additional information as follows:

- a) An explanation of the differing information provided by the Solomon Islands in their letter of 10 June 2004 and the published trade data from UNEP-WCMC.

- b) An update on the status of captive production facilities.
- c) Information on any recent quantitative surveys that have been conducted on giant clam abundances in the Solomon Islands for all six species.

The WG further **recommended** that the response from the Solomon Islands will be distributed among AC members who will decide on further actions to be taken. These may include reintroduction into the significant trade review process as an urgent case.

Regarding agenda item 7.3: Species selected following CoP13

Concerning *Mantella milotympanum*

M. milotympanum is **recommended** for removal from the process of significant trade review because a zero quota has been set².

Concerning *Mantella crocea*, *M. expectata* and *M. viridis*

The WG **recommended** that these three species are retained in the process and proposed the following additional recommendations:

- a) a zero quota be established.
- b) Madagascar should find the resources for a long term standardized monitoring programme for the three species to be able to monitor the population trends in protected and unprotected areas and the effect of trade, should it be resumed. For reference to such standardized monitoring programme, refer for example to AC24 Doc. 9.1 – p.25, *Measuring and Monitoring Biological Diversity – Standard methods for Amphibians*.
- c) on the basis of the information received and the results stemming from these programmes, such as population estimates and NDFs, precautionary quotas may be set in the future.
- d) adaptive management strategies should be implemented.

Concerning *Mantella aurantiaca* which was eliminated from the review at AC23 as Least Concern

The WG noted with concern that a quota of 2,500 specimens had been established given the species has been listed as Critically Endangered (CR) by IUCN and **recommended** that these concerns be expressed in a letter from the Secretariat in which MG would be asked to explain in more detail the basis for and method of the calculation of this quota for *M. aurantiaca* (with a deadline of 3 months). This information should be submitted to the AC for review and possible recommendations including re-instatement into the process of significant trade review.

Concerning *Mantella baroni*, *M. betsileo* and *M. ebenau*

The WG **recommends** the AC take note of the new quotas submitted.

Concerning *Mantella bernhardii*

The WG **recommends** the AC take note of the quota. However, due to the localized distribution as well as the IUCN status being Endangered, the WG **recommends** that these concerns be expressed in a letter from the Secretariat in which MG would be asked to explain in more detail the basis for and method of calculation of this quota for *M. bernhardii* (with a deadline of 3 months). This information should be submitted to the AC for review and possible recommendation including re-instatement into the process of significant review. In addition the WG **recommends** to include this species in a long term standardized monitoring programme such as for *M. crocea*.

Regarding agenda item 7.4: Selection of species following CoP14

Concerning *Hippocampus kelloggi*, *H. spinosissimus* and *H. kuda*

The WG **concluded** that they were unable to determine whether these three species should be entered into the Significant Trade Review on the basis of the findings of the NDF workshop in Mexico, since the workshop did not consider these species in the context of the significant trade review. Despite noting significant levels of trade in all three species the WG **agreed to** refer this matter back to the Plenary for a decision on whether they should be entered into the Significant Trade Review process.

Concerning *Saiga tatarica*

Since the letter from the Chinese Management Authority was not available to the members of the Committee nor to the WG, the **WG agreed** to refer this matter back to the Plenary for a decision on a way forward.

Concerning *Orlitia borneensis*

The two countries, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnam, are not range states of the species. However, wild caught specimens are exported from these states. The WG **recommends** that the Secretariat should inform the Standing Committee accordingly to take appropriate action.

Concerning *Pandinus imperator*

The formal inclusion of *P. imperator* into the review process of significant trade had been postponed for several years due to the fact that a report on the trade in this species was promised to be published shortly. However since this report on the trade in this species was still not available at AC24, the WG **recommended** to include this species in the Significant Trade Review process as an urgent case.

It also **recommended** that all efforts should be made that the report be submitted to the AC as soon as possible.

Concerning species selected at AC 23

Based on the responses given by the contacted range states the WG **recommends** the following actions as presented in the table below:

Summary of decisions by the AC24 WG on review of significant trade

Range State	Comment
<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	
Angola	To be removed because it is a non-Party
Benin	To be retained.
Botswana	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Burkina Faso	To be retained.
Burundi	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Cameroon	To be retained.
Central African Republic	To be retained.
Chad	To be retained.
Congo	To be removed from the process, if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Côte d'Ivoire	To be retained.
Equatorial Guinea	To be retained.
Eritrea	To be retained.
Ethiopia	To be retained.

