

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

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

Committee II meeting

Eleventh session: 13 November 2002: 09h04-12h00

Chairwoman: A.-M. Delahunt (Australia)

Secretariat: S. Baker
J. Barzdo
S. Nash
J. Sellar
M. Yeater

Rapporteurs: A. Bamford
H. Gillett
T. Inskipp
K. Lochen

The Chairwoman congratulated Bhutan on becoming a Party to the Convention.

Document CoP12 Com. II Rep. 8 was adopted with the replacement of "wished to place" with placed in the first line of the third paragraph under 16. b, and with the insertion in the next paragraph of , disagreeing with Australia's view, after the words "The delegation of Japan".

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

31. Trade in bear specimens

The Secretariat presented a draft decision prepared by the working group as follows:

Directed to Parties:

Those Parties that did not report to the Secretariat by 31 July 2001 as required by Decision 11.43, and who are believed to be significant range and consumer States for bear and bear products, namely, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Finland, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Latvia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia should submit to the Secretariat by 31 July 2003 reports documenting the actions they have taken to implement Resolution Conf. 10.8 (Rev.) (Trade in bear specimens).

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall include the international trade in bear parts and derivatives as an issue at its 50th meeting with a view to identifying additional legislative and enforcement measures that may be necessary to stop international illegal trade in bears and bear parts and derivatives, drawing upon the information received by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision XX (above).

The draft decision was accepted.

38. Controlled trade in specimens of abundant cetacean stocks

The delegation of Japan stated that they would withdraw document CoP12 Doc. 38 if Mexico would withdraw document CoP12 Doc. 16.4. The delegation of Mexico agreed to this, and both documents were withdrawn.

Review of Resolutions and Decisions

21. Review of Resolutions and Decisions

a) Review of Resolutions

ii) Resolutions to be revised

The delegation of Mexico, who had chaired the working group, introduced document CoP12 Com. II. 4. They noted that the typographical errors would be corrected by the Secretariat and wished to focus on other changes to the text:

Retention of the final paragraph in the preamble (marked as deleted in the document), substituting the words "exemptions provided by the Convention" with this exemption. Under ESTABLISHES, the title of Annex 3 should now read Model travelling-exhibition certificate; continuation sheet; instructions and explanations. Replacement of the words "import permit" with certificate of origin in Section V paragraph c). In Section VI paragraph a), delete "each" and replace "specimen" with specimen/s. In Section VI paragraph m), add in the year in question at the end of the sentence. Insert scientific before the word "name" in Section XIII paragraph e). In Annex 3, on the CITES Permit/Certificate Continuation Sheet, which should be renamed Travelling Exhibition Certificate Continuation Sheet, remove the words "and title" where it appears. In the Instructions and Explanations within Annex 3, the following changes were noted. In paragraph 11, add the phrase if more than one specimen, state "see attached inventory" at the end of the sentence. In paragraph 12, the codes and wording for W, R, F and U, currently noted as deleted, should be retained and add as a second sentence the words This certificate may not be used for specimens with source code W, R, F, U unless they are pre-Convention specimens and the source code O is also used. The first sentence of paragraph 15 was now to form a new paragraph 19.

The delegation of Denmark on behalf of the Member States of the EU, supported by the delegation of Switzerland, noted that they were happy to endorse the text, subject to granting of permission to return to this item once agenda item 52. b) had been discussed. The Chairwoman accepted this proviso and the document was agreed with the amendments read out by the delegation of Mexico.

The delegation of the Russian Federation then withdrew document CoP12 Doc. 57.

Exemptions and special trade provisions

54. Personal effects

a) Trade in personal effects

The delegation of China as chairman of the working group introduced document CoP12 Com. II. 6 and noted that, as this now covered crocodylians, document CoP12 Doc. 54.2 could be withdrawn.

The delegations of Australia, Chile, Denmark on behalf of the Member States of the EU, Israel, New Zealand and Saint Lucia supported the document. In response to a question from the delegations of Chile and Senegal, the chairman of the working group provided a definition of 'personal baggage' in paragraph c) i) under DECIDES as items checked in and hand carried by the owner. The delegation of Denmark on behalf of the Member States of the EU noted some legislative amendments might need to be made by the European Community to reflect the proposed text and stated that they would interpret paragraph b) i) C) "crocodylian species up to four specimens per person" to mean, in the case of shoes, only two pairs.

The delegation of Israel, supported by the delegation of Saint Lucia, noted the contradiction that although the preamble contained references to Resolution Conf. 10.6, the final paragraph proposed the repeal of this Resolution. The delegation of Venezuela supported retention of the Resolution.

