

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



Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 July 2017

SUMMARY RECORD

Opening of the meeting

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The meeting was opened and the Secretary-General welcomed and introduced the new Chair of the Animals Committee, Mr. Mathias Lörtscher, and thanked the outgoing Chair, Ms. Carolina Caceres, for her dedication to the role.

The Secretary General also welcomed new committee members. The Secretary-General updated the Committee on changes to the Secretariat and introduced members of the Scientific Support, Legal Services and Governing Bodies and Meeting Services teams (Ms. Choi, Mr. De Meulenaer, Ms. Flensburg, Ms. Gaynor, Mr. Kachelrieß, Ms. Kang, Ms. Lopes, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Palmero, Ms. Reid, Ms. Sosa Schmidt and Mr. Yilmaz).

The Chair of the Animals Committee welcomed the members of the Committee, Party observers and non-governmental organizations (NGO) and intergovernmental organizations (IGO) to the meeting. The Chair wished the Committee a productive meeting with the hope of positive discussions and a good exchange of ideas and knowledge.

The representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson) presented the Secretary-General with a plaque of mounted tabua on behalf of the Fijian Prime Minister, Frank Bainimarama, following the ceremony held in May 2017 to repatriate 146 seized tabua from New Zealand to Fiji.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

Administrative matters

1. Agenda

The Chair introduced document AC29 Doc. 1.

The Committee adopted the agenda in document AC29 Doc. 1.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

2. Working programme

The Chair introduced document AC29 Doc. 2.

The Chair advised the Committee of a change to the working programme, with document AC29 Doc. 24 (Annexes 1-9) being moved to take place on the first day of the Committee proceedings to allow for the possible organisation of a working group.

The Committee adopted the working programme in document AC29 Doc. 2 with the following amendment: moving agenda item 24 on *Freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae spp.)* from Thursday 20 July to the afternoon session of Tuesday 18 July.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

3. Rules of Procedure

3.1 Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

The Chair introduced document AC29 Doc.3.1.

The Committee noted the Rules of Procedure of the Animals Committee as amended at the 28th meeting and contained in the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 3.1.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

3.2 Revision of the Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat explained the process behind the revision of the Rules of Procedure, noting that the revised Rules would align with those of the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee. While there was currently no document for this item, the Secretariat announced that it was preparing a document with proposed revisions to the Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee, and that a draft of the document would be circulated to the Parties in the coming weeks. The document would be presented for discussion at the next meeting of the Standing Committee later this year.

An intervention raised concerns about the issues of transparency related to moving towards electronic communication channels. The Secretariat noted this comment and assured the Committee that these channels would be used only in exceptional cases.

The Committee agreed to consider the issue of the revision of the Rules of Procedure at its 30th meeting.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov) and the Secretariat.

3.3 Conflicts of Interest

Pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat asked participants to state any conflict of interest.

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.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

4. Admission of observers

The Chair of the Committee introduced document AC29 Doc. 4.

The Committee noted the list of observers provided in document AC29 Doc. 4.

No other intervention were made during the discussion of this item.

Strategic matters

5. Animals Committee strategic planning for 2017-2019 (CoP17-CoP18)

5.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee

The Chair of the Committee introduced document AC29 Doc. 5.1.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 5.1.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

5.2 Animals Committee workplan

The Chair of the Committee introduced document AC29 Doc. 5.2.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 5.2.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

6. Review of Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) [Decision 17.9]¹

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 6/PC23 Doc. 7, noting that Decision 17.9 requests the review of the Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees, with a focus on: removing redundancies with other activities directed to the Committees by Resolutions; reflecting on current practices; and clarifying the function of the Committees as scientific advisory bodies. The Secretariat also suggested the creation of a joint working group to revise Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) and articulate other aspects relevant to the functioning of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in the Resolution.

Several Parties supported the creation of a joint working group, but questioned the inclusion of observers from other biodiversity-related Conventions, representatives of research institutions or relevant international intergovernmental organizations, as proposed by the Secretariat. During the discussion, it was noted that such outside observers would not be helpful additions to the working group, but it was suggested that the IGO and NGO community that has worked with CITES for several years may provide useful perspectives.

The Committees endorsed the suggested approach for implementing Decision 17.9, as outlined in paragraphs 11 to 14 of document AC29 Doc. 6/PC23 Doc. 7 and established an intersessional working group on the review of the terms of reference of the Animals and Plants Committee with the following terms of reference:

1. Review Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), and other aspects relevant to the functioning of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17);
2. Take into account previous deliberations, and documents CoP17 Doc. 10.2.1 and AC29 Doc. 6/PC23 Doc. 7, as well as Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee; and
3. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: AC Chair (Mr. Lörtscher) and PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair);

Members: AC acting representative of Asia (Mr. Ishii), the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Calvar Agrelo), Europe (Mr. Fleming), North America (Ms. Gnam), and the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk); the PC representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach) and the PC nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);

Parties: Canada, China, European Union, Georgia, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Humane Society International.

¹ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov), Canada, China, the European Union, Mexico, the United States of America, Humane Society International and the Chair of the Animals Committee.

7. CITES Strategic Vision [Decision 17.18]²

The Secretariat noted that the current Strategic Vision covers 2008-2020 and highlighted the need to review the Vision at the next Conference of the Parties. The Standing Committee will be leading this review process.

The Committees agreed to request the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees (and the Vice-Chairs of each Committee if the Chairs are not available) to participate in the Standing Committee Strategic Vision working group when it is established by the Standing Committee.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

8. Appendix I-listed species [Decision 17.24]³

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 8/PC23 Doc. 9, noting with regret that a current lack of funding is limiting the implementation of Decision 17.22, which highlights the need for a consultant to undertake a rapid assessment of the conservation status and legal and illegal trade in Appendix-I listed species. The Secretariat noted that an estimated 100,000 - 300,000 USD would be required to implement this Decision, and stressed the importance of quickly acquiring funding and donors.

Some Parties voiced concern about the terms of reference and the proposed budget for this consultancy. They suggested that information from Parties regarding the work already under way to improve Appendix-I species conservation status might be helpful in clarifying the role of the consultant.

Understanding that the formation of an intersessional working group to work on the terms of reference would need to report back to the Committees for endorsement, it was suggested instead that an informal advisory group could provide advice to the Secretariat on this issue.

The Committees established an informal advisory group that will draft, with the Secretariat, terms of references and methods for the consultancy called for in Decision 17.22.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming); and

Parties: Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the acting AC representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov), Mexico, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zimbabwe, the United States of America; IWMC Wildlife Conservation Trust, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat.

9. Capacity building and identification materials [Decisions 17.32 and 17.33]⁴

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 9/PC23 Doc. 10, outlining four proposed work packages to be addressed by a joint working group on capacity building and identification materials.

Several Members welcomed the addition of new material in the Species+ database parallel to the archiving of the old system but cautioned against whole database transfers without adequate annotations. There was also some concern raised regarding the access to materials in the Pacific region due to limited internet services.

² This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

³ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

⁴ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

Other concerns were expressed, including maintaining similar emphasis on both endeavours (capacity building and identification); more information on gap analysis and how this will be identified; and some discrepancies between the two endeavours in terms of the outlined 'roles'. It was also suggested that capacity building and identification materials would benefit from regional developments, with specific examples from the Amazonian region and collaborative work by Brazil and Columbia on timber identification material.

