

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

Strategic planning

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE'S PRIORITIES

1. This document has been prepared by the Chairman of the Animals Committee.
2. The Annex to this document outlines a draft working programme for the Animals Committee for the period 2005 to 2007, until the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14). It is based on items relevant to the Animals Committee that are contained in:
 - a) the Action Plan of the *Strategic Vision* that was adopted at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP11) and extended until the end of 2007;
 - b) Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13) on the Establishment of committees;
 - c) valid Resolutions and Decisions directed to or relevant for the Animals Committee (see documents AC21 Doc. 6.1 and AC21 Doc. 6.2); and
 - d) some additional issues addressed to the members of the Animals Committee.
3. It should be kept in mind that this working programme includes all relevant actions or activities listed in the documentation referred to above. The Committee cannot endeavour to deal with all of these points at the same time or in similar detail. In fact, it may not be able to deal with all of them by CoP14 owing to time constraints. They should therefore be part of a continuous process and be prioritized. Some assignments are very general and seem just to express an intention or are not addressed at AC (but to the Secretariat or the Parties), while others are very precise and practical, with strict time-frames. Still others have already been entirely or partly completed.
4. The elements that should be part of the Animals Committee's working programme for 2005 to 2007 are presented in tabular format, with an indication of the origin of the assignment, a description of the actions that are required, some additional comments from the Chairman added in italics, and the relative priority of the assignment.

ANIMALS COMMITTEE PRIORITIES FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 13TH AND 14TH MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (2005-2007)

Origin of assignment (Action Plan, Resolution, Decision)	Action required and description of tasks	Comments by the Chairman of Animals Committee (responsibilities; suggested way forward; recalling what has been done; etc)	Priority * [High, Medium, Low]
Decision 13.1	<p>A Strategic Plan Working Group as a subcommittee of the Standing Committee, with representation from all regions and of the Animals and Plants Committees, with the task to develop, with the cooperation of the Secretariat, a proposal for a Strategic Vision and Action Plan through 2013, in particular in order to contribute to the achievement of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.</p> <p>The scientific committees are instructed to evaluate their efforts in relation to the implementation of the existing Strategic Vision and Action Plan and to submit the outcome thereof to the Strategic Plan Working Group through their representatives on that working group.</p> <p>The Strategic Plan Working Group shall submit its proposal to the Standing Committee for approval at its annual meeting prior to the deadline for the submission of proposals for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which is to be held in 2007.</p>	<p><i>There will be specific items on the agenda of the joint AC/PC meeting as well as on the AC21 agenda (items 6.1 and 6.4).</i></p> <p><i>A working group will probably be formed to produce a report by the end of 2006 on the evaluation of the efforts by AC in relation to the implementation of the existing Strategic Vision and Action Plan.</i></p> <p><i>The representation of the AC in the SC subcommittee will have to be decided upon at AC21</i></p>	H
Decision 13.9	<p>Animals, Plants and Nomenclature Committees shall draft terms of reference for a review of the scientific committees, with the objective of improving and facilitating the performance of their functions. The Committees shall submit the draft terms of reference before the end of 2005 to the Standing Committee.</p>	<p><i>At CoP13 several points have been discussed (in chairmen's reports as well as in other documents) that referred to the functioning of the scientific committees, including Rules of Procedure, managing of budgets, assignments of tasks in view of time and other constraints etc. Draft Terms of Reference will have to be formulated at AC21.</i></p> <p><i>The issue will be dealt with underagenda item 7 at AC21. Very probably a working group will have to be formed.</i></p> <p><i>Draft terms of reference for the review will have to be submitted before the end of 2005 to the SC.</i></p>	H

