

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

Strategic planning

DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Introduction

1. The Annex presents all currently valid Decisions of the Conference of the Parties directed to the Animals Committee, as compiled by the Secretariat after CoP11. All decisions are covered by other agenda items for the 16th meeting of the Animals Committee, except for Decision 11.90 which addresses the duties of members of the Committee and their alternates.

Issues for consideration

2. The Animals Committee is invited to consider Decision 11.90 in its consideration of priorities and the development of a work plan to ensure, in particular, effective liaison between Committee members and Parties in the region that they represent, on matters dealt with by the Committee.
3. The Animals Committee may wish to consider establishing a requirement that all members in future refer to each subject outlined in paragraphs a)-k) of Decision 11.90 in their reports to the Committee.



CITES DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

**Regarding duties of members of the Committee and their alternates**

- 11.90
- a) Each member should collaborate with his/her alternate regarding the work to be done between the meetings of the Animals Committee.
  - b) Each member should maintain a fluid and regular communication with the Parties in his/her region.
  - c) When a region has more than one representative, the Parties should also agree which Parties each represents. Contact persons should be identified in those countries. Also non-Parties in the region should be identified.
  - d) Each member should increase the awareness of the existence of the Animals Committee, its mandate and the issues of concern to his/her region.
  - e) Before the meetings of the Animals Committee, the members should inform the Parties in their regions about the items on the agenda and request their opinions on these, in particular on matters specifically relevant to the countries of the region.
  - f) The members should submit a written annual report to each meeting of its Committee.
  - g) The members should inform the Parties in their regions of the results of each meeting of the Animals Committee.
  - h) The members must inform the alternates well in advance if they will not attend a forthcoming Committee meeting.
  - i) A regional meeting should take place between meetings of the Animals Committee, subject to the availability of funds. The members should convene these meetings.
  - j) The organization of subregional meetings should be considered in large regions where it is difficult to bring all Parties together.
  - k) The members should provide to their successors all relevant information on the activities in the region.

**Regarding *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* (Black Sea bottlenose dolphin)**

- 11.91
- The Animals Committee shall:
- a) review the issues pertaining to the conservation and trade in *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*;
  - b) evaluate the information received by the Secretariat in response to its request under Decision 11.139; and
  - c) request range States to co-operate with experts to examine the genetics of this population and evaluate its distinctiveness, through the collection and analysis of tissue samples.

#### **Regarding musk deer**

- 11.92 The Animals Committee shall consider at its first meeting following the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as a matter of priority, the trade in musk deer, raw musk, and products containing musk in the context of the Review of Significant Trade, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.), and present proposals for remedial actions to the Standing Committee prior to the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **Regarding freshwater turtles and tortoises**

- 11.93 The Animals Committee shall consider the trade in specimens of CITES-listed freshwater turtles and tortoises in the context of the Review of Significant Trade, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.).

#### **Regarding the biological and trade status of sharks**

- 11.94 The Chairman of the Animals Committee shall maintain liaison with the Secretary of the Committee on Fisheries of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to monitor the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, and report at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress made with this.

#### **Regarding trade in sturgeon and paddlefish**

- 11.95 The Animals Committee shall consider Acipenseriformes species (sturgeons and paddlefish) in the Review of Significant Trade, as recommended in Resolution Conf.10.12 (Rev.) pursuant to Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) and report at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 11.96 The Animals Committee shall review the Secretariat's report resulting from implementation of Decision 11.152 and, at its 18th meeting, decide upon actions to be taken by Parties on the implementation of CITES and regarding regional management strategies, and report at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **Regarding seahorses and other members of the family Syngnathidae**

- 11.97 The Animals Committee shall:
- a) review, with the assistance of experts as may be needed, the outcomes of the technical workshop convened by the Secretariat and other available information concerning the biology, catch and bycatch of and trade in seahorses and other syngnathids and develop appropriate recommendations; and
  - b) prepare, for consideration at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a discussion paper on the biological and trade status of seahorses and other syngnathids to provide scientific guidance on the actions needed to secure their conservation status.

#### **Regarding trade in hard corals**

- 11.98 The Animals Committee shall, as part of its consideration of corals in accordance with Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.), consider the application of Article IV, paragraph 3, of the Convention, as an alternative to Article IV, paragraph 2(a), when making non-detriment findings

for corals in trade and shall make recommendations for consideration at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

- 11.99 The Animals Committee shall provide advice to the Secretariat, for dissemination to the Parties, on the genera of corals for which it is practical to recognize specimens in trade to the level of species and the genera for which specimens in trade may be acceptably identified to the level of genus only for the purposes of implementing Resolution Conf. 11.17 and Conf. 10.2 (Rev.).

#### **Regarding trade in alien species**

- 11.100 Cooperation shall be established with the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group in the implementation of their document "IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss Due to Biological Invasion", of which parts are related to the trade in and transport of live specimens of species of wildlife.  
(*ex-10.76*)

#### **Regarding operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity**

- 11.101 The Animals Committee, in cooperation with range States, and with experts in captive breeding where appropriate, shall develop, for consideration at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a list comprising Appendix-I species (or geographically distinct populations thereof) that are:

- a) critically endangered in the wild; and/or
- b) known to be difficult to breed or keep in captivity.

