

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 I meeting

Second session: 6 November 2002: 09h10-13h05

Chairman: D. Morgan (United Kingdom)

Secretariat: J. Armstrong
T. De Meulenaer
M. Lindeque
G. van Vliet

Rapporteurs: A. Bamford
J. Caldwell
T. Inskipp
K. Lochen

Strategic and administrative matters

20. Reports of dialogue meetings

b) Results of the wider Caribbean hawksbill turtle dialogue meetings

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12 Doc. 20.2, and urged acceptance of the draft decisions in Annex 4. The delegation of the United States of America supported the draft resolution and decisions in Annexes 2 and 3 and stated that they would seek to provide support for future dialogue meetings. The delegation of Costa Rica suggested some changes be made to Annex 4. In particular they wished to delete 'further' in paragraph a), and favoured changing the word 'management' to conservation in paragraph b). The delegation of Cuba, while supporting the draft decision in Annex 4, could not support the draft resolution in Annex 2 as it omitted some elements from the dialogue meeting. Regarding the draft decisions, they proposed adding an extra paragraph explicitly referring to sustainable use of the species under 'General objectives' in the annex to Annex 4 of document CoP12 Doc. 20.2. They did not agree with Costa Rica's proposed change to paragraph b) as they believed the dialogue meeting had been about management strategies. Inclusion of reference to sustainable use was supported by the delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, Japan and Namibia. The delegation of Barbados supported the draft decision in Annex 4, including a third dialogue meeting.

The delegation of Denmark, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union (EU), supported the proposed decisions as they involved range States. The delegation of Japan believed there should be mention of trade issues. In response, the delegation of the Bahamas pointed out that the issues for further consideration had already been agreed at the dialogue meeting; what was needed was more discussion on a strategic programme. The Secretariat suggested that the issue might be resolved by deletion of the word 'dialogue' in the penultimate paragraph of the second draft decision in Annex 4 as formal dialogue meetings were only needed if trade issues were to be discussed at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This was agreed.

After some suggested text from the delegation of Cuba for the proposed new paragraph d) under General objectives in Annex 4, the Secretariat proposed the following wording: to ensure that any use of the regional population is sustainable. This was agreed.

The delegation of Jamaica, supported by the delegation of Argentina, applauded the regional approach to the issue. The latter delegation suggested that the draft resolution in Annex 2 and the draft decisions in Annex 3 to document CoP Doc. 20.2 be rejected or withdrawn, as a formality. The Secretariat withdrew these. The draft decisions in Annex 4 were then agreed as amended.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

45. Trade in sea cucumbers in the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae

The delegation of the United States of America, in recognizing the budgetary constraints of the Secretariat, proposed the following, revised wording to the draft decisions on sea cucumbers.

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *assist in obtaining funds from interested Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, exporters, importers and other stakeholders, to support a technical workshop of relevant experts on the conservation of sea cucumbers (in the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae);*
- b) *contingent on the availability of external funding, cooperate with other relevant bodies, including the fisheries sector, to convene a technical workshop to consider and review biological and trade information that would assist in establishing conservation priorities and actions to secure the conservation status of sea cucumbers in these families;*
- c) *contract the preparation of a document for discussion at the technical workshop. This document should contain all relevant available information concerning the status, catches and bycatches of, and trade in members of the Families Stichopodidae and Holothuridae and on any domestic measures for their conservation and protection, and a review of the adequacy of such measures;*

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) *review, with the assistance of experts as may be needed, the outcomes of the technical workshop convened by the Secretariat and other available information concerning the biology, catch and bycatch of and trade in sea cucumbers (families Stichopodidae and Holothuridae) and develop appropriate recommendations; and*
- b) *prepare, for consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a discussion paper on the biological and trade status of sea cucumbers in the above families to provide scientific guidance on the actions needed to secure their conservation status.*

The draft decisions were supported by the delegations of Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, Ecuador, Guinea, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama and Swaziland. Provided that there were no budgetary implications for the Secretariat, the delegation of Switzerland was also in favour. The delegation of Canada was also in support and recommended that CITES should collaborate with fisheries organizations. The delegation of Japan did not believe that the Conference should be concerning itself with sea cucumbers. They were also worried about the potential impact on local fishing communities of listing any sea cucumber species in the Appendices. The delegation of China acknowledged that research was needed but, echoed by the delegation of Norway,

believed that it would be more appropriate if this were organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or a similar body.

The Chairman, noting broad support for the document, announced that the draft decision was agreed.

The delegation of Japan were unable to join the consensus and the delegation of the Republic of Korea, having similar views to Japan's, recommended that FAO be invited to participate in any workshop to ensure that outcomes were transparent.

48. Implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) on trade in specimens of Appendix-II species taken from the wild

a) Revision of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12 Doc. 48.1 and made the following corrections in Annex 2. In paragraph h) the word 'and' after 'biology' should be replaced by a comma and the words and trade in should be inserted after 'management'. In paragraph i) the phrase , the basis on which those conclusions are made should be inserted after 'trade on the selected species'.

The delegation of the United States, supported by the delegation of Mexico, asked for an explanation of how the net level of exports referred to in the footnote on the first page was derived. It was clarified that the definition of the 'net level of exports' was the same as that used by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The observer from UNEP-WCMC explained how the figures were derived and suggested that the words by the same range State should be inserted after 'imported' in the footnote for greater clarity. This was agreed.

The delegation of the United States also expressed concern that the draft resolution in Annex 2 contained amendments made since the recent meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees. They asked why the Standing Committee had been removed from the process referred to in paragraph r) and they questioned the addition of the words 'as a last resort' in paragraph s). The Secretariat explained that it had been considered necessary to make amendments to the draft resolution to deal with potential problems in the text. In paragraph r) there was no reference to the Standing Committee as they would only be involved in cases where the Animals and Plants Committees recommendations had not been met. In paragraph s) the words 'as a last resort' had been added to allow greater flexibility in addressing problems of non-compliance.

The delegation of the Netherlands felt that if reference to the Standing Committee were incorporated in paragraph r) it would be necessary to institute more efficient communications to prevent delays in the process. The delegation of Argentina supported the involvement of the Standing Committee in the process referred to in paragraph r) and noted that the Committee could be contacted by post between meetings to minimize delays. They also considered that the method of species selection for the process should not be based solely on trade data. In response the Secretariat declared that this was not the case, and went on to suggest that decisions on the fulfilment of recommendations were mainly a scientific matter and should, therefore, remain the responsibility of the technical committees rather than the Standing Committee. This point was supported by the delegations of China, Japan, Mexico and Switzerland, the Chairman of the Animals Committee and Chairwoman of the Plants Committees. The observer from Creative Conservation Solutions, supported by the delegations of Israel and Switzerland, said that the procedure involved in paragraphs q) and r) had been in place since the inception of the resolution in 1992 and that changes should not be made lightly.

The delegation of Sierra Leone were worried about the response deadline specified in paragraph d) because of often lengthy postal delivery times. The Secretariat replied that every effort was made to ensure that documents arrived safely and cases of no response were followed up by reminders. The delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania drew attention to the problems of obtaining population

data owing to lack of funds. The Secretariat noted that it was a fundamental requirement that countries should make non-detriment findings and said that great efforts were made to assist Parties with funding of population surveys.

The observer from IUCN – The World Conservation Union expressed concern that the evaluation of the Significant Trade process referred to in Annex 3 was not to be started until after CoP13. The Secretariat responded that there was a need to deal with various outstanding matters, such as follow-up of the implementation of existing recommendations, before any evaluation was considered.

The session was closed at 13h05.