

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 12th session of Committee II

12 June 2007: 14h05-16h45

Chairman: C.S. Cheung (China)

Secretariat: J. Barzdo
S. Nash
J. Sellar
M. Yeater

Rapporteurs: J. Boddens Hosang
S. Ferriss
R. Mackenzie
C. McLardy

The Secretariat announced that the Solomon Islands would become a Party to CITES on 24 June 2007, and that the Kyrgyz Republic would become a Party on 2 September 2007, making them the 171st and 172nd Parties, respectively.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking issues

40. Electronic permitting (continued)

The Chairman sought agreement that the amended draft decisions presented in document CoP14 Com. II. 13 represented the agreement of the Committee and this was approved by consensus.

43. Effectiveness of the CITES universal crocodylian tagging system (continued)

and

46. Trade in some crocodylian specimens (continued)

The Chairman introduced this issue, explaining that it had been previously agreed to combine decisions resulting from documents CoP14 Doc. 43 and CoP14 Doc. 46. He invited Germany, as chairman of the drafting group, to take the floor. Germany stated that agreement had been reached on the text for two draft decisions directed to the Standing Committee that read:

14.xx The Standing Committee shall, at its 57th meeting, review the implementation and effectiveness of the Universal Tagging System and the trade in small crocodylian leather goods, including its impact in the effectiveness of the Convention. For that purpose, it shall establish a working group with representatives from exporting and importing countries, the Animals Committee, the Secretariat and other interested Parties. The tasks of the working group, which might work electronically, shall be:

- a) *To examine the implementation and effectiveness of the Universal Tagging System;*
- b) *To examine the implementation and effectiveness of issuing CITES documents for small crocodylian leather goods and related trade controls;*
- c) *To consider possible ways and conditions to alleviate the administrative burden related to trade in small crocodylian leather goods and to guarantee the legal origin of specimens; and*
- d) *To report to the Standing Committee on the results of its work at its 58th meeting.*

14.xx *The Standing Committee shall, at its 58th meeting, consider the report of the working group established under Decision 14.xx and shall submit recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 15th meeting.*

The United States of America supported these draft decisions.

Argentina suggested that the text “shall initiate a review process” be included in the first sentence of the first decision after the text “at its 57th meeting,”. They also expressed concern regarding the reference to small crocodylian leather goods in paragraphs b) and c) of the first draft decision, noting that it was unclear which small items were readily recognizable. Germany and the Secretariat clarified that the proposed working group would investigate this issue. After some discussion of the meaning of “its” in the first sentence of the first decision, it was agreed to replace this word by “their” to be clear that the impact of both the Universal Tagging System and the trade were being referred to. With these amendments, these two draft decisions were agreed.

30. Reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants (continued)

Switzerland introduced the draft decisions in document CoP14 Com. II. 14, noting that a number of countries already had a process in place to report trade in artificially propagated plants, and that analysis and harmonizing of reporting would be helpful. In response to questions about which meetings were being referred to in the document, Switzerland confirmed that it was the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee and the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The United States suggested that the text “Taking into consideration the results of paragraphs a) and b) above,” be included at the beginning of point c) of the draft decision directed to the Secretariat.

With these amendments, the draft decisions in document CoP14 Com. II. 14 were approved.

The Committee then reviewed the summary records of its earlier sessions. Regarding Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 1, Japan suggested that, in the third paragraph from the end of agenda item 11, the text “a facilitation process before taking punitive measure i.e.” be added after the text “emphasized the importance of”. They also suggested amending the first sentence of the third paragraph under agenda item 7.3 to read: “Japan believed the working group should be closed and felt that ~~the if~~ proposed staffing resources are necessary, it should be arranged on a scrap and build basis ~~were unnecessary.~~ They also suggested a reshuffling of Secretariat staff”. With these amendments, Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 1 was adopted.

Argentina suggested amending the text before the word “requested” in the first sentence of the fifth paragraph under item 7.3 of summary record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 2 to read: “Argentina considered that the format of the costed programme of work made comparisons difficult and”. The Chairman noted that “Norway” should be included after “Japan” in the second sentence of the fourth paragraph under item 7.3. With these amendments, Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 2 was adopted.

Argentina announced that it had submitted written comments to the Secretariat regarding the summary records. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to take these into account. On Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 3, Argentina suggested that the third sentence in paragraph 1, agenda item 23, should read: “They noted that the text of the Convention did not provide for the taking of sanctions.” With this amendment, the document was adopted.