Origin of assignment (Action Plan, Resolution, Decision)	Action required and description of tasks	Comments by the Chairman of Animals Committee (responsibilities; suggested way forward; recalling what has been done; etc)	Priority * [High, Medium, Low]
Action Plan (1.4.1, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.4 and 2.4.5) Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP13)	<p>Continue to separate and identify scientific issues from technical implementation issues that concern animals and refer technical implementation issues to the 'clearing house mechanism' of the Standing Committee for consideration, given that the following tasks are assigned to the AC:</p> <p>On the basis of information from Parties, evaluate needs, capabilities and opportunities as related to <u>information, technologies and management</u>.</p> <p>In collaboration with enforcement agencies, identify the needs for and potential benefits of <u>innovative technologies</u> (including the <u>Internet, electronic mail and licensing systems</u>).</p> <p>In collaboration with Parties, international agencies, and relevant research entities, identify the available technologies (e.g. <u>digital technology, microchips, barcodes, holograms, DNA tests</u>) relevant to assisting the better implementation of the Convention.</p> <p>Develop with relevant institutions collaborative research projects for testing the appropriateness of new and forthcoming technologies.</p> <p>Assess progress on a regional basis.</p> <p>Monitor developments in <u>microchip-implant technology and application techniques for marking live animals</u> in trade and advise the Secretariat about such developments, for the information of the Parties.</p>	<p><i>The SC is to function as a clearing house to assign specific issues to be dealt with to the competent CITES bodies. This might help the scientific committees avoid having to deal with a number of technical implementation issues that do not fall with or do not entirely fall in their competence or for which they do not have the necessary expertise. However it is noteworthy that the Action Plan tasks the AC with several technical implementation issues. This could be taken into consideration when reviewing the scientific committees and when the new Action Plan is developed.</i></p> <p><i>Whether the AC will need an agenda item dealing with this issue in future should be discussed in particular to address new developments that might improve the implementation of the Convention.</i></p>	L
Action Plan (2.2.3) Decisions 13.95 and 13.96	<p>For identified commodities, develop standardized units of measure for permits, trade analysis and reporting.</p> <p>In particular, the Animals Committee shall proceed with an analysis of the Parties' interpretation of the annotation on fossil corals and other tasks necessary to undertake a review of Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP12) and report to the Secretariat by the end of 2006.</p>	<p><i>The Parties that are involved in the trade in stony corals should, by the end of 2005, determine how they will interpret the annotation exempting fossil corals from the provisions of the Convention and provide this interpretation to the Secretariat for distribution. The AC will deal with this issue in 2006. The Secretariat shall communicate the report of the AC regarding the interpretation of the annotation exempting fossil corals to the Parties via a Notification to the Parties before CoP14, i.e. at the end of 2006.</i></p>	M

Origin of assignment (Action Plan, Resolution, Decision)	Action required and description of tasks	Comments by the Chairman of Animals Committee (responsibilities; suggested way forward; recalling what has been done; etc)	Priority * [High, Medium, Low]
Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13)	The Animals Committee is to give input (upon request) to the development of a uniform DNA-based identification system for parts and derivatives and aquaculture stocks of Acipenseriformes species to assist in the subsequent identification of the origin of specimens in trade.	<i>Actually this part of Resolution 12.7 (Rev. CoP13) is directed primarily to range States, importing countries and other appropriate experts, including the IUCN/SSC Sturgeon Specialist Group. Therefore there appears to be no need for immediate action until the AC is receives a request for assistance.</i>	L
Action Plan (1.1.4)	Assist Parties and the Secretariat in ensuring adequate review and adoption of policies, measures of enforcement and compliance and legislation that may have a significant impact on the conservation status of species or the implementation of the Convention	<i>In 2003, a workshop on trade policies and economic incentives was held in Geneva and discussed at CoP13 [see document CoP13 Doc 13 (Rev. 1)], but no specific assignments were given to the AC. It looks as if this includes issues of a more technical and implementing nature where the AC may lack expertise. Nevertheless no action seems necessary until the AC receives a request for assistance.</i>	L
Decisions 13.6, 13.7	Identify those Addis Ababa principles and guidelines of most relevance to CITES , taking account of case studies provided by the Parties on how these could be used in specific cases of exports of specimens of Appendix-II species, and report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.	<i>Decision 13.7 tasks the Secretariat with inviting the Parties to provide the AC and PC with case studies of how the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity could be used in specific cases of exports of specimens of Appendix-II species. The AC is then to look more closely into the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines, taking onto consideration the information provided by the Parties.</i> A report is required for CoP14. <i>The issue will therefore be dealt with under agenda item 13.1 at AC21. Very probably a working group will be formed to look into the issue.</i>	M