The Committees established a joint intersessional working group on capacity building and identification materials with the following terms of reference:

1. Taking into consideration inputs and recommendations made in plenary, consider the work plan and activities outlined in paragraphs 7 to 33 of document AC29 Doc. 9/PC23 Doc. 10;
2. Finalize and implement a workplan with timelines, in consultation with the Secretariat, that will result in a determination of the availability of materials and the enhancement of their accessibility, revision or guidance to revise select material, a review of the project proposals as described in part e) of Decision 17.32, and the review of Resolution Conf. 3.4 and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) and recommendations to promote accuracy and availability of materials; and
3. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee);

Members: AC representatives of Africa (Mr. Kasoma), North America (Ms. Gnam), and Oceania (Mr. Robertson); acting AC representatives of Asia (Mr. Ishii) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Lemus), AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk); and PC representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), Asia (Mr. Fernando), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), Europe (Ms. Moser), and North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno), and PC alternate representatives of Africa (Ms. Khayota) and Asia (Ms. Al Salem);

Parties: Australia, Canada, Kenya, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, Born Free USA, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), the AC representatives of North America (Ms. Gnam) and Oceania (Mr. Robertson), and the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk).

10. Non-detriment findings [Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)]⁵

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 10/PC23 Doc. 11.1, explaining that it intends to develop draft decisions for consideration at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties on reviewing existing materials and guidance on non-detriment findings, making a gap analysis, and developing new or updated materials as needed.

Members and Parties generally supported this initiative, and suggested to share the full inventory of available capacity building materials on the making of non-detriment findings on the CITES website.

The Committees noted document AC29 Doc. 10/PC23 Doc. 11 and asked the Secretariat to share the draft decisions mentioned in paragraph 9 of document AC29 Doc. 10/PC23 Doc. 11 with the Animals and Plants Committees for their comments and review at their next meetings.

⁵ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the PC representatives of Europe (Mr. Carmo) and Oceania (Mr. Leach), Mexico, Peru, the United States of America, the Chair of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat.

11. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES) [Decision 16.15 (Rev. CoP17)]⁶

The Secretariat presented an oral update to the Committees on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES). Progress had been reported to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17), but regrettably funds were currently too limited to start an assessment of the sustainable use of wild species. The Secretariat noted that this thematic assessment would take approximately three years to complete, and was estimated to cost one million USD.

Mexico intervened to urge others to provide financial and political support for the proposed IPBES thematic assessment on the sustainable use of wild species.

The Committees noted the oral update provided by the Secretariat and the call from Mexico to provide financial and political support for the proposed IPBES thematic assessment on the sustainable use of wild species.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by Mexico.

12. Strengthening conservation and sustainable production of selected Appendix II species in North America – synergies with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation⁷

Mexico introduced document AC29 Doc. 12/PC23 Doc. 13. The document outlines a project aimed at promoting the legal, sustainable and traceable trade of Appendix-II listed species, and identifying 56 taxa as being of priority because of their high trade volumes. The project focuses on five priority species groups (sharks, parrots, tarantulas, turtles/tortoises and timber species), and resulted in 89 actions plans for these priority groups.

Several Parties voiced their appreciation to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the three North American countries for their collaboration.

The Committees noted the synergies between the CITES North American Region and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), and in particular the action plans for the five priority species groups (summarized under paragraphs 5 and 6 and in the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 12/PC23 Doc. 13).

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Canada and the United States of America.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

13. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17)]

13.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 13.1, which provided updates on specific species/country combinations and the removal of items from the Review of Significant Trade process. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the European Union had generously provided funding for supporting CoP17 Decisions 17.108-17.110 relating to the Review of Significant Trade. The Secretariat also referred to AC29 Inf. 19 which provided an overview of a new in-house tracking and management database in development that would increase data sustainability, interlinkage and utilisation of the database, informing the Committee that in the meantime, an interim tabular system would be made available.

Members supported the plans to update the tracking and management database, as well as the interim database.

⁶ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

⁷ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 13.1 and the update on the Review of Significant Trade tracking and management database.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming) and the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

13.2 Species selected following CoP16

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc.13.2, and thanked UNEP-WCMC for its contributions. The Secretariat informed the Committee that following CoP16, 20 taxa were selected for review, of which several were removed because the range States were deemed to have satisfied implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 or 6, as outlined in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17). Other taxa (*Manis gigantea* and *Manis tricuspis*) were removed following CoP17 due to being transferred from Appendix II to Appendix I. The remaining list highlighted 25 species/country combinations to be reviewed.

UNEP-WCMC introduced the annex to document AC29 Doc. 13.2, highlighting that current population, distribution, trade trends, management monitoring actions and general information about each species was considered during the review of these 25 species/country combinations and informed their provisional categorisation as either 'unknown status', 'action is needed' or 'less concern'. It was reported that 6 of the 15 range States provided responses to the request for information: Ghana, Guyana, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia and Turkey.

Indonesia provided an oral update on some of the Indonesian species listed as 'action is needed'; *Malayemys subtrijuga*, *Notochelys platynota*, *Ornithoptera croesus* and *Ornithoptera rothschildi*.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc.13.2.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Indonesia and UNEP-WCMC.

13.3 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP17

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc.13.3 and thanked UNEP-WCMC for its work. The Secretariat recalled the Review of Significant Trade process prior to CoP17, wherein, all range States for a species selected for review were contacted for information on implementation problems related to Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 or 6(a) and after consultation were categorised as either 'species of urgent concern', 'species of possible concern' or 'species of least concern'. The Secretariat outlined that the new system would categorise specific species/country combinations as either 'action is needed' or 'less concern'.

UNEP-WCMC introduced Annexes 1 and 2 to document AC29 Doc. 13.3, outlining the extended analysis carried out for the selection of species for trade reviews.

In regards to methodology for this analysis, UNEP-WCMC outlined the five criteria used to extract species showing noteworthy patterns of trade over the last five years: endangered species (according to the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species), sharp increase (in global trade), sharp increase (of export at the country level), high volume (compared to other taxa in their order), and high volume (globally threatened). UNEP-WCMC informed the Committee that for the "high volume (globally threatened)" criteria, relative trade volume was calculated for species that are included in the Threatened categories on the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species by multiplying actual trade volume by a factor 10 to account for global threat status.

While Members recognised that listing on the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species was often indicative of the need for a species to be on the Review of Significant Trade, concerns were raised about the general application of a 10x multiplier, noting that a species deemed to be 'near threatened', should not be weighted the same as a species deemed to be 'critically endangered'. It was suggested that a species should be given a more appropriate weighting depending on the status of their threat.

Participants agreed that the working group should not be too over ambitious in the selection of species/country combinations for review and should limit consideration to species with the most significant levels of trade during the process.

The Committee established a working group on the Review of Significant Trade (agenda items 13.2 and 13.3) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 13.2:

For the 25 species/country combinations retained in the review after the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee:

In accordance with paragraph 1) g) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17):

- a) review the report in Annex 1 to document AC29 Doc. 13.2 and the responses received from range States contained in Annex 2 (and any additional information) and, if appropriate, revise the preliminary categorizations proposed by the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) for the species/country combinations;
- b) recategorize species/country combinations of 'unknown status' as either 'action is needed' or 'less concern', and provide a justification for such recategorization;
- c) formulate time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, and transparent recommendations directed to the range States retained in the review process, using the principles outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33; and
- d) identify and refer to the Secretariat problems that are not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a).

