

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

Regional matters

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This document has been prepared by Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom) and Mathias Loertscher (Switzerland)¹. This document reports only on activities undertaken in the Region since the 16th Conference of the Parties.

General information

2. Animal Committee (AC) members: Mathias Loertscher (Switzerland) and Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom). Alternate members: Simon Nemptzov (Israel) and Karen Gaynor (Ireland).
3. The representatives divide their duties as follows: Vincent Fleming (VF) represents those Parties (28) in the European Union (EU); Mathias Loertscher represents the remainder of Parties in the region not in the EU.
4. Number of Parties in European region: 48; number of non-Parties: 2.

Overview of major developments

a) Review of Significant Trade

5. No significant issues to report.

b) Periodic Review of the Appendices

6. No significant issues to report.

c) Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

7. Germany. The existing registration of the falcon breeding centre of Manfred Cords (Registration no A-DE-504) has been changed: the species *Falco jugger* has been deleted and the species *Falco rusticolus* and *Falco* hybrids have been added to the taxa bred at this registered institution.

¹ *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

d) Non-detriment findings

8. Austria. The Management Authority of Austria has commissioned the production of a user-friendly *Guide to Non-Detriment Findings* for their Scientific Authorities (SAs), based on an M.Sc. conducted at the University of Vienna and various existing NDF guidelines (CITES and IUCN). The guide has been peer reviewed and has been distributed among Austria's SAs. It is in the process of translation into English to make it available to SAs in the European Union at large.
9. European Union. With respect to the implementation of the Appendix II listing of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), the European Union has established measures aimed at achieving the recovery of the species (see Annex 1). The status of, and trade in, the species has also been reviewed frequently by members of the EU CITES Scientific Review Group (SRG; see paragraph 20 below). The SRG has concluded that it is not possible at present to make a non-detriment finding for the export, or import into the EU, of specimens of European eel. EU Member States have notified the CITES Secretariat of a zero annual export quota for European eel since 2011.
10. The EU and its Member States has also committed 1.3m EUR to support capacity building in developing countries for sustainable wildlife management with a particular focus on commercially exploited aquatic species. Amongst other things, this project will support developing countries in making non-detriment findings for those sharks and manta rays included in Appendix II at CoP16 (see AC27 Doc.22.2 and the Annex to this report for details).
11. Germany. In 2013 a project was undertaken by the German CITES Scientific Authority (Fauna) on guidelines for the non-detriment-finding process for shark species, '*CITES Non-detriment findings guidance for shark species - A framework to assist Scientific Authorities in making non-detriment findings (NDFs) for species listed in CITES Appendix II*'. The project report is currently in the stage of finalization. A summary will be formally submitted by Germany to the Animals Committee meeting (see Document AC27.22.3). The full report itself will be presented as an information document. In a second step, in order to identify possible gaps or problems, the developed guidance will undergo in August 2014 a practice-oriented review and be amended according to the results of this review.
12. United Kingdom. Following CoP16, the United Kingdom (UK) Management Authority commissioned from TRAFFIC work for the '*Development of a Rapid Management-risk Assessment Method for Fish Species Through its Application to Sharks*' as a contribution to the work of the Animals Committee under Res. Conf. 12.6. A summary of the document has been submitted to the Animals Committee (see Document AC27.22.4) with the full report being available as an Information Document.
13. This project followed on from earlier work commissioned by the UK SA (Fauna) on '*Fish and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): developing a method to identify high risk commercially-exploited aquatic organisms in trade and an analysis of the potential application of MEAs*' ([JNCC Report No. 453](#)) and work to identify the intrinsic vulnerability of harvested sharks ([AC26 Inf. 9](#)).

Activities of regional representatives

14. Vincent Fleming and Karen Gaynor regularly attend all meetings of the EU Scientific Review Group (see Annex 1 and below) enabling them to keep in touch with all the other Scientific Authorities of the 28 EU Member States.
15. All Parties in the region were contacted by the European regional representatives between the 17th and 21st January 2014 to invite their contributions to this report.
16. Vincent Fleming will attend the 3rd meeting of the IPBES (Inter-governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) Multi-disciplinary Expert Panel (Bonn, 11-13th March 2014) as an observer on behalf of the interim Chair of the Animals Committee.
17. Mathias Loertscher chaired two meetings organized jointly by UNCTAD and CITES Secretariat dealing with the traceability of snake skins. One was an "*Information Session on Initial Findings on Traceability System for Reptiles*" on 12th of June 2013 (see <http://www.biotrade.org/meeting.asp?meetingID=69>) and the second one was on "*Findings of the UNCTAD/CITES Traceability Scoping Study for Trade and Sustainable Sourcing of Python Skins*" on 17-18th of October 2013 (see [here](#)), both held in Geneva, Switzerland. Both meetings are in relation to the fulfillment of Decisions 16.102-016.106 on "*Snake trade and conservation management*".

