

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

14. Snake trade and conservation management (Serpentes spp.)

14.1 Review of studies [Decision 16.103, paragraphs a) and d)]..... AC28 Doc. 14.1

14.2 Reptile sourcing and traceability systems [Decision 16.103, paragraphs b) to d)]

14.2.1 Report of the Secretariat AC28 Doc. 14.2.1

14.2.2 Identification carrier for a global traceability information system for reptile skins AC28 Doc. 14.2.2

14.3 IUCN Red List assessments of Asian snake species (Decision 16.104)..... AC28 Doc. 14.3

The Committee established a working group on agenda items 14.1, 14.2 and 14.3 (working group on snakes) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 14.1:

1. Review the activities and studies mentioned in document AC28 Doc.14.1, including the four studies commissioned by the Secretariat and their recommendations, and the observations by the Secretariat in paragraphs 15 to 19 of document AC28 Doc.14.1.
2. Based on this review and other information, develop guidance and recommendations that are pertinent to Decision 16.102, paragraphs a) to d), relating to:
 - Production systems for Asian snakes listed in CITES Appendix II (use of source codes; guidance for monitoring and controlling production systems);
 - Guidance for NDFs for Appendix-II snake species in trade;
 - Methodologies to differentiate between wild and captive-bred CITES-listed snakes in trade; and
 - High-value snake species in the pet trade.

Concerning agenda item 14.2:

3. Review the studies concerning traceability of snake skins mentioned in document AC28 Doc.14.2.1 paragraphs 3 and 4 [i.e. the UNCTAD/CITES study on *Traceability Systems for a Sustainable International Trade in South-East Asian Python*; the Annex to document AC27 Doc. 19.4; and the four studies on the snake trade and conservation management that were

commissioned by the CITES Secretariat pursuant to Decision 16.102, paragraph a) and the information provided in document AC28 Doc.14.2.2].

4. Examine the findings and recommendations concerning traceability of snake skins in trade in the documents and studies mentioned above.
5. Draft advice for consideration by the Animals Committee (and subsequent reporting to the Standing Committee) on the feasibility and implementation of a traceability and marking system for snake skins in compliance with Decision 16.103.
6. Consider the matters identified in documents AC28 Doc. 14.2.1 and AC28 Doc. 14.2.2 and in the plenary discussion regarding traceability systems more broadly, such as issues of standards and compatibility, and formulate recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Concerning agenda item 14.3:

7. Review the information on Asian snake species presented in document AC28 Doc.14.3, and any additional information, as relevant.
8. Draft recommendations for consideration by the Animals Committee, including recommendations to the Standing Committee, range States, Parties or others as appropriate. Such recommendations may focus on species currently not included in the CITES Appendices, and that are or may be threatened by unregulated international trade.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: Representative of Europe (Mr. Lörtscher);

Committee members: Alternate Representative of Asia (Mr. Giam);

Parties: Austria, China, European Union, Germany, India, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, South Africa, Thailand, United States of America and Viet Nam; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Trade Center (ITC), UNEP-WCMC, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Animals Exhibitors Alliance, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Midwest State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Southeastern State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Creative Conservation Solutions, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Humane Society International, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform, Species Survival Network, Sustainable User Network and TRAFFIC International.

17. Conservation and management of sharks [Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16)]

17.1 Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. Cop16)

17.1.1 Report of the Secretariat.....AC28 Doc. 17.1.1 and annexes 1 to 10

The Committee established a working group on agenda item 17.1.1 (working group on sharks) with the following mandate:

1. Taking account of the presentations and discussions in plenary, the working group shall:
 - a) consider document AC28 Doc. 17.1.1, including the recommendations made therein;
 - b) examine the information provided by range States in response to Notification No. 2015/027 and other relevant data; and
 - c) advise on the reporting by the Animals Committee on progress on shark and ray activities to the 17th Conference of the Parties, which should also contain an

analysis of information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information, and if necessary, species-specific recommendations for improving the conservation status of sharks.

