

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

Fourth session: 5 October 2004: 14h15-17h00

Chairman: M. Brasher (United Kingdom)

Secretariat: W. Wijnstekers
J. Barzdo
J. Vasquez
M. Yeater

UNEP: N. Rotich

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
H. Gillett
T. Inskipp
R. Mackenzie
A. St. John

After a temporary suspension of the session, the summary reports for the first and second sessions of the Committee were reviewed.

The following corrections were made to document CoP13 Com. II Rep. 1:

- a) Agenda item 8.4 should precede agenda item 8.3.
- b) Under agenda item 8.4, the penultimate sentence in the last paragraph to read The observer from IWMC-World Conservation Trust expressed regret that the NGOs, which participate in large numbers in CoP13 and are numerous on the list of agreed donors, had contributed at a very low level to the external funding of CITES and in particular to the Sponsored Delegates Project in the years 2002 and 2003 and probably in 2004.
- c) Under agenda item 8.4, the delegations of Saint Lucia and Mauritius were to be disassociated from the statement about Parties having delegations larger than two people. The fifth sentence was to be replaced by the following The delegation of the Bahamas, supported by the delegations of Chile, Mauritius and St. Lucia echoed this. Additionally, the delegation of the Bahamas highlighted the fact that some Parties with two sponsored delegates were in fact represented by larger delegations. The delegation of St. Lucia requested that special consideration be given to Small Island Developing States in ensuring that these small economies be granted two sponsored delegates.

The following corrections were made to document CoP13 Com. II Rep. 2:

- a) The first line under agenda item 8.3 to read The Chairman announced that the working group would be open-ended, and would be chaired by....
- b) Under agenda item 11.1, the sentence in the second paragraph to read The delegations of Argentina, Cuba, Kenya and Mexico pointed out that the issue had been thoroughly examined at CoP12 and in view of the excellent work undertaken by the technical committees, a revision as proposed by Australia was not justified.
- c) Under agenda item 11.2, on behalf of the 25 Member States of the European Community, to be added after 'the Netherlands' in the second paragraph and the sentence The Committee noted the information from the Secretary-General at the end of the seventh paragraph.

- d) Under agenda item 11.3 , in its capacity as the Chairman of the Animals and Plants Committees working group on agenda item 11.3. to be added after 'the Netherlands'.

Strategic and administrative matters

12. Cooperation with other organizations

12.1 Synergy between CITES and CBD

12.1.1 Achieving greater synergy in CITES and CBD implementation

The delegation of the Netherlands, on behalf of the 25 Member States of the European Community, supported by the delegation of Kenya, introduced documents CoP13 Doc. 12.1.1 and 12.1.1 Annex (Rev. 1), noting that the overall goals of CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were mutually supportive. The Executive Secretary of the CBD made a statement about the importance of cooperation amongst biodiversity-related conventions. He emphasized that CITES and CBD shared important goals and were natural partners. He mentioned several relevant initiatives, including a liaison group comprising multilateral environmental agreements and the recent expert workshop on CITES-CBD cooperation and synergy, held in Vilm, Germany. The representative of UNEP stressed that greater synergy was essential to meet the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2010 target to reduce biodiversity loss. The CITES Secretary-General welcomed the comments of his colleague from the CBD and stressed the importance of synergy and collaboration between the two conventions. He supported adoption of the draft decisions in document CoP13 Doc. 12.1.1 Annex (Rev.1). The delegations of Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Qatar and Uganda and the observers from TRAFFIC and IUCN - The World Conservation Union supported the document. The Chairman of the Plants Committee also supported the document, noting that her report to the Conference of the Parties included a draft decision calling for the Plants Committee to link its activities with the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

The delegation of the United States of America, supported by the delegations of India, Japan and New Zealand and the observer from the Defenders of Wildlife supported the objective of improved synergy and appreciated the work of the Vilm workshop. The delegation of the United States proposed that the recommendations be referred to the Standing Committee for an initial analysis to determine which were applicable to CITES. The Chairman requested the Netherlands, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, to convene a drafting group including Kenya, the United States and other Parties with concerns regarding this issue that would revise the draft decisions in CoP13 12.1.1 Annex (Rev. 1) and present these to a future session of the Committee.

12.1.2 Sustainable use principles and guidelines

The delegation of Namibia introduced documents CoP13 Doc. 12.1.2 and 12.1.2 Annex 2 (Rev. 1) and Annex 3. They drew attention to the definition of 'sustainable use' in Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in decision VII/12 in February 2004. They believed that these Principles and Guidelines could assist Parties in making non-detriment findings for the purposes of CITES. The delegations of Argentina, Ghana, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa and Venezuela supported the adoption of the draft resolution, contained in Annex 2 (Rev. 1), and the draft decisions contained in Annex 3, without further amendment; however the delegation of Ghana expressed some concern about possible budgetary implications for the Secretariat of paragraph a) of the first draft decision.

The delegation of the United States put forward two amendments to the draft resolution in Annex 2 (Rev. 1) as follows: delete the fifth preambular paragraph that referred to the number of Parties of CITES that are also Parties to the CBD; and in paragraph a), replace the word 'Make' by Consider, as appropriate within national circumstances, the. The delegation of Canada indicated that it could accept this amendment.

In paragraph b) of the first draft decision in Annex 3, the delegation of Canada proposed replacing the words 'work on' by consideration of; and in the second draft decision they proposed replacing 'develop' by invite. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed two amendments to paragraph c) of the first draft decision in Annex 3 as follows: replace 'these' by relevant; and insert as identified by the Animals and Plants Committees after 'Guidelines'. The delegation of the United States supported the second draft decision in Annex 3, directed to the Animals and Plants Committee. However, they considered that the draft decision directed to the Secretariat in Annex 3 was premature, and proposed that any such action be postponed until the Animals and Plants Committees had completed their examination of the Principles and Guidelines. This proposal was supported by the delegation of Israel. The delegation of Norway proposed addressing the concern of the United States by adding a cross reference in the first draft decision to the work to be undertaken by the Animals and Plants Committees under the second draft decision.

The delegation of India expressed the view that the definition of sustainable use in the CBD should not be adopted under CITES, which itself defined the obligations of Parties. This view was shared by the delegation of Australia, who noted that rigorous analysis was required to confirm that the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines were fully compatible with the policy and regulatory approaches of CITES, and highlighted the availability of an existing practical and effective tool to assist in making non-detriment findings, in the form of the IUCN Guidance for CITES Scientific Authorities. They further suggested that synergy might better be pursued through the Memorandum of Understanding between CITES and the CBD, and by forging stronger links between relevant national authorities.

At the request of the Chairman, the delegation of Namibia agreed to consider the various drafting suggestions and discussions in the Committee, and to revert to the Committee in a subsequent session with a revised proposal.

The session closed at 17h00.