

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

Strategic matters

Committee reports and recommendations

Animals Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Animals Committee.\*

Introduction

2. This report covers the period from 16 June 2007 to 14 October 2009. During this period, the Animals Committee (AC) met on two occasions: At its 23rd meeting, from 19 to 24 April 2008; and its 24th meeting, from 20 to 24 April 2009, both held in Geneva, Switzerland. 164 Representatives of 43 Parties, 1 non-Party, two United Nations agencies, two intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), 18 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 20 national NGOs participated in AC23; and 148 representatives of 36 Parties, three United Nations agencies, one IGO, 17 international NGOs and 17 national NGOs in AC24. The summary records of these meetings have been posted on the CITES website.
3. Resolution Conf. 14. 1 (Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2009-2011) requires that all meetings of the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee should be held in Geneva unless a candidate host country pays the difference in costs between its proposed venue and Geneva. Unfortunately no Party offered to host a meeting of the Animals Committee outside Geneva and Switzerland and thus both meetings had to be held at Geneva. Thus an opportunity was missed to increase the awareness to CITES in another world-region and perhaps also to underline the importance of the CITES bodies within the particular host country.
4. Thus, while it was possible to hold one meeting (AC23) back-to-back with the Plants Committee (PC17) where common issues could be dealt with in a joint session (19. April 2008), this was not possible at AC24, because the Plants Committee had its 18th meeting at Buenos Aires (Argentina) one month prior to the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee. As a consequence, both committees spent valuable time separately on the same issues and, in cases where they came to diverging solutions, had to solve these issues and reach a common position in equally time-consuming complicated intersessional processes. From this emerges the requirement for common meetings of both Committees where joint issues are concerned, even though liaison between the two scientific committees was maintained as far as possible also by the participation of the AC and PC Chairmen (and by some Committee members and Party observers) in the regular meetings of the other committee.
5. Nevertheless – and this needs to be stressed once again – the bulk of the work of the scientific committees has always been and continues to be undertaken in their own, separate meetings. The

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\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

duration of the meetings (4 days after the joint meeting at AC23 and 5 days at AC24) allowed the Committee to progress substantially or indeed complete most of the tasks assigned to it by the Parties.

6. As a consequence of the various assignments to the Animals Committee, the AC Chairman is submitting at the present meeting this report and three documents on joint AC/PC issues with the PC Chairman (document CoP15 Docs. 28, 33 and 35). Some issues dealt with by the Animals Committee (either on its own or in collaboration with the Plants Committee) are the subject of separate agenda items, and results of the Committee's work are presented in the documents pertaining to that agenda point.
7. The current composition of the AC is presented in table 1. Immediately after the closure of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), the members and alternate members of the AC and the CITES Secretariat met informally. The AC re-elected Mr Thomas Althaus (Switzerland, one of the two regional representatives of Europe) as Chairman and Mr Rodrigo Medellín (Mexico, the regional representative of North America) as Vice-Chairman.

Table 1: The current composition of the Animals Committee

Region	Regional representative	Alternate
Africa	Mr Richard Kiome Bagine (Kenya) Mr Khaled Zahzah (Tunisia)	Mr Mostafa Ahmed Mahmoud (Egypt) Mr Moses Maurihungirire (Namibia)
Asia	Mr Mohammad Pourkazemi (Islamic Republic of Iran) Ms Siti Nuramaliati Prijono (Indonesia)	Mr Nobuo Ishii (Japan) Mr Choo-Hoo Giam (Singapore)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Sr. Marcel Enzo Calvar Agrelo (Uruguay) Sr. José Alberto Álvarez Lemus (Cuba)	Sra Nereyda Margarita Estrada Andino (Honduras) Sr. Alvaro José Velasco Barbieri (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
Europe	Mr Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) Sr. Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain)	Mr Colmán Ó Críodáin (Ireland) Mr Radu Suciú (Romania)
North America	Sr. Rodrigo A. Medellín (Mexico)	Ms Rosemarie Gnam (United States of America)
Oceania	Mr Rod Hay (New Zealand)	Mr John Aruga (Papua New Guinea)
Nomenclature specialist	Ms Ute Grimm (Germany)	

Note: contact details of the current members of the Animals Committee are available at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/AC/member.shtml>