2. The working group shall make recommendations accordingly for the Animals Committee to consider.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-chairs: Representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and Alternate Representative of Asia (Mr. Ishii);

Parties: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Thailand, United States of America and Viet Nam; and

IGOs and NGOs: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), UNEP-WCMC, BLOOM Association, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Manta Trust, Pew Charitable Trusts, Project Aware Foundation, Seamarc Pvt Ltd, Society for Wildlife and Nature (SWAN) International, Stony Brook University Research Foundation, TRAFFIC International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

17.1.2 Conservations and management of sharks – species of concern.....AC28 Doc. 17.1.2

The Committee noted the information contained in document 17.1.2, including the information in paragraph 13 on a new method for determining species at risk of overexploitation through examining their intrinsic biological vulnerability and management risk (M-Risk).

The Committee further noted the usefulness of risk assessments to identify challenges and appropriate mitigation measures in the context of the conservation and management of sharks.

17.2 Guidance for making non-detriment findings for CITES-listed sharksAC28 Doc. 17.2

The Committee noted document AC28 Doc.17.2 encouraging Parties to use the guidance for making non-detriment findings for CITES-listed sharks developed by Germany and to report back to Germany with their experiences and advise for further improvements.

18. Freshwater stingrays (Family Potamotrygonidae) (Decisions 16.131 and 16.132)..... AC28 Doc. 18

The Committee established a working group on agenda item 18 (working group on stingrays) with the following mandate:

1. Taking account of the presentations and discussions in plenary, the working group shall:
 - a) examine the information in the document AC28 Doc. 18 and other relevant information;
 - b) consider how the Animals Committee and its working group should complete the tasks entrusted to it in Decisions 16.131 and 16.132;
 - c) consider and advise on the discussions and conclusions presented in the Annex of document AC28 Doc. 18, including options for the possible inclusion of freshwater stingrays in the CITES Appendices; and
 - d) consider the reporting by the Animals Committee to the 17th Conference of the Parties on the progress made by the working group, and its recommendations and conclusions, in accordance with Decision 16.132 c).

2. The working group shall make recommendations accordingly for the Animals Committee to consider.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: Representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Calvar);

Parties: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Peru and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Ornamental Fish International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC International and Wildlife Conservation Society.

8. Extinct or possibly extinct species (Decision 16.164)* AC28 Doc. 8

The Committee recommended the adoption of the term 'extinct' and the IUCN Red List definition thereof for use in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16)

The Committee established a working group on agenda item 8 (working group on extinct species) with the following mandate:

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

- a) review the proposals of the working group, the United States of America and Mexico contained in the annexes to document AC28 Doc. 8 concerning the implementation of Decision 16.164;
- b) propose a way forward for the Animals Committee to consider, bearing in mind the consultation with the Plants Committee; and
- c) advise on the reporting by the Animals and Plants Committees on their findings to the Standing Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: Representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming);

Parties: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), UNEP-WCMC, Conservation International, Humane Society International and TRAFFIC International.

20. Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II
[Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16)]

- 20.1 Overview of species under review..... AC28 Doc. 20.1

The Committee noted document AC28 Doc. 20.1 and agreed to remove from the Periodic Review those species which were selected for review between CoP15 and CoP17 and for which no range States had volunteered to undertake the review.

The Committee further welcomed Bhutan's expression of interest in reviewing *Semnopithecus schistaceus* and *Varanus bengalensis*, but noting its request for financial support for undertaking this review and the lack thereof, agreed to remove both species from the Periodic Review.

- 20.2 Report of the intersessional working group[†] AC28 Doc. 20.2

The Committee established a working group on agenda item 20.2 (working group on the periodic review) with the following mandate:

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

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

1. Review document AC28 Doc. 20.2 and the conclusions presented therein.
2. Draft guidance on the questions regarding the format of the Periodic Review (paragraph 11 in document AC28 Doc. 20.2) and the selection of species for Periodic Review (paragraph 15 in the same document).
3. Review the amendments to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16) proposed in the Annex to document AC28 Doc. 20.2, and draft recommendations for the Animals Committee to consider, bearing in mind the consultation with the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair:	Chair of the Animals Committee (Ms. Caceres)
Parties:	Australia, Austria, Canada, China, India, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique; Namibia, Netherlands, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zimbabwe; and
IGOs and NGOs:	UNEP-WCMC, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Born Free Foundation, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network and TRAFFIC International.

