

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

SUMMARY RECORD

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman

The Secretary-General transmitted the apologies of Ambassador Cristián Maquieira, the Chair of the Standing Committee, for being unable to attend the present meeting, and introduced Nana Kofi Adu-Nsiah as the representative of Ghana, the Vice-Chair of the Committee, who was taking the chairmanship for this meeting.

The Chair of the meeting welcomed the participants and thanked the Committee for their confidence.

Administrative matters

2. Agenda

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 2 (Rev. 1). The provisional agenda was adopted without amendment.

No interventions were made.

3. Working programme

The Secretariat announced requests for the following changes in the provisional working programme:

- a) item 8 (*Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme*) to be discussed on Wednesday morning;
- b) item 12 (*Cooperation with the World Trade Organization*) to be discussed on Tuesday morning; and
- c) items 41 (*International expert workshop on non-detriment findings*) and 44 (*Periodic Review of the Appendices*) to be discussed on Wednesday.

With these changes, the working programme was adopted.

No interventions were made.

4. Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 4, noting that the recommendations it contained were those of the Secretariat, following discussions in an intersessional working group on this subject. One member spoke against the proposed amendment to Rule 6.1 a) ii). Regarding Rule 9, several participants expressed the need to incorporate more flexibility in the acceptance of credentials.

The Chair requested the Secretariat to convene a working group, comprising Australia, Chile, China, Japan, Kenya, Peru, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, to consider the comments that had been made regarding the proposals in document SC58 Doc. 4 and to report to the Committee at a later session.

Later in the meeting, the Secretariat introduced the results of the discussions in the working group, in document SC58 Com. 1, announcing two corrections: in the proposed text for Rule 6.1, "meetings" should be changed to a meeting; in the proposed text for Rule 6.2 b), the square brackets should be deleted and subparagraph iii) should be amended to read proof of the approval of the State in which the national non-governmental body or agency is located, or in which the international non-governmental body or agency is headquartered. The Committee agreed with these corrections. The Secretariat proposed the deletion of the words "or an intergovernmental organization" in Rule 8, since such organizations were already covered in Rule 6. The Committee did not agree with this proposed amendment. With these changes, the Committee adopted the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure in document SC58 Com. 1.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China and Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Chile), and Europe (United Kingdom), and by Argentina and Brazil.

5. Credentials

The Secretariat reported that delegations of 16 members of the Standing Committee were in attendance and credentials had been received from them all but one. Forty-five other Parties were represented by observers and credentials had been received from all but one of them. Credentials had also been received from the representatives of all of the six intergovernmental organizations represented and from all but one of the 32 non-governmental organizations. This information was noted by the Committee.

No interventions were made.

6. Admission of observers

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 6. The Committee agreed to the admission of all the organizations listed in the Annex to that document.

No interventions were made.

7. Arrangements for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

7.1 Preparation for CoP15

Qatar, the Next Host Country, confirmed that it would host the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) in Doha, from 13 to 25 March 2010 and that all Parties would be welcome. It reported on recent discussions with the Secretariat regarding visas for participants, the limited space available for Committee II and practical arrangements for the meeting, and that solutions were being found regarding all issues. The Committee noted the report with appreciation.

No interventions were made.

7.2 Agenda

The Secretariat presented the draft agenda for CoP15 contained in the Annex to document SC58 Doc. 7.2, noting the need to add an item on electronic permitting as well as any agenda item submitted by a Party by the deadline of 14 October 2009. The Committee approved the draft agenda without comment.

No interventions were made.

7.3 Working programme

The Secretariat presented the draft working programme for the plenary meeting at CoP15, contained in the Annex to document SC58 Doc. 7.3. The Committee approved the draft working programme without comment.

No interventions were made.

7.4 Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 7.4, noting that it would review the rules applicable to voting to ensure that they adequately reflect the use of electronic voting systems. The representative of Europe (the United Kingdom), on behalf of the European Community Member States, requested that the Secretariat also propose changes to the rules in order to allow countries that voted in a coordinated way to be able to do so without disturbance to the delegations of other countries. The Committee noted the document.

No other intervention was made.

7.5 Selection of nominees for chairmanship of the committees

The Secretary-General introduced document SC58 Doc. 7.5. The Committee noted the document and the oral report.

There were no interventions.

7.6 Sponsored Delegates Project

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 7.6. It highlighted the progress had been made in the mobilization of resources for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties and thanked the countries that had provided support to date: Denmark, Finland, Norway and the United States. It explained that the fund-raising target was between USD 750,000 and 1,000,000 in order to provide the same level of support that had been provided at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14). It encouraged all potential donors to participate in this important project and announced that a Notification to the Parties, inviting applications from those interested in receiving sponsorship, would be published shortly after the present meeting, now that the dates for CoP15 had been officially confirmed. The Secretary-General explained that raising money for the Sponsored Delegates Project was becoming more and more difficult. In 2007, the Secretariat had created various support packages, such as payment for daily subsistence but not for travel, and the Dutch Government had generously paid the hotel costs of sponsored delegates. This time, however, more money needed to be raised because of higher travelling and accommodation costs. The Secretary-General also pointed out that it was important to know who was benefiting from financial assistance. Some organizations provided direct assistance to participants, whilst the philosophy of the Sponsored Delegates Project was to keep financial assistance anonymous. Finally, he highlighted the problem of receiving applications after the deadline and called on regional representatives to urge the countries in their regions to apply as soon as the application deadline was announced.

Israel encouraged continuation of the Sponsored Delegates Project and supported the recommendation included in document SC58 Doc. 7.6. It also encouraged the Secretariat to notify Parties of the Sponsored Delegates Project by postal service, because of communication problems encountered before CoP14.

The Committee encouraged Parties and organizations interested in providing financial support to contact the Secretariat.

There were no other interventions.

8. Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme

The representative of UNEP introduced document SC58 Doc. 8. On behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, he drew attention to the work of UNEP in relation to the 2010 global biodiversity targets. Regarding the agreement between UNEP and the Standing Committee, he recalled that its review needed to take place in the context of UNEP's broader administrative reform, and explained the accountability framework and system for delegation of authority that would be tested on a number of multilateral environmental agreements in 2009. The plan was to apply this also to CITES before the end of the year. The representative of UNEP stated that the accountability framework was needed in order to hold the executive heads of the multilateral agreements accountable to UNEP for performance of their duties. The Executive Director (ED) wished to discuss the agreement between UNEP and the Standing Committee at its 59th meeting (SC59), in March 2010. Before that meeting, the ED would discuss this issue with the Chair of the Standing Committee. The ED would therefore not sign the revised agreement in the meantime, but it was understood that the Memorandum of 1997 remained in force. Regarding the appointment of a new Secretary-General, after the retirement of Mr Wijnstekers in April 2010, UNEP would consult the Committee regarding the vacancy announcement, which was to be published soon, and would involve the Committee in the process of finding a new Secretary-General. It was expected that an appointment would be made at the end of 2009 or early 2010.

Members of the Committee noted that: UNEP's accountability framework and delegation of authority was an internal matter, quite separate from the agreement between the Executive Director and the Standing Committee, which should not take second place; and the Committee wished to be fully involved in the process of selecting and recruiting a new Secretary-General. UNEP responded that the Standing Committee would be involved in compliance with the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding.

The Committee thanked UNEP for its oral and written reports. The Committee noted the process and timetable for the appointment of a new Secretary-General and requested that it be fully consulted in this process, in accordance with the Agreement between the Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya), Asia (China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (Canada) and Oceania (Australia), and by Brazil.

9. Financial matters

9.1 Report for 2008

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 9.1 and its Annexes. The United States, as Acting Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, presented an oral report of the Subcommittee's meeting held on Monday 6 July. The United States noted the Secretariat's efforts to ensure a high percentage of collection of the Trust Fund contributions from the Parties as well as the Secretariat's spending within the budgeted amount.

The Committee took note of document SC58 Doc. 9.1 and of the oral report from the Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee.

No interventions were made.

9.2 Costed programme of work for 2009

The Secretariat introduced SC58 Doc. 9.2, followed by an oral report from the Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee who commended the Secretariat for its proposed activities adhering closely to the prioritization established by the Subcommittee for the costed programme of work. He also commended the Secretariat's efforts for raising over USD 4 million for its activities in 2009 and highlighted the need to ensure that fundraising efforts are skewed away from lower-priority items, recognizing that some contributors will give donations for lower-priority activities.

Interventions were made regarding the Secretariat's proposal to delete the staff costs column in the costed programme of work. The Committee wished to maintain the staff costs column in future Secretariat's proposals for costed programmes of work and accepted that reporting on actual staff cost would be on a global basis.

The Committee agreed that the Conference of the Parties has the possibility to amend existing costed programmes of work to take account of decisions that it takes at its meetings.

The Committee took note of document SC58 Doc. 9.2 and of the oral report of the Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya), Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (Canada) and Oceania (Australia), and by Mexico, the United States and Humane Society International.

Strategic matters

10. Strategic Vision 2008-2013: Development of indicators

The Secretary-General introduced item 10 and suggested replacing the current wording of Indicator 3.4.1 with "Improving conservation status of CITES-listed species as shown by tools such as the IUCN Red List Index". It also stated that existing indicators 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.5.4, 1.6.1, 1.6.2, 2.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 were relevant to Indicator 3.4.1. Some participants asked how the indicators could be used without unduly increasing the reporting burden for Parties.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Secretariat on the finalization of the indicators for the Strategic Vision 2008-2013 and instructed its Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements to follow up on how the reporting required in these indicators would be undertaken.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and Oceania (Australia).

11. Review of the scientific committees

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 11. Participants strongly favoured the option in paragraph 7. a) over that in 7. b). Some could see merit in the chairmanship of the Animals and Plants Committees being on a regional rotation basis in future, but this was outweighed by the need for continuity and appropriate technical expertise. Attention was drawn to the significant voluntary input of the chairs intersessionally. Potential chairs with full-time jobs may find it difficult to find the time and money necessary to chair the committee.

The Committee agreed with the option in paragraph 7. a) of document SC58 Doc. 11, with the possible extra costs detailed in paragraph 8, but not that the chairmanship of the Animals and Plants Committees be on a fixed regional rotation basis in future. The Committee agreed that the chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees should be selected primarily for their technical expertise. The Committee requested the Secretariat to draft proposals reflecting this decision, as well as the views expressed at the present meeting, for submission and consideration at CoP15. The Secretariat would therefore draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Animals and Plants Committees to indicate that, where possible, committee Chairs should rotate on a regional basis.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya and Zambia), Asia (China), Central South America and the Caribbean (Chile), Europe (Bulgaria and the United Kingdom), North America (Canada) and Oceania (Australia), and by India, the United States, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, and Humane Society International.

12. Cooperation with the World Trade Organization

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 12, noting that a representative of the WTO Secretariat was present as an observer. In updating the information contained in the document, the Secretariat advised the Committee that a draft letter requesting *ad hoc* observer status in several

WTO bodies had been prepared on the basis of consultations with the WTO Secretariat and was currently with the Chair of the Standing Committee for comments. It further advised that additional consultations with WTO were envisaged before the letters would be finalized. The Secretariat noted that earlier consultations had revealed that both CITES and WTO were members of the CBD Invasive Alien Species Liaison Group.

The Secretariat informed the Standing Committee that a WTO Workshop on Environment-related Private Standards, Certification and Labelling Requirements was to be held 9 July 2009 and that a regular session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment was to be held on 10 July 2009.

The Secretariat drew the Committee's attention to the Annex to document SC58 Doc. 12, entitled *Elements for a possible joint approach of BLG members vis-à-vis WTO*, and advised the Committee that some internal discussions had been held regarding the lead role that CITES had agreed to take in the development of training modules on trade and environment for use in appropriate WTO or other training events.

Botswana, which had participated in the WTO Regional Workshop on Trade and Environment for English-speaking African Countries held in Gaborone in March 2009, stated that linkages between CITES and WTO were important and encouraged the development of further cooperation.

