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 ninth session of Committee I

11 June 2007: 11h00-12h00

Chairman: G. Leach (Australia)

Secretariat: T. De Meulenaer
D. Morgan

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
J. Hepp

The Chairman opened the session with some announcements. Mexico raised a point of order, believing
the meeting was not quorate. The Chairman ruled that there was a quorum.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Amendment of the Appendices

68. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

Kenya and the United States of America introduced proposal CoP14 Prop. 17 for inclusion of seven
species of Pristidae in Appendix I. They noted that all sawfish species were considered critically
endangered globally by IUCN - The World Conservation Union and the Ad Hoc Expert Advisory Panel
of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) found that all species meet
Appendix I listing criteria.

Australia noted support for the efforts to end trade in meat, fins and rostra of Pristidae and
introduced an amendment concerning live Pristis microdon for the aquarium trade. They reported the
population of Pristis microdon in Australia was robust and therefore could support a limited trade for
displays in public aquaria which would raise public awareness and increase conservation benefits.
They proposed an amendment to include Pristis microdon in Appendix II and an annotation to read:

For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in live animals to appropriate and
acceptable aquaria for primarily conservation purposes.

Australia remarked that they were the only Party to export live specimens of sawfish and they
anticipated putting in place contracts between the Australian Government, exporters and importers
to ensure a focus on scientific analysis, interpretive displays, cooperative research and welfare of the
animals. They noted that, if their amendment were approved, all other species of sawfish would be
listed on Appendix I.

Brunei Darussalam, India, New Zealand and the United States offered their support for Australia's
amendment. Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, pointed out
that identification materials were needed urgently. They also believed that all species of Pristidae should be listed on Appendix I but would not oppose the amendment. FAO remarked that their ad hoc Expert Advisory Panel concluded that the full biological and trade criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP13) had been met and they supported the proposal. The Panel had not considered the proposed amendment and therefore FAO could not comment.

Ecuador, on behalf of 31 countries of the South and Central America and the Caribbean region, and Nicaragua stated their support for the proposal. Mexico also supported the proposal but could not currently agree to the amendment as they had insufficient data to make a decision regarding Pristis microdon. They requested that Australia submit an information document.

Norway supported the proposal but questioned whether it was more appropriate to list all species on Appendix I and to apply for an export quota for live specimens. Thailand concurred with this suggestion and stressed the importance of developing adequate identification tools. Greenpeace International, speaking on behalf on Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Species Survival Network, supported the original proposal.

China rejected the proposal noting their doubts regarding the potential conservation benefits of an Appendix-I listing. Qatar and Indonesia, as well as Species Management Specialists, rejected the proposal and noted conservation efforts for sawfish should focus on local and national fishery management and in this case, CITES was not an effective management tool. These two Parties also noted there was merit to Australia’s proposed amendment to list Pristis microdon on Appendix II.

After a vote, the amended proposal was accepted, there being 67 votes in favour, 31\(^1\) against, and 7 abstentions. Austria and Romania requested that their vote in favour be recorded as they believed that their voting equipment was faulty. Antigua and Barbuda reported similar problems and requested that their vote against the proposal be recorded.

After some announcements the session was closed at 12h00.

\(^1\) Note from the Secretariat: corrected after the meeting, originally indicated “30”.
Results of the vote

| Yes (1) | 67 | 68.37% |
| No (2)  | 31 | 31.63% |
| Abstain (3) | 7  |         |
| Total votes | 105 |         |

Key: 0 = did not vote, 1 = yes, 2 = no, 3 = abstain

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2 Note from the Secretariat: corrected after the meeting, originally indicated “0”.
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