

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 thirteenth session of Committee I

03 October 2016: 09h05 - 12h10

Chair: K. Gaynor (Ireland)

Secretariat: J. Scanlon
T. De Meulenaer
D. Kachelriess
M. Sosa Schmidt

Rapporteurs: P. Cremona
J. Gray
B. Price
C. Rutherford

Amendment of the Appendices

88. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

The Chair proposed that proposals CoP17 Prop. 14 and Prop. 15 be considered together.

Proposal CoP17 Prop. 14 to delete the annotation to the listing of the Namibian African elephant population in Appendix II by deleting any reference to Namibia in that annotation, was introduced by Namibia with supporting statements by Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) and Namibian Association for CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO).

Proposal CoP17 Prop. 15 to delete the annotation to the listing of the Zimbabwean African elephant population in Appendix II by deleting any reference to Zimbabwe in that annotation, was introduced by Zimbabwe with supporting statements by representatives of Zimbabwean rural communities.

The Chair summarized relevant outcomes of Committee II relating to elephants.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia supported both proposals; Zimbabwe supported proposal CoP17 Prop. 14. Prevalent justifications voiced in support of the proposals included the importance of allowing rural communities to accrue benefits from sustainable use and the idea that good management should be rewarded. South Africa noted that their reasons for supporting the proposals included the lack of progress regarding the development of a decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory, their belief that the populations concerned did not meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I and the potential for legal trade to provide a more transparent link between supply and demand and thereby help trade regulation.

The European Union and its member States, India, Israel, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and the United States of America opposed both proposals. They variously cited the critical situation faced by elephant populations resulting from the recent increase in poaching, the risk of legal ivory trade serving as a cover for illegal trade and the possibility for alternative means of rural development. India expressed its willingness to share their experiences of protecting elephants and supporting rural development without recourse to trade in ivory.

Japan, supported by China, expressed their support for allowing legal trade owing to its potential benefits for elephants and people, but believed that some precautionary measures were necessary to contain illegal trade. They proposed amending Annotation #6 to the listing of the Namibian and Zimbabwean African elephant populations in Appendix II such that only paragraphs g) i) and vi) would be retained. Namibia and Zimbabwe both agreed to this proposed amendment.

The Chair called for a vote on proposal CoP17 Prop. 14, to delete the annotation to the listing of the Namibian African elephant population in Appendix II by deleting any reference to Namibia in that annotation, as amended by Japan. Zimbabwe requested that the voting be by secret ballot, which was supported by more than ten Parties; this motion was therefore carried. Twenty-seven Parties voted in favour, 100 against, and 9 abstained. The proposal was rejected.

The Chair then called for a vote on proposal CoP17 Prop. 15, to delete the annotation to the listing of the Zimbabwean African elephant population in Appendix II by deleting any reference to Zimbabwe in that annotation, as amended by Japan. Zimbabwe requested that the voting be by secret ballot, which was supported by more than ten Parties; this motion was therefore carried. Twenty-one Parties voted in favour, 107 against, and 11 abstained. The proposal was rejected.

Proposal CoP17 Prop. 16 to transfer the populations of *Loxodonta africana* Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I was introduced by Benin on behalf of the co-proponents.

Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic; Conservation Alliance of Kenya, and the Fondation Franz Weber, speaking on behalf of the Born Free Foundation, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Documentation Centre for Species Protection, Humane Society International, Pro Wildlife, Species Survival Network and Stop Ivory supported the proposal, many noting the significant decline in elephant populations over recent years. Chad and Côte d'Ivoire noted the transboundary and migratory nature of the species. Botswana, Côte D'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Conservation Alliance of Kenya and the Fondation Franz Weber believed that legal trade in ivory stimulated illegal trade. Botswana informed the Committee that they had banned all ivory trade until 2024 and urged caution in stimulating further trade.

Brazil, China, the European Union and its member States, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia felt the populations did not meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I set out in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*. Together with IWMC Wildlife Conservation Trust and Namibia Nature Foundation, they opposed the proposal. Namibia, supported by South Africa and Zambia, believed that an Appendix-I listing would have detrimental impacts on rural community livelihoods. Namibia indicated that, were the proposal to be accepted, they intended to invoke Article XXIII of the Convention.

The meeting was adjourned at 12h10.