

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

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Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Santiago (Chile), 3-15 November 2002

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES

1. This document was prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Animals Committee.

Background

2. At its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 11.9 on Conservation of and trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises in Asia and other regions, and Decisions 11.93 and 11.150. These were largely based on a discussion document (Doc. 11.35) submitted by Germany and the United States of America.

3. Decision 11.93 regarding freshwater turtles and tortoises states that:

*The Animals Committee shall consider the trade in specimens of CITES-listed freshwater turtles and tortoises in the context of the Review of Significant Trade, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.).*

4. Decision 11.150 regarding freshwater turtles and tortoises states that:

*The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *subject to available funds, convene a technical workshop in order to establish conservation priorities and actions to achieve sustainable trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises and invite the Chairman of the Animals Committee as well as representatives from range, exporting and consumer States and relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in this workshop, to be held within 12 months after the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Recommendations elaborated at the Workshop on Trade in Terrestrial and Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in Asia, held in Cambodia in December 1999, should be considered at the technical workshop. The findings and recommendations of this workshop should be reported to the Animals Committee by the Secretariat before the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*
- b) *encourage Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other appropriate bodies to assist capacity-building and training efforts throughout the Asian region with respect to the trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises; and*
- c) *encourage Parties and trading companies involved in the trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises to assist in raising funds for the workshop.*

#### Review of Significant Trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises

5. With regard to Decision 11.93, the Animals Committee is in the process of reviewing the trade in five species of testudinids (*Cuora amboinensis*, *C. flavomarginata*, *C. galbinifrons*, *Lissemys punctata* and *Pyxis planicauda*) in the context of the Review of Significant Trade, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.).

#### Technical workshop on the conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles

6. Regarding Decision 11.150, paragraphs a) and c), the Secretariat required input from the Animals Committee concerning scope, venue, agenda, participation, funding and timing. The Chairman of the Animals Committee established a working group to assist the Secretariat in this matter. Because of the region's species diversity, the significant threats to the long-term conservation of these species, the high volumes of regulated and unregulated trade, and the concerns over the non-sustainability of the trade, the focus of the workshop was decided to be on tortoises and freshwater turtles from Asia, and particularly from Southeast Asia.
7. With financial support from the Government of Germany, the US Fish & Wildlife Service of the United States of America, the Government of the Netherlands, Chelonian Research Foundation, Van Tienhoven Stichting, Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde, WWF-US/TRAFFIC North America, Humane Society of the United States, and Conservation Treaty Support Fund, sufficient funds were secured by the Secretariat to organize the technical workshop in Kunming, China, from 25 to 28 March 2002 with the assistance of the Management Authority of China.
8. The Chairman of the Animals Committee, Animals Committee representatives for North America, Asia, Africa and Europe, representatives from Cambodia, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Singapore, the United States of America and Viet Nam, and from Non-Governmental Organizations (Conservation International, Kadoorie Farm and Botanical Garden, IUCN, TRAFFIC), and the CITES Secretariat participated in the workshop.
9. The objectives of the workshop were the following:
  - a) to establish conservation priorities and actions to achieve sustainable trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises in Asia;
  - b) to consider specific actions to follow up on and to implement recommendations elaborated at the workshop on trade in terrestrial and freshwater turtles and tortoises in Asia (Cambodia, December 1999), particularly those related to regulation and management of trade in CITES-listed species, the future role of CITES, trade monitoring and controls, national legislation and regulations, captive breeding and ranching, conservation management and research priorities, enforcement, and capacity building; and
  - c) to formulate findings and recommendations at the workshop for reporting to the Animals Committee before the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
10. During the workshop, general overviews on the trade and conservation status of freshwater turtles and tortoises in Asia, national and regional reports, and various contributions from NGOs were presented. Working groups on enforcement and trade controls, conservation management and CITES implementation, and capacity-building needs and activities drafted findings and recommendations. The background and discussion documents that were presented at the workshop, the contributions from the participating States and NGOs, and the report of the workshop, including its findings and recommendations, will be made available on the Secretariat's website in the course of 2002.
11. All Asian range States attending the meeting were aware of the conservation concerns relating to trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises, and recognized the associated enforcement difficulties. Practically all

had initiated actions to address the problems. It was also clear that more regulation and legislation for these species existed than first thought, but that compliance was often weak. There was support from representatives to extend CITES controls to more species than is currently the case. The participants recognized that better collaboration between enforcement agencies and CITES Management and Scientific Authorities in Asia is necessary to manage wild populations, monitor and control trade, improve the region's capacity to implement CITES, and develop coherent conservation strategies for tortoises and freshwater turtles.

