

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

Fourth session: 5 November 2002: 10h40-12h20

Chairman: S. Bitar

Secretariat: W. Wijnstekers
J. Armstrong
J. Barzdo
J. Sellar

UNEP: P. Chabeda

Rapporteurs: K. Lochen
A. St. John

Strategic and administrative matters

6. Report of the Credentials Committee

The Secretariat read out a list of Parties whose credentials had not yet been accepted and asked that Parties with questions approach the Secretariat after the session.

12. Revision of the Action Plan of the Convention

The Secretariat introduced document CoP12 Doc. 12 which summarized the activities of the Standing Committee Working Group on the work plans. The Secretariat noted that this was a dynamic document that would be revised as necessary, and presented the Working Group's recommendations as outlined in paragraph 13.

The delegation of Denmark, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, supported the recommendations and the draft revision of the Action Plan contained in the Annex. The delegation of Mexico believed that only Parties should be responsible for actions under action points 1.1.4 and 3.2.4. The delegations of Mexico and Peru shared a concern about issues relating to land tenure and access to natural resources in action point 1.1.4. The delegation of Sierra Leone understood that the role of the Secretariat in action points was usually that of a facilitator. The Secretariat pointed out that excluding the Secretariat from the actions outlined in action point 3.2.4 relating to the exchange of intelligence information would be difficult because it had a role in bilateral communication between the Parties and other relevant bodies. The delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, and the Bahamas, also recommended that the Secretariat continue to be included under action point 3.2.4. The delegation of Uganda recommended inserting wildlife trade in front of 'intelligence information' in action point 3.2.4. The delegation of Mali noted that judicial bodies should participate in numerous of the action points under Objective 1.3. The delegation of Australia, noting the range of issues identified by Parties, suggested that the Parties adopt the recommendations presented in paragraph 13, which would allow for additional amendments to the Action Plan.

The Secretariat noted that this document was referred directly to the plenary session because it had already been discussed at length in the Standing Committee Working Group on the work plans. It supported the delegation of Australia and stated that it would present a revision of the Action Plan at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Parties agreed and the document was adopted.

20. a) Results of the African elephant dialogue meeting

The Chairman of the dialogue meeting introduced the report contained in document CoP12 Doc. 20.1, and stated that the participants in the dialogue meeting agreed on the following salient points: the African elephant populations of the southern African sub-region were stable and well-managed; some African countries continued to experience difficulty in controlling domestic ivory markets; range States should make commitments to enhance collaboration for the regulation of trade in wildlife; there was general agreement that MIKE and ETIS had started to show results; and there would be a need to have all raw ivory sales under the control of the Secretariat. The Chairman of the dialogue meeting noted the consensus reached with regard to the proposals presented by Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe for consideration at the present meeting, but he also pointed out that Kenya had expressed its reservation with regard to the consensus.

The delegation of Kenya expressed disappointment that the earlier consultative meeting had not been more productive, as this had increased pressure on the range States to reach consensus at the dialogue meeting held immediately before CoP12. They also expressed concern that the ETIS study had not been peer-reviewed and noted that an independent report had disagreed with some of its conclusions. Furthermore MIKE had not yet provided the required baseline data. Although the 18-month delay in sales of raw ivory referred to in the proposals might allow for the analysis of further data, acceptance of the proposals would be likely to have an impact on the data collected under the MIKE process. In addition, the delegation did not believe that the role of Japan in illegal ivory trade had been fully disclosed to the Parties. The delegation of Kenya concluded by urging that the proposals relating to ivory sale be withdrawn.

The delegation of Japan expressed its support for the conservation and sustainable use of African elephants. They pointed out that they were investigating reports of illegal trade and would report as the investigation progressed. The delegation of China highlighted the progress made in combating the illegal ivory trade in China and emphasized China's commitment to the sustainable use of wildlife. The delegation of Botswana stressed that the proposals being considered were not to reopen the ivory trade and drew attention to the offer to assist other range States in the management of their elephant populations.

The Chairman reminded the Parties that substantive matters relating to this issue would be referred to Committee I. The report was then accepted.

20. b) Results of the wider Caribbean hawksbill turtle dialogue meetings

The delegation of the United Kingdom presented document CoP12 Doc. 20.2, noting the success of the dialogue meetings and highlighting the main points.

The delegation of Mexico, supported by the delegation of Colombia, expressed their support for the draft resolution and draft decisions contained in the annexes to the document. The delegation of Cuba supported the draft decisions but not the draft resolution, noting that it included actions not agreed in the dialogue meetings. They and the delegation of Japan considered that the objectives in the draft resolution should include sustainable use.

The representative of UNEP congratulated the participants in the dialogue meetings and urged the Parties to continue promoting the conservation of hawksbill turtles. He offered the assistance of the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme and expressed interest in coordinating with interested donors to continue these efforts. The observer from WWF stated there was also a need to address

habitat conservation. The Secretariat noted that it was not appropriate to undertake wider discussion of hawksbill turtle conservation through the dialogue process because the purpose of that was to address issues relating to trade.

In response to an observation from the delegation of Denmark, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, that this agenda item was not timetabled for discussion in any committee, the Secretariat suggested that the item be referred to Committee I and undertook to raise this matter with the Bureau.

The report was accepted.

The session was closed at 12h20.