Origin of assignment (Action Plan, Resolution, Decision)	Action required and description of tasks	Comments by the Chairman of Animals Committee (responsibilities; suggested way forward; recalling what has been done; etc)	Priority * [High, Medium, Low]
Action Plan (1.1.6) Decision 13.88 Resolution Conf. 10.21	<p>The Animals Committee is to deal with matters related to the transport of live animals; and, in consultation with the Secretariat' is requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to <u>establish the format for the presentation of data on mortality and injury or damage to health in transport</u>; and b) to <u>conduct a systematic review of the scope and causes of the mortality and injury or damage to health of animals during the shipment and transport process and of means of reducing such mortality and injury or damage to health</u>; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the review should include a process for making recommendations to the Parties designed to minimize mortality, on the basis of consultation with exporting, importing, re-exporting and transit countries, IATA and AATA, and additional information from scientists, veterinarians, zoological institutions, trade representatives, carriers, freight forwarders and other experts; and ii) these recommendations should be focused on individual species and countries of export, import, re-export or transit where appropriate, particularly those that have significant high mortality rates in transport, and should be designed to provide positive solutions to identified problems; <p>The Secretariat in consultation with the Animals and Standing Committees is then tasked to monitor the implementation of these recommendations and of other aspects of Resolution Conf. 10.21 and report its findings and recommendations at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>The Animals Committee is also assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to continue to develop and improve, in coordination with the Parties, the Secretariat and other experts, <u>regulations and model practices to prevent unnecessary loss</u> during catching, storage and transportation of live animals; and 	<p><i>This issue mainly concerns development, improvement, implementation and knowledge of technicalities, rules and regulations, but knowledge of biological properties is also necessary. The AC usually deals with this issue through its Transport Working Group.</i></p> <p><i>A progress report is required for CoP14.</i></p> <p><i>The issue will be dealt with under a agenda item 16 at AC21.</i></p>	M

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	b) to develop in collaboration with interested non-governmental organizations and the Secretariat, <u>recommendations regarding transport of live animals by road, rail or ship</u> , and regarding <u>cost-effective options for containers and packing materials</u> for all means of transport to supplement, where necessary, the <i>IATA Live Animals Regulations</i> .		
Decision 13.89	Undertake a review of Resolution Conf. 10.21 on Transport of live animals, in order to <i>inter alia</i> revise the requirements regarding the collection, submission and analysis of data on mortality and injury or damage to health in transport of live animals, domestic measures directed to Parties and reporting obligations. Clarify how IATA manuals and regulations can be mechanisms through which up-to-date guidance on the transport of live animals and plants of CITES-listed species can be provided, <u>replacing the <i>CITES Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals and plants</i></u> . Report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of these Decisions.	<i>This issue is closely interlinked with the issue above. The revision of Resolution Conf.10.21 as well as the evaluation of the outdated CITES guidelines on transport need the input of expertise and knowledge gained by working on the tasks mentioned above. Nevertheless, a different priority is probably justified for these revisions.</i> A report is required for CoP14. <i>The issue will be dealt with under a agenda separate item 16 at AC21.</i>	H
Action Plan (1.7.1, 2.3.1 and 2.3.2) Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13)	Assist the Secretariat in developing a manual specifying the obligations and procedures of the Scientific Authorities in order to encourage the development of specific training courses for them. Develop practical guidance for making non-detriment findings, including a manual and checklist, and samples of non-detriment findings and case studies. Support the Secretariat in its work on the development and implementation of a programme to assist Scientific Authorities in making non-detriment findings in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Convention.	<i>The issue of capacity building is addressed in several other points and is an ongoing activity of the Secretariat. In 2002, IUCN published a Guidance for CITES Scientific Authorities containing a checklist to assist Scientific Authorities in making non-detriment findings for Appendix-II exports. Actions by the AC in this area will mostly depend on requests made by the Secretariat.</i>	L