It was suggested that CITES explain very clearly the aspects of its work which were relevant to various WTO committees and the reasons for which it was requesting *ad hoc* observer status in those bodies. It was noted that decisions about *ad hoc* observer status would be decided by each WTO body. With regard to the Standing Committee possibly organizing with WTO an informal discussion on issues of mutual interest in the margins of the Committee's 61st meeting (2011), it might be desirable for such an informal discussion to be based on an agenda agreed with relevant WTO committees.

The Standing Committee agreed to the recommendation contained in paragraph 14 of document SC58 Doc. 12 and took note of the information contained in the Secretariat's written and oral reports.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Argentina and Botswana.

13. Cooperation between Parties and promotion of multilateral measures

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 13. In updating the information contained in the document, it noted that the working group now included a member representing Central and South America and the Caribbean (Costa Rica) but was still lacking representatives from Africa and Asia. It advised the Standing Committee that the working group had begun exchanging relevant information and experiences by email. Working group members had been asked to select a chair and to decide whether interested non-governmental organizations would be allowed to participate in the working group. The Secretariat mentioned that UNEP-WCMC had expressed interest in undertaking the consultancy envisaged under Decision 14.30 and offered to assist in raising any additional funds that might be needed.

The Standing Committee agreed to obtain, by 10 July 2009, nominations from Africa and Asia for membership in the Working Group and noted the progress that had been made on this issue to date. However, no nomination had been forthcoming from Africa and Asia by the end of the present meeting.

There were no interventions.

14. CITES and livelihoods

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 14, noting that it had been prepared in consultation with Peru and UNEP-WCMC. It drew attention to paragraph 6 of the document regarding the composition of the Working Group on Livelihoods. It explained that the Group had started working immediately after SC57 but that its activities had been interrupted for several months owing to institutional changes in Peru. The Secretariat advised that UNEP-WCMC had been hired as the

consultant to develop two documents containing a draft toolkit and draft guidelines for consideration of the working group. It also noted that a forum on livelihoods had been created on the CITES website to facilitate consultations and the exchange of information. Interested Parties and organizations were invited to provide suggestions and relevant information to the forum.

UNEP-WCMC confirmed that work to develop the draft toolkit and guidelines was underway and invited Parties and other stakeholders to contribute case studies on the positive and negative effects of implementing CITES listing decisions, which could be used in the study. It announced that it was collaborating with the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) in the United Kingdom and TRAFFIC South Africa to undertake this work. It stated that the first draft toolkit and guidelines were expected to be available for comments in August 2009.

The United Kingdom requested its inclusion as a member of the working group, as it was an original proponent of Decision 14.3. It also asked that sufficient time be allowed during the consultation process to provide Parties that are not members of the working group with an opportunity to give inputs. It expressed concerns about the possibility that the document may be considered solely by the Working Group and then presented to CoP15 as a *fait accompli*.

Regarding the recommendation to submit two documents on behalf of the Standing Committee at CoP15, some observers expressed strong concerns related to timing. They suggested that Decision 14.3 be retained and that work continue between CoP15 and CoP16. To address this time issue, the Secretariat proposed presenting the draft documents at SC59 rather than at CoP15. This suggestion was welcomed.

The Committee decided that the Chair of the Working Group should submit the draft toolkit and guidelines for consideration at SC59. The Committee would then decide whether to submit these documents for consideration at CoP15.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (the United Kingdom), and by the United States, UNEP-WCMC and Humane Society International.

15. National wildlife trade policy reviews

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 15. It thanked Kuwait again for initiating and hosting a Regional Workshop for Arabic-Speaking Countries on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews and suggested that Kuwait might wish to make an intervention during the discussion of this item. The workshop had been well-attended by countries in the region and the involvement of the Scientific Authority of Viet Nam as a resource person had provided a good example of South-South cooperation. The workshop had also allowed the Secretariat to enhance its knowledge of and cooperation with important regional bodies such as the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment, the League of Arab States, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia.

The Secretariat drew the Standing Committee's attention to the workshop recommendations contained in the Annex to document SC58 Doc. 15, highlighting those recommendations that: invited member States in the region to undertake policy reviews; called for a regional/subregional policy review to be carried out before CoP15; and encouraged the replication of the workshop in other Asian and African subregions.

Kuwait expressed its thanks to different organizations for their support to the workshop, to Viet Nam for sharing its experience in doing a trade policy review and to the Parties and non-Parties which participated in the workshop. Appreciation was expressed for the organization of the workshop and for the efforts of Arab League States to strengthen their implementation of the Convention. The undertaking of reviews of wildlife trade policies met with general support, and it was hoped that such reviews would be beneficial to Parties and would be in line with efforts to reduce the administrative burden of implementing the Convention.

The Standing Committee took note of the recommendations of the Regional Workshop for Arabic-Speaking Countries on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews contained in the Annex to document SC58 Doc. 15.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan) and Europe (Bulgaria), and by Kuwait.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Review of Resolutions and Decisions

16. Review of Resolutions following Decision 14.19

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 16, explaining how the working group was conducting the review and how far it had progressed since the publication of that document. Some participants raised objections to certain changes or stated they wished to submit detailed comments to the Secretariat. The Chair therefore adjourned discussion of this item to allow for discussions to be held outside the plenary, and asked the Secretariat to report later in the week.

Later in the meeting, the Secretariat reported that it had met with the delegates who had expressed interest in reviewing the suggestions of the working group and that it had revised the three Annexes to document SC58 Doc. 16 as a result of those discussions. The Secretariat explained that suggested amendments that had been thought to be potentially substantive, and therefore outside the scope of this review, had been deleted. The Secretariat would follow the suggestion to submit those under the substantive revision of Resolutions (see item 17 below). These amendments concerned in particular Resolution Conf. 5.10. New suggestions had also emerged and those had been highlighted in the revised Annexes. The Secretariat explained the rationale behind each new suggestion in the three language versions.

The Committee agreed to the changes outlined in document SC58 Doc. 16, Annex 1 (Rev. 1), Annex 2 (Rev. 1) and Annex 3 (Rev. 1).

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by Mexico, Norway, the United States, Humane Society International, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, SSN and the Chair.

17. Substantive revision of Resolutions

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 17, noting that it also intended to consider proposing amendments to Resolutions Conf. 9.7 (to harmonize the use of terms 'transit' and 'transshipment') and Conf. 9.10 (to correct inconsistencies), and that Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14) should be also reviewed to clarify the need for an export endorsement on permits. Some concern was expressed about the workload for the Secretariat of reviewing 18 Resolutions. It was suggested that the revision of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14) should indicate that the names of corals on permits should be consistent with the list in Notification to the Parties No. 2003/020 and should make it consistent with Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14). A number of participants expressed a wish to be consulted by the Secretariat in the development of its proposals.

The Committee noted document SC58 Doc. 17 and that the Secretariat would consult all Parties and organizations that expressed a wish to be consulted during its preparation of documentation on this subject for consideration at CoP15.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya), Asia (China), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (Canada), and by Israel, Mexico, South Africa, the United States, Born Free and IWMC – World Conservation Trust.

Compliance and enforcement

18. National laws for implementation of the Convention

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 18, drawing attention to the updated legislative status chart contained in Annex 1 to the document. It congratulated Brunei Darussalam, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Peru (pending clarification of a recent legislative derogation) and Uruguay on the

inclusion of their legislation in Category 1 under the National Legislation Project, following a determination that it fulfilled the requirements for implementation of the Convention. With regard to other legislative progress reflected in the chart, the Secretariat noted that some of this information had been gleaned from the regional reports submitted at the present meeting.

With regard to Parties and dependent territories affected by Decision 14.25 of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat advised the Standing Committee that it had recently established contact with Djibouti and planned to invite it to participate in an upcoming legislative workshop for North Africa. It explained that Kazakhstan should have been included in the list of countries identified as requiring attention as a priority under the National Legislation Project and said that the country had recently enacted fisheries legislation with a link to CITES. The Secretariat mentioned that Rwanda had recently reported that it was working on a draft wildlife act. The Secretariat further advised the Committee that Kazakhstan and the Philippines should be deleted from the list of Parties contained in paragraph 33 of document SC58 Doc. 18, while Togo should be added. The Secretariat also advised the Committee that Niger should be added to the list of Parties contained in paragraph 35 of the same document. The Secretariat finally advised the Committee that Greenland had recently provided additional information on its legislative developments.

With regard to Parties not affected by Decision 14.25, the Secretariat mentioned that legislative materials had been obtained from Montenegro, Oman and Serbia. With regard to Parties with legislation in Category 1, the Secretariat informed the Committee that CITES-related legislation had been enacted by Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, Italy, Romania, Singapore, Turkey and the European Community while legislative reviews were being undertaken by Australia, Austria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Zealand and Vanuatu.

The Secretariat advised the Committee that the International Air Transport Association (IATA) had written recently to encourage the continued use of IATA regulations as the primary standards for the transport of live CITES specimens. One Standing Committee member supported the addition without modification of the draft legislative guidance, contained in Annex 2 to document SC58 Doc. 18, to the materials available under the National Legislation Project.

Interventions on this item stressed the importance of adequate national legislation, both in terms of national implementation and the Convention's effectiveness, and overall support was expressed for the National Legislation Project. Several Parties reported in more detail on their legislative progress.

The Secretariat's recommendation that the Standing Committee issue a written caution to those Parties and dependent territories determined not to have complied with Decision 14.25 was supported. The aim was to get the legislation of Parties and dependent territories in Category 1 as soon as possible, even though it was recognized that legislative enactment could be challenging for Parties and territories with small government administrations. It was also pointed out that compliance with Decision 14.25 could be achieved by either enacting legislation or the providing adequate justification for the failure to enact legislation. Appreciation was expressed for the Secretariat's 'behind-the-scenes' assistance, especially in relation to dependent territories. It was suggested that it would be useful if regional representatives also helped concerned countries in their region.

In response to a query on 'written cautions', the Secretariat explained that these were one of the compliance measures listed in Resolution Conf. 14.3, that they had been successfully used in the past to achieve compliance and that, this time, they would be used to notify Parties or dependent territories that they were not in compliance with Decision 14.25. Nevertheless, a Party expressed concern that this recommendation did not send a strong enough message to those countries that had not complied with Decision 14.25.

The Standing Committee agreed to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 48 and 49 of document SC58 Doc. 18.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom) and Oceania (Australia), and by Brazil, India, Israel, Kuwait, South Africa and the United States.

19. National reports

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 19. With regard to the late or non-submission of annual reports, it advised the Standing Committee that contact had finally been established with Djibouti and Dominica and that they had provided the necessary reports. It noted that some Parties had incorrectly attributed CITES trade to Dominica when such trade had in fact taken place with the Dominican Republic or another country. It therefore urged Parties to exercise more care in their reporting. In updating the list of countries contained in paragraph 9 of document SC58 Doc. 19, which had failed to submit annual reports for 2005, 2006 and 2007, it stated that the necessary reports had now been provided by Botswana, Cambodia, Jordan, Myanmar, Paraguay and the Republic of Moldova.

Concerning the harmonization of knowledge management and reporting, the Secretariat drew attention to the government-led initiatives in Oceania and the ASEAN sub-region. It invited relevant countries to provide additional details and noted that the final ASEAN workshop output document was now available. It advised the Committee that the final paper on the preconditions for the harmonization of reporting, prepared by UNEP-WCMC in consultation with the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions, was contained in document SC58 Inf. 5.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that North America had designated Canada as a member of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements but that a member from Asia was still needed. The Secretariat added that the Working Group had started its activities through email, that its members had been asked to select a chair and that UNEP-WCMC had prepared an updated list of special reporting requirements to assist the Group's deliberations.

In relation to the reporting of trade in artificially propagated plants, the Chair of the Plants Committee explained that Switzerland had originally proposed an analysis of such reporting, which had resulted in the adoption of Decisions 14.39-14.41 at CoP14. Much plant trade was in artificially propagated specimens and the Plants Committee would like a detailed analysis of the trade to consider not only how the reporting of such trade could be streamlined but also the volume and nature of the trade. An analysis could also assist in identifying plant species that might be downlisted. The activities envisaged under Decisions 14.39-14.41 were important and a working group convened at the present meeting could draft a revision of those Decisions, with an implementing budget, for consideration at CoP15.

