

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

Sixth session: 8 November 2002: 09h10-12h00

Chairwoman: A.-M. Delahunt (Australia)

Secretariat: S. Baker
J. Barzdo
J.-C. Vasquez
M. Yeater

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
C. Lippai
R. Mackenzie
P. Wheeler

Strategic and administrative matters

13. Establishment of Committees

The Chairwoman informed the Committee that she proposed to report to the plenary session on this agenda item as follows:

Following extensive discussion of the permanent committee structure of the Convention, including through the efforts of a working group, Committee II recommends: that the permanent committee structure of the Convention remain unchanged, that is Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Nomenclature Committee; that representation on those committees remain unchanged; and that a new process for the consideration of implementation issues be agreed. Committee II is still completing its discussion of those implementation issues.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Exemptions and special trade provisions

54. Personal effects

The Chairwoman stated that a number of Parties had suggested the formation of a working group on this issue. A working group was established chaired by China and with representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Jamaica, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Chairwoman encouraged other Parties to make contact with members of the working group to ensure that all views on this agenda item would be considered.

21. Review of Resolutions and Decisions

The Committee continued its consideration of Annex 1 to document CoP12 Doc. 21.1.1. In relation to Resolution Conf. 1.5 (Rev.), the delegation of Mexico proposed the retention of the second part of paragraph a), but agreed to the repeal of the remainder of this Resolution. The delegation of China expressed support for full repeal of the Resolution. The Secretariat accepted Mexico's suggestion, which was agreed. There were no objections to the repeal of the remaining Resolutions listed in Annex 1, which was accepted as amended.

The Secretariat introduced the draft decision in Annex 2, which was agreed without discussion.

Strategic and administrative matters

10. Committee reports and recommendations

a) Animals Committee

The Committee resumed its consideration of the recommendation from the Animals Committee to repeal Decision 11.91. The delegation of Israel proposed the retention of paragraphs a) and c) of this Decision, but believed that paragraph b) could be repealed. They expressed the view that these matters should remain on the agenda of the Animals Committee, pending the conclusion of the review and genetic research. The Chairman of the Animals Committee indicated that the action required under the Decision had been undertaken, and that the Animals Committee was awaiting the results of the research. Israel's proposal was rejected by show of hands, and the repeal of Decision 11.91 was agreed.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Regular and special reports

22. Report on national reports required under Article VIII, paragraph 7, of the Convention

a) Annual reports

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12 Doc 22.1, noting that its aim was to transform the annual reporting requirement from a perceived burden to a management tool. Regarding submission, it indicated that a carrot-and-stick approach had been used: the carrot being the standing offer from the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to compile Parties' reports from permits; and the stick being Decisions 11.37 and 11.89 regarding the possible suspension of trade. It noted that the Standing Committee had considered the latter issue at its 47th meeting and had instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification recommending the suspension of trade in CITES-listed species with several Parties. It concluded that a comprehensive review of CITES reporting was required.

The delegations of Guinea, Senegal and Sierra Leone highlighted difficulties faced by developing countries in meeting reporting requirements owing to human, technical and financial resource constraints, and noted that it might be problematic for such countries to submit electronic reports. They emphasized the need for capacity-building. The delegation of Fiji shared these concerns, and suggested exploring the possibility of a model report in electronic format. The delegation of Israel commended the use and analysis of annual reports, and suggested that such analyses should be available on the CITES website. The observer from the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation agreed with the principle of harmonization of reporting requirements among conventions, but cautioned that this process should not diminish the value of CITES reports for decision-making.

The Chairwoman noted that there was general support for the draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.17 contained in Annex 1 of document CoP12 Doc. 22.1, and invited comment. The delegation of Japan asked whether the reference to 'a coordinated annual report' implied that only one consolidated report should be submitted. They proposed adding the words to the extent possible after this phrase. This was agreed, and the amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.17 in Annex 1 of the document were agreed as amended.

The delegation of Denmark on behalf of the Member States of the EU agreed with the proposed deletion of the Decisions referred to in sub-paragraphs c) to f) of paragraph 28 of the document. The delegation of the United States of America, together with the observers from the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and TRAFFIC, supported retention of Decisions 11.37 and 11.89 as these constituted a strong incentive for submission of reports. It was agreed to retain these Decisions and to delete those referred to in sub-paragraphs c), d) and f) of paragraph 28 of the document.

The delegation of Denmark on behalf of the Member States of the EU expressed general support for the draft decision in Annex 2 of the document, but noted that if a working group on reporting were established by the Standing Committee as proposed in paragraph a), then the Standing Committee, rather than the working group itself, should report at CoP13. They also pointed out that any decision on establishment of such a working group would be subject to budgetary considerations. The delegation of the United States of America concurred with Denmark with regard to the draft decision, but expressed some reservations regarding sub-paragraph xiii) of paragraph b).

It was agreed that the opening phrase of paragraph a) in the draft decision should read: The Standing Committee shall undertake a review, that the first line of paragraph b) should read: The review shall consider, and that paragraph c) should read: The Standing Committee shall report to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The delegation of the United States of America suggested that sub-paragraph b) xiii) be deleted but this was rejected. The delegation of Canada suggested a new sub-paragraph be added to paragraph b): xvi) The most cost effective measures required to implement these matters. This was agreed. The draft decision was agreed as amended.

b) Biennial reports

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12 Doc. 22.2. It noted that the requirement in Article VIII of the Convention for biennial reports was not widely understood by Parties but stressed that such reports were a useful tool for tracking the progress of Parties in enacting and enforcing relevant national legislation. It noted that Annex 1 was a dynamic document and that reports from the United States and Slovenia were not shown in it because they had been received only recently.

The delegation of Senegal, echoed by the delegation of Guinea, pointed out that developed countries had many more resources with which to fulfil their reporting obligations. The delegation of Sierra Leone expressed concern that the lack of guidelines did not make it easy to coordinate inputs to the reports. The delegation of Germany considered that the list of priority items for the preparation of biennial reports, contained in Annex 2, was a helpful tool to lessen the reporting burden on Parties.

The delegation of Denmark on behalf of Member States of the EU said that they were willing to share their experience in producing biennial reports. They added that they were in favour of the deletion of Decision 11.38 as proposed in document CoP12 Doc. 22.2 and of the recommendations in paragraph 25 of the document but believed that reference to an Implementation Committee should be removed. This was agreed and the recommendations were agreed as amended. The proposal to delete Decision 11.38 was also agreed.

24. Exports of vicuña wool and cloth

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12 Doc. 24. The delegation of the United States pointed out an error in the Spanish version, in which the words 'Endangered' and 'Threatened' had been inverted in paragraph 15. The document, as corrected in the Spanish version, was adopted.

General compliance issues

26. Compliance with the Convention

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12 Doc. 26, explaining that it was a discussion document, the intention of which was to seek the endorsement of the Parties for continued work by the Standing Committee on the topic. Regarding paragraph 25 and payments into the Trust Fund, they noted that two Parties had suggested to the Standing Committee that voting restrictions be applied to non-paying Parties.

The delegation of Fiji said that transparency was essential if stricter measures to ensure compliance were to be adopted.

The delegation of Denmark on behalf of the Member States of the EU strongly supported the document as a whole, although expressed concerns on some minor points. The Convention already had measures to ensure compliance, which were usually effective. They welcomed the preparation of guidelines for consideration at the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The session closed at 12h00.