12. The workshop participants recommended that to improve the implementation of Article IV of the Convention regarding trade in Appendix-II listed species of tortoises and freshwater turtles, Asian range States should be provided with guidelines and training for the making of non-detriment findings, the establishment of export quotas, and the development of adaptive management frameworks and monitoring protocols.
13. Information provided at the workshop indicated that in certain Asian range States, farms breed and produce a very large number of freshwater turtles (of more species than was previously recognized) to supply the Asian demand for food and medicine. For commercial and cultural reasons, most of these animals are apparently marketed as originating from the wild. The participants at the workshop acknowledged that the risks and benefits of large-scale commercial breeding of tortoises and freshwater turtles in Asia needed to be addressed, and that range States would benefit from practical recommendations regarding controlling and monitoring these commercial farming and ranching operations. As requested during the workshop, the CITES Management Authority of China supplied a report to the Secretariat on the captive breeding of tortoises and freshwater turtles in China (see document CoP12 Inf. 8).
14. The workshop participants recognized that the diversity of local languages, lack of communication, funding constraints, low priority placed on freshwater turtles and tortoise, and frequent changes in CITES staff were important challenges for improving the capacity in Asia to conserve, manage and sustainably use tortoises and freshwater turtles. Most participating countries reported to have undertaken awareness-raising efforts concerning wildlife trade and CITES, although these were not targeting tortoises and freshwater turtles *per se*. CITES identification and training materials were available in most countries attending the workshop, but these were not always shared, and the development was recommended of modern techniques to identify testudinid species and specimens in trade more easily and accurately. The workshop participants identified the stakeholders involved in the utilization, consumption and conservation of Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles, and developed specific recommendations to improve their awareness of the conservation concerns of these species. The participants also recommended researching the medicinal and nutritional value of tortoises and freshwater turtles.
15. The workshop participants asked the assistance of the Secretariat in seeking financial and technical support to develop guidelines and protocols to manage wild populations of tortoises and freshwater turtles, to conduct field studies as appropriate, and to undertake capacity-building activities.

#### Encouraging capacity-building and training efforts in Asia

16. Regarding paragraph b) of Decision 11.150, the Secretariat made reference to capacity-building needs in the Asian region during several workshops, seminars and meetings, although these were not necessarily targeted exclusively to freshwater turtles and tortoises. Similarly, the Secretariat participated in CITES training activities in the Asian region, and used these occasions to encourage Parties to undertake further efforts in this regard without specifically referring to tortoises and freshwater turtles. The Secretariat incorporated references to CITES-listed species of tortoises and freshwater turtles in its capacity-building and training programmes as appropriate, and circulated Notification to the Parties No. 2000/72 of 14 December 2002 concerning the publication of a CITES Identification Guide on Turtles and Tortoises.

17. At the technical workshop on trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises in March 2002, capacity-building needs and activities in Asian range States of tortoises and freshwater turtles were extensively discussed, and specific recommendations were formulated in this regard. (see paragraphs 10 and 14). The Secretariat is of the opinion that these recommendations provide a good basis for guiding further actions in this area. The participating range States advised that it would be most appropriate and practical to incorporate issues concerning tortoise and freshwater turtles in more general training and capacity-building activities, identification and training materials, and awareness raising programmes. The Secretariat agrees with this view.

#### Revision of Resolution Conf. 11.9

18. As requested under Decision 11.150, the Secretariat communicated the findings and recommendations of the technical workshop on the conservation of and trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises to the Animals Committee at its 18th meeting [see document AC18 Inf. 12 (Rev.)]. Based on these findings and recommendations, the Animals Committee drafted amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.9 on the Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles in Asia and other regions for consideration of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat was requested to finalize this draft revision.

19. Additional amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.9 suggested by the Secretariat concern in particular the preamble to the draft revision of the Resolution. Furthermore, the Secretariat has edited certain parts of the draft resolution, as well as the text of the new paragraphs proposed by the working group.

