

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

Administrative matters

Committee reports

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

Introduction

1. This report covers the period from 15 October 2004 to 4 January 2007. During this period, the Animals Committee (AC) met on two occasions: at its 21st meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 25 May 2005; and its 22nd meeting, held in Lima, Peru, from 7 to 13 July 2006 (AC21 and AC22 respectively). Representatives of 34 Parties, two United Nations agencies, seven inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and 31 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in AC21; and representatives of 32 Parties, two United Nations agencies, three IGOs and 45 NGOs in AC22. The summary records of these meetings have been posted on the CITES website.
2. As required in Resolution Conf. 13.1 (Financing and budgeting of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties), the Animals and Plants Committees (PC) met back-to-back at both venues, and common issues were dealt with in joint sessions (20 and 21 May 2005; 7 and 8 July 2006). Liaison between the two scientific committees was also maintained by the participation of the AC and PC Chairmen (and by some Committee members and Party observers) in the regular meetings of the other committee. However – and this needs to be stressed once again – the bulk of the work of the scientific committees has always been and continues to be undertaken in their own, separate meetings. In fact, at AC22 it was possible to add a very much needed additional day to the AC meeting, which allowed the Committee to progress substantially or indeed complete most of the tasks assigned to it by the Parties.
3. The Committee wishes to thank Peru for the invitation and organizing AC22 so effectively. It should be noted that under the present circumstances of a reduced number of AC and PC meetings between meetings of the Conferences of the Parties, significant workload and high numbers of participants, the back-to-back meetings and the joint sessions of both Committees are an additional challenge for the host country with regard to logistics, administration, organizational costs, room space, etc.
4. Under the new instructions from the Conference of the Parties (CoP), the AC has now held back-to-back meetings with the PC on two occasions. As indicated above, experience has shown that it is imperative that in the case of meetings held back-to-back with the PC and joint AC/PC sessions, the AC can meet on its own for four days. If no joint AC/PC sessions are envisaged, then the duration of each separate AC meeting should be five days. Arrangements to this effect need to be made for future meetings of the AC.
5. As a consequence of the various assignments to the Animals Committee, the AC Chairman is submitted at the present meeting this report and a joint report with the PC Chairman (document CoP14 Doc. 8.4). Some issues dealt with by the Animals Committee (either on its own or in collaboration with the Plants Committee) are the subject of separate agenda items, and results of the Committee's work are presented in the documents pertaining to that agenda point.

6. The current composition of the AC is tabulated below. Immediately after the closure of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13, Bangkok, 2004), the members and alternate members of the AC and the CITES Secretariat met informally. The AC re-elected Mr Thomas Althaus (Switzerland, one of the two regional representatives of Europe) as Chairman and Mr Rodrigo Medellín (Mexico, the regional representative of North America) as Vice-Chairman. In the course of 2005, Mr Javier Alvarez (United States of America) relinquished his position as alternate regional representative of North America and, after consultation among the North American Parties, was replaced by Mr Robert R. Gabel (also from the United States).

Region	Regional representative	Alternate
Africa	Mr Richard Kiome Bagine (Kenya)	Mr Khaled Zahzah (Tunisia)
	Mr Edson Chidziya (Zimbabwe)	Mr Mustafa Ahmed Mahmoud (Egypt)
Asia	Mr Mohammad Pourkazemi (Islamic Republic of Iran)	Mr Nobuo Ishii (Japan)
	Ms Siti Nuramaliati Prijono (Indonesia)	Mr Choo-Hoo Giam (Singapore)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Mr Mario R. Jolon Morales (Guatemala)	Mr Marcel Enzo Calvar Agrelo (Uruguay)
	Mr Peter Vogel (Jamaica)	Mr Alvaro José Velasco Barbieri (Venezuela)
Europe	Mr Thomas Althaus (Switzerland)	Mr Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain)
	Ms Katalin Rodics (Hungary)	Mr Alexander G. Sorokin (Russian Federation)
North America	Mr Rodrigo Medellín (Mexico)	Mr Robert R. Gabel (United States)
Oceania	Mr Rod Hay (New Zealand)	Mr John Aruga (Papua New Guinea)