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<p>Action Plan (1.7.2, 2.3.5 and 4.3.2) Decision 13.11 Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13)</p>	<p>Develop regional directories that list the botanists and zoologists in each region who are experts in CITES-listed species.</p> <p>Promote greater awareness among and cooperation with the scientific community.</p> <p>Support the Parties and the Secretariat in providing opportunities for Scientific Authorities to exchange information and data.</p> <p>Participate actively at scientific meetings and conferences, and encourage participation in CITES issues by the scientific community.</p>	<p><i>Decision 13.11 directs the Parties to provide to the Secretariat by 1 April 2005 a contact focal point for the Animals, Plants and Nomenclature Committees, including email, telephone and fax details. This information will be available on the CITES website. In addition the email, telephone and fax details of all the Scientific Authorities are contained in the CITES Directory and published on the CITES website, where they are regularly updated. This would allow creating a network of specialists that can be consulted by Scientific and Management Authorities, independent of national borders. In view of this, it is questionable if there is a need for still another directory that consists of lists of scientific experts and specialists who are also members of the CITES Scientific Authorities.</i></p> <p><i>This could be an item discussed under the items of the review of the scientific committees and the development of the new Action Plan, and is as such dealt with under agenda items 6.4 and 7 at AC21. The issue on how to promote greater awareness among and cooperation with the scientific community however could be looked at under AC agenda item 8.2 (see below).</i></p> <p><i>Concerning the request to participate actively in scientific meetings and conferences, this depends on the financial resources of the AC members and is discussed under agenda item 8.</i></p>	L
<p>Action Plan (2.1.2) Decisions 12.96 and 13.93 Document SC51 Doc. 16 Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13)</p>	<p>Ensure that the Convention's Appendices correctly reflect the conservation and management needs of the species.</p> <p>Continue the general process of reviewing the Appendices applying the criteria included in Resolution 9.24 (Rev. CoP13); establish a schedule for reviewing the biological and trade status of these species, identify</p>	<p><i>The objective of the periodic review is to determine whether species are properly listed in Appendices I or II, and whether a proposal to transfer a species within the Appendices or to delete it therefor should be recommended to the</i></p>	H

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	<p>problems or potential problems concerning the biological status of species being traded; consult the Parties on the need to review species and seek their assistance in such reviews; and prepare and submit amendment proposals resulting from the review through the Depository Government for consideration at meetings of the CoP. Share the experience regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews with the Plants Committee.</p> <p>The Animals Committee shall, immediately following the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, include the Felidae in its Review of the Appendices. This review shall initially focus on the <u>listing of the Lynx species complex</u>, which includes species that are listed because of similarity of appearance, such as <i>Lynx rufus</i>. In addition to evaluating the listings of these species against the criteria for inclusion of species in Appendices I and II contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP13), the Animals Committee shall assess the management and enforcement measures available to achieve effective control of trade in these species so as to resolve the continued need for look-alike listings. This assessment should also include a review of trade information to determine whether these species are actually confused in trade or whether the look-alike problem is merely hypothetical. The Animals Committee shall provide a report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress of the review of all Felidae and particularly on their review of <i>Lynx</i> spp. and look-alike issues.</p>	<p><i>CoP, based on the revised Resolution on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II.</i></p> <p><i>According to recommendations by the SC, the following taxa should be considered for review:</i></p> <p><i>a) taxa listed prior to the adoption of Resolution Conf. 9.24 on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II;</i></p> <p><i>b) higher taxon listings (i.e. genus, family, etc.).</i></p> <p><i>Species subject to other reviews, such as those that are currently subject to the Review of Significant Trade pursuant to Resolution Conf. 12.8, or that have already been evaluated for listing in the CITES Appendices as proposals submitted for consideration at the last two meetings of the CoP, should not be included in the periodic review. Guidelines for the selection of taxa for this review have been developed by the AC and were adopted at SC51.</i></p> <p><i>With regard to the review of the Felidae, in particular the 'Lynx species complex', a progress report is requested for CoP14.</i></p> <p><i>This will be addressed under agenda item 11 at AC21.</i></p>	
<p>Action Plan (2.3.1 and 1.4.4) Resolutions Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13), Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)</p>	<p>Continue the review of significant trade as initiated by the Parties in Resolution 8.9, which directs the Animals and Plants Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat and experts, and in consultation with range States, to review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade, to identify problems and solutions concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a), in accordance with the following procedure</p>	<p><i>This issue will be discussed under agenda item 10 at AC21 where a progress report on the implementation of the Review of Significant Trade will be presented and a selection of species to be reviewed will be undertaken.</i></p> <p><i>Concerning the development of a simple guide, this work was initiated by Secretariat and a summary was presented at CoP11. An updated guide, reflecting the changes introduced by the</i></p>	<p>H</p>