20.3 Species review

- 20.3.1 Periodic review of *Panthera leo*..... No document

The Committee noted the work undertaken to date by Kenya and Namibia, as well as their intent to submit a final Periodic Review of *Panthera leo* to the Animals Committee for its decision by postal procedure prior to the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.

- 20.3.2 Periodic review of *Puma concolor coryi* and *Puma concolor cougar*..... AC28 Doc. 20.3.2

The Committee agreed with the recommendation in this Periodic Review that it would be appropriate to transfer *Puma concolor coryi* and *Puma concolor cougar* to Appendix II.

- 20.3.3 Periodic review of *Lichenostomus melanops cassifix*..... AC28 Doc. 20.3.3

The Committee agreed with the recommendation in this Periodic Review to transfer *Lichenostomus melanops cassifix* to Appendix II.

- 20.3.4 Periodic review of *Cyclopsitta diopthalma coxeni*..... AC28 Doc. 20.3.4

The Committee agreed with the recommendation in this Periodic Review to maintain *Cyclopsitta diopthalma coxeni* in Appendix I.

- 20.3.5 Periodic review of *Psephotus dissimilis* AC28 Doc. 20.3.5

The Committee agreed with the recommendation in this Periodic Review to maintain *Psephotus dissimilis* in Appendix I.

- 20.3.6 Periodic review of *Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata*(AC28 Doc. 20.3.6)

The Committee agreed with the recommendation in this Periodic Review to transfer *Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata* to Appendix II.

- 20.3.7 Periodic review of *Sphenodon* spp...... AC28 Doc. 20.3.7

The Committee agreed with the recommendation in this Periodic Review to maintain *Sphenodon* spp. in Appendix I.

20.3.8 Periodic review of *Cuora galbinifrons*..... AC28 Doc. 20.3.8

The Committee agreed with the recommendation in this Periodic Review to transfer *Cuora galbinifrons* to Appendix I.

20.3.9 Periodic review of *Mauremys annamensis* AC28 Doc. 20.3.9

The Committee agreed with the recommendation in this Periodic Review to transfer *Mauremys annamensis* to Appendix I.

The Committee agreed that the implementation of Decision 16.124 had been concluded with the considerations of Agenda items 20.3.8 and 20.3.9.

20.3.10 Periodic review of *Epioblasma sampsonii*..... AC28 Doc. 20.3.10

In view of the discussions on extinct or possibly extinct species in the context of the implementation of Decision 16.164, the Committee agreed to defer a decision regarding the recommendations contained in document AC28 Doc. 20.3.10 until the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee.

21. Standard nomenclature [Resolution 12.11 (Rev. CoP16)]

21.1 Report of the specialist on zoological nomenclature AC28 Doc. 21.1

and

21.2 Revised nomenclature for four species of birds of paradise (Paradisaeidae) AC28 Doc. 21.2

The Committee established a working group on agenda items 21.1 and 21.2 (working group on nomenclature) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 21.1:

1. Review document AC28 Doc. 21.1 and its annexes, and the proposals made therein, and make recommendations for the Animals Committee to consider.

Concerning agenda item 21.2:

2. Evaluate the nomenclature changes recommended by the Ornithological Council in document AC28 Doc, 21.2, and provide guidance to the Animals Committee on this nomenclature matter.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: The specialist on zoological nomenclature (Ms. Grimm);

Parties: China, India, Mexico, South Africa, Switzerland and United States of America;
and

IGOs and NGOs: Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), UNEP-WCMC, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Conservation International, Humane Society International, Ornamental Fish International and World Parrot Trust.