

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



Twenty-eighth meeting of the Animals Committee
Tel Aviv (Israel), 30 August-3 September 2015

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE OF APPENDIX-II SPECIES
[RESOLUTION CONF.12.8 (REV. COP13)]
(Agenda items 9.3 and 9.4)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Co-Chairs: Representative of North America (Ms Gnam) and Alternate Representative of Europe (Ms Gaynor);
- Parties: Belgium, Canada, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, India Israel, Italy, European Union, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and
- IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Association of Midwest State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Western State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Animal Welfare Institute, American fur Resource Council, Born Free Foundation, British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, Conservation International, Conservation Force, Defenders of Wildlife, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, National Resources Defense Council, Polish Society for Nature Conservation "Salamandra", Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform, Safari Club International, Safari Club International Foundation, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Users Network, Wildlife Impact, Swan International, TRAFFIC International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

Mandate

Concerning agenda item 9.3

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

1. Review the information on *Hippopotamus amphibius* provided by Cameroon, and assess its pertinence to the Standing Committee's request for Cameroon to report on a national population survey, and progress with the establishment of science-based quotas and non-detriment findings for the species and prepare comments to be reported to the Standing Committee; and

2. Review the information provided by Cambodia and Viet Nam regarding *Macaca fascicularis*, and provided orally by Peru regarding *Podocnemis unifilis*, in response to recommendations formulated by the Animals Committee at its 27th meeting, and formulate its findings and recommendations for consideration in the context of the implementation of paragraph q) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13).

Concerning agenda item 9.4

3. For the 20 taxa selected by the Animals Committee for its review of Significant Trade following CoP16, the working group shall:
 - a) In accordance with paragraph f) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), review the available information presented in document AC28 Doc. 9.4 (Rev. 2) and the responses from affected range States (which will be made available by the Secretariat to the working group); and
 - b) If satisfied that Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), is correctly implemented, recommend to the Animals Committee to eliminate the species from the review with respect to the range States concerned.

Recommendations

Concerning agenda item 9.3

Hippopotamus amphibius

1. With regard to *Hippopotamus amphibius* from Cameroon the Working Group thanked Cameroon for their oral submission and recommend that they submit the information from the studies referred to in written form to the Animals Committee before the 30th of September, which will allow the Secretariat to assess the additional information in time for the deadline for submission of documents for the next meeting of the Standing Committee.
2. In the absence of the written submission from Cameroon, the Working Group recommends that the Animals Committee inform the Standing Committee that Cameroon has not met the recommendations of the Standing Committee and has not demonstrated that Article IV paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6(a) is being correctly implemented. Consequently it is recommended that the species/country combination should be continue to be retained within the review and there should be no increase in the quota.

Macaca fascicularis / Cambodia and Vietnam

1. With regard to Cambodia, the Working Group recommends that the Secretariat inform the Standing Committee that the recommendations formulated for this species/country by the Animals Committee at its 27th meeting have not been implemented and that the species/country should be maintained within the review.
2. In particular, concerns were raised in relation to the lack of recent population studies, the status of the current ban on harvest of wild specimens and the limitations of the current tagging and tracking system used to distinguish between wild and captive-bred specimens.
3. The Working Group recommends that the Secretariat send a letter to Cambodia seeking clarification on the status and legal basis of the current ban on the taking of wild specimens for use in captive breeding operations. Should it be confirmed that the ban will not remain in place following October 2015 when it is due to expire, the following information should be requested:

- a. Current population size and conservation status, including the methodologies used to determine these
 - b. The effect of the removal of the ban on future management of the captive breeding facilities
4. In addition, in response to the request from Cambodia for assistance from the Animals Committee, the Working Group recommends that the Secretariat send a letter to Cambodia asking them to identify their specific needs and problems in terms of managing this species and the captive breeding facilities for this species.
5. With regard to Viet Nam, the Working Group recommends that the Animals Committee inform the Standing Committee through the Secretariat that the recommendations formulated for this species/country by the Animals Committee at its 27th meeting have been implemented and that Viet Nam be deleted from the review for this species.
6. The Working Group noted the concerns raised in relation to high levels of illegal trade in the species, particularly between Cambodia and Viet Nam, and recommends that the Animals Committee bring these concerns to the attention of the Standing Committee for further consideration.

Podocnemis unifilis:

1. With regard to *Podocnemis unifilis* from Peru, the Working Group recommends that the Animals Committee inform the Standing Committee that the recommendations as formulated at AC27 have been implemented and that Peru be removed from the review of significant trade for this species.
2. The WG congratulated Peru on the work carried out in conserving this species and consider the management of *Podocnemis unifilis* in Peru as a good example of sustainable use and community involvement.

