

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Opening of the meeting ..... (No document)

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. The Secretary-General and the Chair gave welcoming speeches.

2. Rules of Procedure ..... (AC26 Doc. 2)

The Secretariat proposed amending Rule 22 as follows: “On request, the Secretariat shall distribute printed and translated documents...”. The Committee had no objection to the proposed amendment but considered that it should not have been made in session. To avoid setting a precedent, it invited the Secretariat to make this proposal at its 27th meeting, but this time by the deadline for submitting documents. The Committee confirmed the validity of the Rules of Procedure in the Annex to document AC26 Doc. 2.

3. Adoption of the agenda and working programme

3.1 Agenda ..... (AC26 Doc. 3.1)

The Committee adopted the agenda in document AC26 Doc. 3.1.

3.2 Working programme ..... (AC26 Doc. 3.2)

The Committee adopted the working programme in document AC26 Doc. 3.2 with three amendments:

- a) considering item 26.2 (*Draft proposal to include Lamna nasus in Appendix II*) together with item 16 [*Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes)*];
- b) moving item 25 (*Review of objections to the registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*) from last to first in the second part of the morning session on Friday 16 March; and
- c) including an oral report by Mexico on a workshop on crocodiles (also reported on in information document AC26 Inf. 11) under item 29 (*Any other business*).

4. Admission of observers ..... (AC26 Doc. 4)

The Committee noted the list of observers provided in document AC26 Doc. 4.

13. Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices

13.1 Overview of species under review ..... (AC26 Doc. 13.1)

The Committee noted document AC26 Doc. 13.1 and requested that, in future documents, the Secretariat complete the information under “IUCN category” and “Range States” in the summary tables, as agreed at the Committee's 25th meeting. It also requested that, under “Notes”, the status currently reported as “In progress” distinguish actively-ongoing reviews from those for which no action had been taken since the selection of the species, and indicate the countries responsible for the reviews.

13.2 Species selected for review from CoP13 (2004) to CoP15 (2010) ..... (AC26 Doc. 13.2)

The Committee accepted with gratitude the offer from Australia to conduct reviews of *Rheobatrachus silus* and *Rheobatrachus vitellinus*. It also thanked China for its review of *Andrias davidianus* and endorsed its conclusions. It agreed that, in future, reviews should always specify which criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) were considered to justify the recommendation made.

13.2.1 Galliformes – Report of the working group ..... (AC26 Doc. 13.3.2.1)

The Committee thanked the United States of America for the funding provided and congratulated it for its report on Galliformes contained in the Annex to document AC26 Doc. 13.2.1.

13.3 Species selected for review from CoP15 (2010) to CoP17 (2016) ..... (AC26 Doc. 13.3)

The Committee thanked Mexico for its review of *Caracara lutosa*, contained in the Annex to document AC26 Doc. 13.3, and endorsed its conclusions.

The Committee then established a working group (WG1) to look at item 13 with the following mandate:

The working group shall:

1. Review the table in the Annex of document AC26 Doc. 13.1 and provide comments as appropriate for consideration by the Committee;
2. For species selected for review from CoP13 to CoP15:
  - a) Taking into account the information presented in document AC26 Doc. 13.2 and the discussions in plenary regarding responses to Notification No. 2011/038, consider options to deal with or terminate the reviews of the remaining species; and
  - b) Review the information and report presented in document 13.2.1 and its Annex, and make recommendations to the Committee regarding the listing in the Appendices of the 16 species of Galliformes under review; and
3. For species selected for review from CoP15 to CoP17:

Based on the information presented in documents AC26 Doc. 13.3 (and possibly additional information that the Secretariat would make available to the Working Group), make recommendation to the Committee regarding the final selection of taxa to be reviewed. For the selected taxa, provide guidance on how the reviews should be organized, and how information, participation and support from the range States could be obtained in compliance with paragraph h) of Resolution Conf. 14.8.

After clarifying that Committee members could participate in all working groups, the membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: AC Chair (Mr Ibero) and alternate representative of North America (Ms Gnam);

Parties: Australia, China, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and

IGOs and NGOs: European Union, IUCN, Born Free USA, Humane Society International, Humane Society of the United States and ProWildlife.

14. Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendices I and II  
(Decision 15.29) – Report of the working group ..... (AC26 Doc. 14)

The Committee established a working group (WG2) to look at item 14 with the following mandate:

The working group shall:

1. Review the responses from the members of the working group to the questions outlined in paragraph 10 of document AC26 Doc. 14;
2. Develop guidance on the application of criterion B and the introductory text of Annex 2 a to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) to commercially exploited aquatic species proposed for inclusion in Appendix II;
3. Recommend the best way to incorporate this guidance for use when applying the Resolution without affecting its application to other taxa; and
4. Draft a document for review and adoption by the Animals Committee, and subsequent submission at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: representatives of Africa (Mr Kasiki) and North America (Ms Caceres);

Parties: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand and United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: European Union, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Fundación Cethus, Humane Society International, International Environmental Law Project, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Pew Environment Group, SEAFDEC – Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Species Management Specialists, SWAN International, TRAFFIC International and WWF.