18. Mathias Loertscher also chaired a session in the 2nd Biotrade Congress, organized by UNCTAD on December 11-13 in Geneva (see [here](#)). The session title was "*The Importance of traceability systems - Sharing of experiences and knowledge*". It discussed the importance of traceability systems to the sustainable sourcing of flora and fauna species, which is legal, sustainable and provide livelihoods to rural communities. Traceability plays a major role in implementing CITES mandate to regulate the international trade in listed flora and fauna species in order to not threaten its existence, it is also essential for the private sector, as consumers become increasingly concerned about the origins of the products they buy.
19. A Party in the region (Austria) highlighted the need for the Animals Committee to consider livelihood issues in the context of community-based natural resource management (see [here](#)) whilst recognising that this issue needs first to be raised by the CITES & Livelihoods working group.

Regional cooperation and priorities

20. European Union. The European Union (EU) has provided significant funding to support a range of initiatives in support of CITES implementation and which are relevant to the work of the Animals Committee (see Annex 1 for details). These funds approach almost 18 million EUR in total over the next four years and provide support to capacity building (see above), combating wildlife crime, supporting the implementation of CoP16 decisions (e.g. in relation to trade in snakes and *Strombus gigas*), and *Minimising the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species* (MIKES).
21. Since the entry into force of the Gaborone amendment on 29 November 2013, the EU has initiated the process to become a Party to the Convention.
22. Israel. The Israeli CITES Enforcement Authority supported the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) to set up a new DNA forensic laboratory for elephant ivory in Kenya, and KWS officials came to Israel for a one month training course on using the DNA forensic techniques.
23. Spain. Over the last 2 years a Twinning partnership has been implemented between the Turkish Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs and the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness aimed at *Strengthening of Institutional Capacity on CITES implementations*. The project included a study visit of Turkish CITES Authorities to Spain and the United Kingdom (3-7 June 2013) and a reciprocal visit to Turkey of the Chair of the Plants Committee (Margarita Clemente), the UK Scientific Authority – Flora (Noel McGough) and the UK Scientific Authority – fauna (Vincent Fleming) from 9-15th June 2013.

Meetings and workshops

24. European Union. The Scientific Review Group (SRG) of the European Union, which comprises the Scientific Authorities of the EU Member States and the European Commission, meets regularly (c4 times a year) in order to discuss scientific aspects of CITES and the implementation of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. Details of opinions formed by the SRG and reports considered by it are detailed in Annex 1.
25. The EU is also considering a revision to its legal provisions relating to the import of hunting trophies of species listed in Annex B (predominantly Appendix II species) to its Wildlife Trade regulations. As part of that process the SRG has reviewed trade in Annex B hunting trophies imported into the EU especially those traded in high volumes. The EU is considering a list of Annex B species for which import permits would be required for the introduction into the EU of hunting trophies (see Annex 1).
26. Montenegro. A THEMIS workshop in Podgorica was held on 24th June 2013, organized by the THEMIS Secretariat and Agency for Environmental Protection of Montenegro to discuss the transposition into national legislation of the *EU Regulation (338/97) on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein* and related regulations. The target audience were Policy planners (Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Agency for Environmental Protection), Customs administration, Environmental inspection (Inspectorate of Environmental Protection), and Police Directorate - in total 10 people participated workshop.
27. The workshop focused on the implementation of the Regulations mentioned above and used a case study approach where three EU experts (two from Hungary and one from Croatia), through the use of their country examples, explained and highlighted:
 - i. how the process of implementing the EU regulations was kick-started in their countries;

