

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Participants were welcomed by H. E. Mr. Avi Gabai, Minister of Environmental Protection, and Mr. Simon Nemtzov, on behalf of the Israeli CITES authorities. Opening remarks were also provided by Mr. Shaul Goldstein, Director General of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA), Mr. Ahraron Leshno-Yaar, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. John E. Scanlon, Secretary General of CITES and Ms. Carolina Caceres, Chair of the Animals Committee.

The Chair of the Animals Committee, Ms. Caceres, then opened the meeting.

The Committee noted that no member present declared any financial interests that he or she considered calling into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the meeting agenda.

2. Rules of Procedure ..... AC28 Doc. 2 (Rev. 1)

The Committee adopted the amendments to Rule 13 proposed in paragraph 7 of document AC28 Doc. 2 (Rev. 1) with the following amendments: in paragraph 1. replace “the regional representatives” with “members and alternate members”, and “among them” with “the Committee”; and in paragraph 2. replace “regional representatives” with “members”, for the rule to read:

Rule 13

1. Immediately following each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the members and alternate members of the Committee present shall elect its Chair and Vice-Chair from among the Committee.
2. In the absence of a quorum of the members or their alternates, the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be conducted by the postal procedure contained in Rules 32 to 34, in which case the duties of the Chair shall be discharged by the previous Chair or Vice-Chair *ad interim*.

The Committee adopted the proposed amendments to Rule 20 in paragraph 11 of the same document, with the addition of the words “in one of the working languages” after “by the members of the Committee”, and the changes to Rule 22 as contained in paragraph 13.

With the incorporation of the agreed amendments to Rules 13, 20 and 22, the Animals Committee adopted the Rules of Procedure in the Annex of document AC28 Doc. 2 (Rev. 1).

The Committee agreed to report to the Plants and the Standing Committees that it was supportive of an overall review of the Rules of Procedure for the meetings of the committees.

The Committee agreed to seek a mandate at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to review the Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) on *Establishment of committees*, and to seek similar agreement for such a review from the Plants Committee.

3. Adoption of the agenda and working programme

3.1 Agenda..... AC28 Doc. 3.1 (Rev. 1)

The Committee adopted the agenda in document AC28 Doc. 3.1 (Rev. 1).

3.2 Working programme ..... AC28 Doc. 3.2 (Rev. 1)

The Committee adopted the working programme in document AC28 Doc. 3.2 (Rev. 1).

4. Admission of observers ..... AC28 Doc. 4

The Committee noted the list of observers provided in document AC28 Doc. 4.

5. Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties ..... No document

The Committee noted that the Chair of the Animals Committee is responsible for preparing a report on the activities of the Committee for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and that she will seek the input from all Committee members in compiling this report.

15. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.) (Decision 16.111) ..... AC28 Doc. 15

The Animals Committee welcomed the study contained in Document AC28 Doc. 15 and recommended to the Standing Committee that it be communicated to the Parties.

9. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)]

9.1 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade [Decision 13.67 (Rev. CoP14)]\* ..... AC28 Doc. 9.1

9.2 Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade ..... AC28 Doc. 9.2

9.3 Species selected following CoP13, CoP14 and CoP15 ..... AC28 Doc. 9.3 (Rev. 2)

9.4 Species selected following CoP16 ..... AC28 Doc. 9.4 (Rev. 2)

With regard to draft decision 17.XA in paragraph 24 of document AC28. Doc. 9.1, the Committee agreed to delete the wording “subject to the availability of funds”.

The Committee established a working group on agenda item 9.1 with the following mandate:

1. Taking account of the presentations and discussions in plenary, the working group shall review:
  - a) the revisions to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*, as proposed in Annex 3 of document AC28 Doc. 9.1;
  - b) the guidance to the Secretariat regarding its initial letter to range States, as found in Annexes 1 and 2 of document AC28 Doc. 9.1; and
  - c) the four draft decisions in paragraphs 24, 27 and 28 of document AC28 Doc. 9.1, taking into account the amendment agreed to draft decision 17.XA.
2. The working group shall make recommendations for the Animals Committee to consider, bearing in mind consultation with the Plants Committee.

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\* This agenda item is addressed to the Animals and Plants Committees.

The membership was decided as follows:

- Chair: Chair of Animals Committee (Ms. Caceres);
- Parties: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, European Union, India, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, South Africa, Spain, 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), Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC International and WWF.

The Committee noted document AC28 Doc. 9.2.

The Committee established a working group on agenda items 9.3 and 9.4 with the following 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.

The membership was decided as follows:

- Co-Chairs: Representative of North America (Ms Gnam) and Alternate Representative of Europe (Ms Gaynor);
- Parties: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cameroon, China, Czech Republic, Colombia, European Union, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and United Republic of Tanzania; and
- IGOs and NGOs: Convention on Migratory Species, 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 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, Natural 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.

12. Production systems for specimensof CITES-listed species (Decision 15.53)\* ..... AC28 Doc. 12

The Committee established a working group on agenda item 12 with the following mandate:

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

1. Review the draft guides in the Annexes to document AC28 Doc. 12 and provide feedback to the Secretariat towards improving the proposed guide on the appropriate use of source codes.
2. Provide suggestions for incorporating examples of different production and cultivation systems into the guidance without overcomplicating the guide.

The Membership was decided as follows:

Chair: Representative of Europe (Mr. Lörtscher);

Parties: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland, 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), Creative Conservation Solutions and Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform.

13. Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens (Decision 16.65)

13.1 Report of the Secretariat..... AC28 Doc. 13.1

13.2 Report of the intersessional working group..... AC28 Doc. 13.2

The Committee established a working group on agenda items 13.1 and 13.2 (AC28 WG4) with the following mandate:

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

Concerning agenda item 13.1:

1. Complete the review of the reports mentioned in document AC28 Doc. 13.1, paragraphs 4 and 5, and formulate recommendations;

Concerning agenda item 13.2:

2. Review the suggestions made in document AC28 Doc. 13.2, including options for a possible compliance mechanisms, and formulate recommendations accordingly; and
3. Prepare advice to be reported by the Animals Committee to the Standing Committee in accordance with Decision 16.65.

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\* This agenda item is addressed to the Animals and Plants Committees.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-chairs: Representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming) and Representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Calvar);

Parties: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, European Union, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, International Union on Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Southeastern State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Born Free Foundation, British Union For The Abolition Of Vivisection, CAICSA S.A.S., Conservation International, Defenders of Wildlife, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Professional Hunters' Association, Natural Resource Defense Council, Ornamental Fish International, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Polish Society for Nature Conservation "Salamandra", Safari Club International, Society for Wildlife and Nature International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.