

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Lima (Peru), 3-8 July 2006

EXPORT QUOTA WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 12.17, which instructed the Standing Committee to "establish an intersessional Export Quota Working Group with the goal of developing guidelines for Parties to establish, implement, monitor and report national export quotas for CITES-listed taxa".
3. The Standing Committee at its 49th meeting (Geneva, April 2003) established the Export Quota Working Group and decided on its composition, which included the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees. At its 50th meeting (Geneva, March 2004), the Standing Committee agreed to a procedure for the continuation of the Committee's work on this issue beyond the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13, Bangkok, 2004) with final reporting at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14) in 2007 (see document SC50 Summary Report, item 22). This procedure specified the role of the Animals Committee (AC) and Plants Committee (PC) as follows:
 - d) *the Standing Committee should propose the adoption of a decision at CoP13 that the terms of reference of the working group be extended until CoP14 and it proceed as follows:*
 - i) *by May 2005 (either at a meeting or through electronic communication) the working group should prepare a document containing the results of its deliberations, which may include draft guidelines on the management of export quotas, taking into account the discussions during CoP13, which should be submitted to the Animals and Plants Committees for comment in 2005; and*
 - ii) *the working group should take into account the comments received from the Animals and Plants Committees and prepare a working document with a draft resolution, which may include proposed guidelines on the management of export quotas, to be presented to the Standing Committee in 2006 and forwarded for consideration at CoP14;*
4. At CoP13, the two following Decisions were adopted on the management of annual export quotas, both directed to the Standing Committee:

12.72 *The Standing Committee shall consider the issue of improving the management of*
(Rev. CoP13) *annual export quotas, and report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

13.66 *The Standing Committee shall instruct its Export Quota Working Group to develop guidelines for Parties to establish, implement, monitor and report national export quotas for CITES-listed taxa.*

5. The Secretariat reported on the activities of the Export Quota Working Group to the Standing Committee at its 53rd meeting (Geneva, June 2005; see document SC53 Doc. 24.1). In December 2005, the Working Group, through the Secretariat, transmitted a working document on the management of nationally established export quotas to the Chairmen to the Animals and Plants Committees for comment. In order for the Working Group to complete its work on time and prepare a document for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 54th meeting in October 2006 (SC54), the Animals and Plants Committees were encouraged to provide their comments by the end of February 2006.
6. Within this deadline, some comments were submitted by Mr Althaus (AC Representative of Europe and Chairman of the Animals Committee), Mr Barbieri (AC Alternate member for Central and South America and the Caribbean), Mr Gabel (AC Alternate member and PC representative of North America) and Ms Irawati (PC Representative of Asia). The Secretariat copied these comments to the members of the Working Group and took them into account in preparing a further draft of the working document, which was circulated to the Export Quota Working Group in April 2006 for review. The final text of the working document on the management of nationally established export quotas that will be submitted to the Standing Committee at SC54 was due to be agreed by the end of May 2006.

Issues for consideration

7. No specific action is required from the Animals and Plants Committees. The Chairmen of the Committees may however wish to report on their activities in the Export Quota Working Group, the reviews by their Committees of the working document on management of nationally established export quotas and their views on the closing stages of the process at SC54 and CoP14.