

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 fourth session of Committee I

6 June 2007: 14h05-16h55

Chairman: Greg Leach (AU)

Secretariat: D. Morgan  
T. De Meulenaer  
M. Schmidt

Rapporteurs: J. Boddens Hosang  
S. Ferriss  
J. Hepp  
C. McLardy

## Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

### Species trade and conservation issues

#### 59. Sharks

##### 59.1 Report of the Animals Committee

The chairman of the Animals Committee, followed by the Chairman of the Shark Working Group (SWG), introduced document CoP14 Doc. 59.1, highlighting the key findings and conclusions contained within the three Annexes and the recommendations in paragraph 11 of the document.

Australia endorsed the work of the SWG and recognized that poor existing data on shark stocks, the prevalence of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing practises, and lack of trade data underpinned the requirement for CITES involvement in shark conservation and management. The listing of three species in Appendix II and a further three proposals to add shark species to the Appendices demonstrated the evolution of CITES to address trade in these taxa. They explained that document CoP14 Doc. 59.2 had been drafted prior to the Animals Committee report, and noted that several of the recommendations were therefore overlapping. They proposed merging the recommendations presented in the two documents within a working group.

The United States of America and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported the draft decisions, as did Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, and all wished to participate in a working group, as did

Senegal who suggested prioritization of each of the recommendations, particularly with regard to funding requirements.

Ecuador noted the urgent need to adopt integrated regional and national management plans for sharks and Indonesia stressed that developing countries required technical assistance to develop shark management plans while indicating its wish to join the working group.

China broadly welcomed the draft decisions; however they considered FAO to be the primary body with competence regarding trade in sharks, as did Argentina, Japan and Namibia. China rejected reporting obligations for non-CITES species which would place a burden on national Management Authorities and distract limited resources from species already included in the Appendices.

Namibia urged Parties to improve data collection and shark assessment reports and to complete FAO International Plans of Action on the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks).

The Chairman established a working group to combine the recommendations contained in the two documents, prioritize and rationalize the proposed measures, assess the cost of implementing the draft decisions, simplify reporting requirements and take on board the Secretariat's comments. The working group, chaired by New Zealand (Chairman of the SWG), consisted of representatives from all CITES regions as follows: Argentina, Australia, China, Ecuador, a Member State of the European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Senegal, United States of America together with the European Commission, FAO, WWF and IUCN.

### **Amendment of the Appendices**

#### **67. Use of annotations for plants in Appendix II and animals and plants in Appendix III**

The United States introduced document CoP14 Doc. 67 which was supported by Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, and Thailand. Switzerland expressed an interest in developing appropriate annotations for listings in Appendix II of plant parts and derivatives. The proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP13) as outlined in Annex 1 of the document were subsequently agreed without further discussion.

### **Administrative matters**

#### **Committee reports**

#### **8.3 Report of the Chairman of the Plants Committee**

The Chairman of the Plants Committee elaborated on each of the draft decisions proposed for adoption listed in the Annex of document CoP14 Doc. 8.3 (Rev. 1). The draft decision on the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of certain Appendix-II species was accepted.

Regarding the proposed decision on Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) of CBD, the Chairman of the Plants Committee noted the communication role of the Secretariat in the context of its Memorandum of Understanding with the CBD Secretariat. The text of the proposed draft decision in the Annex was agreed.

The proposed decision on non-detriment findings for timber species and medicinal plants was agreed without comments.

With regard to the proposed decision on tree species, the Chairman corrected the text to read "The Plants Committee shall, during the period between the 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties...". The United States voiced caution concerning increased attention to certain groups of plant species rather than individual species. They also noted the concern of range States that the regional workshops mentioned in the draft decision may be viewed as consultations for listing

proposals and that this was recognized by these range States as being insufficient. The proposed decision was agreed, noting the comments by the United States.

The proposed decision on the annotation for Orchidaceae included in Appendix II was deferred until decisions on listing proposals of Orchidaceae were taken.

Amendments to the text of the proposed decisions on agarwood-producing taxa were submitted by Kuwait, Switzerland and the United States. In the first draft decision mentioned in paragraph b) and "Directed to Parties involved in agarwood trade and to the Secretariat", Kuwait suggested replacing "provide" with "identify". An additional proposed amendment by Switzerland to the same draft Decision was rejected by Kuwait and was subsequently withdrawn. The United States suggested revising the text in paragraph d) to read "Directed to the Parties and the Secretariat" and the following draft decision to read "Parties and the CITES Secretariat shall work with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to seek ways...". The proposed decisions concerning agarwood-producing species were accepted with the amendments from Kuwait and the United States.

## Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

### Amendment of the Appendices

#### 68. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

The proposals outlined in proposals CoP14 Prop. 22, 23, 24 and 25 were developed as a result of the Periodic Review in the Plants Committee.

The United States introduced proposal CoP14 Prop. 22 regarding the proposed deletion of *Agave arizonica* from Appendix I, noting that this taxon is now considered to be a hybrid of two species not included in the Appendices of CITES. The proposal was supported by Chile, Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, Kenya, Mexico, Qatar, and the Chairmen of the Nomenclature and Plants Committees. IUCN The World Conservation Union, also speaking on behalf of TRAFFIC, observed that the proposal highlighted the lack of clarity in CITES regarding the definition and treatment of hybrids and cultivars, and urged Parties to consider this issue in more detail. The Humane Society International agreed with this view and the Chairman recommended that the issue be examined by the Plants Committee. The proposal was accepted by consensus.

The United States introduced proposal CoP14 Prop. 23 regarding the proposed transfer of *Nolina interrata*, including all parts and derivatives, from Appendix I to Appendix II. Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, and Mexico supported the proposal. The proposal was accepted by consensus.

Argentina introduced proposal CoP14 Prop. 24 regarding the proposed deletion of *Pereskia* spp. and *Quiabentia* spp. (Cactaceae) from Appendix II. Israel did not support the proposal, noting the implementation difficulties of removing two genera of Cactaceae from Appendix II. The United States expressed concern regarding the status of several species of *Pereskia*. Both Israel and the United States indicated that they did not wish to block a consensus.

The Dominican Republic highlighted the limited distribution of two species of *Pereskia* that occur in that country, but also noted that these species are not threatened by trade. Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, supported the proposal and stated that the two genera could easily be identified by morphological characteristics and so did not meet the criterion to be included in Appendix II for look-alike reasons. Qatar also supported the proposal which was accepted by consensus.

Proposal CoP14 Prop. 25, regarding the proposed deletion of *Pereskiopsis* spp. from Appendix II, was introduced by Mexico. The proposal was supported by Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, Guatemala, Indonesia and the Chairman of the Plants Committee. The proposal was accepted by consensus.

Regarding documents CoP14 Prop. 26 and 27, the Chairman suggested that a working group be established to consider the harmonization of the proposals that address related annotation topics.

Switzerland presented proposals CoP14 Prop. 26 regarding the proposed merging of annotations #1, #4 and #8 and to add some additional elements to the new merged annotation. They noted that the proposal had not been considered by the Plants Committee and explained that it was complementary to proposal CoP14 Prop. 27. They suggested that some of the outstanding issues regarding this proposal could be clarified in a working group.

Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, believed that the overlap between the two proposals was confined to annotations #1, #4, and #8, and sought clarification on the mandate of a potential working group. The United States, on behalf of the North American region, stated that they did not support proposal CoP14 Prop. 26. They indicated that they could consider merging annotations #1, #4, and #8 but that the remaining elements of the proposal should be considered by the Plants Committee. TRAFFIC recognized the need to streamline the Appendices but noted several inconsistencies in proposal CoP14 Prop. 26. They urged that it be referred back to the Plants Committee for further consideration.

At Switzerland's request, Germany, as Chairman of the Working Group on Annotation of Medicinal Plants, presented proposal CoP14 Prop. 27 which proposed to amend annotations #2, #3, #7, #8 and #10 and to merge annotation #1 with #8. Germany noted that this proposal was the outcome of the Plants Committee's work in response to Decisions 13.50 to 13.52. China and Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, expressed their support for this proposal. Noting the complexity of the annotation proposals, Mexico expressed support for the proposal and voiced their opposition to a working group.

The Chairman noted the Committee's general preference not to form a working group and to consider the proposals separately. Conclusion of this item was deferred.

The Summary Record of the first session of Committee I (document CoP14 Com. I Rep. 1) was adopted with a correction to an agenda item number (which should read 41 instead of ~~4-1~~) in the Spanish version.

The session was closed at 16h55.