The delegation of Denmark on behalf of the Member States of the EU queried the number of specimens mentioned in paragraph b) i) C) under RECOMMENDS. The chairman of the working group noted this was an arbitrary number which could be subject to further review.

The delegation of St. Lucia, supported by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, requested the inclusion in paragraph b) i) D) under RECOMMENDS of the scientific name *Strombus gigas* for the Queen conch.

The delegations of Chile, Israel and New Zealand expressed concern about paragraph b) ii) under RECOMMENDS. The delegations of Israel and New Zealand noted that the issue of household use was also covered by Resolution Conf. 10.20.

The delegations of New Zealand and Norway queried the list of categories, noting that it was not comprehensive and was in need of further elaboration. The observer from TRAFFIC was concerned that the list might create implementation difficulties and suggested that the Standing Committee should attempt to determine whether a more uniform approach could be followed when adding taxa.

The delegation of Norway requested clarification concerning the fourth preambular paragraph. The Secretariat responded that this related to Article VII of the Convention and the general intention not to limit movement of specimens that are personal or household effects.

The delegations of the Netherlands and Norway proposed the insertion of a paragraph above "ENCOURAGES Parties". The paragraph, including a change suggested by the delegation of Israel, follows:

Requests the Secretariat to develop a process for consideration of specimens of personal and household effects of Appendix-II species which may be exempted from permitting according to Article VII, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

The Committee agreed to this inclusion and to deletion of paragraph b) ii) "live specimens in case of a household move". It also agreed to maintain Resolution Conf. 10.6 and that consequently the

preambular paragraph from that Resolution need not be included in the adopted text. With these amendments, the draft resolution was agreed.

Species trade and conservation issues

42. Conservation of sturgeons and labelling of caviar

a) Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.12 (Rev.) on conservation of sturgeons

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12. Doc. 42.1 and covered some issues in detail, particularly the various recommendations. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran highlighted various aspects of the document. In particular, they felt that illegal practices were the main reason for sturgeon decline and requested all importing countries to provide data on seized sturgeon products. They drew attention to measures undertaken by Iran to conserve sturgeon populations, including the development of DNA markers, hatchery releases, gene pool conservation and the establishment of the Sturgeon International Research Institute. The universal labelling system has already been implemented in Iran and they recommended that it be introduced in all trading countries. They further asked CITES to develop an action plan for sturgeon conservation, in coordination with the Caspian range States.

The delegation of Canada expressed general support for the document but believed that CITES might not be the right forum for controlling fishery procedures. They proposed that the recommendations in the document remain as guidelines rather than become formal decisions. This could be achieved by deletion of footnote 4 in the document.

The delegation of Kazakhstan, speaking also on behalf of the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan, expressed their general support for the document and outlined various additional measures that had been implemented in their region. They expressed full support for the improvement of regulations and enforcement as outlined in paragraphs 33 and 34.

The delegations of Romania and the Russian Federation expressed their support for Canada and stated that uniform labelling of caviar for both domestic trade and exports would be vital for controlling illegal trade. They explained that the Black Sea countries had established a common monitoring system to assess the effects of catch. The delegation of Bulgaria supported the need for labelling of products in domestic markets and stated that they were committed to the reintroduction of native species.

The delegation of the United States of America, while expressing general support for document CoP12 Doc. 42.1, opposed the implementation of a standard method of genetic testing, as outlined in paragraph 19, and also the proposal for a global requirement for labelling of re-exported sturgeon products or those in domestic trade.

The Secretariat agreed that there were differences in the ways that countries managed their sturgeon stocks but was also concerned that the recommendations should remain active; it therefore proposed a draft decision as follows:

When range States of sturgeons in the Eurasian region develop regional conservation strategies and action plans they should take the recommendations in [this document] into account.

It was explained that the recommendations from document Doc. 42.1 would be included in a new Annex, but only as guidelines.

The observer from IUCN–The World Conservation Union offered to help seek funds for further conservation measures.

The deletion of footnote 4 and the draft decision proposed by the Secretariat were agreed. With these amendments document CoP12 Doc. 42.1 was accepted.

b) Consolidation of Resolutions relating to sturgeons and trade in caviar

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12 Doc. 42.2 drawing attention to the important new element relating to shared stocks of sturgeons. It was concerned about the wording in c) under “RECOMMENDS further” and welcomed suggestions for rewording this paragraph. The delegation of Iran was concerned that the wording in paragraph d) gave the Secretariat too much power and suggested deletion of the words “sustainable and”. This proposed amendment was supported by the delegations of Canada and the Russian Federation and was agreed. Further discussion of this agenda item was adjourned.

The session closed at 12h00.