

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

Forty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Lisbon (Portugal), 28 September-1 October 1999

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

1. Decision 10.143 instructs the Secretariat to carry out a number of tasks.
2. However, the number of plant and animal species used for medicinal purposes is rather large, and only a few of them (rhinoceros, bear, tiger) have received attention from the Parties.
3. It would be beneficial to know how many taxa are involved in the trade for medicinal purposes, before tackling the difficult issue of deciding to which taxa (other than the three mentioned above) priority should be given in the implementation of Decision 10.143.
4. In order to obtain more information on the species that are involved in trade for medicinal purposes, the Secretariat contracted TRAFFIC International to compile a list of animal species used for this purpose.
5. Recognizing that the resulting list was not exhaustive (details on Central and South America and parts of Africa were wanting) it was circulated to the Parties on 12 March 1999 with Notification to the Parties No. 1999/25 seeking additional information. Only one response has been received. The Animals Committee has formed a small working group, co-ordinated by the Secretariat, to further study this list.
6. For plants, a similar list, based on species used in medicines imported into Europe, was circulated to the Parties on the same date with Notification to the Parties No. 1999/26. No response has been received.
7. Under paragraph a) of Decision 10.143 it is indicated that the Secretariat shall:

in implementing Resolution Conf. 8.4, conduct a review of measures included by Parties in their national legislation to control the import and export of medicinal products containing parts or derivatives of species listed in the appendices of the Convention.
8. One of the conclusions of the national legislation project is that many Parties do not have adequate legislation to fully implement the provisions of the Convention, in particular with regard to the control of readily recognizable parts and derivatives, as defined in Resolution Conf. 9.6. The review under phase III of the national legislation project is already largely completed and the work requested under this decision would require additional manpower and funding.
9. Paragraph b) of the same Decision indicates that the Secretariat shall:

review the need for measures to improve implementation of the Convention in relation to monitoring of trade in parts and derivatives of species listed in Appendices I and II which are traded in semi-processed form or manufactured form or as manufactured medicinal products.
10. Implementation of the Convention largely depends on the information available to the first-line inspectors such as Customs, veterinary and phytosanitary services.

11. The CITES team of the Customs service at Heathrow Airport, London, United Kingdom, in co-operation with TRAFFIC International has been compiling a large number of illustrations of medicines containing derivatives of CITES listed animals. With financial support from the Secretariat and WWF-UK, this will soon be published in the form of an illustrated colour guide.
12. Canada, the Netherlands and the United States of America have prepared similar guides for use by their Customs services.
13. For plant species, the Secretariat has chosen to study the possible implementation problems related to trade in *Aquilaria malaccensis* and in *Picrorhiza kurrooa* and *Nardostachys grandiflora*. At the time of writing, the final reports of these studies were not available. In the context of a study on trade in orchids of China, attention will also be given to the use of orchids as medicinals.
14. The German Scientific Authority is currently finalizing a training package on medicinal plants.
15. Using information contained in a report prepared by the Scientific Authority of Germany, the Secretariat will contact the relevant range States to discuss the information on various species contained in that report, and possible implementation problems related to trade in the taxa concerned.
16. Paragraph c) of Decision 10.143 indicates that the Secretariat shall:

collate information on proven identification techniques for parts and derivatives and the availability of substitutes for specimens of threatened wild species, and information on opportunities for further research.
17. It is well known that identification of parts to the species level is possible using sophisticated DNA-identification techniques and on the condition that sufficient base line data are available. For derivatives this is probably not possible. Either the particles concerned are too small and therefore unidentifiable, or preparation techniques have eliminated them.
18. Paragraph d) of Decision 10.143 indicates that the Secretariat shall:

review the role of captive breeding and artificial propagation in the supply of products for traditional medicine.
19. It is known that a number of Appendix-I species (fauna and flora) are captive-bred and artificially propagated for use in traditional medicines, but the Secretariat has not yet reviewed this in great detail.
20. The Secretariat recommends that the text of this decision be redrafted to better target the work that it is expected to do on this subject.