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	<p>In particular:</p> <p>Establish a list of those taxa included in Appendix II that are considered as being significantly affected by trade, and review and assess all available biological and trade information including comments by the range States on these taxa to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) exclude all species for which there is adequate information to conclude that trade is not having a significant detrimental effect on their populations; ii) formulate recommendations for remedial measures for those species for which trade is believed to be having a detrimental effect; and iii) establish priorities for projects to collect information for those species for which there is insufficient information available on which to base a judgement as to whether the level of trade is detrimental. <p>Assess information on those species for which there is evidence of a change in the volume of trade or for which specific information is available to indicate the necessity for review.</p> <p>Provide advice and guidance to the Conference of the Parties, the other committees, working groups and the Secretariat, on <u>all matters relevant to international trade</u> in animal and plant species included in the Appendices, which may include proposals to amend the Appendices.</p> <p>Assist the Secretariat in developing a simple guide to the review of significant trade.</p>	<p><i>adoption of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) will be needed.</i></p>	
Action Plan (1.4.5)	<p>Assist the Secretariat and the Parties in developing and enhancing databases that include information related to species in trade, CITES Decisions and procedures.</p>	<p><i>(So far, the AC has not addressed this matter. Its Review of Significant Trade may however give indications of useful databases and research needs.) This could be explored under agenda item 10. The issue should also be considered under the review of the scientific committees (AC21 agenda item 7).</i></p>	L

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<p>Action Plan (2.2.2) Resolution Conf. 11.16</p>	<p>Encourage Parties to consult with the Animals and Plants Committees as appropriate to assist in the preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices.</p> <p>Regarding proposals to <u>transfer populations from Appendix I to Appendix II for ranching</u>, the Secretariat in consultation with the Animals Committee, shall seek appropriate scientific and technical advice to verify that the criteria have been met and to review the information and assurances in the proposal. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals Committee, should also determine whether any changes proposed at a later date substantially alter the original ranching programme, and undermine or jeopardize the conservation of the wild population.</p>	<p><i>This assignment should not be interpreted as an invitation to Parties to ask the Committee to write proposals. The AC can try to help by providing scientific information, guidance to the use of literature and references of specialists in the field, but that would depend on the expertise and the network available to and among AC representatives and alternates.</i></p> <p><i>With the exception mentioned above (see 'Review of the Appendices') the AC cannot instigate this work, but it could possibly review and evaluate 'pre-proposals' from a scientific perspective and make recommendations for their improvement. The Secretariat routinely reminds Parties to consult with the AC when preparing proposals.</i></p> <p><i>It might be worthwhile to examine if this task (to encourage Parties) should remain in the Action Plan in the context of the review of the Scientific Committees (dealt with under AC21 agenda item 7).</i></p> <p><i>Ranching is clearly a scientific issue requiring the AC to act on a case-by-case basis.</i></p>	<p>M</p>
<p>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP13)</p>	<p>If an Appendix-I species has been transferred to Appendix II, and the Animals Committee becomes aware of problems in compliance with the management measures and export quotas, the Secretariat shall be informed.</p> <p>If, on review of a quota and its supporting management measures, the Animals Committee encounters any problems with compliance or potential detriment to a species, the relevant Committee shall request the Depositary Government to prepare a proposal for appropriate remedial action.</p>	<p><i>This duty means that in the context of the revised Resolution 9.24, the AC has been assigned with a rather important monitoring function. So far this function is not institutionalized, but it should be considered if in future a specific agenda item has to be established.</i></p> <p><i>The issue should be considered under agenda item 8.2.</i></p>	<p>M</p>