Concerning agenda item 13.3:

In accordance with paragraph 1 b) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17):

- a) review the information contained in the annexes to document AC29 Doc. 13.3, as well as information available to the Animals Committee, the Secretariat, Parties or other relevant experts; and
- b) on the basis of that information, recommend a limited number of species/country combinations of greatest concern for inclusion in Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the representatives of Europe (Mr. Fleming) and North America (Ms. Gnam);

Parties: Argentina, Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, European Union, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Western Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free Foundation, Born Free USA, Center for Biological Diversity, Conservation Force, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), International Professional Hunter's Association (IPHA), Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, Lewis and Clark College - International Environmental Law Project, Natural Resources Defense Council, Ornamental Fish International, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa (PASA), Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council., ProWildlife, Safari Club International, Safari Club International

Foundation, Sea Save Foundation, Society for Wildlife And Nature International (SWAN), Species Survival Network, Sustainable Users Network, The European Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation (FACE), TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Animal Protection, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Zoological Society of London, and Zoological Society of San Diego.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming) introduced document AC29 Com. 5.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC29 Com. 5 with the following amendments:

- Insert on page 4 under “Additional recommendations”, “*Triceros montium*. The working group discussed trade in *Triceros montium*, a Cameroonian endemic, as identified in table 3 of Annex 1 to document AC29 Doc. 13.2. The group noted wild-caught exports of this species from Equatorial Guinea which is not a range State. The working group recommends that this issue be referred to the Standing Committee.”
- For all the short term actions referring to “based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information”, insert “best” between “make use of” and “available scientific information”;
- On page 7, under *Malayemys subtrijuga*/Indonesia, at the end of paragraph i) under short term action, insert “until the non-native status of the population in Indonesia is confirmed and the new management plan is established”; and
- On page 5, under *Amazona festiva*/Guyana, at the beginning of paragraph i), insert “, including field studies,” between “undertake science-based studies” and “on status of the species”.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the acting representative of Asia (Mr. Ishii), the acting representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Alvarez Lemus), the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), , the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov), the representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk), Austria, Indonesia, Norway, the United Republic of Tanzania, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Chair and the Secretariat.

13.4 Country-wide significant trade reviews [Decision 17.111]⁸

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 13.4/ PC23 Doc. 15.4. It mentioned the possible benefits of a consultancy to analyse the advantages and disadvantages of conducting country-wide significant trade reviews. The Secretariat also indicated that Madagascar’s country-wide Review of Significant Trade could provide some insights into the possibility of conducting further trade reviews of this nature.

It was suggested during the discussion that this process could be seen as cumbersome and unhelpful, but there was general consensus in the room expressing support for conducting country-wide significant trade reviews, suggesting that previous experiences could be converted into lessons and provide synergy with the Standing Committee. Both Members and other participants cited the case study of Madagascar as a useful basis for understanding the advantages and disadvantages of such a review process.

The Committees established an intersessional working group on country-wide significant trade reviews with the following terms of reference:

1. Explore potential benefits and disadvantages of country-wide significant trade reviews drawing upon the lessons learned and existing information on outcomes and impacts and, if possible, the outcomes of the consultancy proposed in paragraph 6 of document AC29 Doc. 13.4/PC23 Doc. 15.4;

⁸ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

2. Taking into account discussions in the joint session, consider the issues mentioned in paragraph 7 of document AC29 Doc. 13.4/PC23 Doc. 15.4; and
3. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

- Members: AC representatives of Europe (Mr. Fleming), North America (Ms. Gnam), and Oceania (Mr. Robertson), PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair) and PC nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);
- Parties: Canada, European Union, Madagascar, Norway, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and
- IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

The Committees agreed to review the recommendations of the intersessional working group, the possible outputs of a consultancy on country-wide significant trade reviews, and progress with the implementation of Decision 17.111 at their next joint session in 2018.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough), the United States of America, Humane Society International, TRAFFIC, WWF, and the Chair of the Plants Committee.

14. Captive-bred and ranched specimens [Resolution Conf. 17.7]

14.1 Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity [Resolution Conf. 17.7 and Decision 17.105]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc.14.1 noting the increase in reported trade of specimens from non-wild origins in the period between CoP16 and CoP17, and concerns raised about the use of source codes (C, D, F, R) and the fulfilment of obligations of Parties using these non-wild source codes. The Secretariat outlined the resulting new compliance procedure adopted at CoP17, Resolution Conf. 17.7, to deal with trade in specimens with these source codes and highlighted the three main ways of selecting species for review: an analysis of trade by a consultant; relevant case studies identified by the Review of Significant Trade process; and relevant cases referred to the Secretariat by Parties during implementation.

UNEP-WCMC introduced the Annexes to document AC29 Doc.14.1 outlining their methodology for the analysis of species, in particular, their use of six applied filters/criteria for species with non-wild source codes (C, D, F, R) traded between 2011-2015.

The Members agreed that to fulfil Decision 17.105 that requires a review of the new process parallel to its first execution, the selection of species for review should be a good representative sample and the Committee should make the best attempts not to overload the process at this initial stage. Members agreed that selected species should meet all of the six criteria analysed by UNEP-WCMC, be representative of different species groups, be from a range of source codes representing non-wild specimens, and contain a good spread of different regional areas.

Some Parties highlighted the problems associated with incorrect source attribution and welcomed the new process.

The Committee established a working group on captive-breeding (agenda item 14.1) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 14.1:

Taking account of discussions in plenary and using information presented in document AC29 Doc. 14.1, the working group shall, in accordance with paragraph 2 c) of Resolution Conf. 17.7:

- a) select a limited number of species/country combinations for review;
- b) prepare a brief explanation of the reasons for each selection;
- c) draft general or specific questions for the countries selected for review;
- d) determine a prioritised list of species for which a short review of the breeding biology, captive husbandry and any impacts, if relevant, of removal of founder stock from the wild should be requested;
- e) identify any urgent enforcement matters which need to be referred to the Secretariat and the country concerned, and subsequent reporting to the Standing Committee; and
- f) take note of any observations and recommendations regarding the first iteration of Resolution Conf. 17.7, including opportunities for harmonisation with the process in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) and other opportunities to achieve the aims of the Resolution most effectively and cost efficiently, for transmission to the Standing Committee after the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee.

Concerning agenda item 14.2:

Based on the information presented in document AC29 Doc. 14.2, the working group shall decide on the terms of reference for an intersessional working group to continue the implementation of Decision 17.104 and, in case it can be undertaken, assess the outcomes of the consultancy mentioned in paragraph 8 of document AC29 Doc. 14.2.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the AC Chair (Mr. Lörtscher);

Parties: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, European Union, France, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC; IUCN; Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free Foundation, Born Free USA, Center for Biological Diversity, Cruelty Free International (BUAV), Defenders of Wildlife, EIA, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, FACE, Fondation Franz Weber, Global Eye, Humane Society International, IFAW, IWMC World Conservation Trust, Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, Lewis and Clark College - International Environmental Law Project, Natural Resources Defense Council, Ornamental Fish International, PASA, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, ProWildlife, Safari Club International, Society for Wildlife And Nature International (SWAN), Species Survival Network, Sustainable Users Network, TRAFFIC, VERDEVELENO SL., Wildlife Conservation Society, World Animal Protection, WAZA, World Parrot Trust, WWF, Zoological Society of London, and Zoological Society of San Diego.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document AC29 Com. 11.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC29 Com. 11 with the following amendments:

- Include Kenya and Saudi Arabia as members of the working group;

- Amend the column “Explanation for selection” in the table on pages 3 to 7 so that it accurately reflects the source codes listed in document AC29 Doc. 14.1 and amend accordingly the column “Questions to be asked”. In the case of *Centrochelys sulcata*, the source codes should be amended as follows: Benin (add R), Ghana (add R, F), Guinea (add C), Mali (add C), Togo (F, R);
- When (iii) shift is indicated in the “Criterion met” column, include Q1 in the column “Questions to be asked”;
- Insert at the end of paragraph 5 b) on page 12: “The Animals Committee could consider or clarify whether this is necessary or whether it would be appropriate or possible to make relevant recommendations relating to making of NDFs under the captive-breeding and ranching process.”;
- Insert in paragraph 5 c) on page 12 “by the Standing Committee” after “may be an issue to be considered”; and
- Delete the introductory paragraph for paragraph 6 on page 13 and replace it by “Terms of reference for the intersessional working group or consultant”.

