

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 August 2003

Report on the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee

EXPORT QUOTA WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 12.17, directed to the Standing Committee (SC), stating that:
  - a) *The Standing Committee shall establish an intersessional Export Quota Working Group with the goal of developing guidelines for Parties to establish, implement, monitor and report national export quotas for CITES-listed taxa. The Standing Committee shall consult extensively with the Animals and Plants Committees to fulfil the following Terms of Reference.*
  - b) *The Terms of Reference of the working group should include the following:*
    - i) *particular issues to be addressed should include the problems identified in Annex 2 of document CoP12 Doc. 50.2 and additional suggestions or submissions from the Parties;*
    - ii) *representatives with expertise in this issue, particularly from Parties with export quotas and from key importing countries, should be invited to participate. The Secretariat shall be invited to participate in discussions. The Chairman of the Working Group may invite representatives of non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations with particular expertise in this issue to participate in the Working Group;*
    - iii) *an interim report by the Working Group to the Standing Committee on its progress toward achievement of its goals should be completed by 31 March 2004; and*
    - iv) *a final report, which may include a draft resolution(s) or decision(s) of the Conference of the Parties, should be submitted by the Working Group to the Standing Committee for consideration at its last meeting before the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee shall submit it to the Conference for consideration at that meeting.*
3. At its 49th meeting (Geneva, April 2003), the SC agreed to establish an intersessional Export Quota Working Group in compliance with Decision 12.17, comprising representatives of the six CITES regions, the number of representatives per region being the same as for the SC. The members of the working group need not be members of the Committee. The SC decided that China would be the interim Chairman of the working group until the Chairman is elected. The Chairman of the working group may invite representatives of non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations.

4. The interim Chairman of the Export Quota Working Group reported that the group would be composed of the following members:
  - a) Africa: Cameroon (Chairman), Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe;
  - b) Asia: China (Vice-Chairman) and Malaysia;
  - c) Central and South America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Jamaica and Nicaragua;
  - d) Europe: Germany, the Russian Federation and Turkey;
  - e) Oceania: Australia; and
  - f) North America: United States of America.
5. The Chairman would invite the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees as well as representatives of experienced IGOs and NGOs such as IUCN, Safari Club International, TRAFFIC and UNEP-WCMC to participate in the working group.

Issues for consideration

6. Bearing in mind that the Export Quota Working Group agreed to focus mainly on the practical aspects of issues such as the issuance, management and monitoring of permits and the reporting on quotas, and not to deal with scientific aspects of the establishment of quotas for species listed in the CITES Appendices, the Animals Committee may wish to consider how best it could respond to possible requests for assistance from the working group.