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Resolution Conf. 9.25	<p>Management Authorities that consider the inclusion of a species in Appendix III should inform the Management Authorities of other range States, the known major importing countries, the Secretariat and the Animals Committee and seek their opinion on the potential effects of such inclusion.</p> <p>The Animals Committee is to assist Parties if necessary in reviewing the status of species in Appendix III, subject to available funding.</p> <p>Parties having included species in Appendix III are urged to periodically review the status of these species and, taking into account these guidelines and any recommendations of the Animals Committee, to consider the necessity to maintain them in that Appendix.</p>	<p><i>This is again an interesting function that requires the scientific input of the AC. However the AC is not required to initiate the action but rather to assist Parties on a case-by-case basis. So far, no requests have been received and no immediate action is required. But it could well be that at future meetings an agenda item will have to be established with regard to Appendix-III species.</i></p>	M
Action Plan (2.1.4) Decision 13.43 Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP13)	<p>Evaluate trade and biological information on currently unlisted species subject to significant international trade to determine whether they would qualify for and benefit from CITES listing.</p> <p>In particular, the Animals Committee, taking account of the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the <u>conservation and management of sharks</u> and on CITES implementation issues relating to listed marine species, shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) review implementation issues related to <u>sharks listed in the CITES Appendices</u> with a view <i>inter alia</i> to sharing experiences that may have arisen and solutions that may have been found; b) identify specific cases where trade is having an adverse impact on sharks, in particular those key shark species threatened in this way; c) prepare a report on trade-related measures adopted and implemented by Parties that are aimed at improving the conservation status of sharks; and d) report on the above at the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties. 	<p><i>The AC's work on trade in sharks (and sea cucumbers) falls into this category. However, it should be kept in mind that because of reasons of principle as well as budgetary and time constraints, the Committee's priorities are first and foremost the species already included in the Appendices.</i></p> <p><i>Nevertheless at CoP13 the Committee tasked was to deal quite substantially with sharks. The CoP has also encouraged Parties to obtain information on the implementation of IPOA-Sharks from their fisheries departments, and report directly on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at future meetings of the AC. The AC is therefore partially dependent upon these reports and the cooperation of the Parties.</i></p> <p><i>The AC is required to report at CoP14.</i></p> <p><i>Sharks will be discussed separately at AC21 (see item 18).</i></p>	H

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Decision 13.48	<p>The Animals Committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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); and b) prepare, for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a discussion paper on the biological and trade status of sea cucumbers in the above families to provide scientific guidance on the actions needed to secure their conservation status 	<p><i>The AC is required to prepare, for consideration at CoP14 a discussion paper on the biological and trade status of sea cucumbers to provide scientific guidance on the actions needed to secure their conservation status.</i></p> <p><i>The issue will be discussed in agenda item 17 at AC21. Very probably a working group will be formed to look into the matter.</i></p>	L
Decision 13.68	<p>The Animals and Plants Committees shall establish an intersessional joint working group with the following Terms of Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the working group shall be composed of members and observer Parties within the Animals and Plants Committees, from as many of the six different CITES regions as possible, with expertise in determining and defining the existing production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species of animals and plants; b) the working group shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) focus on clearly defining key elements of the different production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species of animals and plants, and, if appropriate, developing as far as possible a list of specific production systems currently being utilized by Parties; ii) determine under which existing <u>CITES permit source code</u> each production system appropriately fits and whether the addition of any new source codes is necessary; and iii) consider the <u>definition of 'ranching'</u> within the context of existing CITES Resolutions; c) to avoid duplication of work, the working group should use, as a basis for its discussions, documents on production systems from previous meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees: 	<p><i>This issue will be discussed in agenda item 12 at AC21.</i></p> <p><i>At AC21 this working group must be established and it should start its work, including the development of a schedule for intersessional work. The group is to provide interim reports on its progress toward the achievement of its goals at each AC and PC meeting between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties and to submit a final report, which may include a draft resolution of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</i></p>	L

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	<p>d) in evaluating production systems and determining under which source code each production system fits, the working group should take into account that both the Animals and Plants Committees have agreed that source codes should not be used to replace non-detriment findings by Scientific Authorities;</p> <p>e) the working group should provide interim reports on its progress toward the achievement of its goals at each Animals and Plants Committee meeting between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>f) after incorporating suggestions from both the Animals and Plants Committees, the working group should submit a final report, which may include a draft resolution of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and</p> <p>g) the working group should carry out the majority of its work via email to keep costs to a minimum.</p>		
Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13)	Assist the Nomenclature Committee in the development and maintenance of a standardized list of species names.	<p><i>The NC will hold its meeting during AC21. AC members are invited to participate and contribute to the debates at the NC.</i></p> <p><i>The NC Co-Chairman for fauna will report at AC21 (see agenda item 15).</i></p>	L
Resolutions Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13), Conf. 11.19	Provide support to the Secretariat in its preparation of materials for the Identification Manual .	<p><i>The role of the AC is not proactive. The Secretariat could ask the AC to review draft sections for the Manual or point out where information for the Identification Manual is missing or needs updating.</i></p> <p><i>The Secretariat will report on the Identification Manual under agenda item 20 at AC21.</i></p>	H