The Committee agreed to ask for a description of production methods in the letter sent to Parties by the Secretariat.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on captive-breeding with the following mandate:

- a) Compare and contrast the nature of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for specimens originating from production systems that meet the definitions of source codes R and F, with NDFs for specimens originating from the wild (source code W) using case studies, existing guidance and input from Parties, as follows:
 - i) Case studies should be compiled representing a wide variety of life histories, life stages, and production systems from terrestrial and marine species. Examples could include: amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, corals, humphead wrasse, giant clam, queen conch, etc.;
 - ii) Consider existing guidance that may be applicable to NDFs for source codes R and F, including NDF guidance on tortoises and freshwater turtles that is contained in AC28 document 15.2, and NDF guidance for snakes contained in document AC29 Doc. 31.1, or any other existing guidance; and
 - iii) Solicit and consider input from Parties on NDFs for source codes R and F, including examples, guidance, or concerns/issues that have arisen in their country during the course of implementation of the Convention.
- b) Based on the review and analysis above, develop draft guidance on making NDFs for specimens from source codes R and F for consideration by the Animals Committee or the consultant through an intersessional working group.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the AC Chair (Mr. Lörtscher);

Parties: Canada, China, European Union, France, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Born Free Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Lewis and Clark College - International Environmental Law Project, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa (PASA), Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Animal Protection, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

During the discussion interventions were made by the representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah), the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), the nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk), Canada, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, UNEP-WCMC, Humane Society International, TRAFFIC, the Chair and the Secretariat.

14.2 Non-detriment findings for specimens with source code W, R and F [Decision 17.104]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 14.2, highlighting that, based on the information presented in the document, any work relating to the implementation of Decision 17.104 and, in case it can be undertaken, any assessment of the outcomes of the consultancy mentioned in paragraph 8 of document AC29 Doc. 14.2 would be part of the mandate of the intersessional working group on captive breeding.

Parties suggested it would be useful to ask exporting countries how they consider the export of specimens of the species from their country to be non-detrimental to the survival of the species.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 14.2.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by Canada and Mexico.

15. Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA [Decision 17.90]⁹

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 15/PC23 Doc. 16 and thanked the United States of America for providing funding to start the implementation of Decision 17.90.

Members of the Committee expressed the need to ensure that activity on specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA remained focused and stated that due to the recent emergence of this topic, it may be premature to expect to find positive and negative impacts on CITES listed species. It was also noted that the definitions of synthetic or cultured DNA were not self-evident and would need to be clarified.

Parties suggested making use of existing work under way in other Conventions in order to avoid duplication.

The Committees established a drafting group to finalize the terms of reference for the study on specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA contained in the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 15/PC23 Doc. 16.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming);

Parties: Canada, Mexico, South Africa, and United States of America.

The Committees agreed that the terms of reference for the study on specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA should read as follows:

Pursuant to Decision 17.89 and drawing upon document CoP17 Doc. 27 (paragraphs 21 to 26) and other relevant documentation submitted by Parties and observers, the study should review relevant CITES provisions, resolutions and decisions, including Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) and taking into consideration past discussions on specimens covered by the Convention, e.g. ambergris, etc. to examine:

- How Parties have applied the interpretation of Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) to wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA;
- Under what circumstances wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA meet the current interpretation; and

⁹ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

- Whether any revisions should be considered, with a view to ensuring that such trade does not pose a threat to the survival of CITES-listed species.

First part of the study

Describe in a very concise manner the different ways that DNA can be synthesized, cultured or otherwise produced artificially, in the context of CITES.

Collate existing definitions for the various term, including “cultured DNA”, “synthesized DNA”, “bioengineered” and other relevant terms for the purpose of determining what is covered by CITES.

Prepare case studies involving specimens of CITES-listed species, e.g. rhino horn, ivory, pangolin scales, medicinal plants, fragrances, etc.

Second part of the study

Identify and differentiate relevant legal/regulatory/enforcement and scientific/technological interrelated elements that should be considered by the Standing Committee and the joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees.

Elements that may be considered from a legal/regulatory/enforcement perspective:

- a) Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) interprets the terms ‘readily recognizable’ but does not provide an operational definition for the terms ‘parts’ or ‘derivatives’. The study shall explore the pertinence and relevance of including operational definitions of the terms ‘parts’ and ‘derivatives’ in Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) in this context;
- b) The pertinence and usefulness of creating a new source code for “bioengineered” wildlife products as a separate category of specimens;

Third part of the study

Elements to be considered from a scientific/technological perspective:

- c) Information on existing or potential tools to distinguish between synthetic and cultured DNA;
- d) Information on recent technological developments that produce substitutes for CITES-listed species within the field of synthetic biology; and
- e) Information on relevant risk management measures and best practices.

To ensure consistency and to avoid duplication, the consultant shall – in undertaking these tasks – take into account ongoing discussions and work carried out by other relevant international organizations, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the acting AC representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov), Canada, Mexico, Lewis and Clarke - International Environmental Law Project, and the Chair of the Animals Committee.

16. Quotas for leopard hunting trophies [Decision 17.115]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc.16. It explained that the 12 Parties that currently have leopard quotas stipulated in Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP16) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use* are requested to review these quotas and consider whether they are non-detrimental. The Secretariat is asked to support range States in this endeavour. It had reached out to the Parties concerned, and encouraged them to collect and share relevant information by the next meeting of the Animals Committee in 2018. Currently, Namibia has requested guidance and Malawi has withdrawn its quota due to the currently low leopard population in the country, and concerns about conservation. The United Republic of Tanzania registered a request for assistance from the Secretariat.

Several leopard range States presented the current research and activities they were undertaking to collect information and prepare reports on the status of their populations and manage leopard trophy hunting.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 16.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), Kenya, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and IUCN.

17. Transport of live specimens [Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev CoP16)]¹⁰

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 17/PC23 Doc. 17 noting that presently there are no valid Decisions or requests for extra work on this issue.

Some Parties queried the use of the term 'wild' in the title of the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants* and asked if this included ranched specimens. It was noted that the term 'wild' was kept when Resolution Conf. 10.21 was last revised at the CoP16 and that the intention was that it includes ranched specimens.

The Committees noted the information contained in document AC29 Doc. 17/PC23 Doc. 17.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Fondation Franz Weber, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat.

18. Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' [Decision 17.179]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc.18 regarding the implementation of Resolution Conf.11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on ensuring that facilities importing living specimens of CITES Appendix-I species are suitably equipped to receive and house them. The Secretariat informed the Committee that it would consult with Parties on how the Resolution is currently being implemented, whether they have encountered any problems and if there are any cases where the provisions of the Resolution are found inadequate or abused. It asked the Committee to suggest what guidance might be required.

Parties suggested that it would be important for the Secretariat not only to focus on cases where the Resolution has been found inadequate or abused, but also to catalogue instances where the provisions of the Resolution have been successfully implemented. Other Parties stressed that guidelines of what 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' means would be helpful, suggesting that a broad scoping study that covered information on food, housing, safety and climate zone, etc. should be included in such a study. Overall, Parties felt more time might be needed to assess the revised provisions in Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* and some voiced concern that this was essentially an animal welfare issue.

Other participants recognised the importance of ensuring wildlife was delivered to facilities that are suitably equipped and suggested that broad guidance, as well as species-specific guidance on caring and housing wildlife would be useful.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on the implementation of Decision 17.179 and the requirements in Article III, paragraph 3 (b) and 5 (b) of the Convention with the following mandate:

Review the study undertaken by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 17.178 and draft findings and recommendations for consideration at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the representatives of Africa (Mr. Mensah) and North America (Ms. Gnam), and the acting representative of Asia (Mr. Ishii);

Parties: Argentina, Canada, China, Estonia, European Union, France, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United

¹⁰ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe;
and

IGOs and NGOs: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free Foundation, Conservation Force, Fondation Franz Weber, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Global Eye, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Lewis and Clark College - International Environmental Law Project, ProWildlife, Safari Club International, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Animal Protection, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Zoological Society of London, and Zoological Society of San Diego.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Argentina, China, Kenya, South Africa, the United States of America, Born Free Foundation, Fondation Franz Weber, Global Eye, Humane Society International, Lewis and Clark College – International Environmental Law Project, Safari Club International, World Animal Protection, and World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

19. Progress in the development of an identification guide for the species of the genus *Abronia* (Alligator lizards)

Mexico introduced document AC29 Doc. 19, detailing progress in the development of an information guide for the species of the genus *Abronia*, including its practical implementation being undertaken at border controls. Mexico also asked for feedback on the guide before printing it and the launch of a digital platform.