The Committee established a working group on the reporting of trade in artificially propagated plants, comprising Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Switzerland, the United States, the Chair of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat.

Later in the meeting, Switzerland, as Chair of the working group, introduced the results of its discussions. It was felt that there was still a need for the study referred to in Decisions 14.39 and that this Decision should be prolonged and should begin with the words "The Secretariat shall, subject to available funding ..."

Regarding Decisions 14.40 and 14.41, the working group suggested that these be replaced by the following:

To replace Decision 14.40

"The Plants Committee shall, after considering the report of the Secretariat:

- a) assess the usefulness to its programme of the work of reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II; and
- b) if such reporting is found to be generally useful, determine whether there are any taxa of Appendix-II plants artificially propagated for which detailed reporting is less valuable."

To replace Decision 14.41

"The Standing Committee shall:

- a) taking into consideration the findings of the Plants Committee, determine whether it is possible to streamline reporting for Appendix-II plants; and
- b) report on its findings at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and submit draft wording to amend relevant Resolutions, where appropriate."

The Committee agreed that this proposal should be forwarded for consideration at CoP15.

While discussing the late or non-submission of annual reports, the Secretariat was urged to continue encouraging States to submit their missing reports so their reporting levels are equivalent to those of others. It was also noted that small States may not have the capacity to report on a large and growing number of multilateral environmental agreements. This situation had prompted the representative of Oceania to develop a simplified draft template for joint reporting, which had now been passed to the South Pacific Environment Programme for follow-up.

The great importance of national reports as tools for assessing CITES implementation was stressed. In this connection, the decrease in the submission of biennial reports was a source of concern. It was suggested that the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements not limit itself to a review of reporting formats but also identify ways to reduce the reporting burden (e.g. consider the deletion of certain questions).

In relation to the preparation of annual reports, it was noted that the units of measurement used in some annual reports were inconsistent with Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14) as well as the guidelines for the preparation of annual reports, and Parties were encouraged to ensure that their reports were consistent with that guidance. The Secretariat stated that it would examine the existing situation with UNEP-WCMC and it offered to provide advice to Parties having difficulties in identifying appropriate units.

The Standing Committee agreed to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 31 and 34 of document SC58 Doc. 19 and requested a nomination from Asia by 10 July 2009 for membership in the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Zambia), Asia (China and Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (Canada), Oceania (Australia) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by Botswana, the United States and the Chair of the Plants Committee.

20. Ranching operations

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 20, drawing attention to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 35-37. Following several expressions of interest in the creation of a working group to assist its consideration of this matter, the Standing Committee established a working group on ranching operations in Madagascar, comprising France, Japan, Madagascar, the United States, IUCN and the Secretariat. The working group was requested to submit its recommendations later in the meeting.

When the agenda item was taken up again, the Chair of the working group (France) thanked the Director General of Madagascar for his full engagement in this matter, mentioned that Germany had also participated in the working group and then reported on the results of their work. The group had agreed there were concerns about Madagascar's implementation of Article IV of the Convention as well as Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14) and these concerns should be addressed in compliance with Resolution Conf. 14.3. Specifically, the group had identified a list of priority actions for Madagascar to complete by certain deadlines and a draft letter that would be sent by the Secretary-General to Madagascar in order to formally convey the list of priority actions. The Chair then read into the record the following list of priority actions that had been developed by the working group.

Priority actions

*approved by the CITES Standing Committee at its 58th meeting
(Geneva, July 2009) on the basis of recommendations adopted at SC55*

1. *The following priority actions must be implemented by Madagascar before 31 December 2009 in order to avoid a Standing Committee recommendation to suspend all international trade in specimens of the Nile crocodile originating from Madagascar:*
 - a) *Adopt the Strategy and Management Plan for Crocodiles in Madagascar that was prepared in 2004 (see document SC55 Doc.13, Annex B) and undertake its implementation.*
 - b) *Include crocodile controls within the national priorities which provide direction for the CITES Management Authority and law enforcement authorities located inland and at the border.*
 - c) *Convene a meeting of the National Crocodile Committee to immediately adopt administrative measures for monitoring crocodile ranching operations and artisans (e.g. registers and tagging, notably) and monitor the implementation of these measures by conducting related field controls.*
 - d) *In September 2009 at the latest, and in cooperation with the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, organize a training workshop on techniques for distinguishing wild-taken from ranched or captive-bred Nile crocodile skins and for regulating ranching operations (this workshop is aimed at the Management Authority, Scientific Authority and law enforcement authorities located inland and at the border).*
 - e) *Immediately after the training envisaged in paragraph d), carry out an initial audit of each ranching operation (Reptel's two units of production, Crocoranch's two units of production and eventually a third operation, if this unit intends to produce skins in the short term). These audits shall contain information on the state of the stocks, an estimation of the annual production capacity, an evaluation of stock management (database used for monitoring) and implementation of a tagging scheme.*
 - f) *Require each ranching operation to keep up-to-date two registers for inputs and outputs, respectively:*
 - i) *For living animals (inputs: references for the authorization of each supplier of eggs; outputs: date and place of slaughter).*
 - ii) *For skins (inputs: date and place of slaughter or references for the authorization of the supplier of skins; outputs: date of sale and contact details of the buyer).*
 - g) *Require artisans to keep an up-to-date register of inputs and outputs (inputs: references for the authorization of the supplier of skins; outputs: date of sale and contact details of the buyer).*
 - h) *Improve and implement, without delay, a scheme aimed at guaranteeing that wild-taken (source W) cannot be mixed with ranched or captive-bred (source R or C) skins; this scheme will be formalized in a written document under which those responsible for each ranching operation commit to adhere to a list of requirements concerning notably conditions for slaughter, the tagging of skins and the keeping of registers.*
 - i) *Require, via a note from the Director General of Forests, individuals or enterprises which supply eggs or skins to the ranching operations and/or to artisans to declare without delay, to a local representative of the forest administration, any harvesting of specimens of *Crocodylus niloticus* from the wild; following each declaration, the service concerned shall deliver an authorization which is dated, signed and uniquely numbered.*
 - j) *Inspect, once every two months on average, each ranching operation and carry out random inspections as well.*

- k) *Carry out a random inspection, at least once a year, of each artisan.*
 - l) *Seize skins that are determined to have been illegally acquired and initiate confiscation procedures, in accordance with applicable legislation.*
 - m) *In established cases of fraud or if operators do not conform to the provisions laid out in paragraphs f), h) and i) above, immediately suspend exports from the ranching operation concerned.*
 - n) *For 2010, establish CITES export quotas for each ranching operation. These quotas will be based on the operator's actual production capacities, according to the results of the audit mentioned in paragraph e) above.*
 - o) *Describe the functioning of the database used to monitor cases of human/crocodile conflicts and present an analysis of the data gathered through this database.*
2. *Madagascar's trading partners, the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, the CITES Secretariat and other interested stakeholders are invited to provide or to identify financial or technical assistance, so that actions envisaged under points d), e), j) and k) above can be implemented in due time.*
 3. *Madagascar shall transmit to the CITES Secretariat, before 10 January 2010, a report on implementation of the actions envisaged under points 1.a) to 1.o) and 2 above, for submission at the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (Doha, 12 March 2010).*
 4. *In addition, Madagascar shall transmit to the CITES Secretariat, in time for submission at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (2011), a report on implementation of the Work Plan 2007-2010 contained in document SC58 Inf. 2.*

Madagascar expressed its thanks to other working group members, said that it was aware of the challenges facing it and expressed its commitment to dealing with those challenges. It pointed out, however, that the country remained in crisis and that donors had withdrawn their support until the political situation was clarified. It asked for the means to support its implementation of the priority actions identified by the working group.

Concern was expressed about the population status of the Nile crocodile in Madagascar, on the basis of the information provided by the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group. IUCN stressed the importance of ensuring that Madagascar's trade in Nile crocodiles was legal, sustainable, verifiable and economically beneficial to local people, and offered to continue assisting Madagascar, if requested, to achieve conservation through sustainable use.

The Standing Committee agreed to the list of priority actions developed by the working group and further agreed that the Secretary-General should send a letter which formally conveyed the list to Madagascar.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by France, Madagascar, the United States and IUCN.

21. Review of Significant Trade

21.1 Implementation of recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 21.1

The Secretariat drew the attention to the need to replace "Viet Nam" with "India" on page 9 of the Spanish version of document SC58 Doc. 21.1 and amended its proposal concerning *Pachypodium bispinosum* and *Pachypodium succulentum* in the light of a reply received on 2 June 2009 from South Africa.

The recommendations in document SC58 Doc. 21.1 were broadly endorsed. Explanations from the range State concerned led the Committee to extend the deadlines for compliance in the case involving *Cyathea contaminans* and the revised recommendations for *Pachypodium bispinosum* and *Pachypodium succulentum* were supported. In contrast, the Committee felt that the situation concerning the cases involving *Cuora amboinensis*, *Cuora galbinifrons* and *Poicephalus senegalus* required firmer action.

Kuwait and Qatar offered support to Mongolia in its programme relating to *Falco cherrug*.

The Standing Committee noted the information in the document and adopted the recommendations in paragraphs 8. c), 10. e), 11. c), 14. f) and those in Annex 1 relating to *Christensonia vietnamica*, *Taxus wallichiana* and *Rauvolfia serpentina*.

With respect to *Pachypodium bispinosum* and *Pachypodium succulentum* in Annex 1, the Committee extended the deadline for the implementation of the recommendations in subparagraph a) until 31 December 2009 and requested the Secretariat to report on this matter at SC59.

With respect to *Cyathea contaminans* (paragraph 9), the Committee agreed that, by 31 October 2009, Indonesia should submit to the Secretariat a detailed programme of work to implement the recommendations directed to it at SC57, and requested the Secretariat to report on this matter at SC59.

The Committee referred consideration of the recommendation in paragraph 15 d) and those related to *Cuora amboinensis* and *Cuora galbinifrons* in Annex 1 to a working group comprising the representatives of Asia (China) and Europe (Bulgaria), the United States, the Chair of the Animals Committee, Humane Society International and Pro Wildlife.

With respect to *Prunus africana*, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat should liaise with the range States to help them in responding to the recommendations made by the Plants Committee at its 16th meeting (Lima, July 2006).

Later in the meeting, and in line with the recommendations of the working group it had established on this subject, the Committee recommended that, until the recommendations of the Animals Committee have been implemented to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee, all Parties suspend trade in *Cuora amboinensis* with Viet Nam and in *Cuora galbinifrons* with Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. It also instructed the Secretariat to report on these issues at its 61st meeting (SC61) and to contact and work with Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic to address the Animals Committee's recommendations, so that they could be resolved in a manner that addressed the conservation concerns for these species.

Concerning *Poicephalus senegalus*, the Committee instructed the Secretariat to engage further with Mali to carry out the study on status of this species, to be completed by SC61, and to provide a progress report at SC59. Until this study was completed, it recommended that Mali not establish a quota exceeding 5,000 specimens per year and that it consider suspending exports on a voluntary basis until a scientifically-established quota could be set.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan), Europe (Bulgaria), North America (Canada) and the Next Host Country (Qatar), and by Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, Humane Society International and TRAFFIC.

21.2 Distribution and status of the beluga populations in the Russian Federation

The Russian Federation introduced document SC58 Doc. 21.2.

Most speakers considered that, in line with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), the decision of whether to include a species in the Review of Significant Trade was a matter for

the Animals Committee. It was suggested that the proposal in paragraph 9 could be considered during the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade being conducted under Decision 13.67 (Rev. CoP14).

The Committee rejected the recommendation in paragraph 8 of the document.