- 11.102 The Animals Committee shall examine the complex issues related to the origin of founder breeding stock and the relationship between *ex situ* breeding operations and *in situ* conservation of the species and, in collaboration with interested organizations, identify possible strategies and other mechanisms by which registered *ex situ* breeding operations may contribute to enhancing the recovery and/or conservation of the species within the countries of origin, and report its findings at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **Regarding trade in time-sensitive research samples**

- 11.103 The Animals Committee (in consultation with the Plants Committee, if necessary) shall examine the issues related to the international transfer of samples of species included in the CITES Appendices. The terms of reference for this work shall be to examine the following issues with regard to the need to establish or recommend procedures for expeditious transfer of biological samples in specified situations:

- a) identification of the various types of samples transferred internationally for purposes of research;
- b) categorization of purposes for which samples are transferred internationally, in terms of their commercial, non-commercial and strict conservation elements, e.g. veterinary and diagnostic samples;
- c) categorization of the recipient institutions and other recipients of such samples; and
- d) evaluation of the need for expedited transfer of samples in each of the categories.

- 11.104 The Animals Committee shall submit its conclusion to the Standing Committee.

- 11.105 The deliberations on these issues should include input from relevant organizations and experts. Specifically, deliberations and decisions should be made in close consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>1</sup>.

**Regarding implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.)**

- 11.106 Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) shall be implemented in accordance with the following procedure.
- a) UNEP-WCMC shall produce a print-out from the CITES database showing the recorded net levels of trade in all Appendix-II species over the five most recent years.
  - b) In preparing these data, UNEP-WCMC shall analyse the available trade information, and highlight for the Animals Committee any inadequacies and deficiencies in the trade data available, in order to assist the Committee with its review.
  - c) Species for which the average net trade over this period has exceeded a level determined by the Animals Committee to be 'safe' should be selected and a print-out should be produced showing the levels of export and re-export of these species by country. This will constitute the list of taxa that might be subject to significant levels of trade.
  - d) On the basis of knowledge available in the Animals Committee and information from other relevant experts, species of immediate concern will be selected because of their recorded trade levels.
  - e) The Secretariat should, within 30 days after the meeting of the Animals Committee at which species are selected, notify range States of the species selected, providing an explanation for this selection and requesting comments and cooperation in providing information on the taxon to assist the review.
  - f) When necessary, consultants shall be engaged to compile information about the biology and management of the selected species and shall contact the range States and/or relevant experts to obtain information for inclusion in the compilation.
  - g) The consultants shall summarize their conclusions about the effects of international trade on the selected species and should divide them into three categories:
    - i) Category 1 shall include species for which the available information indicates that the provisions of Article IV of the Convention are not being implemented;
    - ii) Category 2 shall include species for which it is not clear whether or not the provisions of Article IV of the Convention are being implemented; and
    - iii) Category 3 shall include species for which the level of trade is evidently not a problem.
  - h) Before consideration by the Animals Committee, the Secretariat shall transmit the review documents prepared by the consultants to relevant range States, seeking comments and, where appropriate, additional information. Range States should be given six weeks to respond.
  - i) The Animals Committee should review the information provided by the consultants and the responses received from the Parties concerned and, if appropriate, revise the categories proposed by the consultants.

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<sup>1</sup> **Note from the Secretariat:** *This Decision is also included in the Decisions directed to the Standing Committee. In view of the other Decisions on this subject directed to the latter Committee, it is expected to take responsibility for communication with the Secretariat of CBD, whereas the Animals Committee is expected to take responsibility for ensuring consultation with experts.*

- j) Species in Category 3 should be eliminated from the review process<sup>1</sup>.
- k) With respect to species in Categories 1 and 2, the Secretariat, on behalf of the Animals Committee, shall consult the range States to seek comments regarding possible Article IV implementation problems identified by the Committee. Range States should be given six weeks to respond.
- l) If a response satisfactory to the Animals Committee is received, the species shall be eliminated from the review process<sup>1</sup> with respect to the State concerned.
- m) Otherwise, the Animals Committee shall, in consultation with the Secretariat, formulate recommendations in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.), relating to species in Categories 1 and 2.
- n) These recommendations shall be transmitted to the States concerned by the Secretariat, which shall, in consultation with the Animals Committee, determine whether the recommendations have been implemented and report to the Standing Committee in accordance with Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev).

11.107 When formulating recommendations, care shall be taken to specify intentions precisely and not  
(ex-10.80) leave the country concerned and the Secretariat to try to interpret what the Animals Committee wanted.

11.108 Where a State subject to a recommendation of the Animals Committee has agreed to set an  
(ex-10.81) export quota considered as cautious by the Secretariat, the case shall be reviewed again by the Committee in due course.

11.109 Trade in animal species for use in traditional medicines shall be reviewed to assess the  
(ex-10.82) implications for wild populations.

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<sup>1</sup> *The elimination of a species from the review process will be decided on the basis of considerations related to the implementation of Article IV only. Other problems identified in the course of the review process will have to be addressed by other means.*