Members and Parties congratulated Mexico for the guide. Some mentioned they were ready to assist with translations and to circulate and promote the use of the guide.

The Committee noted the progress of Mexico in the development of the identification guide for the species of the genus *Abronia*; and invited Parties and other relevant players to review the identification guide included as an Annex to document AC29 Doc. 19 and share their feedback with the Mexican Scientific Authority (CONABIO) by 31 August 2017 at the following address: ac-cites@conabio.gob.mx.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), Austria, Canada, the European Union and the United States of America.

Species specific matters

20. Sturgeons and paddlefish (*Acipenseriformes* spp.)

20.1 Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish [Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev CoP17)]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 20.1. Several Decisions were adopted at CoP17 regarding *Sturgeons and paddlefish*, reflecting discussions on a definition of “country of origin of caviar”, and stocks shared by range States and the species concerned.

One range State recalled the request at CoP17 for Parties to inform the Standing and Animal Committees on the genetic status of *Acipenseriformes* spp, noting that no information was provided. Regarding the issue of defining the ‘country of origin of caviar’, it was suggested that the Committee consider splitting this into two definitions; 1. the country of origin of caviar; and 2. the country of origin of roe. Parties agreed that further discussion on these issues were required.

The Committee established a working group on sturgeons (agenda item 20.1) with the following mandate:

Taking into account the information provided in document AC29 Doc. 20.1 and discussions in plenary, the working group shall:

- a) consider the information submitted by range States of *Acipenseriformes* in the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 20.1 and propose a consolidated version of the table of shared stocks for consideration by the Animals Committee and subsequent reporting to the Standing Committee; and

- b) consider the issue of the definition of “country of origin of caviar” and provide scientific advice, as appropriate, on the definition in document CoP17 Doc. 50 and, where appropriate, make recommendations to be brought to the attention of the Standing Committee in that regard.

The membership was decided as follows:

- Chair: the alternate representative of North America (Ms. Caceres);
- Parties: Canada, China, Estonia, European Union, France, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America; and
- IGOs and NGOs: Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, IWMC World Conservation Trust, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

Later in the meeting, the alternate representative of North America (Ms. Caceres) introduced document AC29 Com. 4.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC29 Com. 4 with the following amendments:

- Delete “the” before Ukraine in recommendation 1) iv); and
- Insert “subject to the availability of relevant scientific data and consultation with other Parties from the region” at the end of recommendation 1) iv).

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), the European Union, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

20.2 Identification of sturgeons and paddlefish specimens in trade [Decisions 16.137 (Rev. CoP17) and 17.183]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 20.2 and reported that regrettably, no external funding had been sourced at the time of the writing of the document. It informed the Committee that preliminary in-house research was currently underway.

The Committee noted document AC29. Doc. 20.2.

No intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

21. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.) [Decision 17.188]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 21, thanking the European Union for providing funding for two studies on eels, as requested in Decision 17.186. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the first study would compile information on the implementation of the Appendix II listing of *Anguilla anguilla* including the making of non-detriment findings, enforcement and identification challenges, and illegal trade. The second study would document trade levels, general species information and identify gaps and challenges on non-CITES listed *Anguilla* species.

Several participants encouraged the Secretariat to make sure that all Parties were well informed about planned workshops, and encouraged good participation from eel range States. Parties drew the attention of the Committee to information document AC29 Inf. 13, and expressed their willingness to cooperate with work done on eels, be it by offering technical assistance or coordinating with regional eel range States to produce the study on non-CITES listed eel species. Other participants updated the Committee on a new programme on tropical eel species in Southeast Asia aimed at collecting fundamental data, strengthening resource management and improving the survival rate of tropical eels. Other participants noted that European eels are listed on the Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and suggested there is a big scope for collaboration between the two Secretariats. They further raised concern about shifting trade pressures to other species of eels due to identification issues and look-alike species.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on eels with the following mandate:

Noting Decision 17.188, directed to the Animals Committee as follows:

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) *consider, at its 29th and 30th meetings, the reports produced under Decision 17.186, as well as the information submitted by European Eel range States and other eel range States pursuant to Decision 17.187, and any other relevant information on conservation of and trade in Anguilla species; and*
- b) *provide recommendations to ensure the sustainable trade in Anguilla species, to Parties for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Also taking into account Decisions 17.186-187, directed to the Secretariat and States and Parties involved in the trade in *Anguilla* spp., the working group will work by email between the 29th and 30th meetings of the Animals Committee. It shall have the following tasks:

- a) to review the studies produced by the Secretariat under Decision 17.186 paragraphs a) and b), as and when they become available, and any other relevant information;
- b) to consider the outcome of any technical workshops organised in relation to Decision 17.186 paragraph d) and e) and to provide any provisional recommendations and views that could be reflected in the workshops; and
- c) to report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee with its provisional recommendations for consideration by the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming);

Parties: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Cuba, European Union, France, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC); Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Humane Society International, Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and Zoological Society of London

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), Belgium, the European Union, Japan, the United States of America, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IUCN, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

22. Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family *Coralliidae*) [Decision 17.192]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 22, noting the request to the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties and thanking the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for offering funding to gather further information on precious corals.

Members of the Committee encouraged Parties to provide further information about precious corals.

The Committee established a working group on precious corals (agenda item 22) with the following mandate:

Taking into account the information provided in document AC29 Doc. 22 and its Annexes, as well as discussions in plenary and any additional information, the working group shall:

- a) analyse the outcomes of the precious corals survey, and the information provided by range States and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations;

- b) taking into account the outcomes of paragraph a), if necessary, identify other issues to be covered by the study by species experts called for in Decision 17.191, the results of which are to be considered in the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC30); and
- c) define the terms of reference for an intersessional working group on corals, which will facilitate the analysis of the study referred to in Decision 17.191 and the formulation of recommendations for consideration at AC30.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the representative of Asia (Mr. Giyanto) and the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov);

Parties: European Union, France, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Conservation Force, EIA, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sea Save Foundation, SWAN International, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

Later in the meeting, the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov) introduced document AC29 Com. 8.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC29 Com. 8 with the following amendments:

- On page 3, at the end of paragraph F iii), replace “reef-boiling” by “reef-building”.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on precious corals with the following mandate:

- a) to analyse the study commissioned in response to Decision 17.191 and to formulate recommendations for consideration at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee;
- b) to analyse the outcomes of the study and prepare recommendations on actions to enhance the conservation and sustainable harvest;
- c) to review other relevant issues, such as identification of corals and coral products in trade issues; and
- d) to think about potential future enforcement issues such as synthetic corals.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the representative of Asia (Mr. Giyanto) and the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov);

Parties: China, Estonia, European Union, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, United Republic of United Republic of Tanzania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Food and Agriculture Organization; Conservation Force, Environmental Investigation Agency, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sea Save Foundation, SWAN International, TRAFFIC, and World Wildlife Fund.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov) and the Secretariat.

23. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.) [Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev CoP16) and Decision 17.211]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 23. It detailed the ongoing work and information being collected on sharks and rays, and thanked the European Union for its ongoing financial support.

Members congratulated the Secretariat for their effort in compiling the large amount of data received on sharks and rays, as well as, Mexico and Uruguay on the comprehensive information on sharks and rays they had submitted for consideration by the Animals Committee at the present meeting.