- ii. how the Hungarian and Croatian Regulations are framed and what the procedures and the roles of each agency are;
 - iii. what the main implementing challenges and bottlenecks experienced in Croatia and Hungary were; and
 - iv. solutions to tackle those issues.
28. Spain. Spain again offered the Master's Degree Course on "Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework" organized by the International University of Andalusia with the collaboration of the CITES Authorities of Spain and the CITES Secretariat.
 29. The general objective of the programme is to provide specialised high quality training in the scientific bases, techniques and instruments that make it possible to implement and develop the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It is appropriate for people who are, or wish to become, involved in the implementation of CITES or the development of the scientific and technical work required for its operation at the executive level.
 30. The Master's Degree Course has already been given ten times by the International University of Andalusia (UNIA). In these ten editions, including the Master's Degree and Doctorate courses, quality specialised training was given to 258 individuals from 72 countries². In four editions, the course was linked to a Doctorate programme in collaboration with the University of Cordoba. At present, 4 people have been awarded their doctorates (Ph.D.) after the presentation and argumentation of their dissertations. The on-campus stage of the 11th edition will take place 28th April to 11th July 2014.
 31. The Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment organized in 2012 (22th to 26th October) and 2013 (13th to 17th May) at the CENEAM (National Center on Environmental Education), Valsain, Segovia, a course on species protected by CITES addressed to the SEPRONA (Spanish Environmental Police). 60 participants attended.
 32. United Kingdom. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (UK Scientific Authority - Fauna) hosted a meeting of the Standing Committee Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements from 26-28 November 2013 (see Document AC27/PC21.Doc. 11) in which Mathias Loertscher was a participant.
 33. The United Kingdom hosted a high-level inter-governmental conference to address the illegal trade in wildlife in London on 12-13th February 2014. The outcome of the conference is available [here](#) and [here](#). In support of work on this topic, the UK has also made a fund of £10 million GBP available to support actions against illegal wildlife trade, especially for species such as elephants, Asian big cats and rhinoceroses.
 34. The UK also commissioned the development of a database for rhino horn which involved: a) validating a DNA profiling methodology for white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*) and Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*); b) obtaining DNA samples from rhinoceros in zoos and museums; c) undertaking rhinoceros DNA profiling on samples submitted from zoos and museums; and d) establishing and maintaining a database of rhinoceros DNA profiles that could be accessed by enforcement agencies for rhino horn trade investigations.

² Namely: Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syria, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

European Regional Report – contribution of the European Union to the implementation of CITES relevant to the work of the Animals Committee

Capacity building activities and/or funding:

Funds have been granted or approved for the following projects:

- Strengthening capacity in developing countries for sustainable wildlife management and enhanced implementation of CITES wildlife trade regulations, with particular focus on commercially-exploited aquatic species (1.3 million EUR granted to the CITES Secretariat) (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130914_shark_ray.php)
- Combating wildlife crime (1.7 million EUR granted to ICCWC through Interpol) (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1428_en.htm)
- Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) (2 million EUR granted to the CITES Secretariat)
- Implementation of CoP 16 decisions, including implementation of Decision 16.53 on Non-detriment findings, Decisions 16.102-108 on Snake trade and conservation management, Decisions 16.141-148 on Regional cooperation on the management of and trade in the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*), Decisions 16.13-16 on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and Decisions 16.59-61 on the Identification manual)
- “Minimising the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES)” (successor of MIKE, more focused on enforcement and with larger scope); the programme will run in the period 2014-2018 (12.3 million EUR granted to the CITES Secretariat) (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1193_en.htm)
- Species+ and monitoring of the status of several CITES-listed species (0.65 million EUR granted to UNEP-WCMC)

The European Union Scientific Review Group

The Scientific Review Group of the European Union with the CITES Scientific Authorities of the 28 Member States meets regularly (usually four times a year) in order to discuss scientific aspects of the CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations implementation, including the importation into the EU of several animal species. In particular, the SRG monitors non-detriment findings (NDFs) regarding imports into the EU of species from several exporting countries, as well as exports from the EU of CITES-listed species. The Group also works inter-sessionally to deliver advice on scientific issues.

Further information on work done by the SRG can be found under the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/srg_en.htm

A number of reports prepared by UNEP-WCMC as a basis for SRG work can be found under the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/reports_en.htm

This list includes the following reports for the period 2012-2013:

- Assessing potential impacts of trade in trophies imported for hunting purposes to the EU-27 on conservation status of Annex B species - Part 1: Overview of trade (2013)
- Assessing potential impacts of trade in trophies imported for hunting purposes to the EU-27 on conservation status of Annex B species - Part 2: Discussion and case studies (2013)
- Review of corals subject to long-standing positive opinions (2013)
- Trade in *Hippopotamus amphibius* from Malawi (2013)
- Review of butterflies from Asia and Oceania subject to long-standing positive opinions (2013)

- Analysis of 2013 CITES export quotas (2013)
- Review of species subject to long-standing SRG positive opinions: species other than mammals and birds from the Americas (2013)
- Review of species selected on the basis of the Analysis of 2010 EU annual reports (2013)
- Longstanding SRG positive opinions - mammals and birds from the Americas (2013)
- Review of species selected from the 2012 quota analysis (2013)
- Longstanding SRG positive opinions - species other than corals and butterflies from Asia and Oceania (2013)
- Analysis of 2012 CITES export quotas (2013)
- Review of species selected on the basis of the 2009 Analysis of EU annual reports (2013)
- Review of African species subject to longstanding SRG positive opinions (2013)

Eel management and consequences of the listing in CITES Appendix II

The European Union adopted in 2007 internal legislation on eel conservation, namely Council Regulation (EC) No. 1100/2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel in order to improve the conservation status of the species.

