

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

Summary record of the first session of Committee I

25 September 2016: 16h00 - 17h50

Chair: K. Gaynor (Ireland)

Secretariat: T. De Meulenaer
D. Kachelriess
J.-C. Vasquez

Rapporteurs: P. Cremona
J. Gray

Species specific matters

51. Conservation of and trade in *Anguilla* spp.

The European Union introduced document CoP17 Doc. 51, recommending adoption of the draft decisions in the document's Annex. These aimed to improve data on *Anguilla* spp., on the basis of which the Animals and Standing Committees would be able to formulate recommendations to the Parties for enhanced eel conservation. The European Union stated that it wished the draft decision 17.x1, directed to the Secretariat, to include the new paragraph f) proposed by the Secretariat in its comments in paragraph A.

Belize, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Senegal and Sri Lanka supported the document and the draft decisions. Belize asked that the European Union and others provide support to developing countries to assist with their eel conservation efforts. The European Union said that it was ready to provide funding to support the implementation of the draft decisions.

The Republic of Korea asked for the scope of the suggested studies to be clarified, specifically at the next Animals Committee meeting, recommending that they be designed to accommodate expertise from individual range States.

The United States of America, supported by Canada and Japan, proposed amendments to the draft decisions as follows:

“Directed to range States and Parties involved in trade in *Anguilla* species

17.x2 Range States and Parties, in collaboration with the Secretariat and FAO, are encouraged to:

- a) promote international or regional cooperation on a species-by-species basis, including the convening of regional meetings to discuss how to fill the information gaps and ensure long-term sustainability in the face of increasing demand from international trade;
- a-b) provide the Secretariat and their consultants with specific information needed for the purposes of completing Decision 17.x1 a) and b) as well as the results of the regional meetings; and

b-c) participate, where appropriate, in the technical workshops and share expertise and knowledge on the priority topics identified (examples provided under in Decision 17.x1 d).

Directed to the Animals Committee

17.x3 The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider, at its 29th and 30th meetings, the reports produced under Decision 17.x1, as well as the information submitted by European Eel range States and other eel range States pursuant to Decision 17.x2, and any “other relevant information on conservation of and trade in *Anguilla* species;”

China supported the overall approach but did not believe that other *Anguilla* spp. should be included in the Appendices.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), speaking also on behalf for TRAFFIC and the Zoological Society of London, recommended that the use and trade of all *Anguilla* species be managed as a whole. The Convention on Migratory Species drew attention to a workshop for *Anguilla anguilla* range States that it was convening the following month.

The Chair thanked the European Union for its willingness to support funding of the draft decisions. The draft decisions were accepted, with the addition of the extra paragraph f) and the amendments proposed by the United States.

52. Review of precious corals in international trade [Order Antipatharia/family Coralliidae]

The United States introduced document CoP17 Doc. 52, proposing a review of precious corals and an assessment of the conservation status and effectiveness of management measures for red and pink corals (family Coralliidae) including non-listed as well as CITES-listed species. The two Annexes to the document contained four draft decisions to enable the proposed reviews and assessment, and a draft questionnaire to gather data from Parties. The document also included an editorial amendment proposed by the Secretariat to one of the draft decisions. The United States noted that it supported this amendment and in response to a comment from the Secretariat clarified that the term “precious coral species” referred to “black, red, and pink coral species within the order Antipatharia, and the family Coralliidae”.

Japan stated that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing for precious coral species in the Japanese Exclusive Economic Zone had considerably reduced following strict measures implemented by China to deter Chinese vessels from engaging in IUU fishing in this area.

China, Egypt, the European Union, Fiji, Japan, Maldives, Niger and Senegal broadly supported the document. The European Union proposed the following additions to draft decision 17.xxa:

- i. issue a notification that invites precious coral range States and relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to complete a questionnaire (...)
- ii. compile range States' and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations' data into a report (...).

China, Egypt and Fiji noted the considerable capacity and resource requirements for ensuring adequate management of corals. China, supported by Japan, expressed concern that inclusion of additional coral species in the Appendices may have a negative impact due to increased prices and increased illegal trade. China encouraged all coral range States to increase protection of corals through enactment of appropriate legislation at the national level. Senegal pointed out that listing additional coral species would only be effective if accompanied by the development of strategies for conservation and sustainable use.

China, Japan and IWMC World Conservation Trust expressed concern that completion of the draft questionnaire included in Annex 2 to the present document would present a considerable burden for Parties. Japan, supported by Egypt and IWMC, noted that inclusion of questions relating to domestic trade was not justified given that such trade was outside the mandate of CITES. China proposed that draft decision 17.xxa be revised to indicate that contributions by Parties to the review were voluntary, while Japan proposed deleting sections C2, C3 and G from the draft questionnaire. Japan also proposed adding

space for respondents to provide additional information in sections D1 and D2 of the questionnaire, following the example in question B.1.1.

The United States agreed with the amendments to draft decision 17.xxa proposed by the European Union and the amendments to the draft questionnaire proposed by Japan. Japan asked whether the draft questionnaire was an integral part of the draft decision. The Chair suggested the formation of a working group comprising China, Japan and the United States to produce a revised version of draft decision 17.xxa and of the draft questionnaire in Annex 2 for consideration by Committee I at its next session.

54. Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*)

The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced CoP17 Doc. 54, which described progress in implementation of Decisions 15.87 (Rev. CoP16), 16.139 and 16.140 regarding Humphead wrasse, and recommended the extension of these decisions until CoP18 with an amendment to Decision 15.87 (Rev. CoP16), as shown in paragraph 11 of the document. The document also included two draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat regarding collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and reporting to the Standing Committee. The Chair of the Standing Committee supported these draft decisions, and noted that the budgetary implications would be approximately USD 300,000 over five years.

China and Indonesia expressed their support for the extension of Decisions 15.87 (Rev. CoP16), 16.139 and 16.140, and for the additional draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat. Indonesia noted the development of a National Plan of Action for the period 2016-2020 for the species, and thanked the IUCN/SSC Specialist Group on Grouper and Wrasse for their support in developing the Plan. China also indicated that it had been working closely with IUCN to combat illegal trade in the species. FAO expressed willingness to take forwards work on the issues described in the document, for example by developing a standardized process for making non-detriment findings (NDFs) for the species; however, it indicated that funding had not been secured for this work. The IUCN also noted that the NDF guidelines for the species needed to be updated.

The renewal of Decisions 15.87 (Rev. CoP16), 16.139 and 16.140, with the amended paragraph d) to Decisions 15.87 (Rev. CoP16), was agreed. Draft decisions 17.AA and 17.BB were accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 17h50.