

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



Eleventh meeting of the Plants Committee
Langkawi (Malaysia), 3-7 September 2001

REPORT OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON ALIEN SPECIES

Implementation of Decision 11.100 regarding trade in alien species

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Working group participants

Regional representatives of Rod HAY - Oceania (chair), Sixto Inchaustegui - Central and South America and the Caribbean, Michael Griffin - Africa, and representatives from Israel (Simon Nemtsov), Italy (Marco Apollonio – rapporteur), USA (Pamela Hall), Spain (Carlos Ibero Solana) and IUCN (Alison Rosser).

The working group agreed on the following agenda in priority order:

- a. The production of the list of potentially invasive CITES species agreed on at AC16;
- b. Liaison with other bodies, including the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group and the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- c. The applicability of the IUCN Guidelines to CITES Parties as “plain language” guidelines;
- d. Linkages with Plants Committee;
- e. The risks to biodiversity of organisms carried with CITES species imported for trade;
- f. Impacts of non-CITES invasive species on CITES-listed species in their natural range.

The working group agreed that the first item would constitute the bulk of its work and that some of the other items would be covered in the discussion on that matter.

The list of CITES-listed alien invasive species

The group agreed that the purpose of such a list is to provide parties with information on examples of CITES species that have become invasive. This would give suggestions for management and scientific authorities when considering the overall impacts of trade in these or similar species.

It was acknowledged that IUCN is already developing a comprehensive database on invasive species and their impacts and that it would be inappropriate for CITES to duplicate such work. For that reason the group agreed that the next step for us would be to consult further with IUCN about preparing the CITES list using information from both organizations. The chairman indicated that he had already received a commitment from IUCN ISSG to collaborate on the project. The chair and the representative from the USA agreed to undertake this work initially, to circulate a first draft to the members of the working group and then to prepare a list of candidate species for presentation to AC 18.

The IUCN Guidelines were presented to the CBD SBSTTA Meeting in March 2001 as a basis of Guiding Principles for the Parties to that Convention. While these have not yet been finalized by CBD, the group agreed that it would be inappropriate for CITES to develop or request from IUCN a plain language version specifically for CITES Parties as requested at AC15.

Discussion on the content and structure of the list canvassed whether it should be a comprehensive list of species, whether there should also be a comprehensive assessment of risk including risk of genetic pollution and the impact of traded non-CITES species on local CITES-listed species.

The group agreed that the list should be concise, providing key examples of CITES species which are known to have become invasive. These would be simply categorized as to whether that risk or impact was on indigenous biodiversity, as a pest of agricultural systems, or involved a specific impact on particular species, including any others listed under CITES and, where possible, to also categorise the type of risk involved.

Following discussion about whether Parties should be asked to provide this information, the group concluded that a Notification requesting it would not be appropriate at this stage. Rather, this could be reconsidered after the initial analysis of details held by the ISSG and other readily available sources.

The group suggested that the Chair of the Animals Committee approach his colleague in the Plants Committee requesting that they consider producing a matching list.