

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

Second session: 3 October 2004: 09h00-12h00

Chairman: K. Stansell (United States of America)
S. Khunkitti (Thailand)

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

UNEP: K. Töpfer

Rapporteurs: H. Gillett
J. Gray
A. St. John
A. Stattersfield

Strategic and administrative matters

1. Rules of Procedure

1.1 Use of secret ballots

Referring to document CoP13 Doc. 1.1, the Secretariat announced that the Standing Committee had decided not to propose any amendment to the Rules of Procedure for secret ballots. The delegation of the Netherlands, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, and the delegation of the United States of America regretted the decision on the grounds that it was not in the interests of transparency.

1.2 Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure in document CoP13 Doc. 1.2 (Rev. 1). The new rule 15.3 and the amendments proposed to Rules 3.5 and 15.1 and to the title of Rule 20 were agreed, provisional upon a grammatical correction to the Spanish version of Rule 15.1. The delegations of Qatar and the Russian Federation opposed the proposed amendment to Rule 3.2 because under national law they were unable to provide credentials not in their national language. They were willing to provide translations of those credentials and the Secretariat therefore suggested adding , together with a translation into English, French or Spanish if they are not in one of those three languages to the end of the current Rule 3.2. This amendment was agreed. There being no further comments on the Rules of Procedure, they were adopted, as revised.

2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the meeting and of Chairmen of Committees I and II

The Chairman reported that the Standing Committee had nominated Mr Suwit Khunkitti (Thailand) as Chairman of the meeting and Dr David Brackett (Canada) and Ms Victoria Lichtschein (Argentina) as Vice-Chairmen. Dr Holly Dublin had been nominated as Chairman of Committee I and Mr Martin Brasher (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as Chairman of Committee II. These

nominated candidates were approved by acclamation. Subsequently, the delegation of Japan expressed the opinion that there had been inadequate consultation among the Standing Committee members prior to their making the nominations. The Chairman noted that the Standing Committee had already taken a decision to review the nomination process at its 53rd meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Secretariat introduced document CoP13 Doc. 3 (Rev. 5). As there were no objections, the provisional agenda was adopted.

4. Adoption of the working programme

The Secretariat introduced document CoP13 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1). The Chairman of the Animals Committee noted that, under the provisional working programme, his input would on some occasions apparently be required simultaneously in Committees I and II. The Secretariat acknowledged this and suggested that this matter be considered at a meeting of the Bureau. In response to a request from IWMC-World Conservation Trust for clarification regarding the scheduling of a discussion on sturgeons, the Secretariat noted that news of this would be communicated to the Parties in due course. The working programme was then adopted.

5. Credentials Committee

5.1 Establishment of the Credentials Committee

The Chairman of the Standing Committee reported that the Czech Republic had been nominated as Chairman of the Credentials Committee and Cameroon, Mexico, Saint Lucia and the United Arab Emirates as members. These nominations were approved.

6. Admission of observers

The Secretariat introduced document CoP13 Doc. 6, which was adopted.

7. Matters relating to the Standing Committee

7.1 Report of the Chairman

The Chairman of the Standing Committee referred the participants to document CoP13 Doc. 7.1 for his full report and then highlighted selected items. The report was adopted.

9. Committee reports and recommendations

9.1 Animals Committee

9.1.1 Report of the Chairman

The Chairman of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP13 Doc. 9.1.1, outlining the main elements of the report and highlighting the recommendations contained in the Annex. He drew attention to one error: on page 15, in Recommendation 4, "Trade in alien species (paragraph 60)" should be replaced by Seahorses and other members of the family Syngnathidae. He also noted that several of the issues discussed in the report would be considered later in Committees I and II.

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

The Secretariat proposed, and it was agreed, that the recommendations in the Annex be discussed under the relevant agenda items in Committees I and II.

Regarding the first country-based Review of Significant Trade, the delegation of Madagascar confirmed that there was no moratorium on trade in CITES-listed species

from Madagascar and that budgets and deadlines had been set for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Reform of Madagascar's Wildlife Export Trade. They noted the difficulty in obtaining funds and stated that they were only able to attend meetings with the support of external funders.

The delegation of the Netherlands on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, supported by the delegation of Australia, welcomed the report and concurred that the work of the Committee should focus on CITES-listed species but noted that important work had also been done on non-listed species.

9.2 Plants Committee

9.2.1 Report of the Chairman

The Chairman of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP13 Doc. 9.2.1, highlighting certain portions of the report and noting that there were some errors in the Spanish version of the report.

The delegation of the Netherlands on behalf of the Member States of the European Community noted that they believed that the work on the evaluation of tree species under Decision 12.10 had not been completed and should be continued through regional workshops, one such workshop having been funded by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. They favoured an extension of this Decision until CoP14 and proposed the following text:

The Plants Committee shall, during the period between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, consider the opportunity to develop proposals to amend the Appendices on the basis of the Contribution to an Evaluation of Tree Species using the new CITES listing criteria, and the results of regional workshops on sustainable management of timber tree species in 2005 and 2006.

The Secretariat suggested, and it was agreed, that this be discussed when the recommendations in the Annex to the report were discussed under the relevant agenda items in Committees I and II.

9.3 Nomenclature Committee

9.3.1 Report of the Nomenclature Committee

The Secretariat reported that the zoologist of the Nomenclature Committee had resigned. The Secretariat, supported by the botanist of the Nomenclature Committee, the delegation of the Netherlands on behalf of the Member States of the European Community and the observer from Humane Society International, recorded their sincere appreciation for the many years of service he had given in a voluntary capacity.

The botanist of the Nomenclature Committee introduced document CoP13 Doc. 9.3.1, outlining the main elements of the report and highlighting the recommendations contained in the Annex. The observer from Humane Society International suggested that clarity was needed on the terminology used for the different checklists for flora. The Secretary-General noted that the issue of terminology in respect to checklists, and the recommendations in the Annex to the report, should be discussed under item 11.3.

The delegation of Mexico thanked the Nomenclature Committee for its work and asked for the following text to be included in the summary report of the meeting.

We are grateful for the report submitted by the Nomenclature Committee and for the recommendations in the Annex thereof. Mexico wishes to clarify a point in paragraph 8 of that report regarding the so-called misunderstanding of Mexico concerning the reference to Trochilidae and Psittaciformes adopted at CoP12. In this regard, we would like to stress that this illustrates very well the lack of

transparency in the functioning of the Committee. In 2003, Mexico submitted this document originally to the Animals Committee, which informed us that we should submit it to the Nomenclature Committee. Consequently we raised the subject at a meeting of the Nomenclature Committee where, despite our being supported by various participants, the zoologist of the Nomenclature Committee decided not to accept our proposal and informed us that we should bring the matter to the attention of the Conference of the Parties. To this end Mexico has submitted document CoP13 Doc. 59.1, to be discussed in Committee II at the present meeting.

Mr Chairman, it is clear that this is neither a misunderstanding on the part of Mexico nor a problem specific to a particular taxon, but that there are no terms of reference or precise procedures for making decisions in the important field of nomenclature. For this reason we have also submitted document CoP13 Doc. 11.3 (Rev. 1) as a constructive attempt to help define the way in which this Committee works and to improve its transparency.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we have to add that the Nomenclature Committee is currently missing half of its members as there is no zoologist counterpart to the botanist. It is therefore urgent to identify and nominate a zoologist on this Committee to assume this important function.

The Secretariat noted that the recommendations contained in the Annex to the report would be considered in Committee I under agenda item 59.

The Chairman closed the session at 12h00.