#### Regional representation and regional reports

8. While in earlier years the participation and representation of certain regions caused concerns, things have improved significantly in the last years. Nevertheless, feedback and participation from a few regional representatives and alternates could still improve (see below). The regional representatives of Africa, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America and Oceania were all able to attend AC23 and AC24. This was also the case for the regional representatives of the Asian region, with the exception of AC24 when the member (Mr. Pourkazemi) was unable to attend and was replaced by his alternate (Mr. Ishi). Unfortunately, only a few alternate members could be present (as members of their Party delegations). I advise therefore that, if Parties discuss the membership of their delegations to an AC meeting, priority be given to alternate members, should he/she be a citizen of that particular country. Communication still remained difficult with some regions and representatives, and could be the underlying cause for the lack of feedback in some instances.
9. Noteworthy in this regard is the initiative of the representatives of the African region in the Animals Committee. While the African region is the CITES region with the richest diversity of species and the least developed Parties, they were concerned that only about 10% - 15% of the countries in the African region submit reports to their Regional Representatives on the CITES scientific committees before each meeting.

Therefore the African regional AC representatives concluded that the problems they are encountering when trying to link with others in the region are symptoms of a greater problem affecting the overall participation of African countries in CITES. Consequently they organized at AC23 and thereafter regional consultations to identify measures needed to facilitate the participation of African Parties in CITES and to improve CITES implementation in Africa and submitted document SC58 Doc. 46 to the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee. This document proposed the creation of a Working Group on the participation of the African region in CITES. Proposed terms of reference for this Working Group were included in the Annex of the document. SC58 fully endorsed the initiative.

10. The regional reports that were prepared by the members of the Committee and presented at AC23 and AC24 can be found on the CITES website. Their content has been streamlined over the years, addressing for instance practical information, regional communications, the Review of Significant Trade, CITES-related research projects and scientific activities, legislation, enforcement, capacity building activities and awareness, relevant meetings and workshops, and regional directories. They show an impressive range of CITES activities in certain regions and in numerous countries around the world, and demonstrate a high commitment to CITES. However besides the representatives of the African region also some other AC members again complained about the difficulties to communicate within their region and/or the lack of response from Parties to enquiries or requests for specific information. As in previous years, the AC Chairman felt that it was quite difficult to fulfil satisfactorily both the role of Chairman and the one of regional representative (and focal point for the European region). He therefore transferred some of the responsibilities as regional representative to his alternate and/or the other European representative on the committee.

#### Activities of the Committee

##### General

11. The AC has addressed all the tasks that were entrusted to it at CoP13 and CoP14 and furthermore assumed all its regular responsibilities pursuant to the Committee's terms of reference. Issues were tackled at the two AC meetings, and intersessionally by various working groups operating through correspondence and via email under the auspices of the AC. In most instances, AC members or alternate members chaired these working groups. A number of items were addressed jointly by AC and PC and consequently by joint AC/PC working groups.

##### Activities of the AC Chairman

12. In July 2007 the AC Chairman participated at the First Meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (organized by UNEP) in Paris. In October 2007 the Chairman participated at the First Meeting of the Range States to negotiate an Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas (NGAGI) and their Habitats under the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) in Paris. The Chairman was also invited to participate on the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in November 2008 in Putrajaya (Malaysia), but due to other commitments was unable to participate. Again due to other obligations he also had to decline the invitation for the third Meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions in October 2009, but was ably replaced by the vice-chair, Mr Rodrigo Medellin, the representative from North America.
13. Throughout the period covered by this report, the AC Chairman participated in the work of the SC Working Group on Trade in Crocodile Specimens through the AC delegate (Dr. Dietrich Jelden) (additional information on this issue is provided under point 37). The AC Chairman was continuously updated and consulted by the Secretariat, when necessary, on matters concerning the Significant Trade Review Process, was involved, with the other AC members in matters concerning some applications for the registration of institutions that breed Appendix I species for commercial purposes, was involved in the preparations of the "FAO Technical Workshop on the Status, Limitations and Opportunities for Improving the Monitoring of Shark Fisheries and Trade" in Rome as well as the "FAO/CITES Technical Workshop on Stock Assessment and TAC Methodologies" under the program "Capacity building for the recovery and management of the sturgeon fisheries of the Caspian Sea", in Rome. AC was represented at this meeting by Mr Radu Suci, the alternate representative for Europe. The Chairman was also an *ex-officio* member of the steering committee for the "Workshop on Non-detriment Findings", which was held in November 2008 in Mexico. Unfortunately, due to own obligations, the Chairman was then however unable to participate at that workshop. Furthermore, he travelled several times to the CITES Secretariat in Geneva and met with staff of the Secretariat, in particular from the Scientific Support Unit, to discuss relevant

subjects and prepare meetings and documents. Finally, he participated in his function as AC Chairman at two meetings of the Standing Committee in 2008 and 2009 and at PC 17 in 2008 in Geneva.