Regional representation and regional reports

7. While in earlier years the participation and representation of certain regions caused concerns, things improved significantly during this period. However, feedback and participation from a few regional representatives and alternates could still improve. The regional representatives of Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania were all able to attend AC21 and AC22. This was also the case for the regional representatives of the African region, with the exception of AC21 when the alternate to Mr° Chidziya attended the meeting. The region of Central and South America and the Caribbean was represented at both meetings by a regional representative, Mr Jolon Morales, and the alternate to Mr Vogel. Mr Vogel has apparently been unable to be present at the meetings or otherwise contribute to the operation of the AC. Communication remained difficult with some regions and representatives, and could be the underlying cause for the lack of active participation. The improvement of regional communication and representation has been addressed jointly by the scientific committees through the implementation of Decisions 13.11 to 13.13.
8. The regional reports that were prepared by the members of the Committee and presented at AC21 and AC22 can be found on the CITES website. Their content has been streamlined over the years, addressing for instance practical information, regional communications, the Review of Significant Trade, CITES-related research projects and scientific activities, legislation, enforcement, capacity-building activities and awareness, relevant meetings and workshops, and regional directories. They show an impressive range of CITES activities in certain regions and in numerous countries around the world, and demonstrate a high commitment to CITES. Some of the AC members again complained about the difficulties to communicate within their region and/or the lack of response from Parties to enquiries or requests for specific information. As in previous years, the AC Chairman felt that it was quite difficult to fulfil satisfactorily both the role of Chairman and the one of regional representative (and focal point for the European region).

Activities of the Committee

General

9. The AC has addressed all the tasks that were entrusted to it at CoP13 and furthermore assumed all its regular responsibilities pursuant to the Committee's terms of reference. Issues were tackled at the two AC meetings, and intersessionally by various working groups operating through correspondence and via email under the auspices of the AC. In most instances, AC members or alternate members chaired these working groups. A number of items were addressed by joint AC/PC working groups.
10. In some instances, this report proposes specific recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. For ease of reference, they are presented together in the Annex to this document.

Activities of the AC Chairman

11. Early in February 2005, the AC Chairman met with the new co-Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee for Fauna, Ms Ute Grimm, and discussed collaboration and the way forward. In late February 2005, the Chairman participated in the Rigi Symposium of the Swiss, Austrian and Bavarian Zoo Organizations and spoke about 'Conservation Activities of Zoos – from the Outside – Costs and Profits'. In December 2005, the Chairman participated in a regional meeting on the queen conch, *Strombus gigas*, in Santo Domingo that had been organized by the CITES Secretariat in the context of the Review of Significant Trade in this species. In March 2006, the Chairman attended a symposium in Paris on Zoos and Legislation and gave a presentation on 'CITES – history and functioning'. Later that month, he gave a presentation at the Museum of Natural History in Bern on 'Insects and CITES'.
12. Throughout the period covered by this report, the AC Chairman contributed to the development of a document on *in situ ex situ* conservation, and participated in the work of the Export Quota Working Group and the Strategic Plan Working Group. Furthermore, he travelled about eight times to the CITES Secretariat in Geneva and met with staff of the Secretariat, in particular from the Scientific Support Unit, to discuss relevant subjects and prepare meetings and documents. Finally, he participated in his function as AC Chairman at two meetings of the Standing Committee in 2005 and 2006.

Specific issues

Amendments to Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees

13. The results of the work of the Animals and Plants Committees on this matter can be found in document CoP14 Doc. 8.4.

Strategic Vision (Decision 13.1)

14. The results of the work of the Animals and Plants Committees on this matter can be found in documents CoP14 Doc. 8.4 and CoP14 Doc. 11.

Review of the scientific committees (Decision 13.9)

15. The results of the work of the Animals and Plants Committees on this matter can be found in documents CoP14 Doc. 8.4 and CoP14 Doc. 12.

