

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 second session of Committee I

26 September 2016: 09h00 - 12h20

Chair: K. Gaynor (Ireland)

Secretariat: T. De Meulenaer
S. Flensburg
D. Kachelriess

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
F. Davis
J. McAlpine
C. Rutherford

Species specific matters

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

The United States of America reported that the working group had agreed to the following changes to the draft decisions in Annex 1 and the questionnaire in Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc. 52: in paragraph i) of draft decision 17xxa, insert on a voluntary basis after “and relevant Fisheries Management Organizations”; in paragraph i) of draft decision 17xxc replace “review” with analyse; in the questionnaire, remove “Draft” and “including” from the title to read: “Questionnaire on the conservation of and trade in precious coral species of black, red and pink coral species within the order Anthipatharia and the family Coralliidae”; delete sections C.2, C.3 and G from the questionnaire; and provide space for additional species information in sections B.1 and B.2 (similar to that shown in section B.1.1).

With these amendments and those proposed by the European Union during the previous session, the Committee agreed to the draft decisions in Annex 1 and the questionnaire in Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc. 52.

56. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

56.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 56.1 which described progress in implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16), Decision 16.128 and other activities and issues relating to the implementation of the shark and ray listings agreed at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16). Annex 1 to the document contained a series of draft decisions to further support implementation of CITES for CITES-listed sharks and rays. Deletion of Decision 16.128 was recommended as this Decision had been complied with.

Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, Germany on behalf of the European Union and its member States, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Morocco, Samoa, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Tonga supported the document and outlined activities they had undertaken regarding National Plans of Action for Sharks, training workshops, research, capacity-building and implementation. Many stated that it was challenging to make non-detriment findings (NDFs), and that the identification of parts and

derivatives in trade posed difficulties. Germany on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States indicated that the EU was considering a second phase of a project to assist Parties in implementing CITES for marine species, including sharks. Germany had produced a guide to making NDFs for trade in sharks and rays, which was available from the CITES website. However, Chile and Japan believed that the NDF guide was too complex, and Japan had produced simplified NDF guidelines that were also available on the CITES website.

Japan proposed deleting “particularly” and “CMS or” from paragraph a) of draft decision 17.FF in Annex 1 of the document. They further proposed the deletion of paragraph b) of draft decision 17.FF, and of paragraphs c) and d) of draft decision 17.GG.

Israel, supported by Iceland, New Zealand and the United States of America, believed the inclusion of a reference to CMS was important.

The Secretariat suggested changing “make” to “consider making” and adding “for non-target species” after “stock assessments” in paragraph b) of draft decision 17.FF. It further suggested deleting “to support the implementation of CITES” from paragraph d) of draft decision 17.GG. These amendments were acceptable to Japan.

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) observed that 120 CITES Parties were also party to CMS, which had produced a Memorandum of Understanding regarding migratory sharks that was available for signature by range States.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), speaking on behalf of Shark Advocates, the Shark Trust, TRAFFIC, World Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund, noted that species-specific identification, trade in shark meat and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remained important problems. They believed that NDFs could be made, even when little information was available, by adopting a precautionary approach; the Shark Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN could provide assistance with this. The International Wildlife Management Consortium asked what conservation benefits had arisen as a result of listing sharks and rays in the Appendices.

The Chair established a small drafting group comprising Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States of America to revise the text of the draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP17 Doc. 56.1 and report back to the Committee.

56.2 Report of the Animals Committee

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 56.2 describing implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation and management of sharks (Chondrichthyes)*, and containing an overview of activities of, and findings made by, the Animals Committee.

Egypt, the European Union and the Seychelles all supported the report. The European Union encouraged the Secretariat to provide an overview of trade in sharks and rays to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee, as indicated in paragraph 25 of the document.

Document CoP17 Doc. 56.2 was noted.

59. Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 59, describing the implementation of Decision 16.127 and proposing its deletion. The document included two draft decisions relating to legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles.

Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Iran, Kenya, Maldives, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka and CMS supported the draft decisions and deletion of Decision 16.127. Colombia was concerned that collaboration might be a problem as it was not a member of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. Following clarification from the Secretariat, Colombia also expressed its support.

CMS suggested inserting “Convention on Migratory Species in particular its” before “Indian Ocean” in the opening paragraph of draft decision 17.AA.

The Committee agreed to the two draft decisions set out in document CoP17 Doc. 59 with the proposed amendment from CMS, and to the deletion of Decision 16.127.

72. Regional cooperation on the management of and trade in the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 72, which recommended deletion of Decisions 16.141 to 16.143, and 16.146 to 16.148. Retention of Decisions 16.144 and 16.145 was recommended, as implementation was ongoing.

Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Jamaica and Saint Lucia all supported the recommendations. Jamaica noted that scientific quotas sometimes exceeded the annual export quotas and, supported by Belize and Egypt, proposed an additional draft decision as follows;

“Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall review the process for the setting of scientific quotas for queen conch, in particular where scientific quotas make up a large portion of the overall export quota.”

In relation to the deletion of Decision 16.141, Belize stressed the fact that they considered their management practices were sufficient to ensure sustainable use of the species.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) expressed its willingness to help range States develop management plans and make non-detriment findings (NDFs), adopt regionally agreed conversion factors for meat products and establish chain of custody.

The Committee agreed to the five draft decisions proposed in Annex 1, to the additional draft decision proposed by Jamaica, and to the deletion of Decisions 16.141 to 16.148.

74. Totoaba - *Totoaba macdonaldi* – Opportunities for international collaboration within the CITES framework

Mexico introduced document CoP17 Doc. 74, describing the situation of the totoaba, which had been listed in Appendix I since 1977, and of the Appendix-I listed vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*), often a by-catch of illegal totoaba takes. The document also contained recommendations for addressing issues affecting the conservation of these species.

Mexico informed the Committee that text for new draft decisions was being prepared in collaboration with the United States of America and China.

The European Union, New Zealand and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) expressed concern that illegal trade in totoaba was driving the vaquita to extinction, stressing the need for collaboration to address this.

A working group, chaired by Mexico and comprising China, the European Union, New Zealand, the United States and WWF, was established to finalise the text of the draft decisions for consideration at a later session.

The meeting was adjourned at 12h 18.