The Committee established a working group on sharks (agenda item 23) with the following mandate:

In support of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17), the working group shall:

- a) consider document AC29 Doc. 23 and examine the information provided by range States in Annex 1, the trade data contained in Annex 2, and any other relevant information;
- b) identify information pertinent to addressing the scientific and technical challenges for the implementation of the Convention for sharks, identified in Decisions 17.209 to 17.216 ;
- c) identify any new challenges faced by Parties in the implementation of the Convention for sharks with a particular focus on the species included at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) based on the above, consider how the Animals Committee can fulfil its mandate given in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) to make recommendations on improving the conservation status of sharks at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, if necessary.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson);

Parties: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Estonia, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: CMS, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNEP-WCMC; IUCN, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC); Abercrombie & Fish, Blue Resources Trust, Defenders of Wildlife, Florida International University, Humane Society International, IFAW, Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Paul G. Allen Philanthropies, Sea Save Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson) introduced document AC29 Com. 3.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC29 Com. 3 with the following amendments:

- Insert after recommendation 11 the following new recommendation: “The Animals Committee urges Parties to recognise the value that the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) offers in compliance of CITES provisions for listed shark and rays species.”; and
- Delete “national and regional” at the end of line 3 in paragraph 9 and replace “obtaining advice from” with “cooperating with” in paragraph 9) iv).

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Calvar Agrelo), the representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and Japan.

24. Freshwater stingrays (*Potamotrygonidae* spp.) [Decision 17.249]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 24. Regrettably, no external funding had yet been secured for initiatives regarding freshwater stingrays. The Secretariat welcomed initial collaboration with Colombia.

Members advised the Committee about a forthcoming book from Peru and Brazil regarding freshwater stingrays.

Other participants highlighted the need for more data to be collected, citing work done at the 2014 workshop on freshwater stingrays in Colombia urging for more field studies to be conducted. It was also noted that freshwater stingrays are listed as ‘data deficient’ on the IUCN Red list. Additionally, it was pointed out that there are currently ongoing incidents of illegal trade in freshwater stingrays and continuing issues with imports without correct permits.

The Committee established a working group on freshwater stingrays (agenda item 24) with the following mandate:

Taking into consideration document AC29 Doc. 24 and its annexes, the working group shall make recommendations on how to proceed with the information compiled in annexes 1 to 9 in the context of the development of population trend models for freshwater stingrays, including the identification of suitable ways to undertake modelling, potential sources of collaboration, time frames, etc.

The membership was decided as follows:

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

Parties: France, Netherlands, Peru, Spain, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Ornamental Fish International, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, TRAFFIC, and Wildlife Conservation Society.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Calvar Agrelo) introduced document AC29 Com.6.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC29 Com. 6 with the following amendments:

- Include Zoological Society of London as a member of the working group;
- Transform paragraph 2 iii) into paragraph 2 i) and transform paragraph 2 i) into paragraph 2 iii);
- Insert a new paragraph 2 ii) “carry out field studies to gather additional data on key life history, population parameters, and international trade, as well as studies of the taxonomy of this group;”
- Delete current paragraph 2 ii); and
- Include a new paragraph 2 iv): “provide financial assistance to the range States to undertake field studies and conduct research”.

The new recommendation 2 reads as follows:

The Committee encouraged Parties, organizations and other relevant stakeholders to:

- i) identify data gaps and research required to support modelling of populations;
- ii) carry out field studies to gather additional data on key life history, population parameters, and international trade, as well as studies of the taxonomy of this group;
- iii) identify the type of population modelling that will inform whether harvest for international trade is detrimental to the species in the wild; and
- iv) provide financial assistance to the range States to undertake field studies and conduct research.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Calvar Agrelo), the nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk), Argentina, Mexico, Peru, FAO, Defenders of Wildlife, Ornamental Fish International, Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Chair.

25. Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*)

25.1 Report of the Secretariat [Decision 17.262]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 25.1, noting the European Union’s CoP17 proposal to list banggai cardinalfish on Appendix II and the subsequent withdrawal of this proposal during the meeting. The Secretariat announced that co-funding from the European Union and the United States of America for the implementation of Decisions 17.260 and 17.261 on banggai cardinalfish had been

secured. The Secretariat asked the Committee to advise how best to conduct the study directed under Decision 17.260 to assess the impact of international trade on the conservation status of *Pterapogon kauderni*.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 25.1.

During the discussion of this item, an intervention was made by Humane Society International.

25.2 Indonesia's initial progress report [Decision 17.259]

Indonesia introduced document AC29 Doc. 25.2 on the banggai cardinalfish management and conservation in Indonesia. It invited the Committee to support the implementation of the banggai cardinalfish action group and welcomed inputs and comments on the initial report.

Participants commended Indonesia for its initial report and thanked the European Union and the United States of America for their funding for this issue, while others expressed their willingness to offer financial and technical support.

The Committee established a working group on the banggai cardinalfish (agenda item 25) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 25.2:

Taking into consideration document AC29 Doc. 25.2, as well as discussions in plenary and any additional information, the working group shall:

- a) make recommendations on Indonesia's plan to conserve and manage *Pterapogon kauderni*;
- b) based on the above, provide guidance to the Secretariat on how the study requested in Decision 17.260 can best assist and support Indonesia in its efforts to conserve and manage this species; and
- c) suggest ways to improve the presentation, structure and content of the report that will be submitted to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC30);

Concerning agenda item 25.1:

Taking into consideration the information presented by Indonesia in document AC29 Doc. 25.2, as well as discussions in plenary and any additional information, the working group shall provide recommendations to the Secretariat on the nature and scope of the study that will be carried out in fulfilment of Decision 17.260.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the alternate representative of North America (Ms. Caceres);

Parties: Austria, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: FAO; SEAFDEC; Abercrombie & Fish, Animal Welfare Institute, Fondation Franz Weber, Humane Society International, Ornamental Fish International, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Sea Save Foundation, Species Survival Network, Wildlife Conservation Society and Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the alternative representative of North America (Ms. Caceres) introduced document AC29 Com. 10.

The Committee commended Indonesia on its initial progress report and adopted the recommendations in document AC29 Com. 10 with the following amendments:

- Include Hungary as a member of the working group;

- Amend paragraph 4 on page 3 as follows: “Based on these observations, the Animals Committee recommended the Secretariat, in consultation with Indonesia, to commission a study to assess the impact of international trade on the conservation status of *Pterapogon kauderni*, and recommended that this study should analyse the utilization and trade of the species including specimens sourced from the wild and captive breeding within and outside of Indonesia, and further assess the potential conservation risks and benefits from international trade in specimens of Banggai Cardinalfish from these sources.”; and
- Replace 20 in paragraph 2 e) by 22.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the alternate representative of North America (Ms. Caceres), Hungary, Indonesia, and Fondation Franz Weber.

26. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) [Decisions 17.287 and 17.288]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 26. Only one Party, Nicaragua, has recorded export quotas and submitted information with specific reference to *Strombus gigas* quotas for scientific purposes. Honduras had mentioned catch and export quotas that contributed to scientific stock research.

Participants agreed that, due to the lack of information available on this matter, further action, in the form of a Notification to the Parties, was needed.

The Committee established a drafting group on queen conch (agenda item 26) with the following mandate:

Taking into account the information in document AC29 Doc. 26, as well as discussions in plenary, the drafting group shall draft a Notification concerning the setting of quotas, including scientific quotas, for trade in queen conch.

The membership was decided as follows:

AC members: the acting representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Álvarez Lemus), the representative of Europe (Mr. Vincent Fleming), and the representative of North America (Ms. Rosemarie Gnam);

Parties: France, Mexico, and the Netherlands; and

IGOs and NGOS: FAO.

Later in the meeting, the representative of North America (Ms. Gnam) introduced document AC29 Com. 9.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to publish the Notification to the Parties contained in document AC29 Com. 9.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Mr. Fleming) and North America (Ms. Gnam), the acting representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Alvarez Lemus) and Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), Mexico, the United States of America, the Chair and the Secretariat.

27. Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) [Decision 17.300]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc.27 stating that letters had been sent to the Secretariats of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS), CMS, Bern Conventions and the Bucharest Convention asking them to share information on any measures, activities or initiatives to the conservation of, and trade in *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*. The Secretariat also stated its intent to invite range States of the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) to submit information on exports of the species.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 27.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

28. African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) [Decision 17.238]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc.28 on behalf of Burkina Faso, recalling Decision 17.238 instructing Burkina Faso to report to the Animals Committee on Decisions 17.235 to 17.237 on *Lycaon pictus* regarding measures taken to prevent illegal trade, as well as measures for information-sharing and collaboration with other range States on the species. The Secretariat noted that the African wild dog had been nominated for concerted actions under CMS and made reference to the Annex of the document, outlining Burkina Faso's draft decisions submitted for consideration at CMS CoP12 in October 2017.

CMS confirmed that Burkina Faso's draft decisions submitted for consideration at the CMS CoP12 integrate the provisions of CITES Decisions on *Lycaon pictus*,

Members recognised the synergies between the CITES and CMS Conventions as an excellent way to look at African carnivores and cited this as a positive use of resources.

Some participants asked for clarification on the relevance of *Lycaon pictus* to the Convention and asked if there was any trade data. The Secretariat informed the Committee that trade data was unavailable as it is not a CITES-listed species and that the Decisions on wild dog are directed to the range States. The Secretariat highlighted the species' inclusion in the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (described under agenda item 29).

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 28.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), CMS, Conservation Force, Humane Society International, the Chair and the Secretariat.

29. African lion (*Panthera leo*) [Decision 17.242]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 29, emphasizing its collaboration with CMS and the proposed Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative. The Secretariat regretted that adequate funding for moving the CoP17 Decisions concerning African lions forward had not yet been secured. CMS stressed the advantages of grouping the implementation of measures required from CITES and CMS concerning the African lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), including pooling of funds, expertise and resources; coordination of implementation measures; and more effective and immediate conservation actions. CMS noted also that, although the leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and the African Lion (*Panthera leo*) are not currently listed on its Appendices, proposals had been received that recommend the species be added.

Several participants expressed their support for the joint initiative, but some suggested that the species did not necessarily need to be listed on the CMS Appendices as they could be managed under existing frameworks. Other Parties asked for more information about the scope of the initiative and budget details, as well as clarity on where developing policy guidance to range States fits into the CITES mandate.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 29 and the comments made during the plenary.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Zimbabwe, CMS, IUCN, Born Free Foundation, Conservation Force and TRAFFIC.

30. African grey parrots from DRC (*Psittacus erithacus*) [SC67 Summary Record, item 12.2]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 30, reminding the Committee that commercial trade in *Psittacus erithacus* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is currently suspended and noted that the Party had not submitted a National Management Plan for the species, as had been recommended by the Standing Committee. The Secretariat observed that DRC was not present at the meeting. The Secretariat also reminded the Committee that *Psittacus erithacus* was included in Appendix I at CoP17 and that the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had entered reservations.

Discussion on this issue dealt with the intersection between the suspension of trade from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the entering of reservations from three countries. Resolution Conf. 4.25 (Rev. CoP14) recommends that any Party having entered a reservation with any species included in

Appendix I treat that species as if it were included in Appendix II. The Secretariat suggested that this issue be referred to the Standing Committee.

Several Parties noted with regret that the Democratic Republic of the Congo did not submit any documents for consideration by the Animals Committee and agreed that trade in *Psittacus erithacus* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo should remain suspended until a proposed scientific assessment is completed.

Field studies were also suggested by participants that claimed large scales of trade in *Psittacus erithacus* was currently occurring.

Saudi Arabia recalled that it had taken a reservation on the listing of *Psittacus erithacus* in Appendix I, and informed the Committee that it had nevertheless suspended all imports of *Psittacus erithacus* since December 2016.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 30. It further noted concerns about illegal trade in *Psittacus erithacus* and agreed to refer the issue of trade in *Psittacus erithacus* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

The Committee further agreed that experimental export quotas for *Psittacus erithacus* should not be part of scientific surveys of the species in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the acting representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Alvarez Lemus), the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), Austria, Hungary, Norway, Saudi Arabia, the United States of America, IWMC World Conservation Trust, la Ligue nationale des exploitants de la faune et flore, World Parrot Trust, Humane Society International, the Chair and the Secretariat.

31. Snakes (Serpentes spp.)

31.1 Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes [Resolution Conf. 17.12 and Decision 17.279]

IUCN introduced document AC29 Doc. 31.1 on guidance for the production for non-detriment findings for CITES-listed snakes and highlighted the important work of the Expert Workshop on the Making of CITES non-detriment findings for Appendix-II listed snakes held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in May 2017. IUCN thanked Switzerland for its support on this issue and Malaysia for hosting the workshop.

Several participants commended IUCN on the comprehensive document and noted its possible use as guidance for other taxa.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 31.1.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Mr. Fleming) and North America (Ms. Gnam), China, Indonesia and Malaysia.

31.2 Information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo [Decision 17.279]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 31.2, noting that no information had been received at this time and that the issue would have to be considered at the next meeting of the Animals Committee.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 31.2.

During the discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the Chair.

31.3 Standards for pythons traceability

Switzerland briefly introduced document AC29 Doc. 31.3 before giving the floor to GS1 Switzerland that presented a study on python skin traceability that included both batch level traceability systems and individual skin traceability systems, outlining the positives and negatives of both methods.

Members questioned the absence of nanotechnology from GS1 Switzerland's report and mentioned that it could be used in python skin traceability. GS1 Switzerland noted some difficulties with

nanotechnology, especially in regards to their delivery to remote areas. A batch level traceability system for pythons could be enhanced in the future with this technology.

The Committee established a working group on snakes (agenda item 31) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 31.1:

- a) review the guidance concerning the making of non-detriment findings for trade in Appendix-II listed snakes in the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 31.1; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.

Concerning agenda item 31.3:

In compliance with Decision 17.279, directing the Animals Committee to “review new information on the trade in, and sustainable use and conservation of snakes, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate”:

- a) review the information contained in document AC29 Doc. 31.3; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the AC Chair (Mr. Lörtscher);

Parties: Austria, Canada, China, European Union, France, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC; IUCN; Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Association of Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies; German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), GS1 Switzerland, Humane Society International, IWMC World Conservation Trust, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Users Network, SWAN International, TRAFFIC, VERDEVELENO SL, and World Animal Protection.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document AC29 Com. 1.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC29 Com. 1 as follows:

- The Committee welcomed the guidance on making non-detriment findings for snakes and asked the Secretariat to make the guidance available to Parties on its website.
- The Committee encouraged Switzerland to submit document AC29 Doc. 31.3 to the Standing Committee working group on traceability for its consideration.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), the United States of America and IWMC World Conservation Trust.

32. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.) [Decision 17.293]

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 32. It outlined extensive work that had already been undertaken on guidance for the making of non-detriment findings for trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles. It therefore asked for clarification on whether any further guidance was required on the implementation of Decision 17.291 a). The CITES Tortoise and Freshwater Turtles Task Force, held in Singapore, April 2017 was also mentioned. The task Force focused on enforcement best practices and sharing of information and intelligence between Parties.

Parties agreed that existing NDF guidance, recommended in Decision 17.291 a), was adequate unless any Party had additional suggestions. It was suggested that guidance on techniques to survey and monitor wild

populations of tortoises and freshwater turtles to assess impacts oftake and implement adaptive managements programs in the context of making NDFs would also be helpful.

It was suggested that the detailed biological knowledge required to make adequate NDFs for tortoises and freshwater turtles was not always available, and thus any NDF produced on these species should be treated with caution. Caution against trading in breeding aged specimens was also raised, as trading in younger aged specimens is considered to have a lesser effect on the overall conservation status of the species.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 32 and agreed to consider at its next meeting possible additional guidance suggested by the United States of America and Humane Society International on suggested survey methodologies, and the age and size of specimens to be traded.

During the discussion of this item intervention were made by the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), the United States of America and Humane Society International.