Regional communication (Decisions 13.12 and 13.13)

16. The results of the work of the Animals and Plants Committees on this matter can be found in document CoP14 Doc. 8.4.

Export Quota Working Group [Decisions 12.72 (Rev. CoP13) and 13.66]

17. Decision 12.72 (Rev. CoP13) instructed the Standing Committee to consider the issue of improving the management of annual export quotas and report at CoP14, while in accordance with Decision 13.66, the Standing Committee was to instruct its Export Quota Working Group (EQWG) to develop guidelines for Parties to establish, implement, monitor and report national export quotas for CITES-listed taxa.
18. As an *ex officio* member of the EQWG, the AC Chairman was well-informed about the activities of the Working Group and the development of the report. He gave input to the discussions in his personal capacity, but submitted at one stage the working document of the EQWG to all AC members. Their comments and general input were forwarded to the Secretariat.
19. The results of the work of the EQWG are contained in document CoP14 Doc. 36.

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev.CoP13)]

20. The Committee spent considerable time and effort on the Review of Significant Trade, which remains a very important core activity. Details of the actions and decisions that were taken can be found in the summary records of AC21 and AC22, and in the relevant working documents for these meetings.

Species reviewed or under review

21. In the context of its Review of Significant Trade, the Committee formulated at AC21 recommendations for *Falco cherrug* and *Cuora amboinensis* for range States where the species was of 'possible' or 'urgent' concern.
22. At AC22, the Committee reviewed the trade in the following taxa on the basis of detailed reports on their biology, management and trade: *Poicephalus senegalus*, *Psittacus erithacus*, *Gracula religiosa*, *Cuora amboinensis*, *Callagur borneoensis*, *Phelsuma comorensis*, *Phelsuma dubia*, *Phelsuma v-nigra*, *Uromastyx acanthinura*, *Uromastyx benti*, *Uromastyx dispar*, *Uromastyx geyri*, *Uromastyx ocellata*, *Furcifer cephalolepis*, *Hippopus hippopus*, *Tridacna crocea*, *Tridacna derasa*, *Tridacna gigas*, *Tridacna maxima*, and *Tridacna squamosa*. The AC formulated recommendations for the range States of these taxa that were found to be of 'urgent concern' and 'possible concern', and eliminated from further review those for which trade was determined to be of 'least concern'. In addition, the AC identified a number of problems during its review that were not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), and proposed actions to be taken by the Secretariat.
23. Furthermore, the AC formulated a number of accompanying draft decisions to support range States of *Psittacus erithacus* and Tridacnidae in complying with the recommendations formulated by the AC and, more generally, with the provisions in Article IV of the Convention for trade in specimens of these species. These draft decisions are presented below for adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

Regarding *Psittacus erithacus*

Directed to the range States of Psittacus erithacus

- 14.xx The range States of *Psittacus erithacus* should participate in the development and implementation of regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 14.xx Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall develop regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*, in collaboration with the range States, relevant experts, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Issues to be addressed in these plans should include:

- Development of biologically sustainable national export quotas in cooperation with neighbouring range States;
 - Development of standards for making non-detriment findings;
 - Provision of details of the control measures in place or to be implemented to verify the origin of the specimens;
 - Cooperation on studies on the population status and demography of the species and the status of its habitat;
 - Cooperation on long-term monitoring efforts;
 - Actions to implement law enforcement programmes in order to combat poaching and illegal trade (both national and international) and report on the results of the programmes in terms of enforcement efforts, seizures and prosecutions;
 - Agreements on reliable methodologies for assessing population status and population monitoring;
 - Investigations of the possibility of establishing *in situ* captive-breeding facilities for the species;
 - Encouragement of the participation of all range States, enforcement authorities, importing countries, experts, the NGO community and the private sector in implementing these plans; and
 - Considerations for expanding the management plans to include other psittacine species in the region.
- 14.xx The Secretariat shall seek funding for and organize workshops in West and Central Africa to assist range States in the development and implementation of regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*.
- 14.xx In selected cases where there has been a history of exports in excess of quotas, the Secretariat should verify export permits from a specific country to ensure that exports do not exceed quotas.

Regarding Tridacnidae

Directed to the Secretariat

- 14.xx The Secretariat shall seek external funding, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.2, Annex 1 paragraph 2. a), to enable a regional workshop to be held in 2007, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other appropriate regional organizations, to initiate regional cooperation on the management of sustainable fisheries for Tridacnidae.
24. In the course of the period, the Chairman examined with the Secretariat a number of taxa for which the AC had previously made recommendations. This allowed the Secretariat, in consultation with the AC Chairman, to determine whether the recommendations had been implemented by the affected range States and to propose appropriate actions to the Standing Committee. The taxa concerned were *Moschus* spp., *Falco cherrug*, *Ptyas mucosus*, *Cuora amboinensis* and *Strombus gigas*. The summary records of the 53rd and 54th meetings of the Standing Committee contain the outcomes of the discussions on these taxa.
25. The Committee also discussed the ongoing Review of Significant Trade in certain species of Acipenseriformes of the Caspian Sea (the so-called 'Paris agreement'), concluding that further decisions were in the hands of the Standing Committee and that the Review of Significant Trade in

other sturgeons species had come to an end. The AC Chairman nevertheless passed on to the Standing Committee the concerns of the AC on the conservation of these species (see documents SC54 Doc. 30.1 and SC54 Doc. 30.3).

Progress on the first country-based Review of Significant Trade

26. The result of the work of the Animals and Plants Committees on this matter can be found in document CoP14 Doc. 8.4.

Selection of new species for review

27. Following CoP13, the Committee selected at AC21 the following species for review: *Monodon monoceros* [populations of Canada and Greenland (Denmark)], *Testudo graeca* (population of Lebanon) and *Mantella* spp. On the basis of consultations with the range States concerning their implementation of Article IV for trade in these species, the Committee eliminated at AC22 *Monodon monoceros* from further review, and maintained the two other taxa in the process.

Periodic review of animal species included in the Appendices

Process to conduct the periodic review of species included in the CITES Appendices

28. At AC21 and AC22, the Committee discussed the recommendations of the Standing Committee adopted at its 51st meeting (Bangkok, October 2004) regarding the conduct of the periodic review of the Appendices and the guidelines for the selection of species. In consultation with the PC, it agreed to a number of amendments to the Standing Committee recommendations for speeding up and simplifying the procedures (see document SC54 Inf. 10). At SC54, the AC and PC Chairmen announced that they would make a proposal to the Conference of the Parties regarding these procedures, which can be found in document CoP14 Doc. 66.

Species selected for periodic review

29. At AC22, the Committee agreed to the following list of species to be reviewed between the 13th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties:

Mamalia

Balaenoptera physalus (central stock of the North Atlantic)

Amphibia:

Ambystoma dumerilii, *Andrias davidianus*, *Andrias japonicus*, *Bufo periglenes*, *Bufo superciliaris*, *Dyscophus antongilii*, *Euphlyctis hexadactylus*, *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*, *Nectophrynoides tornieri*, *Nectophrynoides viviparus*, *Rheobatrachus silus*, *Rheobatrachus vitellinus* and *Spinophrynoides osgoodi*.

Galliformes:

Argusianus argus, *Catreus wallichii*, *Colinus virginianus ridgwayi*, *Crossoptilon harmani*, *Gallus sonneratii*, *Ithaginis cruentus*, *Lophophorus impejanus*, *Lophophorus lhuysii*, *Lophophorus sclateri*, *Lophura imperialis*, *Mitu mitu*, *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*, *Polyplectron germaini*, *Syrmaticus humiae*, *Tetraogallus caspius*, *Tetraogallus tibetanus*, *Tragopan melanocephalus* and *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*.

30. The list was communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat in November 2006 with Notification to the Parties No. 2006/062, requesting that the range States of these species send their comments on the need for the review to the Secretariat by 31 December 2006 at the latest. Taking these into account, the Animals Committee should, in consultation with the Standing Committee, finalize the selection of the species to be reviewed. The Committee further agreed that *Lophura imperialis* be referred to the Nomenclature Committee.

Periodic review of Felidae (Decision 13.93)

31. At AC21, the Committee decided that the observer from the United States should coordinate the review of the genus *Lynx* by conducting range State consultations and other activities based on a process agreed to by the Committee [see documents AC21 Doc. 11.3 and AC21 WG3 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1)]. At AC22, the observer of the United States reported that all 24 range States of *Lynx* spp. had been contacted to obtain information on the biological and trade status of the species. About half of the range States had responded (see document AC22 Doc. 11.2). The Committee recognized that the periodic review of Felidae was progressing and valuable, but not yet concluded. The Committee therefore proposes to prolong Decision 13.93, and that the AC be directed to report at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress of the review of all Felidae and particularly on its review of *Lynx* spp. and look-alike issues.

Production Systems for specimens of CITES-listed species (Decision 13.68)

32. The Animals and Plants Committees are directed to establish an intersessional joint working group to define key elements of the different production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species of animals and plants and, if appropriate, to develop as far as possible a list of specific production systems currently being utilized by Parties; to determine under which existing CITES permit source code each production system appropriately fits and whether the addition of any new source codes is necessary; and to consider the definition of 'ranching' within the context of existing CITES Resolutions. The results of the Committee's work on this matter can be found in document CoP14 Doc. 38.

Revision of Resolution Conf. 11.16

33. At AC22, the Committee discussed the review by the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group of global crocodile ranching programmes and its possible implications for the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II), as well as the use of source code R. The Committee agreed to seek amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.16 as recommended in the review, and requested the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Velasco) to work with the AC Chairman, the Secretariat and the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group to prepare a proposal to amend Resolution Conf. 11.16 for the AC to submit at CoP14. The results of the deliberations of the AC on this matter can be found in document CoP14 Doc. 21.

Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (Decision 13.6)

34. The Animals and Plants Committees are instructed to identify those principles and guidelines of most relevance to CITES, taking account of case studies provided by the Parties on how these could be used in specific cases of exports of specimens of Appendix-II species, and report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14). The results of the work of the Committees on this matter are presented in document CoP13 Doc. 13.

Trade in alien invasive species (Resolution Conf. 13.10)

35. The CITES Secretariat is instructed, in conjunction with the Animals and Plants Committees, to establish cooperation with the CBD Secretariat and the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group in their important work in relation to alien invasive species. The results of the work of the Animals and Plants Committees on this matter can be found in document CoP14 Doc. 8.4.

Transport of live animals (Decisions 13.88 and 13.89)

36. Decision 13.88 instructs the AC, in collaboration with interested non-governmental organizations and the Secretariat, to: a) develop recommendations regarding transport of live animals by road, rail or ship, and regarding cost-effective options for containers and packing materials for all means of transport to supplement, where necessary, the *IATA Live Animals Regulations*; and b) assist in identifying model practices concerning the transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals, and develop recommendations to the Parties regarding the proper preparation, proper handling and transportation of live animals, particularly in exporting countries. Decision 13.89

instructs the AC, in consultation with the PC and the Secretariat, to “undertake a review of Resolution Conf. 10.21 on Transport of live animals”. The AC is directed to report at CoP14 on the implementation of these Decisions.

37. At AC21, a working group was established under the chairmanship of Mr Linhart, the observer from Austria, to address these Decisions, which continued to work intersessionally. The results of the Committee's work can be found in document CoP14 Doc. 41.

Sea cucumbers (Decision 13.48)

38. As instructed in Decision 13.48, the AC reviewed the proceedings of the International technical workshop on the conservation of sea cucumbers in the families Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae (March 2004, Kuala Lumpur) and those of the forum on Advances in Sea Cucumber Aquaculture and Management (ASCAM) convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (October 2003, Dalian). It overviewed the preparation by a consultant of a discussion paper on the biological and trade status of sea cucumbers in the above families to provide scientific guidance on the actions needed to secure their conservation status.

39. The discussion paper and the recommendations of the AC are presented for consideration at CoP14 in document CoP14 Doc. 62.

Conservation and management of sharks (Resolution Conf. 12.6 and Decision 13.43)

40. The results of the Committee's work can be found in document CoP14 Doc. 59.1.

Conservation of and trade in great apes (Resolution 13.4)

41. Resolution 13.4 (Conservation of and trade in great apes) urges the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee to work closely with GRASP (Great Ape Survival Project), and to explore and implement other measures through which the Convention can contribute to the conservation of great apes and to the promotion of public awareness of the threat posed to great ape populations by illegal trade.

42. The AC established a working group at AC21 to address the tasks requested from it in Resolution Conf. 13.4. The recommendations from this working group were adopted by the Committee, although most were not directed to or involving the AC [see document AC21 WG7 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1)]. At SC53, the AC Chairman brought these recommendations to the attention of Standing Committee, which noted them.

43. The broader implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.4 is discussed in document CoP14 Doc. 50.

Fossil corals

44. Following the adoption of proposal CoP13 Prop. 36, amending the annotation for Helioporidae spp., Tubiporidae spp., Scleractinia spp., Milleporidae spp. and Styasteridae spp. to define the fossil specimens that are not subject of the provisions of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties agreed at CoP13 to the following complementary Decisions on this matter:

Directed to Parties

- 13.95 *The Parties that are involved in the trade in stony corals should, by the end of 2005, determine how they will interpret the annotation exempting fossil corals from the provisions of the Convention and provide this interpretation to the Secretariat for distribution to the Parties.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 13.96 *The Animals Committee shall proceed with an analysis of the Parties' interpretation of the annotation on fossil corals and other tasks necessary to undertake a review of Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP12) and report to the Secretariat by the end of 2006.*

Directed to the Secretariat

13.97 *The Secretariat shall communicate the report of the Animals Committee regarding the interpretation of the annotation exempting fossil corals to the Parties via a notification before the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

45. In response to Notification to the Parties No. 2005/065 of 22 November 2005, the Secretariat received responses from China, the European Community, Mexico, Switzerland and the United States on their interpretation of the annotation exempting fossil corals from the provisions of the Convention. In compliance with Decision 13.96, the Committee analysed at AC22 the information received from Parties, and reported to the Secretariat. The AC report was communicated to the Parties with Notification to the Parties No. 2006/063 of 14 November 2006 and is available on the CITES website (under Resources/Reference lists). The AC recommended that any further contributions submitted by Parties should be added to this report. The Committee also agreed that no further action was necessary under Decisions 13.96 and 13.97 and that these Decisions should be considered implemented.

Acipenseriformes [Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13)]

46. At AC22, the Secretariat detailed the evaluation of the implementation of the regional conservation strategy and monitoring regimes for stocks of Acipenseriformes species shared between different range States required under Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13) (Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish). It requested the AC to nominate a contact point for this exercise. The Committee agreed that the representative of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) should be the AC focal point for these evaluations.

47. At AC22, an informal discussion group convened to address information on sturgeon species, resulting in document AC22 Inf. 10. The Committee acknowledged the urgency of the issue of conservation of and trade in sturgeons, and urged interested Parties to submit the text of the information document for consideration by the Standing Committee at SC54. This was done jointly by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan, with the agreement of Azerbaijan (see document SC54 Doc. 30.3).

Other activities and issues

Process for registering operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes [Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP13)]

48. In May 2003, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2003/034 regarding the inclusion of *Probosciger aterrimus* for Mandai Birds Sanctuary in Singapore in its Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes. This application concerned a species not yet included in the Secretariat's Register, while the operation was already included under registration number A-SG-509 for *Cacatua moluccensis* and *Eos histrio*. The United States objected to the registration because it had not been documented that Mandai Birds Sanctuary was able to breed *Probosciger aterrimus* to second or subsequent generations, or that the breeding stock was managed in a manner that had been demonstrated to be capable of reliably producing a second-generation offspring in a controlled environment. The AC had similar apprehensions. As Singapore did not provide additional information in response to the concerns expressed, the Secretariat wrote to Singapore, inviting it to propose the application for consideration at CoP14. However, Singapore has not submitted such an application.

49. In August 2005, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2005/48 regarding a request from the Philippines to register a captive-breeding operation, Birds International, Inc., for *Amazona ochrocephala auropalliata*, *Amazona ochrocephala oratrix*, *Amazona viridigenalis*, *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, *Ara rubrogenys* and *Propyrrhura maracana*. These were taxa not yet included in the Secretariat's Register, while the operation was already included under registration number A-PH-501 for *Cacatua haematuropygia* and *Guarouba guarouba*.

50. Since the Secretariat received three objections from Parties (Brazil, New Zealand and the United States) and support from another Party (Mexico), it referred the application to the AC for further

comments. When contacting the members of his Committee, the AC Chairman added his arguments in support of the registration. He received responses from three AC members. Concerns were expressed by the representative of North America, and support from a representative of Africa and a representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean. These comments were forwarded to the Secretariat, which then informed the AC that the objection from Brazil had been withdrawn. The AC also received a message from the CITES Management Authority of the Philippines, stating that it would be willing to cooperate especially – but not solely – with the range States of the species in question on *in situ* conservation projects for the species bred in the breeding operation. Also at AC22, informal and promising consultations took place in this regard. However, since two formal objections still remained, the matter could not be solved and the Secretariat recommended to the Philippines to submit the applications for consideration at CoP14. The applications are presented in document CoP14 Doc. 47.