Origin of assignment (Action Plan, Resolution, Decision)	Action required and description of tasks	Comments by the Chairman of Animals Committee (responsibilities; suggested way forward; recalling what has been done; etc)	Priority * [High, Medium, Low]
Decision 13.9	The Animals, Plants and Nomenclature Committees shall draft terms of reference for a review, with the objective of improving and facilitating the performance of their functions . The Committees shall submit the draft terms of reference before the end of 2005 to the Standing Committee.	<p><i>The AC is to develop draft terms of reference for such a review before the end of 2005, i.e. preferably at the end of AC21.</i></p> <p><i>This issue will be discussed under agenda item 7 at AC21.</i></p> <p><i>At AC16, the Committee accepted the following mission statement:</i></p> <p><i>“The mission of the CITES Animals Committee is to provide the Conference of Parties, Parties, other committees and working groups and the Secretariat, with reliable scientific information and advice on biological matters (including criteria and their application) concerning international trade in animal species included in the Appendices, as well as when applicable, animal species subject to international trade that may be considered for inclusion in the Appendices in the future.”</i></p> <p><i>The questions are: Do the scientific committees in addition to all the other directions and assignments need to have a mission statement? Is the mission statement still valid or does it need amendments?</i></p>	H
Decision 13.12	Review the conditions under which the members of AC and alternate members perform their duties to ensure continuity and effective regional representation, and report their findings to the Standing Committee.	<p><i>This issue will be discussed under agenda item 8.1 at AC21.</i></p> <p><i>A working group will probably be needed consisting of AC members and alternates. The results of the review need to be reported to SC, preferably with realistic proposals to solve identified problems.</i></p>	H
Decision 13.13	Form a joint email working group with PC comprising two representatives of each Committee and an appointed chairman to develop a manual for regional representatives in 2005 that explains the	<p><i>There will be a specific item on the agenda of AC21 (8.2).</i></p> <p><i>Two representatives of AC will have to be</i></p>	M

Origin of assignment (Action Plan, Resolution, Decision)	Action required and description of tasks	Comments by the Chairman of Animals Committee (responsibilities; suggested way forward; recalling what has been done; etc)	Priority * [High, Medium, Low]
	<p>roles and duties of the representatives, provides practical advice on how to accomplish the mandate, is applicable under different cultural conditions, and contains information for the Management and Scientific Authorities of Parties to explain the role and duties of regional representatives, and the relevant obligations by Parties towards regional representatives.</p> <p>External funding is to be sought for printing of the manual.</p>	<p><i>nominated for the joint working group. The manual should be developed by the end of 2005. The publication is then dependent upon external funding.</i></p>	
Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13)	<p>Consider the report of the Export Quota Working Group of the SC and provide comments and input (e.g. regarding materials to be used in the capacity-building programme for voluntary national export quotas, information on methods used for establishing quotas and on relevant case studies on the establishment of quotas).</p>	<p><i>This issue will be discussed under agenda item 9 at AC21.</i></p>	M
Resolution Conf. 13.4	<p>The Animals Committee is to work closely with GRASP, and to explore and implement other measures through which the Convention can contribute to the conservation of great apes and to the promotion of public awareness of the threat posed to great ape populations by illegal trade.</p>	<p><i>The possibilities for the AC to really fulfill this task are limited. It is must be questioned whether the request is still within its mandate.</i></p> <p><i>This issue will be discussed under agenda item 19 at AC21.</i></p>	L

* Some of the assignments have been determined as being of high priority, because there are – sometimes very strict – deadlines to be met, although with regard to the substance they are indeed not priority issues in the work of the AC (“urgent” versus “important”).