Concerning agenda item 9.4

1. In accordance with paragraph f) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev CoP13), the Working Group reviewed the information available in AC28 Doc. 9.4 (Rev 2) and responses from range States to assess if Article IV, paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6 (a) is correctly implemented. Based on the responses received and information provided by members of the WG, the WG made a series of recommendations to the AC to retain or remove species/country combinations from the review. These recommendations are summarized in the Table in Annex A.
2. The working group noted with some concern the poor response rate from range States to the consultation letter from the Secretariat and the effect this had on their ability to evaluate the species in the Significant Trade Review process. The group expressed the hope that the Advisory Working Group for the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade will suggest ways to improve the response rate. It was further noted that to improve transparency it may be necessary in future to provide a justification for the elimination of a species/country combination from the review.
3. The Working Group recommends that, with regard to *Ursus maritimus*, polar bear range States be encouraged to apply a cautious approach in relation to the management of sub-populations that are assessed as declining or data deficient (uncertain).

4. In the case of *Uromastyx ornata*, the working group noted that there is no reported trade from any of the range States. Therefore, it is recommended that this species be deleted from the review process. However, trade has been reported from a number of non-range States (notably Jordan, Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic). As this is identified as an issue that is not related to the implementation of Article IV, the WG recommends that the AC bring this issue to the attention of the Standing Committee.
5. The working group noted that trade in *Triocerus montium*, which is an endemic species to Cameroon, has been reported by Equatorial Guinea. Since this may not be an issue related to implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a), the working group recommends that the Secretariat brings this issue to the attention of the Standing Committee.
6. In the case of both *Manis gigantea* and *M. tricuspis*, the United Republic of Tanzania was the only range State that provided a response, and since this range State prohibits trade in these species, the working group recommends removing Tanzania from the review for these two pangolin species. The working group brought attention to concerns raised at the First Pangolin Range States Meeting in June, 2015, about the lack of robust biological information on African pangolin species and increasing levels of international trade in these species. In light of the large number of range States that did not respond and concerned that the WCMC CITES trade database do not reflect trade for the most recent years, and that significant trade could be occurring undetected now or in the future, the working group recommends that the AC retain in the review all other range States for *M. gigantea* and *M. tricuspis* that do not fully protect these species through national legislation prohibiting their export. To assist this selection process, the working group recommends that the Secretariat consult with UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group to identify those range States that do not prohibit trade through national legislation and may therefore require a more detailed review. The Secretariat shall finalize the selection of range States for a detailed review in consultation with the Animals Committee.
7. The working group noted the concerns raised in Myanmar's response concerning illegal trade in *Ophiophagus hannah* from Myanmar, and since this is an issue not related to the implementation of Article IV, the working group recommends that the AC refer this issue to the Standing Committee.
8. The working group noted the issues Brazil raised in its response concerning likely errors in trade records of *Hippocampus erectus* due to species identification/taxonomic challenges, and since this may not be an issue related to implementation of Article IV, the working group recommends the AC bringing these issues to the Standing Committee.

Annex A

The Working Group recommends that the following species-range State combinations be retained/deleted from the review. Where “all range States” is indicated this refers to the list of range States for the relevant species presented in AC28 Doc. 9.4 (Rev 2):

Species Name	Range States to be retained	Range States to be deleted
<i>Tayassu pecari</i>		All range States
<i>Ursus maritimus</i>		All range States
<i>Manis gigantea</i>	<p>All the range States below, except those that prohibit the species’ export by national legislation, as identified by the AC: Angola, Benin (uncertain), Burkina Faso, Burundi (uncertain), Cameroon, Central African Republic (uncertain), Chad, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire (uncertain), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau (uncertain), Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania (uncertain), Niger, Nigeria (uncertain), Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan (uncertain), Togo, Uganda,</p>	Republic of Tanzania (distribution uncertain)
<i>Manis tricuspis</i>	<p>All the range States below, except those that prohibit the species’ export by national legislation, as identified by the AC: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso (uncertain), Cameroon, Central African Republic (uncertain), Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau (uncertain), Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal (uncertain), Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zambia</p>	Republic of Tanzania (distribution uncertain)
<i>Amazona festiva</i>	Guyana	Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
<i>Uromastyx ornata</i>		All range States
<i>Uromastyx aegyptia</i>	Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic	Bahrain, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
<i>Triceros montium</i>	Cameroon	
<i>Varanus ornatus</i>	Togo	Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone,

Species Name	Range States to be retained	Range States to be deleted
<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i>	Indonesia, Malaysia	Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam
<i>Malayemys subtrijuga</i>	Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia	Cambodia, China, Thailand, Viet Nam
<i>Notochelys platynota</i>	Indonesia	Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar (distribution uncertain), Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam
<i>Chelonoidis denticulata</i>	Guyana, Suriname	Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, France, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
<i>Geochelone sulcata</i>	Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Sudan, Togo	Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti (uncertain), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia (uncertain)
<i>Testudo graeca</i>	Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic	Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova (Republic of), Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan
<i>Hippocampus erectus</i>		All range States
<i>Ornithoptera croesus</i>	Indonesia	
<i>Ornithoptera meridionalis</i>		Indonesia, Papua New Guinea
<i>Ornithoptera rotschildi</i>	Indonesia	
<i>Hirudo medicinalis</i>	Turkey (distribution uncertain)	Austria, Belarus, Belgium (uncertain), Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia (uncertain), Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg (uncertain), Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland