

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

Summary record of the first session of Committee I

05 June 2007: 09h10-12h00

Chairman: Greg Leach (Australia)

Secretariat: T. de Meulenaer  
D. Morgan

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell  
S. Ferriss  
J. Hepp  
W. Jackson

The Chairman welcomed the participants and gave a brief description of his background working within the CITES milieu, emphasizing his experience on flora issues.

**Interpretation and implementation of the Convention**

**Trade control and marking issues**

35. International expert workshop on non-detriment findings (Mexico)

Document CoP14 Doc. 35 was introduced by Mexico who noted that it was submitted with the support of Canada. Reminding delegates of the requirement for Scientific Authorities to ensure that exports were non-detrimental, Mexico observed that there was no common understanding regarding criteria and other elements in making these findings. They pointed out previous initiatives to provide guidance on this matter, such as the material produced by IUCN, and said the workshop would allow to develop methodologies as well as to increase the sharing of information and experiences. They added that the participation of experts from various countries and organizations would result in specific guidelines for eight major groups of plant and animal taxa subject to trade.

The initiative was supported by Argentina, Canada, Germany, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, Norway, the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees and TRAFFIC. The Committee approved the three draft decisions contained in the Annex to the document.

38. Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species

The Chairman of the Animals Committee outlined the tasks set out by Decision 13.68 regarding, *inter alia*, production systems, CITES permit source codes, and the definition of ranching. He noted that consensus could not be reached on the use of source codes A, C, D or R, or on extending the application of source code F to plants. Australia highlighted the need to look at production systems not normally considered as ranching, such as aquaculture systems. The draft decision included in document CoP14 Doc. 38 to continue work on this issue was supported by Indonesia, Senegal and

the United States of America. Senegal stressed the need for work to consider ranching in a broad sense.

Germany, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, suggested addressing this item along with agenda item 21 regarding the revision of Resolution Conf. 11.16, which was under consideration by Committee II. Israel and the United States pointed out that logistical and substantive problems would arise from this approach, and it was agreed to keep the draft decision separate although the Chairman said he would still discuss the issue with his Committee II counterpart.

#### 41 Transport of live specimens

The Chairman of the Animals Committee reported that the Transport Working Group (TWG), chaired by Mr Peter Linhart of Austria, had been re-established at the 21st meeting of that Committee and that the TWG had developed a schedule for implementing Decisions 13.88 and 13.89. Unfortunately Mr Linhart had recently passed away so document CoP14 Doc. 41 (Rev. 1) would be presented by himself.

The Committee held one minute's silence in respect of Mr Linhart.

The Chairman of the Animals Committee drew attention to the very different natures of the two Decisions and explained that two new decisions had been drafted in order to implement Decision 13.88 regarding transport by land or sea where the provisions of IATA were inappropriate. General support for the two draft decisions, with the replacement paragraph d) suggested by the Secretariat, was expressed by China, Germany, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru and the United States.

With regard to Decision 13.89, the Chairman of the Animals Committee reported that the TWG had suggested that this could best be implemented by amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.21. Israel proposed some additional text regarding capture and preparation of live specimens in operative paragraph b) under Directs the Animals Committee and Plants Committee in the draft revision of Resolution Conf. 10.21. The Secretariat and the Chairman of the Animals Committee observed that the additional wording had been debated extensively in the past and, if adopted, would increase the administrative burden on the Committees. The United Republic of Tanzania observed that capture was a domestic issue, while China, supported by Japan and Peru objected to the proposed text on the basis that issues of capture were beyond the remit of CITES.

The Chairman observed that there was general agreement regarding the two draft decisions with the replacement paragraph d) suggested by the Secretariat and the proposed revision to Resolution Conf. 10.21, and these were accepted. He explained that any budgetary implications would be referred to the Budget Working Group, and that minor editorial changes to the draft resolution could be carried out intersessionally.

### **Administrative matters**

#### 8. Committee reports

##### 8.2 Report of the Chairman of the Animals Committee

The Chairman of the Animals Committee introduced the draft decisions in the Annex to document CoP14 Doc. 8.2 regarding *Psittacus erithacus* and Tridacnidae species. These were accepted, with an amendment to the fourth draft decision on *P. erithacus* that was proposed by the Chair of the Animals Committee to read:

*The Secretariat should identify cases where there has been a history of exports in excess of quotas and, as long as necessary, verify export permits issued to ensure that quotas are not exceeded.*

Discussion of the recommendations regarding the periodic review of Felidae species (Decision 13.93) was deferred until the consideration of proposal CoP14 Prop. 2.

#### 8.4 Joint report of the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees

The Chairman of Committee I introduced the recommendation regarding trade in alien invasive species contained in Annex 1 of document CoP14 Doc. 8.4. Mexico supported the proposed changes to the operational part of Resolution Conf. 13.10, but did not support the integration of the remaining text in this Resolution into Resolution Conf. 10.4.

Following some discussion, it was agreed that Resolution Conf. 13.10 should be maintained but that the final paragraph beginning "Instructs the Secretariat" should be deleted.

#### 8.5 Report of the Nomenclature Committee

The Co-Chairmen of the Nomenclature Committee introduced document CoP14 Doc. 8.5.

Germany, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, and Mexico supported the suggested amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP13) in the Annex to document CoP14 Doc. 8.5. They also supported the proposed decision in paragraph B and the suggestion in paragraph D of the comments from the Secretariat. However they believed that, because of legal and implementation implications, the taxonomy and nomenclature used by CITES should not be changed frequently, and therefore that it was less flexible than in other conventions. Israel shared this concern and did not agree with either the draft decision or the recommendation of the Secretariat to present the CITES Appendices in alphabetical order.

The recommendations in the Annex to document CoP14 Doc. 8.5 were agreed to together with the decision in paragraph B of the comments from the Secretariat.

### **Interpretation and implementation of the Convention**

#### **Species trade and conservation issues**

##### 56. Saiga antelope

The Secretariat introduced document CoP14 Doc. 56 and recommended that the Medium-Term International Work Programme and the draft decisions be approved. Germany, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, and Qatar supported the draft decisions. Additionally, Germany urged the Russian Federation to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) and encouraged consumer countries to strengthen stockpile management. Singapore supported the draft decisions and suggested to amend paragraph d) of the section directed to States that are important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives by replacing the named States with "saiga-trading countries". This was supported by Malaysia and Mongolia. China, Malaysia, Mongolia and Singapore highlighted various aspects of their respective management and conservation efforts and the Russian Federation noted that they intended to sign the MoU in the near future.

Singapore sought clarification regarding the TRAFFIC report in Annex 6 of document CoP14 Doc. 56 and document CoP14 Inf. 18 and expressed concerns regarding the report's conclusions and the subsequent impact on the draft decisions. They noted that some of the information in the TRAFFIC report referred to trade in household and personal effects that are exempt from CITES controls.

TRAFFIC and WWF congratulated range States on their conservation efforts and urged the Russian Federation to sign the MoU. They recommended that Parties should adopt the draft decisions with Singapore's suggested amendment. They suggested that Singapore's concerns regarding the TRAFFIC report could be addressed when discussing document CoP14 Doc. 45 in Committee II.

The Chairman noted the strong overall support for document CoP14 Doc.56. The draft decisions including Singapore's amendment were agreed.

The session was adjourned at 12h00.