The following statement was made by the Islamic Republic of Iran:

Islamic Republic of Iran, based on its policies and aims to preserve the aquatic resources of the Caspian Sea, has ongoing restocking programmes releasing millions of fingerlings annually. Stock assessment projects would be able to clearly verify the fact that releasing adequate number of fingerlings and creating favourable condition for them could secure the stock to improve its situation.

Due to efforts of the Caspian range States, the stock of the Caspian beluga would be more stable compared to the other habitat of the species. Moreover, appropriate fishery policies and practices, including strict controlling regulations; have guaranteed the preservation of the beluga stock. In fact, restocking the beluga population in the Caspian is our top priority and the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources as well as other international treaties like CITES is fully involved in this process.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has developed one of best and most effective labelling and marking system for caviar in the world which makes it possible to control and monitor any kind of illegal catch or trade in caviar. In the past the Government controlled export quotas for caviar from beluga and reduced it from 2.9 tons in 2002 to one ton in 2008. This control is in other words a kind of regulation to promote the recovery of the valuable sturgeon stocks.

Having mentioned these measures, among others, however, we have to underline the fact that the livelihood of a great number of people in the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries depends on these resources. We must be careful in exploring the best practices for implementation of the CITES. We are fully aware of the implications of overexploitation of these precious resources and at the same time we are equally concerned about negative impacts of inappropriate decisions on the well-being of the people involved. Counter-productive decisions will not serve the purpose of the Convention and not only will end up undermining the efforts of the range States, but will lead to an unpredictable situation. I'd like to emphasize that a balanced and cooperation-driven approach to accommodate both sides of the spectrum is possible and is the only viable approach to follow.

With a view to the fact that a species is included in the Review of Significant Trade only when continuous trade of this species causes serious harm to its natural stocks, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that the beluga sturgeon should not be included in the Review of Significant Trade. We would also like to second the Russian Federation recommendation to form a working group, in which the Islamic Republic of Iran be considered a member, to review this matter.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya), Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran), Europe (Bulgaria) and North America (Canada), and by the Chair of the Animals Committee, Institute for Ocean Conservation Science, WWF and the Secretariat.

21.3 Review of recommendations to suspend trade made more than two years ago

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 21.3 (Rev. 1) and speakers supported the recommendations it contained.

The Committee noted the information in paragraphs 6, 7 a) ii), 7 b), 7 c) ii), 9, 10 b) to f) and 11, and adopted the recommendations in paragraphs 7 a) iv), 7 c) iv) and 8 of document SC58 Doc. 21.3 (Rev. 1).

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Bulgaria) and North America (Canada), and by the United Republic of Tanzania and the Chair of the Animals Committee.

22. E-commerce of specimens of CITES-listed species

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 22, outlining the main elements of the document and highlighting the recommendations contained therein. It drew particular attention to two recommendations: the development of a toolkit for use by Parties and the general CITES community to assist with the regulation of legal trade of CITES-listed species via the Internet; and the establishment of a working group.

These recommendations were fully supported. There was also agreement to delete bracketed text found in the Annex to document SC58 Doc. 22.

Participants further supported the amendment of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP14), *Compliance and enforcement*, with the recommendations found in document SC58 Doc. 22. There was also agreement that more hard data was needed prior to reaching a decision on the inclusion of a recommendation to ban the sale of specimens of Appendix-I species via the Internet in the proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP14).

The Standing Committee established a working group on e-commerce of specimens of CITES-listed species comprising Australia, Cameroon, Canada, China, France, Germany, Kenya, Peru, Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Community, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Humane Society International, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), TRAFFIC, VC International and the Secretariat.

The Committee directed the working group to draft guidelines for consideration at CoP15, to discuss other issues related to e-commerce and to report at the 61st meeting of the Committee. The Committee also directed the Secretariat to develop a toolkit, subject to the availability of funding, in order to assist Parties and the general CITES community with the regulation of legal trade in specimens of CITES-listed species via the Internet.

Later in the meeting, the Committee also directed the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Working Group, to draft an amendment to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP14) taking into account recommendations in the Annex to document SC 58 Doc 22.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (Canada) and Oceania (Australia), and by Cameroon, India, IFAW, TRAFFIC and VC International.

23. Enforcement matters and Report of the CITES Enforcement Expert Group

The Secretariat introduced documents SC58 Doc. 23 and SC58 Doc. 23 Addendum. It highlighted the main outcomes of the CITES Enforcement Expert Group meeting. It then provided an oral update regarding a meeting in June, in Egypt, held with a view to establishing a wildlife enforcement network for Arabic-speaking countries. Representatives from Jordan, the Sudan and Yemen had participated. The Secretariat noted its disappointment at the low number of countries that had shown interest and the fact that funding may be needed to support attendance in future. A draft memorandum of understanding relating to 'Arabian-WEN' was to be circulated to potential member countries and another meeting may be convened later in 2009 or on the sidelines of CoP15.

The Secretariat advised the Committee that Environment Canada would, during the present meeting, launch a guide for the identification of falcons. A version has been produced, solely for the law enforcement community, which contained information to assist in targeting, risk-assessment and profiling.

Lastly, the Secretariat drew the Committee's attention to document SC58 Inf. 1, which described the outcomes of an international wildlife law enforcement workshop, hosted by the Government of Thailand.

During the subsequent discussions on enforcement matters, several members and observers congratulated the Secretariat on its work in this area, commended the outcomes of the Expert group meeting and endorsed the call for more staff in the Secretariat to work on this subject. Concern was expressed regarding illegal trade in the humphead wrasse and the Secretariat undertook to follow up on this issue. The representative of Africa (Kenya) offered to assist the Secretariat in establishing dialogue with Nigeria. The majority of interventions, however, focused on Egypt and allegations that illegal trade in great apes continued to take place there. Several members and observers expressed concern at the slow progress being made by Egypt in implementing recommendations made by the Secretariat in 2007.

The Standing Committee noted both documents and endorsed the recommendations of the CITES Enforcement Expert Group. It requested Egypt to report at CoP15 on its implementation of the recommendations contained in the Annex to document SC57 Doc. 20. Finally, it directed the Secretariat to monitor progress and provide support to Egypt.

The Chairman subsequently allowed representatives of the Permanent Missions of Cameroon and Egypt to the United Nations at Geneva to make interventions on this agenda item. Egypt emphasized its commitment to implementing the Convention and cooperating with the Secretariat. Both countries advised the Committee that they were working bilaterally on the issue of illegal trade in great apes.

During discussions on this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya), Asia (China), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (Canada), and by Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Indonesia, Kuwait, South Africa, the United States, IUCN, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Pro Wildlife, SSN, SMS, TRAFFIC and WWF.

Trade control and marking

24. Introduction from the sea

In the absence of the Chair of the Working Group on Introduction from the Sea, the Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 24. It mentioned that a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was present and might wish to inform the Standing Committee about its work related to this agenda item.

The Secretariat advised the Committee that a meeting of the Working Group was planned for 14-16 September 2009 in Geneva. It further advised the Committee that all regional fishery management organizations would be invited to participate in the meeting and that it was keen to learn whether additional Working Group members would be able to attend. The Secretariat explained that the revised rolling text to be discussed at the meeting would be completed later in the month and was focused on defining the term 'State of introduction', as suggested in comments received from Working Group members. Procedural questions related to introduction from the sea were likely to be postponed until later.

Those who commented on this agenda item stressed the importance of addressing issues surrounding introduction from the sea and conveyed appreciation and general support for the work that was underway. Some concern was expressed, however, about delays that had prevented the issue from moving forward more quickly. It was emphasized that any discussion document on introduction from the sea, submitted for consideration at CoP15, should first be endorsed by the Standing Committee. One Committee member said that it was concerned there was insufficient time for the Standing Committee to review the issue before CoP15. The Committee's review of a draft discussion document therefore needed to be expedited and not postponed until its 59th meeting. It was stated that the issue should be moved forward and that funds existed for a meeting of the Working Group. In response to queries about the purpose of these funds, the Secretariat explained that the majority of the funds would be used to support the participation of Working Group members from developing countries which qualified for such support.

The Secretariat confirmed that, in addition to the revised rolling text, a background document summarizing the history of Parties' consideration of introduction from the sea would be prepared.

The Committee was advised that FAO was undertaking a legal review of issues related to introduction from the sea, with the aim of providing input to the rolling text. An FAO technical consultation on a legally-binding instrument on port state measures was scheduled to take place in August 2009 and FAO was also in the process of compiling a global record of fishing vessels.

The Standing Committee agreed to the recommendation contained in paragraph 11 of document SC58 Doc. 24.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China and the Islamic Republic of Iran) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by Argentina, the United States, FAO and SMS.

25. Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates

The United States, as Chair of the Working Group on Purpose Codes, introduced document SC58 Doc. 25 and announced corrections to the final paragraph of the Annex, to make it consistent with paragraph 1 of the Annex. It reported that the Working Group had still not reached agreement on a number of issues and therefore proposed that its progress be reported at CoP15 and that the Conference be asked to approve the continuation of the review of purpose codes, with a final proposal to come to CoP16. Finally, it recommended that the working group prepare a draft decision for CoP15 directing the Standing Committee to establish another intersessional working group focusing on defining and clarifying purpose codes to encourage the consistent utilization of the codes, possible elimination of current codes or inclusion of new codes.

A number of participants did not support the proposal in the Annex to the document and so agreed that the Working Group should continue its work. The following suggestions were made:

- a) the codes for 'commercial' and 'non-commercial' purposes should be grouped separately;
- b) consistency with other Resolutions should be ensured;
- c) the codes should not be made more complicated than they were already;
- d) the use of codes should be minimized, for example by confining them to trade in Appendix-I species, as the Convention referred to the purpose of trade only for these;
- e) consideration should be given to possible legal consequences of changing the codes; and
- f) the codes should not be changed at all.

The Committee thanked the United States for its work in leading the working group on this subject, agreed that the progress should be reported at CoP15 and that the working group should continue its work to develop a draft decision to allow the working group to continue its work after CoP15 and narrow the focus of that work.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China and Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (Canada) and Oceania (Australia), and by Mexico, the Chair of the Animals Committee, Conservation Force and SMS.

26. Electronic permitting

Italy, as Chair of the Working Group on Electronic Permitting, advised the Committee that it wished to offer another Party the opportunity to chair the Working Group and proposed Switzerland. With the agreement of Switzerland, the Committee accepted this change in chairmanship.

Also on behalf of the United Kingdom, Switzerland reported on the progress made to exchange information electronically. It described its efforts to align the project with international standards and

norms, particularly those recommended by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, (UN/CEFACT).

The Secretariat described the contents of the Toolkit on CITES electronic permits and certificates and highlighted the need to adhere to international standards and norms. It summarized the results of meetings with UN/CEFACT and discussions with WCO. Finally, it reported on the results of discussions with the International Air Transport Association.

The Committee noted the oral report of Switzerland and the United Kingdom on their joint project to exchange electronically CITES permit data, as well as the oral report of the Secretariat on the development of a toolkit on CITES electronic permitting.

There were no interventions.

27. Trade in crocodylian specimens

The Chair of the Working Group on Trade in Crocodylian Specimens (the United States) introduced document SC58 Doc. 27 and thanked members for the excellent contributions they had made to the Group's work. The Chair briefly described the Working Group's terms of reference and the activities it had undertaken to seek agreement on a definition of 'small crocodylian leather product', identify major producers and consumers through a review of CITES trade data, assess the utility of the universal tagging system and consider ways to streamline existing permitting requirements.

The Chair drew particular attention to the Working Group's development and wide distribution of two questionnaires on the implementation and effectiveness of Resolution Conf. 11.12 and the issuance of CITES documents for small crocodylian leather goods, respectively. The Chair explained that the compiled results of these questionnaires were contained in Annexes 4 and 5 of document SC58 Doc. 27 and that key findings derived from those results were provided in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the main document. Since the preparation of the document, the Chair had also received a response from Italy.

