

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Introduction

2. The role and responsibilities of the Standing Committee in conducting the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species are described in paragraphs q) to v) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*.
3. The Standing Committee is to be informed about whether the recommendations formulated by the Animals and Plants Committees to ensure compliance with Article IV for trade in selected Appendix-II species have been implemented or not.
4. The cases below have already been considered by the Standing Committee in accordance with paragraph s) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) and the present report contains a history of the cases concerned, a summary of recent developments and a recommendation to the Standing Committee from the Secretariat on appropriate further action.

Animal species selected for the Review of Significant Trade following CoP11

5. *Cuora amboinensis* and *Cuora galbinifrons*
 - a) At its 16th meeting (Shepherdstown, December 2000), the Animals Committee selected *C. amboinensis* and *C. galbinifrons* for the Review of Significant Trade and, at its 17th meeting (Hanoi, July - August 2001), categorized *C. amboinensis* (population of Viet Nam) as Category 1 (species for which current levels of trade are believed to be having a detrimental effect on wild populations) and *C. galbinifrons* (populations of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam) as Category 2 (species for which insufficient information is available to make an assessment of the impact of trade).
 - b) At its 18th meeting (San José, April 2002), the Animals Committee recommended that for *C. amboinensis*, Viet Nam "clarifies its position with respect to their enforcement of international trade controls in relation to transit, trade and re-exports". For *C. galbinifrons*, it asked the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam "whether there has been any reported trade since the completion of the desk-based review" (December 2000) and requested that the Lao People's Democratic Republic "clarify the legal requirements for the exports of turtles from its territory". These recommendations were transmitted by the Secretariat to the range States on 12 August 2002.
 - c) At the time of writing (June 2011), no response has been received by the Secretariat in relation to the recommendation of the Animals Committee. In accordance with paragraph q) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee reported at the 58th meeting of the Committee (SC58, Geneva, July 2009) that the recommendations of the Animals Committee had not been complied with.

- d) At SC58, 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 the present meeting and to contact and work with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam to address the Animals Committee's recommendations, so that they could be resolved in a manner that addressed the conservation concerns for these species.
- e) The Secretariat included the recommendations in the list of *Countries currently subject to a recommendation to suspend trade*, on the CITES website and wrote to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam on 3 September 2009 to advise them of the recommendations of the Standing Committee.
- f) Attempts to resolve these long-standing cases by correspondence have not proved successful. Both species have an unsatisfactory conservation status and there are indications that trade is continuing, albeit at lower levels than when the Animals Committee first expressed concern. The Secretariat has identified external funds to undertake a mission to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam to address these issues and, with the agreement of the Committee, will report back on this action at the 62nd meeting of the Committee scheduled for July 2012 (SC62).

Animal species selected for the Review of Significant Trade following CoP12

6. *Poicephalus senegalus*

- a) At its 22nd meeting (Lima, July 2006), the Animals Committee categorized the populations of *P. senegalus* from Mali as 'of possible concern'. In consultation with the Secretariat, the Animals Committee formulated the following recommendations:

By 1 January 2007:

- *Establish a cautious annual export quota in consultation with the Secretariat as an interim measure.*

By November 2008:

- *Conduct status assessments and threat evaluations to provide the basis for the Scientific Authority's non-detriment finding, and develop an ongoing population monitoring programme; and*
- *Establish a biologically sustainable export quota, in collaboration with neighbouring range states, based on the results of the above mentioned surveys.*

The Secretariat transmitted these recommendations to Mali on 7 November 2006.

- b) On 13 November 2006, Mali advised the Secretariat that it had established an annual export quota of 19,000 live specimens, which they considered cautious and was based on exports made in previous years and on a population study. The Secretariat has not received a copy of this study and, subsequently (6 December 2006), Mali advised the Secretariat that its Scientific Authority did not currently have the competence to undertake such a study. In response, at its 57th meeting (Geneva, July 2008) the Standing Committee adopted the following recommendation:

The Secretariat should engage further with Mali to determine the basis for the proposed export quota and obtain a copy of the study mentioned by Mali and report at SC58.

- c) On 27 August 2008, Mali provided information on how the export quota for *P. senegalus* was established but not on the status of the species. Mali stressed that it was having financial difficulties in conducting the required studies on the status of the population of this species.
- d) At SC58, the Secretariat informed the Committee that Mali had taken some action towards the implementation of the recommendation but that further progress was required. The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to engage further with Mali to carry out the study on status of this species, to be completed by the present meeting, and to provide a progress report at the 59th meeting of the Committee (SC59, Doha, March 2010). Until this study was completed, it recommended that Mali establish a quota not exceeding 5,000 specimens per year and that it consider suspending exports on a voluntary basis until a scientifically-established quota could be set.

- e) The Secretariat wrote to Mali on 7 September 2009 to inform it about the SC58 recommendations. In its response of 25 November 2009, Mali confirmed that it had established a quota of 5,000 specimens per year until a scientifically-established quota could be set. Mali provided no further information about the progress with the study on status of this species.
 - f) At SC59, Mali reported to the Committee that it was having difficulties trying to set up a team to study the status of *Poicephalus senegalus*. The Committee noted this.
 - g) Mali, together with Senegal and Guinea, have submitted a project proposal to the Secretariat for funding under its capacity-building project “Strengthening the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade”, which is funded by the European Commission. The proposal entails a joint population study in the three countries, and is currently being evaluated for funding support.
 - h) Provided that Mali maintains a conservative voluntary export quota of 5,000 specimens until a stronger basis for a non-detriment findings becomes available, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee take no further action under the Review of Significant Trade, but that the Committee support the request for funding proposed by Mali, together with Senegal and Guinea and request that the results be sent to the Animals Committee for comment.
7. In the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), the Standing Committee has recommended that Parties not accept imports of specimens of a number of species from certain States until recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees made under this Resolution are implemented by those States. A list of such recommendations currently in force, together with their date of application and, in a small number of cases, any limited exceptions to the recommendation, can be found in Notification to the Parties No. 2010/012 of 15 June 2010 and on the CITES website under “Documents/Trade suspensions”.
8. Paragraph v) of the Resolution states that:
- the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Animals or Plants Committee, shall review recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years and, if appropriate, take measures to address the situation.*
9. In accordance with this paragraph, the Committee reviewed such recommendations at SC59. The Secretariat intends to commission a further study to review recommendations to suspend trade established prior to July 2010 and to present this at SC62.

Recommendation

10. The Committee is requested to note the information presented in the present document and to endorse the actions suggested in paragraph 5. f), 6. h) and 9.