### Specific issues

#### Review of the scientific Committees

14. In view of the fact that a review of the scientific Committees had been undertaken only last term, both the Animals and the Plant Committee agreed that there was no need to revise their Terms of Reference at present.

#### Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade

15. The Committee was to suggest a time-line for the evaluation, propose next steps and identify specific areas that could profitably be focused on. In particular, the Committee was advised to consider possible terms of reference for the advisory working group referred to in paragraph 4 of Annex 1 of document PC17 Doc. 8.1 (AC23 Doc. 8.1) and any specific advice that could be offered to the Secretariat with respect to the content of the evaluation. The Committee agreed that the fundamental question to answer was the contribution that the Review of Significant Trade makes to improve implementation of Article IV. It also agreed that the advisory working group should identify elements that could be completed and reported on at CoP15 and proposed the composition of the advisory group (Parties and experts listed in paragraph 5 of AC24 Doc. 7.1, with the addition of the Canadian Scientific Authority Working Group). The Committee decided that the AC representative in this advisory group would be the AC chair until CoP15 when a new representative would have to be appointed. It further recommended that if a country is unable to participate, a regional representative should nominate another country to maintain the appropriate balance.

Further, the Committee agreed to the following case studies, listed in order of priority:

- a) *Psittacus erithacus*
  - b) *Strombus gigas*
  - c) *Cuora amboinensis*
  - d) *Hippopotamus amphibius*
  - e) Madagascar, country study
16. The Committee also endorsed the modus operandi for conducting the evaluation set out in Annex 2 to AC24 Doc. 7.1 and recommended that it be treated as general guidelines and not restrain the Advisory Group from making further amendments. The Committee agreed with PC 18 that the Secretariat should utilize the expertise of the Advisory Group and the Technical Committees in identifying consultants with appropriate expertise to carry out the Review.

### Species reviewed or under review

#### Country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar

17. In view of the progress that Madagascar had made in implementing its action plan, and the burden placed on Madagascar in continuing to report on progress at meetings of the scientific committees, it was discussed at AC23 if the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar could be regarded as completed. Some concern was expressed that no notice had been given for the completion of the review, and that no formal process for ending the review was in place. It was also questioned whether Madagascar was yet in a position to make non-detriment findings for all Appendix-II species that were exported, although there was also general acknowledgement that Madagascar had made very good progress in implementation of the action plan. The Committees agreed that the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar was now completed and that Madagascar was no longer required to submit regular reports under this agenda item. The Committees also agreed that the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar should be included as a case-study in the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade.

### Species selected following CoP13

18. AC24 noted that *Cuora amboinensis* and *Cuora galbinifrons* would be passed to the Standing Committee for action because no responses had been received from the Lao People's Democratic Republic or Viet Nam, and that *Lissemys punctata* should be removed from the Review of Significant Trade because Bangladesh had clarified that export of the species had been banned.
19. AC24 also reviewed the recommendations regarding the Malagasy chameleons and day geckos and adopted the recommendation that *Tridacna* spp. be included in the Review of Significant Trade for the Solomon Islands, as an urgent case (with specific instructions to the Secretariat). AC24 also decided to include *Balearica regulorum* and *B. pavonina* in the Review of Significant Trade as an urgent case.
20. The Committee further agreed to include *Hippocampus kelloggi*, *H. spinosissimus* and *H. kuda* in the Review of Significant Trade. Regarding *Saiga tatarica*, the Committee discussed this matter intersessionally (after AC24) and decided that this was an implementation issue which is no longer the matter of the AC and would therefore be brought to the attention of the Standing Committee by the Secretariat.
21. Since the two countries, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, are not range States of *Orlitia borneensis*, but since wild-caught specimens are being exported from these States, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat inform the Standing Committee accordingly to take appropriate action.
22. The formal inclusion of *Pandinus imperator* in the Review of Significant Trade had been postponed for several years due to the fact that a report on the trade in this species was promised to be published shortly. However, since this report on the trade in this species was still not available at AC24, the Committee decided to include this species in the Review of Significant Trade as an urgent case. It also recommended that all efforts be made so that the report be submitted to the AC as soon as possible.

### Selection of species following CoP14

23. AC23 was to confirm or if necessary revise the proposed preliminary categorizations made by the consultant. As a consequence two species, which had been categorized as "least concern" (*Mantella aurantiaca*, *Mantella bernhardii*) were on principle eliminated from the review, however additional conditions were specified, which allowed the Committee to continue to observe any further developments. AC24 removed also *Mantella milotympanum* from the list. Regarding *Mantella aurantiaca*, indeed AC24 noted with concern that a quota of 2,500 specimens had been established given the species has been listed as Critically Endangered (CR) by IUCN and recommended that these concerns be expressed in a letter from the Secretariat in which Madagascar would be asked to explain in more detail the basis for and method of the calculation of this quota. As for *Mantella bernardii* AC24 did likewise in view of the fact of the localized distribution as well as the IUCN status being Endangered. In addition the Committee recommended including this species in a long-term standardized monitoring programme such as for *M. crocea*.
24. For the following remaining species, categorized as "possible concern" AC23 and AC24 decided to retain these in the Review and formulated recommendations: *Mantella crocea*, *Mantella expectata* and *Mantella viridis*.
25. On the basis of recorded trade levels and additional information available AC23 proposed the following taxa of priority concern for review:

*Hippopotamus amphibius* (excluding the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda), *Heosemys annandalii* (excluding the population of Malaysia), *Heosemys grandis* (excluding the population of Malaysia), *Heosemys spinosa* (excluding the population of Malaysia), *Indotestudo forstenii*, *Testudo horsfieldii* (with the exclusion of China), *Amyda cartilaginea* (only Indonesia) Genus *Uroplatus*, *Brookesia decaryi*, *Chamaeleo africanus* (population of Niger), *Chamaeleo feae*, *Cordylus mossambicus*, *Gongylophis muelleri* (only Ghana) and *Scaphiophryne gottlebei*. At AC24 this list was reviewed taking into consideration the responses that had been received by the Range States between AC23 and AC24. In particular the Committee agreed to retain in the Review all cases where the relevant Party had not responded to communications.
26. Regarding *Huso huso*, AC23 asked for preparation of a questionnaire for the collection of detailed scientific information with the Range States, to be sent to them by the Secretariat, which was then to compile the

information received for AC24. At AC24, due to the poor response from Range States, the Committee decided to include *Huso huso* (population of the Caspian Sea) in the Review of Significant Trade.

27. Concerning the population of *Tursiops aduncus* of the Solomon Islands, AC23 encouraged the Solomon Islands to pursue its research on the status of its population of that species and, if necessary, to submit a proposal to seek funding through the procedure laid out in Resolution Conf. 12.2. It further invited the Solomon Islands to participate at two meetings scheduled in 2008: The IUCN meeting on population assessment to be held in the Oceanian region, and the meeting on non-detriment findings (NDF) organized by Mexico. The Committee encouraged the organizers of the NDF meeting to invite the Solomon Islands to participate and to make the population of *Tursiops aduncus* of the Solomon Islands a case study. The Committee also asked the representative of Oceania to report at AC24 on activities carried out between AC23 and AC24. AC24 adopted the inclusion of the Solomon Islands population of *Tursiops aduncus* in the Review of Significant Trade and instructed the Secretariat to inform the Solomon Islands that the AC recommends the Solomon Islands to set a more cautious quota. The Committee further invited the Secretariat to reassure the Solomon Islands authorities that a decision to include a species in the review was not, at the outset, intended as a punitive measure and that, if the Animals Committee was satisfied with the response, the process would conclude.

#### Review of the use of source code "R" (implementation of Decision 14.52)

28. At AC23 it was agreed that based on trade data provided relevant Parties should be selected from which the Committee would seek information on the use of code 'R' for certain species through a questionnaire. The Committee through an intersessional working group was then to review and analyse the information received and decide how to proceed. Animals and plants were not to be merged, but it was decided to look at the matter separately. The report on this issue is submitted to CoP15 in the joint AC/PC document CoP15 Doc. 28.

#### International expert workshop on non-detriment findings

29. Both the chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees were members of the steering group for this workshop and participants at the workshop included members and alternates of both scientific Committees. Both PC 18 and AC24 looked at the outcomes of the NFD workshop and discussed a way forward. The results of these discussions are submitted to CoP15 in the joint AC/PC document 26.

#### Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices

30. At AC23 a general discussion took place on the question whether an assessment on the effectiveness of the Periodic Review process should be initiated, since some felt that this was a mechanism that had not proven to be very productive, was slow and suffered from a lack of volunteers. In view however that the current periodic review had been adopted only at CoP14 (with Resolution Conf. 14.8), others felt it to be too early to evaluate its effectiveness at this time. It was concluded that the issue of the evaluation of the Periodic Review Process was more a matter for the Conference of the Parties to debate. Nevertheless it was decided at AC23 (and again at AC24) that the Secretariat should publish a Notification to Parties as soon as possible and raise awareness of taxa that were still not under review. Furthermore the Notification should contain a call for voluntary financial contributions for contracting experts for the review of taxa for which no voluntary experts could be identified by the AC. If funds became available, the Secretariat should consult with the AC Chair and select taxa for review and experts to be contracted, and make according contracts. AC23 also decided that in addition a request for the allocation of funds to the periodic review of animal taxa should be submitted at CoP15. Also the Committee should draft guidelines in time indicating under which circumstances experts may be contracted for reviews of animal taxa.
31. Regarding species selected before CoP13 and not yet reviewed, AC23 agreed that the Secretariat should write to the range States concerned and ask for their opinion as to whether these reviews were still required. If a range State replied positively, it would be expected to conduct the review. If the answer was negative, or no reply was received, then the species should be deleted from the list and no review would be conducted. As a consequence AC24 agreed to delete *Cephalophus silvicultor*, *Mirounga leonina* and *Pteropus macrotis* from the Periodic Review. This also raises concerns since the review of these taxa had been agreed upon and could only not be undertaken because no volunteer had come forward to do the review.
32. As the periodic review of Amphibians and Galliformes species had not yet been completed, AC23 agreed that it was too early to make comments on the present structure and purpose of Resolution Conf. 14.8.

AC24 was also against amending Resolution Conf. 14.8 as proposed by the Plants Committee at its 18th meeting and agreed to communicate this to the Plants Committee in order to ensure that they were aware of the results and to coordinate further action. However it was suggested that an amendment to Resolution Conf. 14.8 might be required so that consultants could be contracted for the review.

33. AC24 adopted the recommendations of the respective reviewers to retain *Callithrix jacchus*, *Rhea americana*, *Tupinambis merianae* and *Ambystoma dumerilii* in Appendix II and *Andrias japonicus* in Appendix I.
34. The Committee urged the following Parties to complete the following reviews: *Lynx* spp. (United States of America), *Panthera onca* (Mexico), *Colinus virginianus ridgwayi* (United States of America), *Gallus sonneratii* (Hungary), *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*, (United States of America), *Crocodylus lacertinus* (*Crocodylus amazonicus*) (United States of America), *Andrias davidianus* (China).

Periodic review of Felidae (species listed in document AC23 Doc. 11.2.1, Annex 2) (Dec. 13.93 (Rev. CoP 14))

35. At AC23, the Committee discussed the progress report from the United States (AC23 Doc. 11.2.1) on its efforts to coordinate a review of the genus *Lynx* and a review from Mexico (AC23 Doc. 11.2.2) on the status of *Lynx rufus* populations in Mexico. The Committee in reviewing the whole Felidae family agreed to eliminate the following species from the Review: *Acinonyx jubatus*, *Caracal caracal*, *Catopuma temminckii*, *Leptailurus serval*, *Neofelis nebulosa*, *Pardofelis marmorata* and *Uncia uncia*. The Committee also agreed that the Secretariat should issue a Notification inviting Parties to conduct reviews on the other listed species, considering however that the following taxa had a low priority: *Catopuma badia*, *Felis bieti*, *Felis chaus*, *Felis manul*, *Felis margarita*, *Felis nigripes*, *Felis silvestris*, *Leopardus* spp. (*L. braccatus*, *L. colocolo*, *L. geoffroyi*, *L. guigna*, *L. jacobitus*, *L. pajeros*, *L. pardalis*, *L. tigrinus* and *L. wiedii*), *Profelis aurata*, *Puma concolor*, *Puma yagouaroundi*, *Prionailurus* spp. In addition it recommended updating the CITES identification manual for all Felidae, and to hold a meeting on *Lynx lynx* and *Lynx pardinus*.
36. At AC24, the Committee considered the progress report from the United States (document AC24 Doc. 10.3), that outlined the outcomes of the 2008 Brussels meeting between management and law enforcement authorities of Canada and the United States and range states of Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) regarding problems of possible illegal trade in those species. The United States added that they will develop new identification techniques for specimens of *Lynx* in trade and continue discussion with the European Union and Russian Federation on the possible illegal trade in *Lynx lynx* furs. In addition, the representative of North America (Mr Medellín) informed the Committee that the full report of the survey on the status of *Lynx rufus* in Mexico, which concluded that *Lynx rufus* was not threatened in Mexico, would soon be posted on the Web. In the United States, available data suggested that populations of *Lynx rufus* also were robust and increasing in all States except Florida.
37. AC24 noted with concern that no contributions had been received from Parties to undertake a review of Felidae spp. and consequently requested the Secretariat to again issue a Notification to the Parties, to request that reviews be conducted of species included in document AC24 Doc. 10.2 (Rev. 1), Annex 1, and the list of Felidae spp. in document AC23 Doc. 11.2.1, Annex 2.
38. To conclude, the Committee recognized that the periodic review of Felidae was progressing and valuable, but not yet concluded. The Committee, therefore, recommends prolonging Decision 13.93, and that the AC be directed to report at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress of the review of all Felidae.

Selection of a representative for the Standing Committee Working Group reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of the universal tagging system and the trade in small crocodylian leather goods

39. AC23 selected Mr Dietrich Jelden from Germany to act as the AC representative on the Standing Committee Working Group. The report on intersessional activities by Mr. Jelden was presented at AC24. The Committee noted the document and requested that further comments be sent directly to Mr Jelden.

Sturgeons and paddlefish

40. Concerning the Caspian Sea, AC23 noted that the existing stock assessment methodology as presented in document AC23 Doc. 13.2 was the one employed by all the Caspian range States and had been used for several years. As for the Amur / Heilongjiang River populations, AC23 noted that the documentation made available was incomplete and/or was not up-to-date. It recommended that the CITES Secretariat ask the

range States to provide to the Committee the updated methodologies used in this basin if they have not done so and that the range States should establish a joint uniform methodology on sturgeon stock assessment. The agreed methodology was to be reviewed in a manner similar to that performed for the Caspian Sea assessment if possible by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as soon as it was established. The Committee also encouraged these range States to discuss this at their next joint meeting in 2008 and to report on progress at AC24. Concerning the Black Sea, Danube River and Azov Sea the AC23 noted that the documentation made available did not contain an adequate explanation of the methodologies currently employed in the basins. It also recommended that the Secretariat ask the range States to provide to the Animals Committee the updated methodologies used in each basin and that the range States should establish a joint uniform methodology for each basin on sturgeon stock assessment. These agreed methodologies were to be reviewed as soon as possible in a manner similar to those performed for the Caspian Sea and Amur River assessments (by FAO if possible).

41. As a consequence of this situation AC23 urged the Secretariat to promote the holding of a workshop as soon as possible in 2008 to review existing sturgeon stock assessment / Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology and elaborate a scientific methodology that is internationally acceptable, using the FAO review on the stock assessment methodology of the Caspian Sea, the Amur River and the Black Sea, Danube River and Azov Sea. The participants to this workshop were to be stock assessment experts from range States, intergovernmental organizations [e.g. FAO and the Sturgeon Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)] and other appropriately qualified experts. The results and recommendations of the workshop were to be presented at AC24
42. This workshop took place in Rome (Italy) on November 11 – 13 2008 and a report of it was presented at AC24. The Committee endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of FAO and of the CITES Technical Workshop and it further:
  - a) Requested the Standing Committee to urge the range States to consider all recommendations in document AC24 Doc. 12.2, including those provided in the Annexes to that document in working with the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources to continue to improve the sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology.
  - b) Requested the Standing Committee to ask the Caspian range States to implement the above recommendations and report at AC 25 on progress made in improving the existing sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology through a detailed report describing how the recommendations in document AC24 Doc. 12.2 have been implemented and whether they have been accepted by all range States. This report should be submitted to the Secretariat four months prior to AC 25 for the purposes of external review as mentioned below.
  - c) Requested that the Secretariat have the above report reviewed by FAO (or the outside experts who contributed to document AC24 Doc. 12.2) and make that review available at AC25.
  - d) Requested that the Standing Committee ask the range States to provide a report at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress made in improving the existing sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch determination methodology.
  - e) Requested the Secretariat to use the available funds toward achievement of the above recommendations as appropriate.
43. The AC Chair submitted these requests to the Standing Committee at its 58th meeting, where they were adopted.