20. The proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.9 include the systematic replacement of 'freshwater turtles and tortoises' by the less ambiguous 'tortoises and freshwater turtles', and of 'consuming' Parties by 'importing' Parties. Referring to recommendations of the technical workshop in Kunming, China, in March 2002, the draft resolution includes text to urge Parties, and particularly Asian range States of tortoises and freshwater turtles, to cooperate more on conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, and on related law enforcement matters; to establish management policies that take into consideration the particular biology of testudinids; to develop research programmes to assess the impact of trade on wild populations and to evaluate the conservation risks and benefits of commercial breeding of tortoises and freshwater turtles; to develop action plans in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.7 regarding the disposal of confiscated live specimens of species included in the Appendices; and to develop conservation strategies for CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles. The draft resolution directs the Secretariat to assist range States in securing funding for the development of these management strategies and action plans. Two draft decisions direct the Parties to report on progress in implementing the resolution before the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the Secretariat to develop a standard format for the reporting and to submit a written summary of the information for consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

21. The proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.9 on the conservation of and trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises in Asia and other regions are contained in Annex 1. Proposed new text appears in **bold**, and deletions are marked with ~~strike through~~. Modifications to the draft resolution that are proposed by the Secretariat are explained and indicated as such. The outcome of the amendments that are proposed for adoption by the Conference of the Parties are presented in the form of a draft resolution in Annex 2 and of two draft decisions in Annex 3.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.9 on the  
Conservation of and trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises in Asia and other regions

*Unless indicated otherwise (using the designation \*), the following amendments are proposed by the Animals Committee on the basis of recommendations of a technical workshop on conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, Kunming, China, March 2002.*

Conservation of and trade in **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~ *\*in Asia and other regions*

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat to achieve a better match between the title of the draft resolution and the scope of the problems it addresses.*

AWARE that the global international trade in **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~ involves millions of specimens each year, ~~\*affecting more than 50 Asian Chelonian species and at least five North American species;~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat, because more species are in trade originating from more regions in the world than indicated in the section that is proposed to be deleted.*

RECOGNIZING that nearly all Asian **tortoise and** freshwater turtle ~~and tortoise~~ species are found in trade, and that a number of species are already included in Appendix I or II;

OBSERVING that the collection of **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~ is carried out through an extensive informal network of trappers, hunters and middlemen, and that collection efforts and **\*trade export** volumes ~~\*are considerable have increased significantly, especially \*in throughout much of Asia;~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: The rewording reflects that trade volumes in general are high and not only exports, and that volumes in trade and collection efforts remain important, particularly in Asia.*

CONSIDERING that, in addition, **\*wild populations of tortoises and freshwater turtles are generally** ~~turtles in general are~~ vulnerable to overexploitation, because of biological characteristics such as late maturity, limited annual reproductive output, and high juvenile mortality, as well as habitat degradation and loss;

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: The rewording is more precise and provides better consistency with the preceding paragraph.*

NOTING that there are two significant types of trade in **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~, a high-volume trade in **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~ and ~~\*their~~ parts **\*thereof** for consumption both as food and in traditional medicine, and a species-focused trade for pets;

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat to improve the wording.*

~~\*CONCERNED that the movement of live freshwater turtles and tortoises to non range states where introduction could occur could have adverse impacts on the native species of importing countries, and that little is known of such impacts by alien species;~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: This statement is very general, applicable to many more species in trade and not necessary.*

**\*AWARE that certain species of tortoises and freshwater turtles are bred in high numbers in and outside range States, *inter alia* to supply the demand for food and medicines, and that the conservation risks and benefits of large-scale commercial breeding of tortoises and freshwater turtles are not well known;**

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: The additional paragraph reflects findings of the technical workshop.*

~~\*CONSIDERING that little is known of the population status and ecological role of freshwater turtles and tortoises;~~

~~\*RECOGNIZING that trade from and transit through some countries that are not party to CITES could be a concern;~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: The paragraphs CONSIDERING and RECOGNIZING are very general and are applicable to many more species in trade. They do not state a concern specifically related to tortoises and freshwater turtles any more so than to other species, and are not needed.*

~~\*RECALLING Resolution Conf. 10.19 on traditional medicines~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: The reference to Resolution Conf. 10.19 is vague and unnecessary.*

~~\*RECALLING that Article III, paragraph 2 (c), Article IV, paragraph 2 (c) and Article V, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention require that live specimens be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health, or cruel treatment;~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: This paragraph applies to all CITES-listed species in trade, and is redundant because the relevant Articles of the Convention are also referred to in the paragraph NOTING below.*

NOTING that the shipment of ~~live living tortoises and~~ freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~ is often not conducted in accordance with the provisions of Articles III, IV and V of the Convention, and in particular that transport of ~~\*live living tortoises and~~ freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~ by air is often not conducted in accordance with IATA regulations;

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat to improve the wording.*

~~\*RECOGNIZING that many countries have legislation concerning freshwater turtles and tortoises but that there are inadequacies in the scope and extent of coverage, and that enforcement is often insufficient;~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: This paragraph RECOGNIZING is very general, not stating a concern specifically relating to tortoise and freshwater turtles, and therefore not necessary.*

