

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking issues

MANAGEMENT OF ANNUAL EXPORT QUOTAS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties adopted three decisions relating to the management of annual export quotas as follows:

12.17 a) *The Standing Committee shall establish an intersessional Export Quota Working Group with the goal of developing guidelines for Parties to establish, implement, monitor and report national export quotas for CITES-listed taxa. The Standing Committee shall consult extensively with the Animals and Plants Committees to fulfil the following Terms of Reference.*

b) *The Terms of Reference of the working group should include the following:*

i) *particular issues to be addressed should include the problems identified in Annex 2 of document CoP12 Doc. 50.2 and additional suggestions or submissions from the Parties;*

ii) *representatives with expertise in this issue, particularly from Parties with export quotas and from key importing countries, should be invited to participate. The Secretariat shall be invited to participate in discussions. The Chairman of the Working Group may invite representatives of non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations with particular expertise in this issue to participate in the Working Group;*

iii) *an interim report by the Working Group to the Standing Committee on its progress toward achievement of its goals should be completed by 31 March 2004; and*

iv) *a final report, which may include a draft resolution(s) or decision(s) of the Conference of the Parties, should be submitted by the Working Group to the Standing Committee for consideration at its last meeting before the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee shall submit it to the Conference for consideration at that meeting.*

12.18 *The Secretariat shall seek funding for a meeting of the Export Quota Working Group.*

12.72 *The Standing Committee shall consider the issue of improving the management of annual export quotas, and report at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. In accordance with Decision 12.17, the Standing Committee, at its 49th meeting (Geneva, April 2003), established an Export Quota Working Group, comprising, Argentina, Australia, Cameroon (Chairman), China (Vice-Chairman), Germany, Ghana, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zimbabwe. It

was agreed that the Chairman would also invite the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees to participate, as well as certain organizations with relevant experience, such as IUCN, Safari Club International, TRAFFIC and UNEP-WCMC.

4. Unfortunately the Working Group was not able to make progress before the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, March 2004), but a number of the members present at that meeting met and agreed to recommend the following procedure for the continuation of the work:
 - a) by the end of April 2004, a document should be produced that contains a synthesis of the questions and concerns raised in documents SC50 Inf. 1 Annex 1 and SC50 Inf. 2 (NB: the United States has volunteered to provide this synthesis);
 - b) the Secretariat should provide this synthesis to the members of the working group, who will have three weeks to provide their comments on the document to the Secretariat, which will then, in collaboration with the United States, prepare a revised version taking into account the comments received;
 - c) preferably in June 2004 (but no later than July 2004) the Secretariat should send the revised document to the members of the working group and distribute it with a Notification to the Parties with a request for delegations to come to CoP13 having ensured that consultations at regional level have taken place and prepared to discuss these issues at a meeting of the working group during CoP13;
 - d) the Standing Committee should propose the adoption of a decision at CoP13 that the Terms of Reference of the working group be extended until CoP14 and that it proceed as follows:
 - i) by May 2005 (either at a meeting or through electronic communication) the working group should prepare a document containing the results of its deliberations, which may include draft guidelines on the management of export quotas, taking into account the discussions during CoP13, which should be submitted to the Animals and Plants Committees for comment in 2005; and
 - ii) the working group should take into account the comments received from the Animals and Plants Committees and prepare a working document with a draft resolution, which may include proposed guidelines on the management of export quotas, to be presented to the Standing Committee in 2006 and forwarded for consideration at CoP14; and
 - e) during CoP13 (outside of the formal sessions), the working group should meet, together with observers from interested Parties, and preferably with simultaneous interpretation, in order to discuss the issue in full, and identify problems in the management of export quotas and potential solutions.
5. The Standing Committee agreed to this procedure and consequently recommends that Decisions 12.17 and 12.18 be deleted and that Decision 12.72 be amended to refer to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.