The Chair reported that the Group's activities had resulted in proposed revisions to Resolutions Conf. 11.12 and Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14), which were contained in Annex 1 of the document. The proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.12 were largely designed to align the Universal Tagging System with current knowledge of crocodylian taxonomy, conservation and trade practice, and to streamline the tagging system while maintaining a robust and secure trade control regime. The proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14) comprised two additions to Part IX on *Regarding permits and certificates for crocodylian specimens* and were intended to encourage Parties to alleviate the administrative burden of, and to streamline, permitting procedures for small crocodylian leather products.

In summary, the Chair noted that, despite occasional debate and disagreement on several fine points, there was widespread support among Working Group members for the continued use of a tagging system and CITES documentation as means for ensuring a legal and sustainable trade in crocodylian skins and leather products.

General support was expressed for the Working Group's recommended revisions to Resolutions Conf. 11.12 and Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14). One non-governmental organization suggested that the revised version of Resolution Conf. 11.12 be amended to add the words 'flanks and chalecos' after 'skins' in the penultimate sentence of paragraph h) under RECOMMENDS, to add codes for the identification of crocodylian hybrids after the codes for identification of crocodylian species in Annex 1 to the Resolution and to add the words 'flanks and chalecos' after 'skins' in the penultimate sentence in paragraph 1 of Annex 2 to the Resolution. The same non-governmental organization also suggested that the revised version of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14) be amended in paragraph d) to delete the word 'indicated' before 'in Part' and to delete the word 'paragraph' after 'Part'. The Chair of the Working Group said that the suggested amendments were acceptable.

One Committee member noted the impact of import permit requirements that go beyond the Convention. In order to assist the development of simplified permitting procedures, it invited the

Working Group to analyse ways and means (e.g. e-permitting) to reduce the administrative burden associated with the permitting of trade in small crocodilian leather products.

Two observer Parties expressed concern about a possible proposal to exclude small crocodilian leather products from the Convention as this had important law enforcement implications. The removal of CITES controls or any dilution in CITES trade procedures for such products could encourage their manufacture to shift to range States, facilitate the mixing of legally acquired specimens with those that were not legally acquired, make it impossible for importing countries to verify the legal origin of imported products and afford a loophole for illegal trade. The Chair of the Working Group explained that the issue of an exemption for small crocodilian leather products had not been addressed by the Working Group. In response to support expressed for one out of several possible definitions of 'small crocodilian leather products', the Chair of the Working Group explained that the Group had discussed the various options at great length but had been unable to come to agreement except on a definition to be used in its work.

The Standing Committee agreed to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 and 13 of document SC58 Doc. 27.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Bulgaria), and by India, Israel and IWMC – World Conservation Trust.

28. Physical inspection of timber shipments

The Chair of the Working Group on Physical Inspection of Timber Shipments (Italy) introduced document SC58 Doc. 28 and gave an oral report on the activities of the working group, an update on information received from Parties, and a report on an informal meeting of group members at the present meeting. Italy explained the two main issues for the group were identification and the measurement of CITES timber, and that it would circulate a questionnaire to group members on these two issues. It called on interested Parties to join the Group and its discussion forum. A recommendation was made to extend Decisions 14.60 and 14.61 beyond CoP15.

The Committee urged Parties to contribute information to the Working Group on Physical Inspection of Timber Shipments and noted document SC58 Doc. 28 and the oral update of the Chair of the Working Group.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Bulgaria), Peru and by the United States.

29. Inconsistent implementation of Appendix-III timber listings annotated to include only the national populations of the listing countries

The United States introduced document SC58 Doc. 29, explaining the problem of implementation of Appendix-III timber listings annotated to include only national populations of the listings, and the frequent misunderstanding of how such listings were applied under the Convention. The United States recommended that the Secretariat issue a Notification to the Parties to clarify the implementation of such listings, and asked the Standing Committee to endorse a revision of Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP14). Wide support was expressed for the United States' analysis of the issue contained in the document. One member expressed concern that the proposed changes to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP14) would have the effect of increasing the burden for Parties. In response to a concern that the intention was to limit the rights of Parties to national populations in Appendix III, it was stressed that this was not possible and that the aim was merely to ensure that Parties were fully informed about the implications when any such listing was requested.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in paragraph 18 of document SC58 Doc. 29.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Chile), Europe (Bulgaria), North America (Canada) and Oceania (Australia), and by Brazil, the Chair of the Plants Committee, Humane Society International, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, SSN and WWF.

30. Identification manual

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 30. It provided a history of the development of the Identification Manual since it was initiated in 1977, and summarized the difficulties in maintaining its current format. It explained how the Manual was now being developed, through a contract with UNEP-WCMC, as a Web-based database incorporating a Wiki element to allow users registered with the Secretariat to add and modify the identification-related section of the Identification Manual. The database could be read and searched online, and users would also be able to print data sheets if so desired. The Secretariat explained that the new Identification Manual database would be available on the CITES website from 1 September 2009. This overall development was generally well received, even though it was pointed out that it may not be favourable to Parties having difficulty accessing the Internet.

The Committee noted document SC58 Doc. 30 and the oral update of the Secretariat.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China and Japan) and Europe (Bulgaria), and by Israel.

Exemptions and special trade provisions

31. Personal and household effects

In the absence of the Chair of the Working Group on Personal and Household Effects, the Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 31. It advised the Standing Committee that several sets of comments had been shared among Working Group members in response to the Chair's initiation of another round of electronic discussions. It further advised the Committee that an informal meeting of the Working Group, chaired by the United States with support from China (Hong Kong SAR), had been held in the margins of the present meeting and had attracted an unexpectedly high level of interest.

Speaking as acting Chair of the Working Group, the delegate from the United States reported that there had been good discussions within their informal meeting and that electronic discussions would continue on two key issues, with the aim of submitting a document at CoP15.

Speaking on behalf of his country, the delegate from the United States expressed hesitancy about seeking the Standing Committee's endorsement of the document's content in advance of its preparation and without a transparent debate. He suggested that the Working Group proceed with its work and submit a discussion document for consideration at CoP15 which did not have the endorsement of the Standing Committee. As the original mandate of the Working Group contained a number of complicated issues, he further suggested that the Working Group would need to meet in the margins of CoP15 in order to achieve as much result as possible.

A member of the Standing Committee thanked the acting Chair for its efforts and expressed support for the continuation of electronic discussions in the Working Group and the preparation of a report for CoP15.

The Committee requested the Working Group on Personal and Household Effects to prepare a report, pursuant to Decision 14.64, for direct submission to and consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting. This report should indicate that it had not received the prior endorsement of the Standing Committee.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Asia (China) and by the United States.

Species trade and conservation

32. Great apes

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 32. It drew the Committee's attention to document SC58 Inf. 8, a declaration adopted following a recent meeting in Germany about gorillas. It also

noted the production by PASA of an Arabic language version of the CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force awareness-raising poster, which was on display in the conference centre and expressed its appreciation of this work. Lastly, it congratulated Malaysia on a recent seizure of orang-utans that had apparently been illegally imported.

It was noted that more enforcement and prosecution action needed to be taken to protect these species. Increased support to range States was encouraged, as was increased cooperation between countries affected by illegal trade. It was reported that poaching of great apes was occurring in central Africa to supply bushmeat to restaurants in the region.

The Committee noted document SC58 Doc. 32 and the oral update of the Secretariat.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (the United Kingdom), and by Cameroon and WWF.

33. Asian big cats

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 33. It thanked Indonesia for offering to host the law enforcement-related intelligence training for tiger range States, which was planned for late in 2009. It noted that the CITES Enforcement Expert Group was not in favour, with regard to Decision 14.72, of any further species-specific database but that, instead, the Group believed its recommendations on this general issue should address the matter.

The Secretariat drew the Committee's attention to document SC58 Inf. 3, which had been prepared by the World Bank and which described the Global Tiger Initiative. The Secretariat reported the efforts made by its staff, the Global Tiger Forum and IUCN to implement Decision 14.70, with regard to a conservation strategy workshop. Such efforts had been made in conjunction with activities planned under the Global Tiger Initiative and a technical workshop was to take place in Nepal in October 2009. The Secretariat noted the emergence of the Global Tiger Initiative since Decisions had been adopted at CoP14 and that this had made coordination complex. It noted that, whilst a workshop in Nepal could well benefit tiger conservation, it may not be in the form envisaged at CoP14. The Secretariat also noted that a number of tiger-related events would take place in 2009 and 2010 and that it would be important to ensure coordination of activities. IUCN reported that it had not been able to undertake the facilitation process asked of it at CoP14 in a manner that would align with the Global Tiger Initiative processes, but stated that it remained committed to assisting range States to develop a global tiger conservation strategy, should that be wanted.

During subsequent discussions on this topic, considerable disappointment was expressed over the poor rate of reporting and great emphasis was placed on the grave situation facing tigers in the wild. Several interventions commended the ban on domestic trade in China and stressed the threat posed by any commercial trade in tigers. China noted the importance of considering diverse approaches to tiger conservation and that too narrow a focus could distract from the real needs of tigers.

It was suggested that consideration be given to amending Resolution Conf. 12.5, to reflect the wording of some of the CoP14 Decisions, and that some form of compliance list might be developed.

The Committee directed the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties calling upon range States of Asian big cats to submit reports complying with Decisions 14.65 and 14.69 within 90 days, for their consideration at SC59, ahead of CoP15. In response to proposals, the Committee agreed that amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (*Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*) would best be proposed by a Party to the Convention and not the Secretariat.

The following statement was made by China.

China would like to make a statement, seeking clarification on whether or not the IUCN statement, made on 9 July, had been included in the future narrative report.

China is a responsible country to protect wild tigers, 16 years of domestic trade ban on tiger bone is an active and independent approach taken by Chinese government to address the crisis

of tiger population. It should be regarded as a big contribution to the conservation of tigers. During this standing committee meeting, we are happy to see the new force for tiger conservation joined, however the diversified approaches to achieve the common goal of wild tiger population protection should be reserved. Therefore, the IUCN's statement should be recorded, as we believe any recommendations and strategy should come from the baseline and scientific assessment to the protection status and the review to the policy. Emotion can not address the real challenge faced by wild tigers. China is concerned that if we keep focusing on the narrow and indirectly relevant issues, the strengthening of relevant tiger conservation bodies will be jeopardized and our efforts will be distracted from the real need of tiger conservation. China has been strictly implemented the trade ban. The international community should be satisfied and such spirit of international cooperation should be promoted under CITES. China will pursue its total commitment to tiger conservation through its international obligations in line with its national interests.

*We didn't received any objections from Standing Committee members on our request for recording of the statement made by IUCN, China therefore, requests that IUCN statement be included in the record of SC58 meeting as well as this statement.*¹

Thank you for your consideration.

The following statement was made by India:

The Government of India wishes to reiterate the significance and importance of wild tiger. Tiger is our national animal and is significant from ecological and cultural perspective. The experience over the last 35 years in saving the tiger has adequately demonstrated the fact that the entire ecological and the life support systems are conserved.

Tiger has responded very well to managerial practices and the Government of India has taken a number of milestone initiatives in the recent past to strengthen tiger conservation in the country. Several legal, administrative, financial and bilateral initiatives have been taken. The National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau have been operationalized. The Project Tiger Scheme has been revamped and funding support to States has been stepped up to 600 crores of Rupees during the Plan period. An additional allocation of Rs. 50 crores has been provided for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force. An area of around 30,000 km². has been notified as core/critical tiger habitat to keep the area inviolate for tigers, which amounts to almost 1% of our geographical area.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued a number of advisories for mainstreaming good practices to conserve tiger across the tiger States in India. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding has been operationalized to ensure reciprocal commitments between the Centre, States and Field Directors of Tiger Reserves to secure reciprocal commitments for tiger. The efforts have been done to step up intelligence based enforcement, creation of buffer zone, addressing man-tiger conflicts and providing livelihood options to local people for support. These positive changes in governance are proving effective. The States have been requested to involve civil society institutions and NGOs for tiger conservation.