Regarding summary record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 4, Argentina suggested that the first two sentences in the first paragraph under agenda item 45 should read “Argentina thought that the proposed modifications to Resolution Conf. 13.7 seemed overly complicated and indicated that the scope of 'personal and household effects' is defined by national legislation, and ~~agreed with~~ Indonesia agreed that they conflicted with issues of national sovereignty. They suggested that Parties make proposals to modify the list of species included in Resolution Conf. 13.7 at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties”.

The United States proposed the following changes to the third paragraph under agenda item 16: “Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, as well as the United States, thought that it was worth exploring the option of running the Virtual College via a facility other than the Secretariat, and that it may be more efficient to take advantage of existing distance-learning programmes.”

With regard to the record of the discussion on agenda items 8.4 and 16, Argentina, Bahamas, Mexico and Peru expressed the view that the ideas in the draft decisions in document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 regarding the Master’s course in Baeza should not be lost and that it was important for the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the organizers. The Secretariat gave its assurance that it would continue to cooperate as it had always done. In response to the request by IWMC-World Conservation Trust for clarification about the final sentence in the final paragraph under agenda item 16, the Chairman suggested replacing “This recommendation” with “This draft decision”.

With these amendments, Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 4 was adopted.

In relation to Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 5, Argentina had submitted a written comment to the Secretariat proposing that, under agenda item 18.1, in the first paragraph on page 3, the words States and be inserted before “regional fisheries management organizations”. It had further proposed that the text in the same paragraph reading “but had its own separate role and should not discuss findings in the same way as an expert panel” be replaced by nor did it have experts that could examine the conclusions of the FAO Expert Advisory Panel. With these amendments, Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 5 was adopted.

In relation to Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 6, under agenda item 19.1, the United States pointed out a correction needed in the last line of the eighth paragraph, to insert the word the before ‘draft resolution’. The Secretariat noted that a final sentence should be added to the report under this agenda item to read The Annex to document CoP14 Doc. 19.1 was accepted as amended. With these amendments, Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 6 was adopted.

In relation to Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 7, the United States proposed that at the end of the third paragraph under agenda item 24, the full stop be replaced by a comma, to be followed by the words of the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee, as proposed by the Secretariat. They further proposed that in the eighth paragraph under this agenda item, in the second line, the words “supported by the United States” be deleted. Argentina proposed that, in the Spanish version, in the seventh paragraph under agenda item 24, at the end of the third sentence, the words “las palabras ‘medidas [apropiadas] de cumplimiento’ hacia el final de la frase se sustituyan por medidas para facilitar el cumplimiento” be replaced with las palabras desde “medidas apropiadas de cumplimiento” hasta el final de la frase se sustituyan por “medidas apropiadas para facilitar el cumplimiento”. Under agenda item 26, on page 4, Argentina proposed that, in the fifth line of the third paragraph, the words if deemed appropriate be inserted following “should be adopted”, and the words “and based on guidance received from the Enforcement Expert Group” be deleted. TRAFFIC proposed that in the seventh paragraph under agenda item 25, “MIKE-ETIS” should be replaced by EU-TWIX. IWMC World Conservation Trust noted that the penultimate paragraph of the document on page 4 appeared to be incomplete. The Secretariat confirmed that the words report back at a later session should be added at the end. With these amendments Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 7 was adopted.

In relation to Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 8, under agenda item 32 on page 3, Brazil requested that, in the third sentence of the third paragraph, the words “and Brazil” be deleted. In the same sentence, they requested the addition of supported by Brazil after “a prerogative of Parties and”. Finally, they proposed to insert a new sentence after “international trade rules.” to read Brazil further stressed that the consideration of incentives in environmental fora should not constitute a manner to legitimate the

concession of subsidies to the production or export of commodities. With these amendments, Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 8 was adopted.

Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 9 was adopted without amendment.

In relation to Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 10, under agenda item 49 on page 6, the United States noted that, in the underlined text, the word "affected" should be replaced by concerned, and that, after the underlined text, the following sentence should be added: The United States proposed replacing "concerned" with "affected". Finally, in the last paragraph under agenda item 49, the final sentence should read "together with the amendments proposed by Norway and the United States". With these amendments, Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 10 was adopted.

The Chairman also invited the Chairman of the Budget Working Group, to provide an update on progress. He reported that the working group was not in a position to reach a consensus, and would present two options that had been discussed to the Committee on Wednesday 13 June. The options reflected a 0% nominal growth scenario and a 21% nominal growth scenario respectively. He thanked the members of the working group for their participation and constructive attitude, and asked Parties to reflect overnight with a view to reaching agreement the following day. The Chairman of Committee II reiterated this request.

The Chairman closed the session at 16h45.