#### Transport of live animals (Dec. 14.59)

44. The results of the Committee's work on this matter can be found in document CoP15 Doc. 33.

#### Nomenclatural matters

45. The results of the Committee's work on this matter can be found in document CoP15 Doc. 35.

#### Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Dec. 14.129)

46. The results of the Committee's work on this matter can be found in document CoP15 Doc. 49.



Conservation and management of sharks and stingrays (Dec. 14.107 and Dec. 14.110)

47. The results of the Committee's work on this matter can be found in document CoP15 Doc. 53.

Sustainable use and management of sea cucumber fisheries (Dec. 14.100)

48. Through Decision 14.98 the Secretariat is tasked to bring to the attention of the FAO, and prior to the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries, the discussion paper on Biological and trade status of sea cucumbers in the families Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae in Annex 1 to document CoP14 Doc. 62, and several recommendations by the Animals Committee to range States and Parties that are engaged in trade in them. The Secretariat contacted FAO in advance of the Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries, and asked it to include in its agenda the discussion paper and the relevant recommendations by the Animals Committee. On 8 December 2008, FAO brought to the attention of the Secretariat that the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 516 *Sea cucumbers: A global review of fisheries and trade* had been published. This publication was part of the outcomes of the FAO Technical Workshop which was held in Ecuador from 19 to 23 November 2007. FAO also informed the Secretariat that they were finalizing the technical guidelines on Sustainable management of sea cucumber fisheries, which had also been prepared during the workshop. AC 24 reviewed the FAO technical paper that is available at the following url: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/i0375e/i0375e00.htm>.
49. AC24 was invited to evaluate the outcomes of the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries. The observer from FAO made the paper *Sea cucumbers, a global review of fisheries and trade* available for the working group and informed that a further report on technical guidelines would be made available later.
50. AC24 then adopted the following recommendations:
- a) The Secretariat should prepare a report containing the executive summary of the FAO Technical Paper and the "Evaluation of the pros and cons of a CITES listing" contained in the Galapagos case study and these should serve as the working group's evaluation of the FAO report for submission to CoP15; and
  - b) The Secretariat should request from FAO their technical guidelines on Sustainable management of sea cucumber fisheries and inform the Parties of the website link for the document, along with the website link for the workshop report, in a Notification to the Parties.
51. The Chair of the Animals Committee, together with the Secretariat, considered the implementation of the recommendations made at AC24 and came to the conclusion that the report mentioned in paragraph a) above was not necessary since the executive summary and the "Evaluation of the pros and cons of a CITES listing" contained in the Galapagos case study were already contained in the FAO technical paper (see URL under paragraph 48).

Proposals to amend the Appendices for possible consideration at CoP15

52. The Committee took note and commented on the following proposals that were presented in the course of its meetings: Transfer of the Mexican population of *Crocodylus moreletii* from Appendix I to Appendix II and possible deletion of *Anas oustaleti* from Appendix I. Regarding the latter, the Committee agreed that a proposal to delete this taxon from the Appendices would be prepared and that the Depositary Government would be requested to submit it to CoP15 on behalf of the Committee.

Process for registering operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes [(Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP13))]

53. In the course of the term, the Committee was asked to comment on three cases where the application of a Party for the registration of an institution that breeds Appendix I species for commercial purposes was met with the objection of other Parties. One case concerned an application of the Philippines for several additional parrot species captive-bred at an operation, which is already included in the Secretariat's register under the registration number A-PH-501. The two others concerned two applications by the USA for two breeding operations for birds of prey. The comments of the Committee were in each case transmitted by the Secretariat to the Parties involved.