We appeal to all Parties to appreciate our efforts and to complement the same by restricting the threats which endangered the wild tiger like poaching and trafficking of tiger body parts. The trade in farmed body parts of tiger is a threat to wild tigers and hence it should be stopped by all Parties on a priority basis.

Further India would like to reiterate that the Notification to the Parties (2008/059) has been ignored by most of the relevant Parties. This was important to know the progress relating to implementation of Decision 14.69.

¹ The statement made by IUCN is not included here because, in accordance with Standing Committee Rule 28, statements included are only those made by representatives of Parties.

The situation on a tiger front continues to be grim because of poaching and illegal trade in their body parts. Tiger farming is a serious threat to wild tigers and, therefore, India as a country having the maximum wild tigers urges the Standing Committee for recommending the Parties to refrain from accepting shipments of CITES listed species from Parties which have not provided a satisfactory progress to the Standing Committee in this regard.

India would also urge the Standing Committee to prescribe a revised deadline to Parties, to report back on implementation of Decision 14.69.

India would like to respond to the GTI of the World Bank:

India may participate in the GTI to the extent of building up the capacity of knowledge institutions involved in the field of wildlife management and forestry, apart from participating in events like the pre-summit tiger workshop and the Global Tiger Summit (2010).

The platform of GTI may be used for disseminating / exchange of good practices amongst the tiger range countries, apart from addressing cross border illegal wildlife trade issues.

The GTI would not be used as a field project for tiger conservation in States.

India may favourably consider hosting the Global Tiger Summit in the year 2010 to showcase our milestone initiatives for tiger conservation, into share experience from other tiger range countries.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China and the Islamic Republic of Iran), Europe (the United Kingdom) and Oceania (Australia), and by India, Malaysia, Sweden (on behalf of the European Community Member States), the United States, the Global Tiger Forum, the World Bank, Environmental Investigation Agency, IUCN, SMS, TRAFFIC and WWF.

34. Bushmeat

The Secretariat introduced item 34. It reported that, in relation to Decisions 14.73 and 14.74, it had written to the coordinator of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group to ask whether the Group would be reporting at the present meeting, but that no reply had been received. The representative of Europe (the United Kingdom) stressed the importance of receiving regular reports on the Group's work.

The Committee noted that there was no report from the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group and instructed the Secretariat to encourage the Group to report at future Committee meetings.

There were no other interventions.

35. Tibetan antelope

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 35 and encouraged potential donors to support the training proposed by the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group.

The United Kingdom supported the Secretariat's suggestion of restricting the Committee's consideration of this species to once between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee noted the report of the Secretariat and agreed to the Secretariat's suggestion in paragraph 7 of document SC58 Doc. 35.

There were no other interventions.

36. Elephants

36.1 Reviews of the status of the elephant, trade in its specimens and the impact of the legal trade

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 36.1. Limited funding had been obtained from the European Community to comply with the Standing Committee's agreement at SC57 for the Secretariat to compile relevant information on the conservation status of and trade in elephants in consultation with IUCN, TRAFFIC and UNEP-WCMC, and to ensure that this would not duplicate other reporting on or reviews of elephants. The funding arrived too late for undertaking comprehensive research but allowed the Secretariat to contract UNEP-WCMC to collate existing published materials on the status of and trade in elephants.

UNEP-WCMC provided an overview of the content of the report in Annex 2 to document SC58 Doc. 36.1, *Conservation status of and trade in elephants*, stating that it summarized the best publicly available scientific information on the conservation status of African and Asian elephants, CITES trade data and trends in illegal trade from the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) and illegal killings documented by MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants). It noted that the IUCN African Elephant Status Report of 2007 and the recent 'Strategic framework for the *African elephant action plan*' had been referred to extensively. As no equivalent assessments for the Asian elephant existed and as time had been too short to involve the IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group in research, a literature review had been undertaken for each Asian elephant range State.

Several interventions mentioned that more up-to-date information on African elephants was available than what was contained in UNEP-WCMC's report. Some said the report did not meet expectations as they considered it a desktop exercise based on well-known publications. The impacts of the one-off ivory sales in 2008 were said not to have been adequately reviewed, and it was noted that there was no deadline for the submission of the study. One speaker suggested that the study should concentrate more on aspects of human-elephant conflicts and management of elephant habitat. While indicating that the study was of interest, other speakers recognized that late funding had prevented it to be as comprehensive and up-to-date as desired. Consequently, they thought that the review of the conservation status of and trade in elephants, and of the impacts of the legal trade should continue.

Noting that UNEP-WCMC had summarized the best available information, TRAFFIC and IUCN reiterated that they had been unable to engage in producing a more contemporary study in view of the lack of resources, but remained interested in participating in such an effort. China noted the financial difficulties in implementing Decision 14.78 and indicated that it was collecting funds to support efforts to conserve elephants which could also be applied to undertaking the study.

The Standing Committee agreed that Decision 14.78 had not yet been complied with and that the recommendations it had formulated at its 57th meeting with regard to the implementation of this Decision remained in effect.

During discussions on this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya and Zambia), Asia (China), Europe (the United Kingdom) and Oceania (Australia), and by Botswana, Israel, Sweden (on behalf of the European Community Member States), the United Republic of Tanzania, IFAW, IUCN, TRAFFIC and UNEP-WCMC.

36.2 Control of trade in elephant ivory

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 36.2. It provided an update in relation to Zimbabwe and described the detailed information it had received from the authorities of this country. This gave details of prosecutions and other enforcement activities, especially support by the Attorney General's Office in Zimbabwe. The Secretariat explained that the information addressed the concerns it had had, so that it was not inclined to make any recommendations to the Committee in respect of Zimbabwe.

The Secretariat was encouraged to continue to support countries, such as Ethiopia, where unregulated or illegal ivory trade was taking place. Several interventions stressed the importance of combating ongoing elephant poaching as well as the important role domestic ivory markets in Africa continued to play in illegal trade.

The Committee noted document SC58 Doc. 36.2 and the oral update of the Secretariat.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Africa (Kenya), and by Sweden (on behalf of the European Community Member States), the United States, Zimbabwe, Humane Society International, TRAFFIC and WWF.

36.3 Report on the one-off ivory sale in southern African countries

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 36.3 (Rev. 1), noting that paragraph 11 should be corrected to indicate that, during the inspection of the ivory that had arrived in Japan, those present included representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Finance. It thanked all the countries of export and import of the ivory for their facilitation of the inspections.

The Committee noted document SC58 Doc. 36.3 (Rev. 1).

There were no interventions.

36.4 African elephant action plan and African Elephant Fund

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 36.4 and reported on the implementation of Decisions 14.75, 14.79 and 14.76. It congratulated the African elephant range States for having drafted a comprehensive *African elephant action plan*, which was expected to be finalized soon. It thanked the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group for its valuable inputs and the European Community for its support, allowing the organization of two African elephant meetings where the *Action plan* could be discussed and considerable progress made. Regarding the African Elephant Fund, the Secretariat explained that, owing to a lack of human resources, it had been unable to convene and moderate a working group on this matter, but indicated that this situation was expected to improve in the very near future. The Secretariat thanked the donors that had contributed to the Fund and the MIKE programme in compliance with Decision 14.76. It observed that Parties had agreed to other elephant trade-related activities requiring external funding which were, however, not mentioned in Decision 14.76, such as the implementation of the *Action plan* for the control of trade in elephant ivory and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), and that the Decision could be revised accordingly.

The representative of Africa (Kenya), on behalf of the 37 African elephant range States, then reported on progress with the implementation of Decision 14.75. A working group had met in Dar es Salaam in June 2009 to finalize a draft of an *African elephant action plan*. This draft was to be circulated for comments to the African elephant range States and to the three donor countries that had attended the second African elephant meeting in Gigiri in March 2009. It would also be shared with the Standing Committee and others for input. The Secretariat was encouraged to organize a two-day meeting to finalize the establishment of the African Elephant Fund in compliance with Decision 14.76, and to collaborate closely with the African elephant range States in this regard. The African elephant range States trusted that the *Action plan* and the African Elephant Fund would be operational by October 2009. The representative of Africa also thanked all African elephant range States and partners for their support, spirit of cooperation and understanding. Donors were urged to commit funding to the African Elephant Fund.

Progress made by the 37 African elephant range States with the *African elephant action plan* were noted with appreciation, and it was hoped that the *Action plan* could be finalized rapidly. It was stressed that cooperation was a prerequisite for successful elephant conservation.

The Standing Committee noted document SC58 Doc. 36.4 and the oral update that Kenya provided in the name of all 37 African elephant range States regarding progress in the implementation of Decision 14.75. The Committee urged the African elephant range States and the Secretariat to complete the implementation of Decisions 14.75 and 14.79 as soon as possible.

During discussions on this item, interventions were made by the representative of Africa (Kenya), and by Botswana and Sweden (on behalf of the European Community Member States).

36.5 Decision-making mechanism for authorizing ivory trade

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 36.5, reporting that it had approached several governmental donors to secure resources for undertaking a study on the development of a decision-making mechanism and process for future trade in elephant ivory, as had been agreed by the Standing Committee at SC57.

It was stressed that this study should be conducted in a transparent manner and wide consultation when undertaking the study was encouraged. Some speakers thought that decisions on future ivory trading mechanisms should only be made after the impacts of legal raw ivory trade had been established and after an ivory-trade resting period had elapsed, with the year 2017 referred to as a timeline. Others stated that the mechanism should not be developed in the anticipation that it would result in renewed trade in raw ivory. However, it was also retorted that the Parties had already decided on the time-frame for the implementation of Decision 14.77, and that this matter was not to be considered by the Standing Committee. While the cost of the study was questioned, it was also stated that the sooner the study was initiated, the earlier Decision 14.77 could be complied with.

The Secretariat reiterated that the Terms of Reference for the study, as adopted at SC57, specified the need for transparency and consultation with all stakeholders, and that Decision 14.77 contained clear instructions concerning the timing for its implementation. It noted that the estimated cost of carrying out the study (USD 60,000) was relatively low in view of the amount of work that was required in the Terms of Reference.

Surprise was expressed that the United Republic of Tanzania's might submit a proposal for consideration at CoP15, to transfer its elephant population to Appendix II. One speaker believed that a nine-year moratorium for the submission of African elephant listing proposals had been agreed at CoP15. The Secretariat clarified that the Parties had decided at CoP14 that African elephant range States whose populations were already included in Appendix II (i.e. Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe) should not submit further proposals to allow trade in elephant ivory for a period of nine years after the single sale of their ivory stockpiles in 2008, i.e. until 2017. However, these restrictions did not apply to the other African elephant range States, which all had their populations in Appendix I and which could therefore submit an amendment proposal concerning the African elephant and trade in ivory.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in paragraph 5 of document SC58 Doc. 36.5.

During discussions on this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya and Zambia), and by Botswana, Israel, Sweden (on behalf of the European Community Member States), IFAW, IWMC – World Conservation Trust and SSN.

36.6 MIKE-ETIS subgroup

The Secretariat introduced document SC57 Doc. 36.6.

It was suggested that the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup consider the budgets of the two monitoring programmes and their long-term sustainability. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup was encouraged to discuss solutions for the financial difficulties faced by the Asian component of the MIKE programme.

The Committee asked the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to convene and report later in the meeting on the issues listed in paragraph 8 of document SC58 Doc. 36.6.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Africa (Zambia), as Chair of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, introduced document SC58 Com. 3, noting the recent progress made by the MIKE and ETIS programmes and reporting on the main results of the in-session meeting of the Subgroup. These included an agreement on priority tasks that the Subgroup would undertake until CoP15, an agenda for the next meeting of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, general approval of the ongoing MIKE and ETIS data collection and analytical activities, a call for financial support for ETIS, and endorsement of the initiatives that the MIKE Central Coordination Unit planned to undertake in Asia to revitalise the programme in that sub-region. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup wished to convene earlier in the week in the sidelines of future meetings of the Standing Committee. It had also agreed that members of the Technical Advisory Group could participate in its future meetings.

The Committee noted the report of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup.

During discussions of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya and Zambia) and by Sweden (on behalf of the European Community Member States).