Range State	Comment
Gabon	To be retained
Gambia	To be retained
Ghana	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Guinea	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Guinea-Bissau	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Kenya	To be retained
Liberia	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Malawi	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Mali	To be retained.
Mauritania	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Mozambique	To be retained.
Namibia	To be retained.
Niger	To be retained.
Nigeria	To be retained.
Senegal	To be retained.
Sierra Leone	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Somalia	To be retained.
South Africa	To be retained.
Sudan	To be retained.
Swaziland	To be retained.
Togo	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Uganda	To be retained. Uganda is to be asked about the origin of the stocks of hippo teeth mentioned in their response
United Republic of Tanzania	To be removed from the process. The delegate of Tanzania will be asked to give additional information in plenary ² .
Zambia	To be removed from the process.
Zimbabwe	Retained in the process unless the document submitted by Zimbabwe can be recovered and the contents be made known to the plenary session ² .
<i>Heosemys annandalii, H. grandis and H. Spinosa</i>	
Brunei Darussalam	To be retained.
Cambodia	To be retained.
Indonesia	To be removed from the process
Lao People's Democratic Republic	To be retained.
Myanmar	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Philippines	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Thailand	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Viet Nam	To be retained.

Range State	Comment
<i>Indotestudo forstenii</i>	
Indonesia	To be removed from the process; if the quota is significantly increased, the case may be re-evaluated ²
<i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>	
Afghanistan	To be retained.
Armenia	To be removed from the process Not a Party at the time the letter from the Secretariat was sent (the Convention entered into force in Armenia on 21.01 2009). In addition Armenia is not a range state
Azerbaijan	To be removed from the process because it is not a range state
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	To be retained.
Kazakhstan	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, or if there are detected problems with re-exports from other countries with origin Kazakhstan the case may be re-evaluated.
Kyrgyzstan	To be retained
Pakistan	To be retained.
Russian Federation	To be retained.
Tajikistan	To be retained.
Turkmenistan	To be removed from the process because it is a non-Party
Uzbekistan	To be retained
<i>Amyda cartilaginea</i>	
Indonesia	To be retained.
<i>Uroplatus spp.</i>	
Madagascar	To be retained.
<i>Brookesia decaryi</i>	
Madagascar	To be retained.
<i>Chamaeleo africanus</i>	
Burkina Faso	To be retained.
Cameroon	To be retained.
Chad	To be retained.
Djibouti	To be retained.
Egypt	To be retained.
Eritrea	To be retained.
Ethiopia	To be retained.
Gabon	To be retained.
Greece	To be removed from the process; if trade is taken up, the case may be re-evaluated ²
Mali	To be retained
Niger	To be retained. The WG expresses its concerns on the discrepancy between quotas set and exports realised concerning this population.
Nigeria	To be retained.
Somalia	To be retained.
Sudan	To be retained.
<i>Chamaeleo feae</i>	
Equatorial Guinea	To be retained.
<i>Cordylus mossambicus</i>	
Mozambique	To be retained.
<i>Gongylophis muelleri</i>	
Ghana	To be retained.
<i>Scaphiophryne gottlebei</i>	
Madagascar	To be retained

Concerning reported trade of *Testudo horsfieldii* from Ukraine

Ukraine is not a range state of *Testudo horsfieldii*, but has exported over one hundred fifty thousand specimens of this species between the years 2000 and 2005, while in the same period only 5'000 specimens were imported. The WG **agreed** to defer this matter to the plenary session to make the appropriate decisions under Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13).

Regarding the trade in two African Cranes, *Balearica regulorum* and *B. pavonia*

The WG **recommends** the initiation of a process of significant trade review for these two species as an urgent case.

Regarding agenda item 7.5: Scientific information from the range States of *Huso huso*

The WG **recommends** to include *Huso huso* into the process of significant trade review.

Regarding agenda item 7.6: Activities with regard to the population of *Tursiops aduncus* of the Solomon Islands

The WG **recommends**:

- a) The inclusion of the Solomon Islands population of *Tursiops aduncus* in the significant trade review.
- b) To instruct the Secretariat to inform The Solomon Islands that the AC recommends the Solomon Islands immediately institute a harvest quota of no more than 10 specimens per year (including all human-caused mortalities) and adjust its export quotas, from 2010-2014 accordingly.
- c) To encourage the Government of the Solomon Islands to undertake population surveys and assessment as recommended by IUCN in order to facilitate the setting of robust quotas.
- d) To request the Government of the Solomon Islands to inform the Secretariat how it makes its non-detriment findings.

¹ If the AC agrees by consensus (intersessionally) with the proposal of MG under c), then the quotas would be posted on the CITES website. If the AC needs further information or clarification to reach consensus, those issues would be taken up following further consultation with MG at the next AC meeting.

² Concerning the exclusion of species from the process of significant trade review due to the setting of a zero quota:

The WG notes that in the past various parties have been excluded from the process of significant trade review if they informed the AC that for export of a given species a zero quota was set or that there was no trade in this species. The recommendation by the AC was then to exclude this party from the process of review of significant trade without further recommendations. This may lead to the situation that if later a quota is set or trade is taken up by a given party shortly after elimination from the significant trade review, no obligations have to be met for setting this quota or taking up trade. The WG has therefore in such cases added some recommendations which may serve as a reference in similar cases. In particular if a party wants to re-establish a quota, it would need to provide population data and the details of the NDF to the satisfaction of the Animals Committee. If the Animals Committee is not satisfied, the species may be inserted into the process of significant trade review.