15. Sturgeons and paddlefish..... (AC26 Doc. 15.1-15.3)

The Committee established a working group (WG3) to look at item 15 with the following mandate:

Taking account of the discussions in plenary, the working group shall:

1. Review Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) regarding caviar labelling, product sources and species identification, etc., and, if necessary, propose draft amendments for consideration by the Committee.
2. Consider the actions proposed in documents AC26 Doc. 15.1 and 15.2 and provide recommendations to the Committee on amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) concerning:
  - i) Written reporting by the Secretariat at each meeting of the Animals Committee on its activities relating to the conservation of and trade in sturgeon and paddlefish; and
  - ii) The instructions given to the Animals Committee to: monitor progress with relevant provisions of the Resolution; undertake three-year cycle evaluations of stock monitoring methodologies; and report to the Standing Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chairs: representatives of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) as Chair and representative of Africa (Mr Zahzah) as Co-Chair;

Parties: Canada, China, Germany, Saudi Arabia and United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature, Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, ICIA – International Caviar Importers Association, IWMC – World Conservation Trust and TRAFFIC International.

Discussions were suspended to allow the Minister of the Environment and Forests of Madagascar to give a speech. The Minister highlighted the successes of CITES in his country but also the great peril threatening its fauna and flora. Madagascar had taken two measures to protect its wildlife: first to ban exports of threatened endemic species, and second to redraft its legislation. The Minister welcomed any assistance that CITES could offer to his country to protect its environment. The importance of the unique biodiversity of Madagascar was echoed by the AC Chair. The CITES Secretary-General stated that the Secretariat would support Madagascar through its European Commission capacity-building project and thanked Madagascar for its commitment and the European Commission for its funding.

16. Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes) ..... (AC26 Doc. 16.1 & 16.2)

and

26.2 Draft proposal to include *Lamna nasus* in Appendix II ..... (AC26 Doc. 26.2)

The Committee established a working group (WG4) to look at items 16 and 26.2 with the following mandate:

In support of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) and reporting by the Animals Committee at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16), the working group shall:

1. Examine the information provided by range States on trade and other relevant data in response to Notifications to the Parties Nos. 2010/027 and 2011/049 and taking into account discussions in plenary, together with the final report of the joint FAO/CITES *Workshop to review the application and effectiveness of international regulatory measures for the conservation and sustainable use of elasmobranchs (Italy, 2010)* and other relevant information;
2. Draft an analysis of the information mentioned in paragraph 1 above, including recommendations, for consideration by the Committee and subsequent reporting at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
3. Review the draft proposal to include *Lamna nasus* in Appendix II, presented in document AC26 Doc. 26.2, and provide comments for consideration by the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chairs: representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson) as Chair and alternate representative of Asia (Mr Ishii) as Vice-Chair;

Parties: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: European Union, FAO, IUCN, SEAFDEC – Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Animal Welfare Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, Fundación Cethus, Humane Society of the United States, Pew Environment Group, Project AWARE Foundation, Species Management Specialists, Species Survival Network, SWAN International, TRAFFIC International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

17. Snake trade and conservation management (Decision 15.76) – Report of the working group ..... (AC26 Doc. 17)

The Committee established a working group (WG5) to look at item 17 with the following mandate:

In support of the activities of the Standing Committee Working Group on Snakes (WGS), the working group shall:

1. Review the collation and evaluation of existing identification materials for live snakes, parts and derivatives, and make recommendations regarding additional materials and ways to bring these to the attention of the Parties;
2. Review the outputs of the IUCN Red Listing process for Asian snakes and make recommendations for consideration by the Parties with regard to amending the CITES Appendices; and
3. Consider other actions that could support the work of the WGS.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: representative of Asia (Mr Soemorumekso) and alternate representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher);

Parties: China, Indonesia, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature, Animal Welfare Institute, Conservation International, Eurogroup for Animals, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Humane Society of the United States, ProWildlife, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Species Management Specialists, Species Survival Network and TRAFFIC International.

18. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Decision 15.79) ..... (AC26 Doc. 18)

The Committee established a working group (WG6) to look at item 18 with the following mandate:

In support of the activities of the Standing Committee intersessional Working Group on Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles, the working group shall:

1. Assess progress, if any, with the study to identify and discuss factors that are of particular relevance to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles, including (but not limited to) turtle population status and dynamics, trade dynamics, and the trade in parts, products and derivatives. As this study should provide guidance for Parties to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles, advise on its integration into recommendations and actions emanating from agenda item 8; and
2. Review the results of the North American Turtle Trade Workshop, held in Saint Louis in September 2010, and the Asian Turtle Conservation Workshop, held in Singapore in February 2011, and additional pertinent information, and make recommendations for consideration by the Committee, which could make recommendations at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee or 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Calvar and Mr Álvarez);

Parties: Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature, Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Animal Welfare Institute, Conservation International, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Humane Society International, Pet Care Trust, ProWildlife, Species Management Specialists, Species Survival Network, SWAN International, TRAFFIC International and Wildlife Conservation Society.

19. Sea cucumbers [Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15)] – Report of the working group ..... (AC26 Doc. 19)

The Committee established a drafting group (DG1) to draft a Notification to the Parties drawing attention to the report from the CITES workshop in 2003 (see document CoP14 Doc. 62), the FAO documents on these species and any other relevant publications, and encouraging range States to use this and other information to manage their fisheries. This Notification would effectively conclude the work directed to the Committee in Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15).

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: representative of Oceania and United States;

Parties: Australia, China and Japan; and

IGO: FAO.