In accordance with the obligations set out in this Regulation, Member States of the EU have developed eel management plans at national level and/or river basin level. These plans, which are to be approved by the European Commission, include management measures (e.g. reduction in fisheries, improving river continuity, reducing pollution) aiming to ensure that the escapement of adult eels towards their marine spawning grounds reaches at least 40% in the long term.

Since the entry into force of the listing of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) in CITES Appendix II in March 2009, the situation of the species has been closely monitored by the Scientific Review Group (SRG), which gathers all scientific authorities of the EU Member States. This information is essential for the SRG to assess whether export from and import into the EU of European eels and derived products can take place without having a harmful effect on the conservation status of the species. Such a common assessment is the basis of opinions delivered by national scientific authorities in the EU Member States on import and export applications, in line with Council Regulation 338/97.

The SRG reviewed the situation of European eels extensively at its meetings on 7 October 2011, 2 December 2011, 11 September 2012 and 12 September 2013. At the last meeting, it concluded unanimously that available information about the conservation status of European eels would not change the existing assessment. Therefore it is not possible for scientific authorities in the EU to deliver a "non detriment finding" for any export from or import into the EU of European eels.

As a consequence, the SRG concluded that all national scientific authorities in the EU should continue to issue negative opinions concerning applications for exports from or import into the EU of European eels. All EU Member States published a zero export quota for that species in 2011, 2012 and 2013; the same will be done in 2014.

Detailed letters on the confirmation of trade regime on eel trade have been sent again to range states, as to relevant trade partners.

Implementation of shark and manta ray listings adopted at CoP16

At the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, the European Union and its Member States announced a contribution of EUR 1.3 million (1.7 million USD) through the project "*Strengthening capacity in developing countries for sustainable wildlife management and enhanced implementation of CITES wildlife trade regulations, with particular focus on commercially-exploited aquatic species*" that will cover the period 2013-2016.

Among a number of priority targets, this project aims to support CITES Scientific Authorities in selected developing countries in making NDFs for sharks and manta rays included in Appendix II at CoP16, based upon stock assessments that define sustainable harvest levels, and using information and tools developed under the project. The project also aims to strengthen cooperation with the FAO's Fisheries Department and with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to ensure complementarity of requirements and support collaboration. Through this programme, the CITES Secretariat has created dedicated webpages on its website (<http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/shark/sustainability.php>) that provide a number of capacity-building tools and references, including a CITES-FAO PowerPoint presentation on Non-detriment findings, training materials on non-detriment findings in the CITES Virtual College and examples of NDFs for marine species. The CITES Secretariat, in consultation with FAO, plans also to organize regional consultative meetings on capacity assessments for the implementation of the new CITES listings of sharks and manta rays, in Africa, Asia and Latin America in early 2014. Further information regarding EU action on sharks and rays have been transmitted to the CITES Secretariat in response to Notification No. 2013/056.

Revision of EU rules governing trade in Appendix II hunting trophies

The EU has been considering a possible revision of its legal provisions governing the import of hunting trophies into EU Member States. The EU implements the provisions of CITES through the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations where species are listed in four Annexes (A to D) including Annex B which lists most CITES Appendix II species. Under the current EU regime, there is no scrutiny by EU scientific authorities to ensure that imports of Annex B hunting trophies into the EU do not have a harmful effect on the conservation status of the species. In that context, the SRG, which gathers all scientific authorities of the EU Member States, assessed the sustainability of trade in hunting trophies for some Annex B species/populations, especially in cases where hunting trophies are traded in high volumes. The EU is now considering selecting a list of species for which an import permit requirement would be established. This would allow EU scientific authorities to monitor NDFs regarding imports into the EU of hunting trophies from countries exporting those selected species. More information can be found on the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/EU%20information-hunting-trophies.pdf>

Other activities

UNEP-WCMC has been contracted to provide reports on the biological and trade data regarding a large number of species traded under CITES as well as a number of additional scientific matters relating to CITES implementation. The contract provided also for development of Species +, a new online resource providing comprehensive information on globally protected species to CITES and CMS Parties, that was launched in November 2013.

TRAFFIC has been contracted to monitor the implementation and enforcement of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (Regulations (EC) 338/97 and (EC) 865/2006), and to provide studies and assessments on particular topics.

The EU has reflected the changes to the CITES Appendices agreed during the 16th Conference of the Parties in the Annexes to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 through Commission Regulation (EU) No 750/2013 of 29 July 2013.

Together with the EU member States, the EU is currently carrying out the revision of the Implementing Regulations and further guidance to reflect the decisions taken at CoP 16.

The European Commission is considering a revision of the Annexes to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97, with a view to list *Lygodactylus williamsi* in Annex B and to amend the Annexes in accordance with CITES Notification 2013/052.

The EU will also prepare a new Suspension Regulation in the first semester of 2014 through which imports into the EU of specimens of selected species/country are suspended.