33. Periodic Review of the Appendices [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)]

33.1 Overview of species under periodic review

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 33.1, noting its intention to establish a periodic review database and requesting guidance from the Committee regarding the need to keep data fields containing information that change over time (conservation status; distribution) up to date.

Some participants expressed their support for the overview of species under the Periodic Review process and the possible development of an online database, subject to available funding.

The Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 33.1.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming) and the United States of America.

33.2 Selection of species for the Periodic Review

The Secretariat, with UNEP-WCMC, introduced document AC29 Doc. 33.2 (Rev. 1) and encouraged Parties to facilitate the reviews, develop a schedule and identify the species to be reviewed.

UNEP-WCMC introduced the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 33.2 (Rev. 1), which contains the species assessments and outputs 1-4. Output 1 contains Appendix I-listed animal taxa traded commercially from wild sources. Output 2 summarises commercial trade in wild sourced Appendix-II taxa. Output 3 contains Appendix-I animal taxa with no direct trade or minimal direct trade. Output 4 contains Appendix-II animal taxa with no direct trade or minimal direct trade. UNEP-WCMC clarified that output 2 was discussed in the context of the Review of Significant Trade and was therefore omitted from the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 33.2 (Rev. 1). They also outlined the contextual information included in the outputs, including; global threat status (IUCN Red List), date of first listing on the Appendices, and the species' range States. There were 198 taxa in these outputs for consideration by the Committee. The Committee established a working group on the Periodic Review (agenda item 33.2) with the following mandate:

In accordance with paragraph 2 b) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17):

- a) identify a list of animal taxa to review during the next two intersessional periods between the 17th meeting [CoP17 (2016)] and the 19th meeting [CoP19 (2022)] of the Conference of the Parties based on outputs indicated in paragraphs 8 to 12 of document AC29 Doc. 33.2 (Rev. 1); and
- b) consider possible funding necessary to continue with the Periodic Review; and
- c) agree on ways to facilitate the periodic reviews, as suggested in paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17).

The membership was decided as follows:

- Chair: the representative of North America (Ms. Gnam)
- Parties: Australia, Canada, China, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and
- IGOs and NGOs: Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), UNEP-WCMC; IUCN; Association of Western Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Conservation Force, EIA, FACE, Fondation Franz Weber, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Humane Society International, IPHA, Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, PASA, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Safari Club International, Safari Club International Foundation, Sea Save Foundation, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Users Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Animal Protection, and Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the representative of North America (Ms. Gnam) introduced document AC29 Com. 7.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC29 Com. 7 with the following amendments:

- Insert Portugal as a member of the working group;
- On page 2, at the end of the list of the range States for *Phoebastria albatrus*, delete “[full range to be added]”; and
- Delete the taxon Chinchilla spp. from the table on page 2.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), Argentina, Australia, Chile, Hungary, Mexico, Portugal, Humane Society International and Species Survival Network.

34. Appendix III listings [Decision 17.306]¹¹

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 34/PC23 Doc. 30 about characteristics for candidate species to be included in Appendix III, and related guidance.

Several Members agreed it was important to bring more attention to Appendix III listed species, but raised concerns about potentially proposing a list of candidates for listing, as this would be outside to scope of the Decision. Some Members suggested that work begin on this issue immediately instead of delaying until the next meeting of the Committees and 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Other participants suggested that there are ongoing instances of Parties being unfamiliar with how to handle Appendix III-listed species, in particular reference to certificates; when they are needed and what information they must contain. The Secretariat noted these concerns and advised that they will try to clarify this as soon as possible.

In anticipation of the implementation of Decision 17.303, the Committees agreed to nominate the Chair of the Plants Committee, the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam) and the AC alternate representative of Oceania (Mr. Makan) as their leads for addressing the issue of Appendix-III listings, who could also represent the scientific Committees in any working group that the Standing Committee may establish on Appendix-III listings.

The Committees established a joint intersessional working group on Appendix III listings with the following terms of reference:

¹¹ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

1. Taking account of document AC29 Doc. 34/PC23 Doc. 30, and discussions in plenary, explore ways to best advise the Standing Committee on characteristics of species for possible inclusion in Appendix III by:
 - a) identifying particular biological or trade characteristic for the species concerned, and
 - b) making suggestions for amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP17) concerning guidance for range States on characteristics of species that may benefit from inclusion in Appendix III; and
2. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair), AC representatives of North America (Ms. Gnam) and Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the AC alternate representative of Oceania (Mr. Makan) and the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: Canada, China, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Switzerland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Born Free Foundation, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Humane Society International, Ornamental Fish International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Fleming), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the acting AC representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov), AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk), the Chair of the Standing Committee (Ms. Caceres), Georgia, Norway, Peru, the United States of America, Ornamental Fish International, the Chair of the Plants Committee, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat.

35. Report of the specialist on zoological nomenclature [Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17)] and Decisions 17.308, 17.310, 17.312 and 17.313]

The nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk) introduced document AC29 Doc.35, providing updates on specific species and asking for the support of the Committee and of Parties in the development of interlinked databases and a shared online library resources relating to nomenclature.

Participants expressed concern about the accountability of shared resources in an online database, especially in the case of databases being changed and updated with little notice to Parties. Other participants suggested that collaborative efforts between the CITES and CMS Secretariats would be beneficial based on recent nomenclature work.

The Committee established a working group on nomenclature (agenda item 35) with the following mandate:

Review document AC29 Doc. 35 and its annexes, and the proposals made therein, and make recommendations for the Animals Committee to consider.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: China, Italy, South Africa, Switzerland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC; IUCN; Blue Resources Trust, Center for Biological Diversity, EIA, Humane Society International, and Zoological Society of San Diego.

Later in the meeting, the nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk) introduced document AC29 Com. 2.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC29 Com. 2 with the following amendments:

- Include Zoological Society of London as a member of the working group;

- Insert in recommendation 10 “commercial and” before “intellectual property rights”; and
- In recommendation 11, replace “in its database” by “in the Species+ database”.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemptsov), Hungary, CMS and the Secretariat.

36. Annotations [Decision 16.162 (Rev CoP17)]¹²

Canada introduced document AC29 Doc. 36/ PC23 Doc. 33 thanking Namibia for its help in the drafting of the document as the joint lead on annotations. Canada outlined the terms of reference for a working group on annotations to be developed for the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee and asked the joint Committee for any comments and guidance on these terms of reference.

Parties suggested asking the Animals and Plants Committees to identify annotation issues they consider most important, including annotations that impact timber trade, and provide these to the working group on annotations, as annotations deal predominately with plant species.

The Committees noted document AC29 Doc. 36/PC23 Doc. 33.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the European Union, the United States of America, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat.

Regional matters

37. Regional reports

37.1 Africa

The Committee noted that, upon receiving information from the Parties in its region, the representative of Africa (Mr. Kasoma) would provide an oral update to the Committee.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Africa (Mr. Kasoma) introduced document AC29 Doc. 37.1.

The Committee noted the report in document AC29 Doc. 37.1.

37.2 Asia

The Committee noted the report in document AC29 Doc. 37.2.

37.3 Central and South American and the Caribbean

The Committee noted the report in document AC29 Doc. 37.3.

37.4 Europe

The Committee noted the report in document AC29 Doc. 37.4.

37.5 North America

The Committee noted the report in document AC29 Doc. 37.5.

37.6 Oceania

The Committee noted the report in document AC29 Doc. 37.6

Parties welcomed of the most recent addition of Tonga to the Convention, and noted a growing interest in the Convention in the region.

¹² This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

No other intervention was made during discussion of these items.

Conclusion of the Meeting

38. Any other business

No other business was identified, and no intervention was made on this item.

39. Time and venue of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee

The Committee noted that the Secretariat had provisionally booked a venue to hold back-to-back meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees (their 30th and 24th meetings respectively) from 16 July to 27 July 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

40. Closing remarks

The Chair of the Animals Committee and the CITES Secretary-General thanked the participants, the interpreters and all meeting organizers. The Chair of the Animals Committee then closed the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee.