

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 15th session of Committee II

14 June 2007: 9h15-11h00

Chairman: C.S. Cheung (China)

Secretariat: J. Barzdo

Rapporteurs: S. Ferriss
J. Hepp

Strategic matters

14. CITES and livelihoods (continued)

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced the two draft decisions in document CoP14 Com. II. 12. They noted that the draft decision directed to the Secretariat had not been discussed in the working group, but hoped that Parties would agree to discuss it. Argentina, Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, and the United States of America supported this.

Brazil supported the draft decision directed to the Standing Committee, but proposed that ", particularly" be deleted from paragraph b). Argentina and Peru agreed with this suggestion but Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, the United States and Humane Society International opposed it.

Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, also agreed with the draft decision directed to the Standing Committee and proposed that the text ", [or the conduct of the review of significant trade]" be deleted from paragraph b). Argentina and Fauna and Flora International agreed with this suggestion, whereas the Humane Society International and the Species Survival Network (SSN) opposed it.

The Chairman of Committee II noted there was general support for the decision directed to the Secretariat and the decision directed to the Standing Committee including the amendment proposed by Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. Following a vote on the amendment proposed by Brazil, which was rejected with 25 in favour, 48 against and 7 abstentions (see Annex), the draft decisions, as amended, were approved by consensus.

12. Review of the scientific committees (continued)

The Co-Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee introduced document CoP14 Com. II. 30. Regarding paragraph 3 of Annex 1, the Secretariat noted that it would be pleased to liaise with the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees on the assignment of consultants, but that the appointment of consultants could only be done in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. He noted that the draft decision related to the budget should be

coordinated with the budget discussion. It also suggested that, in draft decision 6, "by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties" be replaced with for presentation at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and that the second sentence in paragraph 7 could be deleted, as it was a duplication of paragraph A. a) in the section in Annex 3 under "Regarding representation in the Animals and Plants Committees". Finally it recommended that the decision in paragraph 10 be deleted because it contradicted the final paragraph in the preambular section of the document, and because the tables in document SC54 Inf. 5 would be out of date after CoP14.

With these amendments, the document was agreed by consensus.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Review of Resolutions and Decisions

21. Revision of Resolution Conf. 11.16 on Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II (continued)

The United States, as Chairman of the working group, introduced the revised draft decisions in document CoP14 Com. II. 24. Mexico opposed the deletion of the text under point a) v) in the section *Regarding monitoring and reporting in relation to species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II for ranching*. The United States elaborated that the working group had considered this text but did not feel it was necessary to include it in section a), and Mexico agreed.

Document CoP14 Com. II. 24 was agreed by consensus.

Compliance and enforcement issues

23. Guidelines for compliance with the Convention (continued)

Norway, as Chairman of the working group, introduced document CoP14 Com. II. 21. They highlighted the open and transparent nature of the process preparing this document, and emphasized its non-binding nature. Stressing that the guide was intended to support Parties, they proposed that the word "ADOPTS" in the operative part of the draft resolution be replaced by TAKES NOTE OF.

China, Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, Japan and Mexico supported the document. Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States noted that compliance was critical to the effectiveness of the Convention and China stressed that the document was not legally-binding but had been formulated to reflect current practice. Japan indicated their intention to submit comments to the Secretariat regarding footnote 1.

With the proposed amendment, the draft resolution in document CoP14 Com. II. 21 was agreed by consensus.

Trade control and marking issues

39. Purpose-of-transaction codes on CITES permits and certificates (continued)

The United States, as Chairman of the working group, introduced document CoP14 Com. II. 29 and reported that the working group had not reached a consensus on document CoP14 Doc. 39. They had therefore prepared a draft decision to establish an intersessional working group and outlined terms of reference for this group. Canada supported the draft decision and noted their willingness to continue working on this issue as a member of the proposed working group. Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, also supported the document but suggested that, in paragraph a) of the draft decision, the words intergovernmental and be inserted before "non-governmental".

The Committee accepted this proposed amendment and approved the draft decision.

Species trade and conservation issues

60. Sturgeons and paddlefish (continued)

Germany, as Chairman of the working group, introduced document CoP14 Com. II. 25 containing several draft decisions and a draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13). They highlighted several of the main points that the working group had considered including: the need to refer to aquaculture operations clearly; the establishment in 2008 of a new quota year extending from 1 March to the last day of February of the following year; clarifying that all caviar from shared stocks must be exported before the end of the quota year; and reducing the period of validity of re-export permits from 24 to 18 months. They also noted the working group disagreed with the prior suggestion that a two-thirds majority was needed to establish an export quota for stocks shared by more than two range States. They proposed inserting a fourth draft decision directed to the Secretariat to read:

The Secretariat shall assist in seeking external funding and resources from Parties and all relevant stakeholders in order to complete the task assigned to the Animals Committee as outlined in Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13).

They also suggested the inclusion of a decision requesting the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties reminding them of the recommendation that total export quotas for 2008 (from 1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009) should not be higher than those agreed to in 2007 for each species.

Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, and the Russian Federation supported the document. The Russian Federation proposed replacing "should" with shall and replacing "information" with data in the second draft decision directed to the Parties. Canada and the United States noted their support for the document and proposed amendments. The United States noted that, in the draft amendment of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13), in paragraph I) under RECOMMENDS, "Custom" should be Customs, and that, in paragraph a) iii) under the second RECOMMENDS, "two range States" should be changed to only two range States. China supported the document and amendments.

Romania updated the Parties on their domestic sturgeon management efforts which included a 10-year moratorium on wild catches and restocking populations in the Danube River.

The Secretariat welcomed many of the provisions in the document but believed the proposal represented a considerable weakening of international oversight in view of the very poor state of many sturgeon stocks, particularly those in the Caspian Sea. SeaWeb, also speaking on behalf of the fisheries working group of SSN, noted that the impacts of domestic consumption and illegal trade of caviar would not be considered when establishing export quotas and expressed concern that it would be detrimental to remove the Secretariat's oversight of this process. They noted their support for the second draft decision directed to the Parties.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) noted they had been implementing a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on 'Capacity building for the recovery and management of the sturgeon fisheries of the Caspian Sea'. Through the TCP, FAO had agreed to provide technical assistance to CITES and range States in evaluating regional efforts to conserve and monitor the sturgeon resources in the Caspian Sea. Because the TCP was due to terminate in September 2007, FAO advised Parties interested in the continuation of the TCP to formally request its extension, noting that they could not guarantee this would be granted but that it would be carefully considered.

IWMC-The World Conservation Trust, speaking also on behalf of the International Caviar Importers Association, supported the document and amendments, and expressed its disagreement with the view of the Secretariat.

The Committee accepted document CoP14 Com. II. 25 with the amendments.

Strategic matters

11. CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013 (continued)

Canada, as Chairman of the working group, introduced document CoP14 Com. II. 20, stressing that it represented a compromise of the differing views of many Parties. They announced three amendments to the document: insertion of the words without diminishing funding for currently prioritized activities at the end of Objective 3.1 in the Annex; insertion of a comma after “natural resources” in Objective 3.5; and deletion of the bracketed text under Objective 1.4 in document CoP14 Com. II. 20 Annex. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, China, Dominica, Japan, Kenya and the United States supported the document and the amendments. Brazil noted they would have preferred a stronger link between sustainable management, sustainable development and conservation in the preamble.

Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, agreed with the document and the amendment to delete the bracketed text but noted the need to revisit the issue of livelihoods at the next meeting of the Standing Committee. Humane Society International noted their support for the retention of the bracketed text.

The Committee accepted the draft resolution with the amendments announced by the Chairman of the working group and the draft decisions in document CoP14 Com. II. 20.

Fiji noted that one of the draft decisions, directed to Parties, that they had proposed under agenda item 16, recorded in Summary Record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 4, had not been subsequently included in document CoP14 Com. II. 4. The Chairman requested that the text be given to the Secretariat for inclusion.¹

The Chairman noted that this had been the final session of Committee II and thanked all of the participants. He closed the meeting at 11h00.

¹ *The text received by the Secretariat reads:* Parties should urge regional environmental organizations to take a more active role in regional cooperation and coordination of CITES to build capacity in their region.

Result of the vote

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

Parties	Vote
Afghanistan AF	0
Albania AL	0
Algeria DZ	0
Antigua and Barbuda AG	1
Argentina AR	1
Australia AU	2
Austria AT	2
Azerbaijan AZ	0
Bahamas BS	1
Bangladesh BD	0
Barbados BB	0
Belarus BY	0
Belgium BE	2
Belize BZ	0
Benin BJ	0
Bhutan BT	0
Bolivia BO	0
Botswana BW	1
Brazil BR	1
Brunei Darussalam BN	1
Bulgaria BG	2
Burkina Faso BF	0
Burundi BI	1
Cambodia KH	0
Cameroon CM	3
Canada CA	2
Cape Verde CV	0
Central African Republic CF	0
Chad TD	0
Chile CL	1
China CN	2
Colombia CO	2
Comoros KM	0
Congo CG	0
Costa Rica CR	0
Côte d'Ivoire CI	0
Croatia HR	2
Cuba CU	0
Cyprus CY	2
Czech Republic CZ	2
Democratic Republic of the Congo CD	0
Denmark DK	2
Djibouti DJ	0
Dominica DM	2

Parties	Vote
Dominican Republic DO	1
Ecuador EC	1
Egypt EG	0
El Salvador SV	0
Equatorial Guinea GQ	0
Eritrea ER	1
Estonia EE	2
Ethiopia ET	0
Fiji FJ	2
Finland FI	2
France FR	2
Gabon GA	0
Gambia GM	0
Georgia GE	0
Germany DE	2
Ghana GH	0
Greece GR	2
Grenada GD	0
Guatemala GT	1
Guinea GN	0
Guinea-Bissau GW	0
Guyana GY	2
Honduras HN	0
Hungary HU	2
Iceland IS	0
India IN	2
Indonesia ID	1
Iran (Islamic Republic of) IR	0
Ireland IE	2
Israel IL	0
Italy IT	2
Jamaica JM	1
Japan JP	2
Jordan JO	0
Kazakhstan KZ	0
Kenya KE	3
Kuwait KW	0
Lao People's Democratic Republic LA	2
Latvia LV	0
Lesotho LS	0
Liberia LR	0
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya LY	0
Liechtenstein LI	0
Lithuania LT	0

Parties	Vote
Luxembourg LU	0
Madagascar MG	0
Malawi MW	0
Malaysia MY	2
Mali ML	0
Malta MT	2
Mauritania MR	0
Mauritius MU	1
Mexico MX	2
Monaco MC	0
Mongolia MN	0
Montenegro ME	0
Morocco MA	0
Mozambique MZ	1
Myanmar MM	0
Namibia NA	3
Nepal NP	2
Netherlands NL	2
New Zealand NZ	0
Nicaragua NI	0
Niger NE	0
Nigeria NG	0
Norway NO	3
Pakistan PK	0
Palau PW	1
Panama PA	0
Papua New Guinea PG	0
Paraguay PY	0
Peru PE	1
Philippines PH	0
Poland PL	2
Portugal PT	2
Qatar QA	0
Republic of Korea KR	0
Republic of Moldova MD	2
Romania RO	2
Russian Federation RU	1
Rwanda RW	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis KN	0
Saint Lucia LC	3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines VC	0
Samoa WS	0
San Marino SM	2

Parties	Vote
Sao Tome and Principe ST	0
Saudi Arabia SA	0
Senegal SN	1
Serbia RS	2
Seychelles SC	0
Sierra Leone SL	0
Singapore SG	2
Slovakia SK	2
Slovenia SI	2
Solomon Islands SB	0
Somalia SO	0
South Africa ZA	2
Spain ES	2
Sri Lanka LK	0
Sudan SD	0
Suriname SR	2
Swaziland SZ	2
Sweden SE	2
Switzerland CH	0
Syrian Arab Republic SY	0
Thailand TH	1
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia MK	0
Togo TG	3
Trinidad and Tobago TT	1
Tunisia TN	0
Turkey TR	2
Uganda UG	3
Ukraine UA	0
United Arab Emirates AE	0
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland GB	2
United Republic of Tanzania TZ	0
United States of America US	2
Uruguay UY	1
Uzbekistan UZ	0
Vanuatu VU	0
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) VE	0
Viet Nam VN	1
Yemen YE	0
Zambia ZM	2
Zimbabwe ZW	1