

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Committee I

Sea cucumbers

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on behalf of the Working Group on Sea Cucumbers established in the second session of Committee I, and is based on document CoP14 Doc. 62.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 14.xx The Secretariat shall bring to the attention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and prior to the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries, the discussion paper on *Biological and trade status of sea cucumbers in the families Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae* in Annex 1 to document CoP14 Doc. 62, and the following recommendations by the Animals Committee to range States of these taxa and Parties that are engaged in trade in them:
- a) develop and implement national adaptive management plans for species of high conservation concern, such as those identified as of 'high concern' and 'concern in certain countries of its range' in Annex 3 of the discussion paper on *Biological and trade status of sea cucumbers in the families Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae*, including minimum harvest size and total allowable catch, and apply where appropriate a precautionary approach, such as restrictive fisheries measures;
 - b) develop regional management strategies to manage the resource;
 - c) develop a standardized approach for the collection and reporting of fisheries and trade data, including species collected, locations, habitat, weight, size and number of individuals;
 - d) encourage greater communications and cooperation between fisheries and CITES authorities at the national level for the management of and trade in specimens of these species;
 - e) increase significantly basic biological and ecological research and stock assessments, particularly for species of high conservation concern, such as those identified as of 'high concern' and 'concern in certain countries of its range' in the discussion paper referred to in paragraph a) above;
 - f) conduct socio-economic evaluations of the sea cucumber fisheries, especially in developing countries, to clearly identify their importance and role in the livelihoods of coastal fishing communities;
 - g) enhance the enforcement capacity to reduce illegal fishing, transshipment and landings, as well as the capacity to implement the current Appendix-III listing;
 - h) explore the potential of mariculture in promoting the sustainable use of the resource, with experience from China, and identify best practices;

- i) consider the merits of inclusion of their species of conservation concern in Appendix III, where appropriate;
 - j) support the development of harmonized codes for reporting international trade in sea cucumber products; and
 - k) develop and distribute identification guides that clearly distinguish sea cucumbers subject to international trade.
- 14.xx In the context of the Memorandum of Understanding between CITES and FAO, the Secretariat shall promote cooperation with FAO concerning the conservation of and trade in sea cucumbers in the families Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae, *inter alia* by bringing the outcomes of the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries to the attention of the Parties and supporting relevant capacity building activities.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 14.xx The Animals Committee shall evaluate the outcomes of the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries, to be conducted in 2007, and recommend appropriate follow-up actions at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to support this initiative.