

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 second plenary session

04 June 2007: 09h10-12h00

Chairman: C. Maquieira (Chile)  
G. Verburg (Netherlands)

Secretariat: W. Wijnstekers  
J. Barzdo  
D. Morgan

Rapporteurs: J. Gray  
J. Hepp  
T. Inskipp  
C. McLardy

**Administrative matters**

1. Rules of Procedure

The Chairman opened the meeting and referred to document CoP14 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1). The Secretariat explained the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure. There being no objections, these were adopted.

2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the meeting and of Chairmen of Committees I and II

The Chairman reported that the Standing Committee had nominated The Honourable Gerda Verburg, Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality for the Netherlands, as Chairman of the meeting, Mr Andre van de Zande, General Secretary of the same Ministry, as Alternate Chairman, and Mr Marshall Jones (United States of America) and Mr Marcelo Calvar Agrelo (Uruguay) as Vice-Chairmen. These nominations were agreed. The nominations of Mr Greg Leach (Australia) and Mr Chi-Sun Cheung (China) as Chairmen of Committees I and II, respectively, were also agreed.

The Chairman welcomed participants and urged them to make the meeting a success. She referred to the "voice of the future", introducing first a presentation by two school children, who called on the Conference to protect elephants for future generations. She then introduced two older students who reported on a "shadow CITES conference" that had taken place three weeks earlier. They referred to the recommendations it had generated and stressed that the outcome of deliberations by the Conference of the Parties affected the future of young people, whom they were representing.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Chairman presented document CoP14 Doc. 3 (Rev. 1) and the Secretariat explained that Uganda had requested that its proposal to amend the Appendices with regard to the leopard be considered under agenda item 37 instead of item 68. Uganda had indicated that if it were successful

in seeking a quota under item 37, then it would withdraw its proposal to amend the Appendices. This request was agreed.

In response to a question raised by the United States of America, the Chairman of the Standing Committee confirmed that the unfinished business remaining from its 55th meeting would be completed during its 56th meeting.

The provisional agenda contained in document CoP14 Doc. 3 (Rev.1) was adopted as amended.

#### 4. Adoption of the working programme

The Chairman outlined the provisional working programme contained in document CoP14 Doc. 4, and proposed an amendment to convene a plenary session for Friday 8 June, at 16h30, in order to take stock of progress. Germany, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, thanked the Netherlands for its hospitality, stressed its belief in the worth of CITES, and said that it thought discussion of sturgeons and paddlefish was scheduled too late in the working programme, as a working group would probably be needed. The Chairman asked that this matter be raised at the outset of business in Committee II. The provisional working programme, with the additional plenary session, was adopted.

#### 5. Credentials Committee

##### 5.1 Establishment of the Credentials Committee

The Chairman reported the Standing Committee's nomination of Ms Sonja Meintjes (South Africa) as Chairman of the Credentials Committee. This was approved. The Standing Committee Chairman reported that the members nominated for election to the Credentials Committee were Cameroon, China, Germany and the United States. Jordan requested that an Arabic-speaking country be included in the Credentials Committee. The Secretary-General noted that a representative of an Arabic-speaking country could participate but not as a member since no such nomination had been made through the Standing Committee. This was agreed. The nominations of the Standing Committee were approved.

#### 6. Admission of observers

The Secretariat referred to document CoP14 Doc. 6 and noted that the following organizations that had registered had not provided the proof of approval by their national Management Authorities: Afrika Shumpei Kambe Fellowship Kenya, Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society, CITES Monitoring Center of Poland, Fundación Cethus, Land and Marine Products Association, Singapore Reptile Skin Trade Association, Wildlife Action Group, Wildlife Watch Group, Zoological Garden University of Ibadan, Zoological Society of London. With the exclusion of these organizations, the admission of the observers listed in the document was approved.

#### 8. Committee reports

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

The Chairman of the Animals Committee noted that the bulk of the work of the scientific committees continued to be undertaken during their separate meetings. He introduced document CoP14 Doc. 8.2, outlining the main elements and highlighting the draft decisions and recommendations contained in the Annex. He acknowledged the assistance he had received in conducting the Committee's work and thanked his home country, Switzerland.

Argentina, speaking also on behalf of Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay, expressed concern over the handling of a proposal submitted at the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee to include the fin whale in the Periodic Review of the Appendices. It believed that the vote of the regional representative concerning this proposal did not reflect the views of countries within the region as consideration of the proposal had been unexpected. Additionally the inclusion of the species in the Periodic Review was not in line with the guidelines approved at the 51st meeting of the Standing Committee. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.4 (Rev. CoP12),

Argentina believed that CITES should recognize the primary competence of the International Whaling Commission concerning whaling issues.

Germany, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, echoed the concerns expressed by Argentina but supported all the recommendations made by the Animals Committee. Germany explained that certain restrictions on imports of birds into the European Community, to reduce the risk of transmission of avian influenza, had been implemented and so considered the draft decision concerning *Psittacus erithacus* of a relatively low priority, but nonetheless pertinent. It welcomed the recommendation to support election of Animal Committee representatives from developing countries to the post of Chairman, and suggested that financial assistance to this end might be available from the European Commission.

The Chairman suggested that the draft decisions contained in the report be referred to Committee I. This was agreed and the report was noted.

### 8.1 Report of the Chairman of the Standing Committee

The Chairman of the Standing Committee summarized the activities since CoP13. He noted that during the 54th and 55th meetings of the Committee, a working group was tasked with developing a Strategic Vision. The Standing Committee had also authorized the Secretariat to develop a costed work programme to lay out the financial impact of the Strategic Vision.

The Standing Committee had also addressed issues relating to introduction from the sea and there were still existing difficulties with developing non-detriment findings. The Chairman of the Committee also referred to the relevance of Regional Fishery Management Organizations and noted that the Parties will need to continue working on this issue.

He noted that increasing cooperation had occurred with a variety of international institutions and multilateral environmental agreements, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

He noted that a review of financial matters had been conducted and he urged Parties that were in arrears to provide timely payments.

He highlighted efforts regarding several species groups including Asian big cats, elephants, sturgeons and mahogany and noted that, at the 55th meeting of the Standing Committee, Japan was approved as an ivory trading partner. China had also requested similar standing but the Secretariat had not made any recommendation to the Committee, although the criteria in Decision 10.2 (Rev. CoP11) had been met. The Chairman reported that the Committee had discussed several enforcement issues, including tiger trade in China, primates imported into Egypt as well as general implementation of the Convention in Saudi Arabia.

The Chairman thanked the Standing Committee Chairman for his oral report, which was noted and stated that any issues relating to this report could be raised in Committee II.

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

The Chairman of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP14 Doc. 8.3 (Rev. 1), which had been prepared in consultation with the Plants Committee and the CITES Secretariat, and drew attention to a number of draft decisions and proposed amendments to Resolutions, which would be forwarded to Committee I or Committee II. She highlighted certain aspects of the report including Significant Trade Reviews, concerns regarding medicinal plants, sustainable management of *Prunus africana*, the need for support and coordination when preparing identification manuals, and timber proposals. She drew attention to documents CoP14 Inf. 10, involving the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and CoP14 Inf. 11 dealing with the periodic review of plant taxa. She concurred with the Chairman of the Animals Committee regarding financial support for the work of the chairmen of the scientific committees. She thanked the members of the Plants Committee as well as the Secretariat and other supporting organizations and individuals.

The Secretariat suggested that all of the draft decisions in the document be referred to Committee I, and that the budget matters be referred to Committee II. This was agreed and the report was noted.

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

The Chairman of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 and outlined the topics discussed at the previous two joint intersessional meetings. He referred to the draft rules of procedure for the meetings of the Committees in Annex 2, noting that a set of specific rules was necessary because of the different working methods and composition of the two Committees compared with the Standing Committee. He commented on the review of the scientific committees and drew attention to the detailed summary in document CoP14 Inf. 5, as well as various recommendations in paragraph 18 of the joint report. He also referred to the Strategic Vision, the issue of regional communication, the Export Quota Working Group and the progress of the first country-based Review of Significant Trade. He made an additional recommendation that the duration of a joint Animals and Plants Committees' meeting should be four days but, if there were no joint meeting, the Animals and Plants Committees' meetings should be five days each.

The Chairman of the Plants Committee referred to trade in alien invasive species and the Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade, noting that further information on the latter was available in document CoP14 Inf. 8, and that details of the forthcoming seventh Master's course were provided in document CoP14 Inf. 31.

The Secretariat suggested that Annex 1, the contents of paragraph 12 of the report, and the suggestion relating to the duration of the meetings be discussed in Committee II, and that trade in alien invasive species be dealt with in Committee I. This was agreed and the report was noted with thanks.

#### 8.5 Report of the Nomenclature Committee

The botanist of the Nomenclature Committee introduced the report in document CoP14 Doc. 8.5, and drew attention to the recommendation that in future the Committee could best function as a working group of the Animals and Plants Committees. He outlined the work that had been carried out on flora checklists since CoP13 and recommended that the Parties adopt five new checklists.

The zoologist of the Committee referred to various new and revised references for fauna that were recommended for adoption and noted the need to develop a checklist for CITES-listed coral taxa which would, however, require specific funds.

The Secretariat suggested, and it was agreed, that the recommendations contained in documents CoP14 Doc. 8.2, Doc. 8.3 (Rev. 1) and Doc. 8.5 be considered in Committee I with the exception of the recommendations concerning the budget, to be considered by Committee II. The report was noted.

### **Strategic matters**

#### 18 Cooperation with other organizations

##### 18.2 Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber

The representative of the International Tropical Timber Organization referred to considerable improvement in the liaison between their organization and CITES in the last 15 years, as called for in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP13). It was also noted that they had recently completed their comments on the timber proposals submitted at CoP14 and that these were available for consideration by the Parties. Finally, they expressed their willingness to collaborate on the production of identification material for tropical timbers.

### 18.3 Statements from representatives of other conventions and agreements

The representative of the Global Tiger Forum (GTF) noted that they work in cooperation with CITES to protect tigers from extinction. GTF referred to document CoP14 Inf. 19 arising from the April 2007 GTF meeting in Nepal and highlighted the continuing threats to tigers from poaching and the need for Parties to ensure that Resolution Conf. 12.5 is enforced.

The representative of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) noted that the Convention was seeking ongoing cooperation with other biodiversity agreements. They urged CITES to monitor trade in threatened wetland species.

The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime spoke in particular about two conventions that help assist with combating illegal wildlife trade, namely the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention on Corruption.

The Chairman noted that a representative from the Convention on Biological Diversity was unable to attend the meeting and had submitted his speech as an information document.

## 19 Dialogue meetings

### 19.2 Results of the dialogue meeting on the African elephant

The Chairman noted that the discussions of the African elephant range States were not yet available and so the results of their deliberations would be taken into account in Committee I in association with other relevant agenda items.

After some announcements from the Secretariat, the session was closed at 12h00.