ACKNOWLEDGING that ~~\*unregulated or unsustainable the demand for and~~ trade in **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~ poses a significant threat to wild populations, and that international cooperation is needed to ~~\*urgently~~ address these threats **\*urgently**;

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: The demand for and trade in these species in itself is not necessarily of concern. The proposed language describes better the real threats to wild populations of tortoises and freshwater turtles.*

**RECALLING that a technical workshop on conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, held in Kunming, China, 25-28 March 2002, provided recommendations concerning conservation management, CITES implementation, enforcement and trade controls, and capacity-building needs, as well as suggestions for amending Resolution Conf. 11.9, that were reported by the Secretariat to the Animals Committee;**

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES:

- a) all Parties, especially Asian **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~ range, exporting and ~~consuming~~ **importing** States, to enhance and increase enforcement efforts with regard to existing legislation as a matter of urgency;

- b) all Parties, especially Asian tortoise and freshwater turtles range, exporting and importing States, to enhance cooperation amongst wildlife law enforcement agencies at an intra-governmental and international level concerning trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, \*and amongst enforcement agencies and national CITES authorities;

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat to reflect recommendations from the technical workshop.*

- cb) all Parties, especially Asian **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~ range States, to assess current efforts to manage native **tortoise and** freshwater turtle ~~and tortoises~~ populations, and to improve those efforts as necessary, e.g. by establishing quotas **that take into consideration the particular biology of tortoises and freshwater turtles;**

- de) all Parties to develop and implement research programmes to identify the species involved in trade, \*~~and programmes~~ to monitor and assess the impact of trade **\*on wild populations, and to evaluate the conservation risks and benefits of large-scale commercial breeding of tortoises and freshwater turtles;**

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: The amendments reflect recommendations of the technical workshop, and broadens the scope of the research that Parties are urged to undertake to include new pertinent areas of work.*

- ee) all Parties whose national legislation is not sufficient to control effectively the unsustainable harvest of and trade in **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~, to enact legislation to protect **\*and manage** these species **\*appropriately;**

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: The added text broadens the scope of the URGES to include management initiatives.*

- ~~e) all Parties involved in the trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises to examine their national legislation to ensure that treatment of these animals during transport is in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and, where relevant, with IATA regulations, and to take immediate action to correct any deficiencies in such legislation;~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: Paragraph e) of the current Regulation is already covered under paragraph d) [and the proposed new paragraph e)] and other provisions of the Convention, and therefore not necessary.*

- f) all Parties to increase public awareness of the threats posed to **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises, from \*unsustainable harvest and unregulated trade including harvest and trade to supply the demand for food, traditional medicines and pets; and~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: The amendment reflects more comprehensively the concerns for the long-term conservation of wild populations of tortoises and freshwater turtles.*

- g) all Parties to explore ways to enhance the participation of collectors, traders, exporters, importers and consumers in the conservation of and sustainable trade in **tortoises and** freshwater turtles ~~and tortoises~~ species;

- h) all Parties, especially in the Asian region, to collaborate on all aspects of conservation **\*and management of, trade in, and \*implementation of the Convention enforcement** for tortoises and freshwater turtles, **\*taking into consideration the recommendations formulated at a technical workshop on conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles held in Kunming, China, 25-28 March 2002;**

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat: The amended text clarifies the scope of the collaboration that Parties are urged to develop, and provides a general reference to the recommendations formulated at the technical workshop.*

- i) all Parties, and particularly in the Asian region, to develop plans of action in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.7 that can be executed without delay in the event that live specimens of tortoises and freshwater turtles are confiscated; and

~~\*j) all Parties to submit a report, according to an agreed format, to the Secretariat at least six months prior to each meeting of the Conference of Parties, detailing (either the following..... or) progress in implementing this resolution;~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat to be incorporated into a draft decision, restricting reporting initially only to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

**DIRECTS:**

~~\*a) the Secretariat to develop a standard format for these reports, to evaluate the reports as well as any information it has received, and to submit a written summary of these for consideration at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat to be incorporated into a draft decision.*

~~\*jb) the Secretariat, in collaboration with range States and international organizations from both industry and the conservation community, to assist with the development of strategies, including action plans for the conservation of ASIAN(?) tortoises and freshwater turtles; and range States of tortoises and freshwater turtles to develop management strategies concerning CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles, including regional action plans for the conservation of Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles, in collaboration with the Secretariat, industry representatives, interested governmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders as appropriate;~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat to be reworded and moved under URGES, paragraph i) above.*