Proposals to amend the Appendices

51. At AC22 and in a joint session with the PC, the Committee discussed the use of annotations for plants in Appendix II and for animals and plants in Appendix III. Both Committees adopted a proposal for amending Resolutions Conf. 9.25 (Rev.) on Inclusion of species in Appendix III and Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP13) on Use of annotations in Appendices I and II, and agreed that the following text should be included in the Interpretation of the Appendices: “Agrees further that, for plant species included in Appendix II, the absence of an annotation relating to that species shall indicate that all readily recognizable parts and derivatives are included” and “Agrees that the inclusion of a species in Appendix III without an annotation shall indicate that all readily recognizable parts and derivatives are included in the Appendix”. The work of the Committees on this matter is presented in document CoP13 Doc. 67.
52. At AC22, the AC commented on a draft proposal from Brazil to include *Melanosuchus niger* in Appendix II, suggesting that further comments should be sent to the observer from Brazil. The Committee also took note of draft proposals from Germany to include *Lamna nasus* and *Squalus acanthias* in Appendix II, and of accompanying draft annotations and decisions.

Procedure for the approval of externally funded projects

53. At AC22, the Secretariat presented an overview of projects that had been submitted in accordance with procedures laid out in Resolution Conf. 12.2, and gave examples of projects that had been submitted in accordance with the procedure that applied before the adoption of this Resolution (see document AC22 Doc. 22). This overview had been prepared at the request of the AC Chairman. The Committee agreed that externally funded projects should be a standing item at AC meetings, and encouraged Parties to submit projects requiring funding to the Secretariat in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.2.

Training and capacity-building activities

54. The reports that the regional representatives presented at the regular meetings of the Committee reflected various training and capacity-building activities that have taken place during the period and in which they participated in several instances.

AC budget

55. For the triennium 2009-2011, the AC requires as a minimum the same support as in the previous three years so that its regular meetings can take place with simultaneous interpretation.
56. As already stated at CoP13, the Chairman recommends to the Conference of the Parties that USD° 30,000 per year be provided from the CITES Trust Fund to assist the work of the Chairman of the Animals Committee if this person is not able to benefit from adequate governmental or institutional financial and technical support. The chairmanship of the AC is time-consuming and demanding. Without sufficient support from the Chairman’s country or institution, it would be impossible to meet the position’s challenges efficiently and expeditiously. It is the Chairman’s and Animals Committee’s concern that these constraints might in particular prevent AC representatives from certain developing countries from being elected as Chairman of the Committee, or from carrying

out their duties effectively. It is therefore suggested that the Budget Subcommittee of the Standing Committee looks into the possibilities of allocating funds that can be used on a case-by-case basis to support the Chairman of the Animals Committee. The funding would be required *inter alia* for the following:

- adequate computer hardware and software;
- access to Internet and email;
- downloading/printing and sending documents and correspondence electronically transmitted by AC members, working groups and the CITES Secretariat;
- telephone communication with the CITES Secretariat, AC members and others if the need arises;
- printing paper and other office material;
- temporary secretarial work or a temporary assistant for specific short-term jobs (compiling, analysing information, data, comments; preparing documents); and
- participation at workshops or meetings of other CITES bodies (scientific committees, SC, specific workshops) that require the participation of the AC Chairman.