## AC budget

54. For the biennium 2012-2013, the AC requires as a minimum the same support as in the previous three years so that its regular meetings can take place with simultaneous interpretation.
55. As already stated at several previous CoPs and at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Chairman again recommends to the Conference of the Parties that USD 30,000 per year be provided from the CITES Trust Fund to assist the work of the Chairman of the Animals Committee, if this person is not able to benefit from adequate governmental or institutional financial and technical support. The chairmanship of the AC is increasingly time-consuming and demanding. Without sufficient support from the Chairman's country or institution, it would be impossible to meet the position's challenges efficiently and expeditiously. It is the Chairman's and Animals Committee's concern that these constraints might in particular prevent AC representatives from certain developing countries from being elected as Chairman of the Committee, or from carrying out their duties effectively. It is therefore suggested that the Budget Subcommittee of the Standing Committee looks into the possibilities of allocating funds that can be used on a case-by-case basis to support the Chairman of the Animals Committee. The funding would be required *inter alia* for the following:
- a) adequate computer hardware and software;
  - b) access to internet and email;
  - c) downloading/printing and sending documents and correspondence electronically transmitted by AC members, working groups and the CITES Secretariat;
  - d) telephone communication with the CITES Secretariat, AC members and others if the need arises;
  - e) printing paper and other office material;
  - f) temporary secretarial work or a temporary assistant for specific short-term jobs (compiling, analysing information, data, comments, preparing documents); and
  - g) participation at workshops or meetings of other CITES bodies (scientific committees, SC, specific workshops) or other organizations (e.g. FAO, UNEP) that require the participation of the AC Chairman.

## Acknowledgements

56. The considerable assistance from and cooperation with my highly competent and motivated fellow members of the Committee and all personnel of the Secretariat, especially the Scientific Support Unit, are gratefully acknowledged. I also thank the Chairman and the members of the Plants Committee for their support, cooperation and interest in the activities of the Animals Committee. I extend my thanks to the representatives of observer Parties, and representatives of IGOs and NGOs as well as to the chairmen and members of the different working groups, who, by providing their expertise at the meetings of the AC and intersessionally in a constructive spirit, were of considerable help to the members of the Committee in performing their tasks and making decisions.
57. In particular I want to thank the government of Switzerland that has allowed me to take on the responsibilities as Chair of the Animals Committee in 2002 and has supported me in many ways after my retirement from office as head of the Swiss Management Authority in 2006, making it thus possible that I was able to continue my chairmanship of the Animals Committee until now. As foreshadowed at CoP14 however, I will now step back from my responsibility as AC Chair and also from my involvement with CITES and will make room for another chair.
58. Having been responsible for the Management of CITES in the Depositary for 20 years since 1986 and having been entrusted by you with the chairmanship of the Animals Committee for the past three terms has been an honour and a privilege, but at the same time a highly satisfying, pleasurable and certainly unforgettable experience to me.

## COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. This time the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee does not include recommendations or draft decisions, since specific AC activities or joint AC/PC issues are the subject of separate agenda items. The Secretariat therefore provides its comments to these issues under the corresponding agenda items.
- B. After consideration of the reports of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Secretariat would like to reiterate the comment it made at CoP14 in document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 (*Joint report of the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees*). In that document, the Secretariat suggested that, because members of the technical committees were individuals, rather than representatives of Parties as in the Standing Committee, rules needed to be developed for preventing and dealing with potential conflicts of interest relating to the activities of the Animals and Plants Committees, similar to those in certain other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. When this matter was discussed in Committee II at CoP14, Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, as well as Mexico and the United States of America supported the recommendation made by the Secretariat. The Chair of the Animals Committee said that such minor amendments to the Rules could be addressed bilaterally between the Secretariat and the scientific committees, and that the final Rules could be adopted at the following meetings of those Committees. [see summary record CoP14 Com. II Rep. 4 (Rev. 1)].
- C. However, when the Secretariat proposed the adoption of the following text in the Rules of Procedure to address this issue at the joint session of AC23 and PC17 the Animals and Plants Committees rejected the proposal:
- In cases where a member or alternate member of the Animals and Plants Committee has a financial or personal interest that could call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding a subject to be discussed by the Committee, he or she must disclose the interest to the Committee in advance of the discussions. Following any such disclosure and where appropriate after consultations with the Secretariat, the member or alternate member may participate in the discussion but not in the making of any decision with regard to the subject.*
- D. The Secretariat believes that the insertion of the draft rule in paragraph C above is a basic requirement for the conduct of an impartial, objective and independent advisory body, and understood that Parties shared this view at CoP14. The Secretariat therefore suggests a draft decision to bring this into effect:

## DRAFT DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

### **Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees**

- 15.xx** The Animals and Plants Committees shall amend their Rules of Procedure to include the following rule before conducting any further meetings:

In cases where a member or alternate member of the Animals and Plants Committee has a financial or personal interest that could call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding a subject to be discussed by the Committee, he or she must disclose the interest to the Committee in advance of the discussions. Following any such disclosure and after consultations with the Secretariat where appropriate, the member or alternate member may participate in the discussion but not in the making of any decision with regard to the subject.