

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

Plenary meeting

Third session: 4 November 2002: 14h05-17h25

Chairman: S. Bitar

Secretariat: W. Wijnstekers
J. Armstrong
J. Sellar

UNEP: K. Töpfer
P. Chabeda

Rapporteurs: T. Inskipp
C. Lippai
R. Mackenzie
P. Wheeler

Strategic and administrative matters

10. Committee reports and recommendations

a) Animals Committee

i) Report of the Chairman

The Chairman of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP12 Doc. 10.1, outlining the main elements of the report and highlighting the recommendations contained therein. He drew attention to three errors in the report: in paragraph 41, in the third sentence, 'should' should be replaced by would; in paragraph 45, in the first sentence, the reference to 'IUCN' should be replaced by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZAA), the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA); and in Annex I, in the seventh preambular paragraph in the draft resolution, determined should be inserted after 'adequately'.

He provided updated information on some aspects of the report. In relation to *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* (Black Sea bottlenose dolphin), he noted that he had recently requested information on the results of the genetic research project, but had not yet received a response. In relation to trade in seahorses and other members of the family Syngnathidae, he reported that the Animals Committee endorsed the draft proposal to include the genus *Hippocampus* in Appendix II.

In conclusion, he thanked the members of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat and others who had assisted the Committee in its work.

The Secretariat proposed that the draft resolution in Annex 1 and the draft decisions in Annex 2 of the Report of the Animals Committee should be dealt with under the relevant agenda items in Committee I and Committee II. It also proposed that consideration of the budget of the Animals Committee for the next triennium be referred to Committee II.

The delegation of the United Kingdom proposed, and the Chairman of the Animals Committee agreed, that the issue of fossilized corals (paragraph 79 of the report) should be further addressed by the Animals Committee in its next term.

The observer from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) stated that FAO shared the concern of the Animals Committee at the slow progress in implementing the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of sharks (IPOA-Sharks), and that this matter would be discussed at the 25th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries in February 2003.

The delegation of Denmark, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, stated that the EU agreed with the proposal to repeal Decisions 11.91-11.93, 11.95-11.99 and 11.103-11.105. The EU also agreed with the proposal to amend Decision 11.102 to extend it to CoP13. The delegation of Mexico suggested that these Decisions be considered under agenda item 21 and that a working group might be established for this purpose. At the suggestion of the delegation of Argentina, it was agreed to address the status of these Decisions under agenda item 21, but not to establish a working group at this stage.

The delegation of Senegal sought clarification in response to a query it had submitted regarding trade in captive-bred crocodiles. The Secretariat suggested that it have bilateral discussions with the delegation.

The Secretary-General thanked the Chairman of the Animals Committee for his work during his term of office.

b) Plants Committee

i) Report of the Chairman

The Chairwoman of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP12 Doc. 10.2, which had been prepared in consultation with the Plants Committee members and the CITES Secretariat, highlighting certain aspects of the report. She stressed the difficulties some members encountered to meet their regional obligations owing to financial constraints and suggested reallocating some funds to support the work of members from developing countries or countries with economies in transition. She proposed the amendment of Decision 11.110 and encouraged the provision to the members of the means necessary to fulfil their duties. She introduced the work carried out by the Committee in relation to Decisions adopted at the previous meeting of the Conference regarding *Harpagophytum*, *Aquilaria* spp., *Guaiacum* spp., the on-going review of the Appendices, and Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.). She outlined the budget and the work programme of the Committee proposed for the intersessional period in relation to significant trade, the objectives from the CITES Strategic Vision and Action Plan that had been accomplished and the priorities established therein. She reported on the CITES training and awareness-raising effort and on the excellent results of the third Baeza Master's course taught in Spanish and English, which 34 people from 25 countries attended. Finally she thanked the members of the Plants Committee, as well as others who had assisted the work of the Committee.

The delegation of Denmark on behalf of the Member States of the European Union congratulated the Chairwoman and the Committee on the work accomplished and expressed their support of the recommendations contained in the report, subject to the availability of

funds, and on the draft decision regarding duties of members of the Committee (amendment to Decision 11.110). The delegation of Canada, on behalf of the members of the Plants Committee, and the delegation of Sierra Leone also expressed their deep appreciation of the work accomplished by the Chairwoman.

With regard to *Aquilaria*, the delegation of Saudi Arabia pointed out that it would be difficult to review all agar-producing taxa, owing to identification problems. Nevertheless they stated that Saudi Arabia would do all in its power to assist. The Chairwoman of the Plants Committee thanked them for their intervention and said that the Committee would take note of the concerns raised by the delegation of Saudi Arabia.