Acknowledgements

57. The considerable assistance from and cooperation with my highly competent and motivated fellow members of the Committee and all personnel of the Secretariat, especially the Scientific Support Unit, are gratefully acknowledged. I also thank the Chairman and the members of the Plants Committee for their support, cooperation and interest in the activities of the Animals Committee. I extend my thanks to the representatives of observer Parties, and representatives of IGOs and NGOs as well as to the chairmen and members of the different working groups, who, by providing their expertise at the meetings of the AC and intersessionally in a constructive spirit, were of considerable help to the members of the Committee in performing their tasks and making decisions. Being your Chairman for the past two terms has been an honour and a privilege, but at the same time a highly satisfying, pleasurable experience to me.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat generally supports the recommendations of the Animals Committee as summarized in the Annex to this document.
- B. Regarding the draft decisions relating to *Psittacus erithacus*, the Secretariat is concerned that in view of the closure of the main markets for this species through stricter domestic measures, their implementation may no longer be perceived as a priority by range States and potential donors, and that the benefits they might have brought for ensuring a sustained, legal trade in the species have been lost. It also seeks clarification from the Animals Committee and Parties on the proposed decision regarding "selected cases where there has been a history of exports in excess of quotas" and the verification by the Secretariat of export permits from "a specific country". The language is rather ambiguous as it is unclear how cases should be selected or which countries are meant. Finally, the Secretariat proposes that the first draft decision directed to it be amended to read: "Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall facilitate the development of regional management plans ...", as this would better reflect the role that the Secretariat could play in this undertaking.
- C. The Secretariat suggests that the proposals regarding the budget of the Animals Committee be considered by the Conference of the Parties alongside the recommendations of the Standing Committee arising from the review of the scientific committees (see document CoP14 Doc. 12).
- D. The financial implications of adopting the recommendations of the Animals Committee have been taken into consideration in the budget proposed in document CoP14 Doc. 7.3 with the exception of the following, for which additional sources would have to be secured:

- Assist the work of the Chairman of the Animals Committee if this person is not able to benefit from adequate governmental or institutional financial and technical support: USD 30,000 per year.

Summary of recommendations outlined in the report of the Chairman of the Animals Committee

Recommendations regarding the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Regarding *Psittacus erithacus*

Directed to the range States of Psittacus erithacus

14.xx The range States of *Psittacus erithacus* should participate in the development and implementation of regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*.

Directed to the Secretariat

14.xx Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall develop regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*, in collaboration with the range States, relevant experts, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Issues to be addressed in these plans should include:

- Development of biologically sustainable national export quotas in cooperation with neighbouring range States;
- Development of standards for making non-detriment findings;
- Providing details of the control measures in place or to be implemented to verify the origin of the specimens;
- Cooperation on studies on the population status and demography of the species and the status of its habitat;
- Cooperation on long-term monitoring efforts;
- Actions to implement law enforcement programmes to combat poaching and illegal trade (both national and international) and report on the results of the programmes in terms of enforcement efforts, seizures and prosecutions;
- Agreements on reliable methodologies for assessing population status and population monitoring;
- Investigations of the possibility of establishing *in-situ* captive-breeding facilities for the species;
- Encouragement of the participation of all range States, enforcement authorities, importing countries, experts, the NGO community and the private sector in implementing these plans; and
- Considerations for expanding the management plans to include other psittacine species in the region.

14.xx The Secretariat shall seek funding for and organize workshops in West and Central Africa to assist range States in the development and implementation of regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*.

14.xx In selected cases where there has been a history of exports in excess of quotas, the Secretariat should verify export permits from a specific country to ensure that exports do not exceed quotas.

Regarding Tridacnidae

Directed to the Secretariat

14.xx The Secretariat shall seek external funding, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.2, Annex 1 paragraph 2. a), to enable a regional workshop to be held, in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other appropriate regional organizations, in 2007 to initiate regional cooperation on the management of sustainable fisheries for Tridacnidae.

Recommendations regarding Periodic review of Felidae (Decision 13.93)

The Animals Committee recommends to the Conference of the Parties that Decision 13.93 be prolonged until the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and that the reporting deadline in Decision 13.93 be amended accordingly.

Recommendations regarding the budget of the Animals Committee

For the triennium 2009-2011, the Animal Committee requires as a minimum the same support as in the previous three years so that its regular meetings can take place with simultaneous interpretation. In the case of meetings held back-to-back with the Plants Committee and joint sessions of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Animals Committee should be able to meet on its own for four days. If no joint sessions of the Animals and Plants Committees take place, then the duration of each separate Animals Committee meeting should be 5 days.

The Animals Committee recommends to the Conference of the Parties that USD 30,000 per year be provided from the CITES Trust Fund to assist the work of the Chairman of the Animals Committee if this person is not able to benefit from adequate governmental or institutional financial and technical support.