

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 third session of Committee I

26 September 2016: 14h15 - 17h30

Chair: K. Gaynor (Ireland)

Secretariat: T. De Meulenaer
D. Kachelriess
M. Sosa-Schmidt

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
P. Cremona
F. Davis
M. Groves

Species specific matters

56. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

The Secretariat, on behalf of the drafting group comprising Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America, reported that the group proposed amending paragraph a) of draft decision 17.FF in document CoP17 Doc 56.1 Annex 1 so that the part in parentheses would now read “(particularly where retention, landing, and sale of these species is prohibited under CMS or RFMO requirements)”,

The drafting group also proposed a new draft decision as follows;

Directed to Parties that are also Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and/or the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (CMS Sharks MoU)

_____ 17.GG Parties that are also Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and/or the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (CMS Sharks MoU) are urged to work through the mechanisms of CMS and the Sharks MoU to develop and improve methods for conservation of sharks and rays.

Paragraph a) of draft decision 17.FF in Annex 1 of document CoP17 Doc. 56.1, as amended, and the newly proposed draft decision were agreed, as was the deletion of Decisions 16.128 and 16.129.

55. Ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)

55.1 Action plan for *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp.: report from Madagascar

There being no document available, the Chair invited Madagascar to give an oral report.

Madagascar apologized for the lack of a written report. They indicated that following changes in Government new draft legislation and a road map had been adopted to assist with implementation of the Action Plan. They thanked the Standing Committee for its work and noted that the current moratorium gave them time for further action.

55.2 Implementation of the Convention for trade in Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 55.2 and asked that the Committee note the report, adopt the draft decisions contained in Annex 2. It noted that the 67th meeting of the Standing Committee had agreed that the current trade suspension for *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar would remain in place. Madagascar had been requested to submit, by 31 December 2016, a progress report on elements outlined in paragraph 32 of document SC67 Doc. 19.1, which the Secretariat will share with the Standing Committee through postal procedure. The Standing Committee will evaluate Madagascar's report and decide whether Madagascar has made considerable progress. In the case that progress made is not to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee, the recommendation in paragraph 32 of document SC67 Doc. 19.1 will enter into force with the exception of the species *Crocodylus niloticus* and applying exclusively to commercial trade. Additional recommendations may also be included as they become necessary.

Madagascar made a number of suggestions for amendment to the draft decisions in Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc. 55.2. They reiterated the need for financial support to fulfil the draft decisions in Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc. 55.2 were these to be adopted. Funds from a sale of seized stocks could contribute to the current costs of guarding and inventorying stockpiles.

The European Union expressed support for the Secretariat's recommendations and acknowledged Madagascar's signing of the International Tropical Timber Agreement under which the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) operates. They believed that a reference to strengthening control measures at a national level was necessary and suggested including a new paragraph in draft decision 17.BB to cover this. They were concerned at the idea of the proposed sale and wished to have further discussions with Madagascar. They proposed the formation of a drafting group to work further on the draft decisions. This was supported by Angola, Chile, China, Norway, Senegal, Switzerland and the United States of America. Switzerland noted that the sale of timber stockpiles was contrary to the advice of the Standing Committee.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), speaking also on behalf of the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), and echoed by the World Resources Institute (WRI), expressed concern that some of the criteria in the Action Plan attached to Decision 16.152 might be lost if the amendments suggested by Madagascar were implemented. The World Bank Group believed it was imperative to track finances going into the Action Plan.

The Chair proposed a drafting group to be chaired by Canada, comprising Chile, China, the European Union, Madagascar, Norway, Switzerland, the World Bank Group, WRI and WWF to look at proposed textual changes to the draft decisions in Annex 2 of CoP17 Doc. 55.2 and report back to the Committee.

Maintenance of the Appendices

81. Standard Nomenclature

81.1 Standard Nomenclature: Report of the Animals and Plants Committees

The Nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 81.1.

China, supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico and Pakistan, acknowledged the taxonomic complexity within the genus *Ovis* and suggested further work was required. The Nomenclature expert agreed that the *Ovis* taxonomy was highly disputed and it would be her recommendation that the issue be discussed at the next two meetings of the Animals Committee. The Chair and Parties accepted her recommendation.

The revisions to the presentation of nomenclature references in the Annex of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16) on *Standard nomenclature* in Annex 1 of document CoP17 Doc. 81.1 and the recommended changes related to nomenclature references for fauna in the Annex of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16) in Annex 2 of document CoP17 Doc. 81.1 were agreed. The draft decisions in Annexes 3, 4 and 7 of document CoP17 Doc. 81.1 as amended by the Secretariat in its comments in the document were agreed.

The Committee offered a vote of thanks to the Nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee for her dedication and hard work over the years.

The Nomenclature specialist for flora introduced the report of the Plants Committee contained in document CoP17 Doc. 81.1. He noted that the recommended update of the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist* referenced in Annex 2 reflected the nomenclature change proposed in CoP17 Prop. 52 for amendment of the Appendices concerning *Sclerocactus glaucus*, and therefore adoption of the recommended update of the checklist would result in the nomenclature change proposed in CoP17 Prop. 52 and the associated amendment to the Appendices concerning *S. glaucus*, regardless of whether CoP17 Prop. 52 were adopted. He recommended that the present Committee support the adoption of the proposed amendments to the Annex to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. Cop16) on *Standard nomenclature* relating to flora in Annex 2 to document CoP17 Doc. 81.1, with the exception of the recommended update of the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist*.

