The delegation of Japan on a point of order referred to document CoP12 Inf. 23 relating to the sea area known as the Sea of Japan. The name of this area had previously been challenged by the delegation of the Republic of Korea, but the delegation of Japan insisted that the existing name of the Sea of Japan should be retained in accordance with the relevant decisions of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), until there was a consensus on a new name among the member countries of the IHO.

The Chairman asked for corrections to documents CoP12 Com. I Reps. 3-7.

In document CoP12 Com. I Rep. 3, the delegation of Mexico requested that in the fifth sentence of agenda item 55 a) a group of countries with similar megabiodiversity be inserted after the word “Cuba”. The Chairwoman of the Plants Committee requested that the following words be added at the end of paragraph 55 a): The Chairwoman of the Plants Committee feared that the deletion of various paragraphs from the preamble of Resolution Conf. 9.19, that had been agreed for eight years, would create problems because the issues related to animals and plants needed to be addressed separately.

In document CoP12 Com. I Rep. 4, in the first sentence of paragraph 6 of agenda item 58, the observer of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) requested that the remainder of the sentence after “FAO reported that” should be deleted and replaced by the final report from FAO on the criteria had been submitted in time for the CITES process. The delegation of Denmark on behalf of the Member States of the European Union requested the addition of the words otherwise paragraph c) should be deleted at the end of penultimate paragraph of agenda item 66.

In document CoP12 Com. I Rep. 5, the delegation of Monaco, after expressing concern about the report of the discussion on this agenda item, requested that the sentence beginning “The delegation of Denmark” at the end of the text on proposal Prop. 12.3 should be separated as a new paragraph. The delegation of Georgia requested that the following words be added at the end of the first sentence of the first paragraph of this proposal: The delegation of Georgia stressed that scientists have agreed that the population is depleted and that ACCOBAMS made a thorough scientific review of the status of the Black Sea bottle-nosed dolphin before it made its request to CITES to transfer the species to Appendix I.
The above documents were agreed as amended. There were no proposed amendments to documents CoP12 Com. I Reps. 6 and 7 and these were agreed.

Consideration of proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II

66. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

The Chairman opened further discussion on proposal Prop. 12.6. He noted that there was no consensus and that the proposal should be moved to a vote. Under Rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure it was necessary to vote on the proposal with the least restrictive impact on trade and, therefore, the amended proposal from Botswana would be considered before the proposal as amended by the delegation of the United States of America.

The delegation of Botswana introduced further amendments to Prop. 6 Amendment.

Under b) the word “re-introduction” should be replaced by in-situ conservation programmes. Under d) insert for non-commercial purposes after “goods”. Under e) iii) replace current wording with Not before May 2004 and in any event not before the Secretariat has verified the prospective importing countries and MIKE has reported to the Secretariat on the baseline information (e.g. elephant population numbers, incidence of illegal killing); insert a new paragraph e) vi. only after the Standing Committee has agreed that the above conditions have been met. Delete paragraph f) and the first sentence of the following paragraph.

The delegation of the United States asked the delegation of Botswana if they would accept some further amendments, which they detailed. The Chairman noted that these amendments were essentially already incorporated in Prop. 6 Amendment and the Secretary-General suggested that the proposal as amended by the delegation of Botswana was preferable. This was agreed and the delegation of Botswana called for a secret ballot. The results were 59 in favour, 26 against, 21 abstentions and 2 spoilt papers, and the proposal was agreed.

The delegation of Namibia introduced proposal Prop. 12.7 as amended by Prop. 7 Amendment, to amend annotation °604 regarding Namibia’s population of Loxodonta africana. They wished to amend Prop. 7 Amendment in line with the changes to Botswana’s proposal Prop. 6 Amendment as follows:

Under b) the word “re-introduction” should be replaced by in-situ conservation programmes. Under d) insert for non-commercial purposes after “goods”. Under e) iii) replace current wording with Not before May 2004 and in any event not before the Secretariat has verified the prospective importing countries and MIKE has reported to the Secretariat on the baseline information (e.g. elephant population numbers, incidence of illegal killing); insert a new paragraph e) vi. only after the Standing Committee has agreed that the above conditions have been met. Delete paragraph f) and the first sentence of the following paragraph.

They reluctantly agreed to withdraw the section referring to annual quotas in their original proposal because of the impact that preparing proposals time and again for meetings of the Conference of the Parties would have on their resources.

The delegation of Germany stated that they could not support the proposal because it was premature and needed more information from MIKE, scheduled for CoP13. They stated that they may need to re-evaluate future support for MIKE. The delegation of Kenya noted that the Namibian population of elephants was small and migratory and that Namibia had been a conduit for ivory illegally poached in Angola. The delegation of Israel were also concerned about the poaching of elephants.

The delegations of Cameroon, Cuba and Peru expressed support for the amended proposal.
The amendments proposed above were agreed and the delegation of Namibia requested a secret ballot. The results were 65 in favour, 28 against and 22 abstentions. The proposal was agreed.

The session was closed at 12h00.