Later in the meeting, the following statement was made by the African representative (Kenya):

Thank you Mr Chair,

I make this statement on behalf of 21 African elephant range States represented in this meeting by Kenya, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr Chair, I wish this statement to be on the record and included in the report of this meeting.

My statement relates to the agreement reached in The Hague in 2007 at CoP14, concerning the resting period, also known as the ivory moratorium.

Mr Chair, elephants and the trade in ivory has probably been the single most contentious issue considered by CITES Parties since 1989. Ivory trade and the protection of elephants have dominated the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES since that time.

This, indeed, was one of the key motivating factors that propelled the African elephant range States to reach the agreement they did in 2007, whereby certain countries were able to sell a strictly controlled amount of their stockpiled ivory and, in return, a nine-year moratorium was agreed, during which time no further ivory trade would be permitted.

That, Mr Chair, was the MINIMUM that the 21 countries of African elephant range States were willing to agree to, and it was our clear understanding that no elephant proposals of any kind would be considered until AT LEAST nine years after the one-off sales were concluded.

Notwithstanding our understanding of what was agreed, it is deeply disappointing to know that the resting period only applies to four of the 37 range States with African elephants, and that we may now be faced with further down-listing proposals, possibly even linked to trade.

Mr Chair, the African Elephant Coalition does not believe that further down-listing or ivory trade proposals are in the spirit of what was agreed, nor do we believe that this is what Germany, as President of the EU during CoP14 and at that time acted as a mediator, and those other Parties who had been negotiating, had believed to be the case.

Mr Chair, we have expressed our clear disappointment about where matters currently stand, including regret that this issue has not so far been raised with other elephant range States during their last dialogue process. And although we respect the words that appear in the record of CoP14, in the spirit of African unity, I ask my colleagues from Africa with the intention to down-list their population to consider most carefully the African Unity and agree to abide by the SPIRIT of what was so comprehensively discussed and agreed in The Hague.

We also want to report to the Standing Committee and that we are currently experiencing an upsurge in poaching and increase in ivory smuggling since the last CoP14.

Thank you Mr Chair.

37. Rhinoceroses

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 37. It reported on its intention to conduct a mission to Viet Nam regarding illegal trade in specimens of this species. The Secretariat also provided an update on the work recently conducted in southern Africa by Interpol and staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's forensic laboratory to provide capacity building to law enforcement officers. The Secretariat stressed the poor level of reporting with regard to rhinoceros horn stocks held by Parties.

Great emphasis was placed on the serious threats posed by poaching and illegal trade. Range States explained the efforts they were making but stressed, as did other speakers, that illegal trade risked reversing the success that had been achieved in rhinoceros populations' recovery. The organized and sophisticated nature of poaching and illegal trade was remarked upon and the need for greater enforcement, more prosecutions, attention to markets and increased international cooperation was identified. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue to provide support.

The Committee noted document SC58 Doc. 37 and the oral update of the Secretariat.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by Botswana, Cameroon, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, the World Bank, IUCN, SSN, TRAFFIC and WWF.

38. Sturgeons

38.1 Caviar trade database

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 38.1, which the Committee noted.

There were no interventions.

38.2 Recommendations of the Animals Committee

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced item 38.2, making reference to document SC58 Inf. 11. Although the recommendations were agreed with one clarification, speakers regretted not having seen them in writing in advance of the meeting.

The Committee urged the range States concerned to consider all recommendations in document AC24 Doc. 12.2, including those provided in the Appendices, in working with the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources to continue to improve the sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology.

The Committee asked the Caspian range States to implement the above recommendations and report at the 25th meeting of Animals Committee (AC25) on progress made in improving the existing sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology through a detailed report describing how the recommendations in document AC24 Doc. 12.2 have been implemented and whether they have been

accepted by all range States. This report should be submitted to the Secretariat four months prior to AC25 for the purposes of external review.

The Committee asked the range States concerned to provide a report at CoP15 on progress made in improving the existing sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch determination methodology.

The Committee recognized that, contrary to the information provided in the report of the FAO and CITES Technical Workshop (document AC24 Doc. 12.2), the Islamic Republic of Iran had been applying, since 2002, the unified methodology for sturgeon stock assessment and TAC estimation.

The following statement was made by the representative of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran):

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to improving the sturgeon stock assessment and TAC determination methodology. That is why we proposed and followed eagerly convening a joint Workshop with the FAO in November 2008 in Rome, where unfortunately the leading sturgeon experts on sturgeon stock assessment of the I.R. of Iran were not able to participate because their visas were not issued on time.

We regret that a number of issues raised in the Workshop were either inaccurate or simply far from the truth. For example, while the Islamic Republic of Iran has been utilizing the unified methodology since 2002, it has been referred to, based on 2004 FAO report, as a country resorting to an allegedly inappropriate methodology.

It is to be noted that the FAO report has been based on pre 2002 information, whereas since 2002, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as I said before, has followed the unified methodology using bottom trawls for sturgeon stock assessment like all other Caspian littoral states and the methodology mentioned in the 2004 report is no longer used by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As decided at the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources of the Caspian Sea, the Islamic Republic of Iran conducts two marine surveys (one in summer and the other in winter) in the Iranian waters on board two research vessels and conducts sturgeon stock assessment based on the methodology agreed upon at the FAO meeting. Representatives of other Caspian States either have been on board the two research vessels or are aware of using the methodology by Iran as recommended in the FAO Workshop.

I would also like to point out that although the Islamic Republic of Iran has accepted to follow the methodology followed by the other Caspian states, it does not in any way mean that the existing methodology is free from drawbacks and failures. For example sampling strategy, catch co efficiency and depth of sampling are subject to question.

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran generally supports the recommendations of the WG4, provided that modifications are made, either to the FAO workshop report or to these recommendations in order to accurately reflect the realities on the ground regarding the use of unified methodology by the Islamic Republic of Iran along with other Caspian littoral states.

We look forward to the generous financial and technical support of the Standing Committee and the CITES Secretariat in achieving the best and most reliable stock assessment methodology. To this end, we will fully support the recommended workshops in cooperation with FAO.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran) and North America (Canada), and the Russian Federation.

39. Bigleaf mahogany

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 39. It advised the Standing Committee that it had held related bilateral discussions with Peruvian authorities both during a mission to Peru in April 2009 and in the margins of the present meeting. The latter discussions had resulted in a revised set of Secretariat findings and recommendations, which it read out to the Standing Committee.

With regard to its implementation of Recommendation 1 contained in document SC58 Doc. 39, Peru summarized the legislative instruments that provided for the designation of CITES authorities, the regulation of trade in accordance with the Convention and the penalties for illegal trade as well as other offences. It explained that, while a number of legal instruments had recently been abrogated, this had not affected Peru's implementation of the Convention.

With regard to Recommendation 2, Peru listed the steps that had been taken to implement the National Action Plan for Mahogany, including the completion of a population assessment for mahogany, issuance of non-detriment findings, definition of yield calculation methods, establishment of national technical groups that deal with mahogany, and harmonization of management plans for mahogany.

With regard to Recommendations 3, 4 and 6, Peru undertook to send more information on the 2007, 2008 and 2009 quotas and thanked the Secretariat for its offer to identify alternatives for dealing with the additional remainders that had been identified from trees harvested in 2008. It explained that the 2009 export quota for bigleaf mahogany was 851 trees or 5,043 m³ and reported that 446 m³ from the 2009 quota had been exported in May and June 2009, i.e. five shipments to the United States and one shipment to the Dominican Republic.

With regard to Recommendations 8 and 9, Peru reported that the coefficient yields used to set the 2009 quota had been approved by the Management Authority and were consistent with the April 2009 workshop on yield coefficients that had been organized under the project between CITES and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

With regard to Recommendation 10, Peru expressed its full commitment to the sustainable use of mahogany, indicating that Peru's objective was to establish a system of quotas for each forest management unit based on its corresponding non-detriment findings. Concerning trade in semi-finished and finished products, it said there were high-level requirements for semi-finished products. There was also a need, however, for both exporting and importing countries to harmonize the tariff lines used to identify both semi-finished and finished products. In relation to recommendation SC55 (c)(i), Peru said that a proposal had been developed to review, design and test an information system for forest management control, with financing from ITTO and the Ministry of Agriculture. In relation to recommendation SC55 (c)(iii), it explained that the multi-sectoral commission against illegal logging had been discontinued and that part of its functions had been assumed by OSINFOR.

With regard to Recommendation 11, Peru expressed appreciation for the support that it had received under the ITTO-CITES Project.

Peru was commended for the progress that it had made as well as for its increased transparency and provision of detailed information. Support was also expressed for the Secretariat's revised recommendations and for its position regarding Peru's retrospective amendment of its 2008 quota. Chile mentioned that, whilst it was not an exporter or importer of mahogany, it had recently adopted a law on forest resources and would be willing to share its experience with Peru.

A Party said that it was prudent for Peru and the Secretariat to engage in consultations that would clarify what was needed to fully implement the SC57 recommendations and ensure that related progress continue to be made. It expressed support for a Secretariat mission to Peru and said that it might participate, if appropriate. Expressing concern about the broader issue of management of and trade in bigleaf mahogany, it noted that issues similar to those faced by Peru also existed in other range States. In this connection, it pointed out that Bolivia was now the largest exporter of bigleaf mahogany. With regard to other timber species, it mentioned that trade in *Cedrela odorata* was replacing trade in mahogany and was affected by the same problems.

The Chair of the Plants Committee recognized that Peru had done much to respond to the attention focused on its mahogany use and trade during recent years. During its review of non-detriment findings for trade in mahogany, the Plants Committee had determined that such findings were being properly made in Peru. Nevertheless, in light of new information provided at the present meeting, it seemed that Peru's procedures for making such findings still needed to be improved and the Plants Committee stood ready to assist Peru with this work. The Plants Committee had already discussed the issue of semi-finished and finished timber products and had drafted several decisions for consideration at CoP15. One of these decisions envisaged CITES and ITTO undertaking a market study on trade in products of timber species listed in Appendices II and III of the Convention.

Peru expressed thanks for others' words of encouragement and said that it would be glad to work with any delegation interested in undertaking a technical mission to the country. It explained that some decrees had been sent back to the legislature for adjustment regarding certain social and political aspects, but that there was no legal vacuum in the country at the moment in relation to its forest and wildlife legislation. With regard to alleged gaps in the penal code, it explained that a recent case of suspected illegal timber trade was under investigation and that due process needed to be followed.

Whilst acknowledging the progress made by Peru, a participant expressed concern that recent developments showed some backward movement. The repeal of certain legislation earlier in the year called into question the legal basis for actions taken to implement the SC57 recommendations. Despite amendments to the penal code, no prosecutions related to illegal mahogany trade had yet been undertaken and there were legislative loopholes regarding the use of CITES documents by traders and exporters. It expressed support for the Secretariat's revised recommendations and asked that they be made available in written form. Further discussion of this item was adjourned until the following day to allow for the distribution of a document that had been read out by the Secretariat.

This document was thereafter distributed as document SC58 Com. 2, which the Secretariat introduced noting that revised versions of the document contained French and Spanish translations of the Secretariat's recommendations. It advised the Standing Committee that bilateral consultations on the document had been undertaken with Peru, resulting in certain amendments to the text which it then read out as follows.¹

Recommendation 1

As indicated in the Annex to document SC58 Doc. 18 on National laws for implementation of the Convention, Peru's legislation has been included in Category 1 - with brackets which indicate that the categorization is pending analysis of the implications of the derogation of decree 1090 confirmation of the legislation's legal validity. ~~Certain legislation in the country has been suspended in the country on the basis of constitutionality concerns related to the sufficiency of consultation with indigenous peoples.~~ We understand that the government is working hard to address these concerns as quickly as possible. In the meantime, the Secretariat has received some additional information on this point from Peru and discussed it with the delegation. We need some additional time, however, to complete our legislative analysis of the implications that the suspension has for CITES-related legislation.