~~\*ae) the Secretariat for that purpose, to seek financial assistance from Parties, international organizations, United Nations Specialized Agencies, intergovernmental and non governmental organizations and industry. the Secretariat to provide assistance with securing financial resources from Parties, United Nations specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, trade associations, industry and others as appropriate to range States in need of and requesting financial support to develop and implement management strategies and action plans concerning CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles in accordance with this Resolution.~~

*\*Proposed by the Secretariat to clarify the wording.*

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles

AWARE that the global international trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles involves millions of specimens each year;

RECOGNIZING that nearly all Asian tortoise and freshwater turtle species are found in trade, and that a number of species are already included in Appendix I or II;

OBSERVING that the collection of tortoises and freshwater turtles is carried out through an extensive informal network of trappers, hunters and middlemen, and that collection efforts and trade volumes are considerable, especially in Asia;

CONSIDERING that, in addition, wild populations of tortoises and freshwater turtles are generally vulnerable to overexploitation, because of biological characteristics such as late maturity, limited annual reproductive output, and high juvenile mortality, as well as habitat degradation and loss;

NOTING that there are two significant types of trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, a high-volume trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles and parts thereof for consumption both as food and in traditional medicine, and a species-focused trade for pets;

AWARE that certain species of tortoises and freshwater turtles are bred in high numbers in and outside range States, *inter alia* to supply the demand for food and medicines, and that the conservation risks and benefits of large-scale commercial breeding of tortoises and freshwater turtles are not well known;

NOTING that the shipment of live tortoises and freshwater turtles is often not conducted in accordance with the provisions of Articles III, IV and V of the Convention, and in particular that transport of live tortoises and freshwater turtles by air is often not conducted in accordance with IATA regulations;

ACKNOWLEDGING that unregulated or unsustainable trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles poses a significant threat to wild populations, and that international cooperation is needed to address these threats urgently;

RECALLING that a technical workshop on conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, held in Kunming, China, 25-28 March 2002, provided recommendations concerning conservation management, CITES implementation, enforcement and trade controls, and capacity-building needs, as well as suggestions for amending Resolution Conf. 11.9, that were reported by the Secretariat to the Animals Committee;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES:

- a) all Parties, especially Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles range, exporting and importing States, to enhance and increase enforcement efforts with regard to existing legislation as a matter of urgency;
- b) all Parties, especially Asian tortoise and freshwater turtles range, exporting and importing States, to enhance cooperation amongst wildlife law enforcement agencies at an intra-governmental and international level concerning trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, and amongst enforcement agencies and national CITES authorities;

- c) all Parties, especially Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles range States, to assess current efforts to manage native tortoise and freshwater turtle populations, and to improve those efforts as necessary, e.g. by establishing quotas that take into consideration the particular biology of tortoises and freshwater turtles;
- d) all Parties to develop and implement research programmes to identify the species involved in trade, to monitor and assess the impact of trade on wild populations, and to evaluate the conservation risks and benefits of large-scale commercial breeding of tortoises and freshwater turtles;
- e) all Parties whose national legislation is not sufficient to control effectively the unsustainable harvest of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, to enact legislation to protect and manage these species appropriately;
- f) all Parties to increase public awareness of the threats posed to tortoises and freshwater turtles from unsustainable harvest and unregulated trade;
- g) all Parties to explore ways to enhance the participation of collectors, traders, exporters, importers and consumers in the conservation of and sustainable trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles species;
- h) all Parties, especially in the Asian region, to collaborate on all aspects of conservation and management of, trade in and implementation of the Convention for tortoises and freshwater turtles, taking into consideration the recommendations formulated at a technical workshop on conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles held in Kunming, China, 25-28 March 2002;
- i) all Parties, and particularly in the Asian region, to develop plans of action in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.7 that can be executed without delay in the event that live specimens of tortoises and freshwater turtles are confiscated; and
- j) range States of tortoises and freshwater turtles to develop management strategies concerning CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles, including regional action plans for the conservation of Asian tortoises and freshwater turtles, in collaboration with the Secretariat, industry representatives, interested governmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders as appropriate; and

DIRECTS the Secretariat to provide assistance with securing financial resources from Parties, United Nations specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, trade associations, industry and others as appropriate to range States in need of and requesting financial support to develop and implement management strategies and action plans concerning CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles in accordance with this Resolution.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Parties

- 12.xx All Parties authorizing commercial trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles shall submit a report, according to an agreed format, to the Secretariat at least six months before the 13th meeting of the Conference of Parties, detailing progress in implementing the recommendations contained in Resolution Conf. 11.9 on the conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 12.xx The Secretariat shall develop a standard format for these reports, evaluate the reports as well as any information it has received, and submit a written summary of these for consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.