The Chair established a working group comprising Italy, Mexico, Peru and the United States of America to review the recommended update of the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist* with regard to its adoption and use by Parties and report back to a subsequent session of the present Committee.

The proposed amendments to the Annex to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16) relating to flora in Annex 2 to document CoP17 Doc. 81.1, with the exception of recommended update to the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist*, were accepted. The report of the Plants Committee contained in document CoP17 Doc. 81.1 was noted.

81.2 Standard nomenclature for *Hippocampus spp.*

Australia introduced document CoP17 Doc. 81.2 (Rev. 1) concerning inconsistencies between the *Hippocampus* species listed in the species database as “recognised” and species contained in the accepted nomenclature references listed under “Elasmobranchii and Actinopterygii” in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16). The document proposed the inclusion of *Hippocampus dahl* and *Hippocampus planifrons* as distinct species in the CITES Appendices and the Checklist of CITES Species as per the existing nomenclature reference, and to remove the reference to Australia as a range State for *Hippocampus trimaculatus* from the Checklist of CITES Species.

The Nomenclature Specialist for Fauna expressed her support for these proposals, which were agreed by the Committee.

87. Freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae spp.)

Mr. Calvar, Animals Committee’s Member for the South and Central American and Caribbean region, as Chair of the Animals Committee intersessional working group on South American freshwater stingrays, introduced document CoP17 Doc. 87, which described progress in implementation of Decisions 16.130 to 16.135, and contained four draft decisions relating to further work on freshwater stingrays. In the document, the Secretariat had proposed an amendment to one of these draft decisions (17.CC) and the deletion of Decisions 16.130 to 16.135, as these were considered to have been implemented. Uruguay supported the Secretariat’s proposals.

Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, the European Union, Guyana, Norway, Peru, the United States of America, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) supported the draft decisions; the European Union, Norway, the United States and IUCN supported the draft decisions and the amendment to draft decision 17.CC proposed by the Secretariat. Colombia and Guyana noted that funding would be required to implement the draft decisions, in particular to conduct research and data collection.

Norway proposed inserting “and sustainable use” after “concerning the captive-breeding” in draft decision 17.CC. Japan proposed an amendment to draft decision 17.BB to indicate that options for including species in Appendix II should only be considered after reviewing the effectiveness of Appendix-III listings, but withdrew this suggestion following informal discussions with Norway and Uruguay.

The draft decisions contained in document CoP17 Doc. 87, incorporating the amendments to draft decision 17.CC made by the Secretariat in its comment in the document and by Norway were accepted. The deletion of Decisions 16.130 to 16.135 was agreed.

53. Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.)

53.1 Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa

The Acting Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 53.1 on the implementation of Decisions 16.155 to 16.158 and 15.95 (Rev. CoP16). The document proposed revisions of Decisions 16.156 and 16.157 and one new draft decision renewing the mandate of the Committee to continue working on agarwood-producing taxa.

China informed the Committee that, following publication of CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2016/01 inviting Parties to comment on the Glossary of agarwood products, an updated version had been prepared by China and Kuwait that was now available in hard and electronic formats in five languages. The Acting Chair of the Plants Committee, on behalf of the Plants Committee, expressed her gratitude to China and Kuwait for their work, noting that it would provide a sound basis for development of an identification manual.

Indonesia and Malaysia supported the recommendations in the document. China supported the revision of Decisions 16.156 and 16.157 but, with support from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, proposed the deletion of the draft decision 17. XX in paragraph 7, on the basis that the updated Glossary represented an adequate identification manual on agarwood products.

The United States of America supported the recommendations in the document, including the draft decision, but, with support from the European Union, proposed the draft decision 17.XX should be directed to the Secretariat in collaboration with the Plants Committee. Thailand also supported retaining the draft decision.

The revisions of Decisions 16.156 and 16.157 proposed in paragraphs 6 and 7 of document CoP17 Doc. 53.1 were agreed. The draft decision, with the amendment proposed by the United States, was accepted. The deletion of Decisions 16.155 and 16.158 was agreed.

53.2 Sustainable production of agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 53.2 detailing implementation of Decision 15.95 (Rev.CoP16) through the organization of a workshop with agarwood range States. Annex 1 to the document contained a series of draft decisions proposed by the Plants Committee and subsequently edited by the Secretariat in consultation with the interim Chair of the Plants Committee, while Annex 2 contained a tentative budget.

The European Union, Indonesia and Malaysia supported the recommendations in the document. The United States supported the recommendations, but noted that consumer States should be given the opportunity to provide input.

In the first draft decision directed to range States, China, supported by Malaysia and Kuwait, proposed the deletion of “illegal” to broaden the scope to include both illegal and legal harvest and trade, and TRAFFIC proposed the addition of “management”, so that the first sentence would read as follows: “Subject to available funding, the range States shall generate and compile biological and ecological data as well as information on the ~~illegal harvest, and trade~~ and management of agarwood-producing species in the wild.”

In the last clause of the first draft decision directed to the Secretariat, China, supported by Kuwait, proposed the deletion of “other information” and TRAFFIC proposed the addition of harvest and trade, to read as follows “; and strengthen the agarwood network for sharing information on planting stocks, management, technologies, harvest and trade ~~and other information~~.”

The report in document CoP17 Doc. 53.2 and the tentative budget in Annex 2 were noted and the deletion of Decision 15.95 (Rev. CoP16) was agreed. The draft decisions, with the proposed amendments by China and TRAFFIC, were accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 17h30.