The delegation of Guinea asked whether the next Master's course held in Spain could also be given in French. In response, the Chairwoman of the Plants Committee said that sufficient funds were not available. However she would ask UNEP to look into the possibilities of supporting participants through scholarships and they would also look at the language issue.

c) Nomenclature Committee report

The zoologist of the Nomenclature Committee introduced document CoP12 Doc. 10.3 (Rev. 1), focussing on fauna and drawing attention to the report's three annexes. Noting that Parties did not always use the scientific names provided in the adopted standard references, the Nomenclature Committee recommended that the nomenclature in the *Checklist of CITES species* and its updates (UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 2001 *et seq.*) should be followed in cases of doubt. The Secretariat drew attention to its comment on page 11 of document CoP12 Doc 10.3 (Rev. 1) in which it noted that adoption of the Checklist would eliminate the need to make regular amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.22. A decision in that regard by the Conference of the Parties would require the adoption of amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.1 on the Establishment of Committees and to Resolution Conf. 11.22 on Standard Nomenclature. The recommendation to use the Checklist was agreed.

The botanist of the Nomenclature Committee introduced the second part of document CoP12 Doc. 10.3 (Rev. 1), focussing on flora. He drew particular attention to paragraph 58, regarding the application of the Convention to fungi, and noted that in Annex 2 of document CoP12 Doc. 10.3 (Rev. 1) the Secretariat and the Nomenclature Committee recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider that the Convention could apply to fungi.

The delegations of Japan and China stated that they did not consider fungi to be either plants or animals. The former also doubted that any species of fungus was endangered by trade. This assertion was questioned by the delegations of Kenya, Mexico and Peru. In response to a question from the delegation of Costa Rica, the Secretariat noted that no other proposals concerning fungi were currently proposed for consideration at CoP12. The delegation of Denmark, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, expressed support for all the proposed nomenclature changes and additions and, with the delegation of Norway, supported the recommendation that the Convention be considered to apply to fungi. The delegation of the United States of America reported that interest in listing a species of fungus in the Appendices had been expressed in the United States.

The recommendation that the Convention should be considered to apply to fungi was adopted by the Parties with a reservation by the delegation of Japan.

The delegation of Switzerland questioned the recommendation in paragraph 24 of document CoP12 Doc. 10.3 (Rev. 1) and suggested that, for practical purposes, Parties continue to recognize synonyms when these were used on permits.

11. Identification Manual

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12 Doc. 11 drawing particular attention to paragraph 7 and the list of Parties still to submit information for the Identification Manual. It further noted that it intended to include the Identification Manual on the CITES website, which would link into capacity-building initiatives currently under way. Concerning the list of countries still to submit information, the delegation of Israel noted that the United States was preparing an identification manual on stony corals, which would cover Israel's obligations in that regard. The delegation of Germany said that some of the taxa listed for Germany were also listed under other countries. They urged the Secretariat to check for and eliminate any such duplication. The delegation of China reported that they had fulfilled their obligation under paragraph 7 of document CoP12 Doc. 11 and would be sending the results to the Secretariat. The delegation of Canada said that it would be giving presentations on its identification guides during the course of the present meeting. The delegation of Italy reported that the manual was currently being translated into Italian.

The delegation of Ecuador noted that the provision of information on the many Trochilidae species was a huge project and expressed the hope that support, including financial assistance, could be provided.

The Chairman requested the Secretariat to take note of all the comments made.

15. Outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the discussion on International Environmental Governance: consequences for CITES

The Secretary-General noted that there had not been a decision on international environmental governance at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). However, many of the issues that had arisen, such as the recommendation that there be fewer meetings of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and fewer bodies, were relevant to CITES. The merging of the Animals and Plants Committees had been proposed, and the Secretariat itself was proposing that the interval between the meetings of the Conference of the Parties be lengthened from two years to three. The Secretary-General opposed the proposal that meetings of Conferences of Parties should take place only in Geneva or New York as this would mean that they would be attended largely by diplomatic representatives from the missions in those cities, and developing countries in particular would not be able to afford to bring adequate scientific representation. Similarly, there would be a much lower representation of developing country non-governmental organizations and media. He also considered it impractical to hold back-to-back meetings of the Conferences of Parties to different conventions. He stressed, however, the willingness of CITES to cooperate with other conventions, for example in the areas of training, scientific work and capacity-building, and noted that it was advantageous that the World Conservation Monitoring Centre was now under the aegis of UNEP, and could be a centre for information available to all interested bodies.

The Executive Director of UNEP highlighted the importance of the WSSD and, in particular, its Plan of Implementation, the Johannesburg Declaration and the Type 2 Projects. He also noted that, in light of the Doha agenda, it was essential for the MEAs to coordinate their work with that of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as all environmental conventions had a trade component. He also stressed the link between the work of CITES and Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The observer from IUCN – The World Conservation Union highlighted the benefits to be obtained from sustainable trade in wild species, as this related to the seventh Millennium Development Goal on alleviation of poverty.

The delegation of Senegal opposed merging the Animals and Plants Committee but expressed support for enhanced collaboration between MEAs. The delegation of Nigeria thanked the international community for its support of Type 2 Projects. The delegation of Denmark, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, emphasized in addition the importance attached to public participation in both the Johannesburg Declaration and in the Programme of Implementation. CITES provided a good example of such participation, in that half of the present attendance represented non-governmental organizations.

6. Report of the Credentials Committee

The Chairman of the Credentials Committee would present at the following morning's session a list of Parties whose credentials had been accepted; a list of those Parties present whose credentials had not yet been accepted would be published in the daily bulletin.

The Chairman closed the session at 17h25.