Recommendation 6

The Secretariat appreciated receiving the Scientific Authority's non-detriment finding reports for 2007 and 2008 and would also like to receive its non-detriment finding report for 2009. As mentioned earlier, Peru adopted Resolutions regarding the 2008 and 2009 quotas and provided them to the Secretariat. Peru has been increasingly transparent about details regarding its mahogany management and trade and, in the future, might consider making information about mahogany quotas, approved concessions and other relevant information available on its government website. In bilateral discussions with the United States, the Secretariat learned that

¹ New text is underlined and deleted text is crossed out.

it has received three mahogany shipments from Peru during 2009 involving the 2007 and 2008 quotas. Peru clarified in its oral intervention that 6 permits have been recently issued under the 2009 quota. No shipments have apparently been made or received under the 2009 quota.

Revised Secretariat recommendations

The Secretariat would revise the recommendation contained in paragraph 21 of document SC58 Doc. 39 as follows:

The Standing Committee should continue its review of Peru's implementation of the SC57 recommendations at SC59 (March 2010). In the interim, Peru should compile additional information or undertake relevant action regarding its implementation of the SC57 recommendations. The Secretariat should undertake a ~~technical assistance and verification~~ mission to Peru later this year, whose terms of reference will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the chair of the Plants Committee and Peru. Thereafter, Peru should prepare an updated status report on its implementation of the SC57 recommendations.

On behalf of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat should send a letter to mahogany range States advising them of Recommendation 5 (i.e. the inclusion of information on authorized and verified concessions in their export permits) and urging them to implement it.

The Standing Committee should advise countries, other than the US, - which import mahogany from Peru - of Recommendation 7 and urge them to implement it.

The Standing Committee took note ~~Building on~~ of discussions in the Plants Committee on commodities and plans under the ITTO-CITES timber Project to fund a market study on mahogany products; ~~the Standing Committee should request the Secretariat to identify funding for and undertake, in cooperation with ITTO and perhaps the International Trade Centre in Geneva, a market study on the trade in raw, semi finished and finished bigleaf mahogany products.~~ On the basis of this study, consideration might be given to revising the bigleaf mahogany annotation contained in Appendix II to the Convention.

During subsequent discussions, Peru explained that, in relation to the Secretariat's findings under Recommendation 9 of document SC58 Com. 2, it had established a commission via Resolution 159/2009. This legal instrument amended Resolution 268/2008, with a view to indicating the institutions qualified in forest management.

With regard to Recommendations 3 and 4 in document SC58 Com. 2, in particular Peru's retrospective amendment of its 2008 mahogany export quota, a member of the Standing Committee suggested that the summary record of the meeting reflect that the Standing Committee had concurred with the Secretariat's view in the second paragraph under those Recommendations and supported the proposal made by the Secretariat in the third paragraph under those Recommendations.

The Chair of the Plants Committee drew attention to the Committee's intersessional working group on annotations chaired by the representative for North America and to a draft decision prepared for CoP15 for an externally-funded study by CITES and ITTO on the annotations for plant species. The Chair of the intersessional working group explained that the group was seeking to determine whether additional commodities should be included in the annotations on plants. In the course of this work, it had developed a draft decision for consideration at CoP15 that directed the Secretariat to commission a trade study to review timber species and specimens in international trade and to document the related use of harmonized tariff codes and definitions. Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the Plants Committee would review the timber annotations and consider appropriate amendment proposals for CoP16.

The Standing Committee agreed to the revised Secretariat recommendations contained in document SC58 Com. 2, as orally amended by the Secretariat. With regard to Recommendations 3 and 4 in that document, the Committee concurred with the Secretariat's view in the second paragraph under those Recommendations and supported the proposal made by the Secretariat in the third paragraph under those Recommendations.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Chile) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by Peru, the United States, the Chair of the Plants Committee, TRAFFIC and the Secretariat.

40. Ramin

The Secretariat gave an oral report on ramin and asked the Committee whether it wanted to retain this item on its agenda at future meetings. Malaysia gave an oral report on its ramin export data for 2008 and progress made under the joint ITTO-CITES *Project on ensuring international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation* and explained that this Project had provided the opportunity for Malaysia to further increase its efforts in conserving and managing ramin. Malaysia thanked CITES, ITTO and the European Union for providing financial and technical assistance to enable Malaysia to carry out the activities under this programme efficiently.

The Committee agreed that this issue would remain on the agenda for future meetings.

The Standing Committee requested that exporting range States submit written reports on trade in ramin for consideration at the 59th and future meetings of the Committee. These reports should provide information on progress and results of projects undertaken under the ITTO-CITES timber programme and the activities of the Tri-National Task Force on Ramin. The Committee also requested that exporting range States that had not reported on conservation and management of the species at SC57 and SC58 do so at SC59.

The Committee invited importing Parties to report on trade in ramin when there were achievements or problems they wished to draw to the attention of the Committee.

The Committee also requested that the Secretariat consult with concerned Parties regarding any information it received on illegal trade in ramin and, if information were provided, report to the Committee.

Later in the meeting, Indonesia gave an oral report that focused on five main points: management of ramin in Indonesia, trade in ramin, coordination and collaboration programmes and projects at the regional and local levels, report on progress on the four activities that were currently being implemented under the joint ITTO-CITES Project, and outcomes of the recent ITTO-CITES Asian Workshop on Ramin (Bogor, July 2009). Indonesia thanked CITES and ITTO for providing financial and technical assistance to strengthening its management and conservation of ramin.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Kenya), Asia (China), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (Canada), Oceania (Australia) and the Next Host Country (Qatar), and by Indonesia, Malaysia and the United States.

41. International expert workshop on non-detriment findings

Mexico introduced document SC58 Doc. 41.

Speakers stressed the importance of the issue of non-detriment findings and the need for appropriate follow-up to the workshop in the form of proposals by the Animals and Plants Committees for CoP15. The Secretariat agreed to send the questionnaire about the outcomes of the workshop (previously circulated with Notification to the Parties 2009/023 of 8 June 2009) to Parties by mail in order to assist Parties to respond.

The Committee noted document SC58 Doc. 41.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China), Europe (Bulgaria) and Oceania (Australia), and by Mexico, Peru, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, TRAFFIC and the Secretariat.

Amendment of the Appendices

42. Revision and publication of the CITES Appendices

Document SC58 Doc. 42 was introduced by the Secretariat. In general, the recommendations were supported. However, concern was expressed about the possible re-opening of discussions of the contents of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14). Concern was also expressed about the idea of amending the listings of monospecific taxa in the Appendices to cover the highest taxon possible, both because this had been discussed previously and because of the risk of expanding the scope of the listing.

The Committee adopted the recommendations of the Secretariat contained in paragraph 12 of document SC58 Doc. 42.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China and Japan) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by the United States, the Chair of the Animals Committee, Humane Society International and IWMC – World Conservation Trust.

43. Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II

The Secretariat introduced document SC58 Doc. 43.

Although opinions were divided, most speakers believed that, in paragraph B in Annex 2 a, of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), the word “reducing” should be assimilated to the word “decline” and, therefore, that the definition of the word “decline” in Annex 5 of the Resolution should apply. Many welcomed the input of FAO in the review of proposals to amend Appendices I and II.

The Committee agreed that the interpretation of the criteria should be referred to CoP15 and that, in the meantime, when providing advice to the Parties on proposals to amend Appendices I or II, the Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should clearly indicate which interpretation they were using.

Later in the meeting, the Committee agreed to reopen the debate on this subject. In addition to its previous conclusions on this matter, the Committee:

- a) noted that, in the past, Parties and organizations had had different interpretations as to whether a species met criterion B to Annex 2 a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), insofar as it related to commercially-exploited aquatic species;
- b) asked the Conference of the Parties to give guidance at its 15th meeting as to a common interpretation of the criteria B given in Annex 2 a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), paying particular attention to the flexibility contained in the Resolution and situations where only few data were available for the species concerned;
- c) asked Parties, as they prepared for the upcoming CoP15, to clearly define in their listing proposals how they interpreted and applied Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) using sound and relevant scientific information, and recognizing flexibility and data-poor cases; and
- d) highly appreciated the work of the FAO *ad hoc* Expert Panel on proposals submitted to CoPs and looked forward to the continuing cooperation with FAO as outlined in the FAO-CITES Memorandum of Understanding.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (China and Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Chile), Europe (Iceland and the United Kingdom), North America (Canada) and Oceania (Australia), and by Argentina, Namibia, Norway, Peru, the Russian Federation, Sweden (on behalf of the European Community Member States), the United States, FAO, Humane Society International, IUCN/TRAFFIC, IWMC – World Conservation Trust and WWF.

44. Periodic Review of the Appendices

The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees summarized progress in undertaking the Periodic Review of the Appendices and referred the Committee to documents PC18 Doc. 16.1.1 and AC24 Doc. 10.2 (Rev. 1) for full details. They thanked Parties that had undertaken reviews. The Chair of the Plants Committee acknowledged the important contribution to the review of the alternate representative for Europe on the Plants Committee (Mr Lüthy) and thanked Switzerland for the funding offered for the review. She also announced that the Plants Committee had chosen by unanimity Ms Patricia Dávila (Mexico) as Chair of the Working Group on the Periodic Review of Appendices.

The Committee noted the oral reports of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees.

No interventions were made.

Regional matters

45. Reports of regional representatives

Document SC58 Doc. 45.1 was introduced by the representative of Africa (Kenya). Document SC58 Doc. 45.2 was introduced by the representative of Asia (China). Document SC58 Doc. 45.3 (Rev. 1) was introduced by the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Chile). Document SC58 Doc. 45.4 (Rev. 1) was introduced by the representative of Europe (Bulgaria). Document SC58 Doc. 45.5 (Rev. 1) was introduced by the representative of North America (Canada). Document SC58 Doc. 45.6 was introduced by the representative of Oceania (Australia).

In response to a suggestion that consideration be given to omitting this item from the agenda in future, several participants indicated that the regional reports contained useful information, although they were not consistent and much information was missing. It was therefore suggested that the Secretariat prepare a template for the presentation of regional reports. One member complained that there was inadequate communication between regional representatives and Parties of the region for the compilation of the regional report.

The Committee noted the documents and oral reports that had been presented, decided that this item would remain on the agenda for future meetings and requested the Secretariat to develop a template to be used for the presentation of regional reports in the future.

During discussion of this item, interventions were also made by the representatives of Asia (Iran and Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Costa Rica) and the Next Host Country (Qatar) and by Cameroon.

46. Improving the participation of Parties in the African region in CITES and strengthening the implementation of CITES throughout Africa

The representative of Africa (Kenya) introduced document SC58 Doc. 46, noting that it was supported by Algeria and the Comoros, in addition to the countries named in paragraph 1. He stated that Tunisia was willing to host the first meeting of the proposed African Region Working Group, and asked the Secretariat to help in raising funds to pay for it. He also asked for 10 volunteers for membership of the Working Group; two from each of five sub-regions. Several participants spoke in favour of the creation of the Working Group.

The Committee endorsed the initiative presented in document SC58 Doc. 46.

During discussion of this item, interventions were also made by the representatives of Africa (Zambia) and Europe (Bulgaria), and by Born Free Foundation.

Concluding items

47. Any other business

The Chairman noted that there were no requests to discuss any business under this agenda item.

48. Determination of the time and venue of the 59th meeting

The Secretariat announced that the next meeting would take place in Doha, Qatar, on 12 March 2010, at the venue of CoP15.

No interventions were made.

49. Closing remarks

Qatar, as the Next Host Country, reaffirmed that preparations for CoP15 were well in hand and looked forward to welcoming all Parties at the meeting.

The Secretary-General congratulated the Chair for handling the meeting so well and at such short notice, congratulated the Committee and thanked the Interpreters and the Secretariat staff for their work. He was supported by the observer from SSN.

The Chairman thanked the Committee members, representatives of observer Parties and organizations, the Secretariat, the interpreters and the conference staff for their hard work and cooperation to ensure a successful meeting.