

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 eighth session of Committee II

29 September 2016: 09h00 - 12h00

Chair: J. Barzdo (Switzerland)

Secretariat: D. Morgan
P. Jonsson
J.-C. Vasquez

Rapporteurs: M. Groves
E. King
J. McAlpine
B. Price

Adoption of Summary Records

CoP17 Com. II. Rec. 4

In agenda item 13, TRAFFIC asked that reference to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, TRAFFIC and WWF be deleted from the list of speakers at the start of the third paragraph and asked for the addition of the following text at the end of the second paragraph: “The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), speaking also on behalf of TRAFFIC and WWF, supported increasing the role and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decisions around their conservation and sustainable use, and called for a structured process to increase their engagement in CITES.”

CoP17 Comm. II Rec. 5

In agenda item 40, the United States of America asked for the following to be inserted at the end of the penultimate sentence and that allowing commercial trade in parts and products of animals exported under an appropriate and acceptable destinations annotation will fuel demand and will contribute to poaching of elephants and rhinos., and for the replacement of “through a Resolution.” with and/or explanation to clarify their application. at the end of the last paragraph.

In agenda item 57.4, the United States asked for “benefits of sport hunting.” in the sixth paragraph to be replaced with consideration of sport hunting in range States. The Chair asked that, for clarity, “the two documents” be replaced with documents CoP17 Doc. 40 and CoP17 Doc. 57.4 in the last paragraph.

In agenda item 22, the United States asked for the replacement of “concerned” with concern in the second paragraph and Canada asked for the insertion of who also proposed changes to the draft decision after “Canada” and of and Canada after “the United States” in the fifth paragraph.

The summary records in documents CoP17 Com. II Rec. 4 and CoP17 Com. II Rec. 5 were adopted with the above amendments.

Administrative and financial matters

8. Sponsored Delegates Project

Following the request made in the first session of the Committee, the Secretariat presented the following draft decision:

“Directed to the Standing Committee

With respect to the sponsored delegates project established in Resolution Conf. 17.XX, the Standing Committee shall consider:

- a) The criteria used to select Parties for sponsorship; and
- b) The practical arrangements for the provision of support.

If possible, it should provide guidance to the Secretariat at its 70th meeting, and it shall report its conclusions and any recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.”

The draft decision was agreed.

Strategic matters

10. Committee reports and recommendations

10.1 Standing Committee

10.1.1 Report of the Chair

The United States of America, on behalf of the Chair of the Standing Committee, introduced paragraph 12 of document CoP17 Doc. 10.1.1 (Rev. 1), containing a proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16) on *Permits and certificates*. In the document the Secretariat had recommended deletion of Decisions 14.29 (Rev. CoP16) and 16.62 as these have now been implemented.

The amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16) in paragraph 12 of document CoP17 Doc. 10.1.1 (Rev. 1) and deletion of Decisions 14.29 (Rev. CoP16) and 16.62 were agreed.

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

32. Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens

The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 32. Annex 1 to the document contained four draft decisions and Annex 2 a draft resolution. In the document, the Secretariat had proposed amendments to the draft resolution and recommended deletion of Decisions 15.52, 15.53, 16.63 to 16.66.

Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, the European Union and its member States, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, the United States of America, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International on behalf of the Species Survival Network (SSN), Lewis & Clark – International Environmental Law Project, TRAFFIC, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) also representing the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), all generally supported the proposals in the document and offered various suggestions for amendment.

Costa Rica, New Zealand and Peru expressed a preference for limiting the scope of the proposed resolution to Appendix-II species, rather than Appendix-I species as suggested by the Secretariat. Colombia and South Africa agreed with the suggestion of the Secretariat that the scope of the proposed resolution should be initially limited to Appendix I. Brazil, the European Union and its members States, Jamaica, the United States of America, Humane Society International, Global Eye, WWF, also representing WCS and supported by TRAFFIC, supported the inclusion of both Appendix-I and Appendix-II species in the draft resolution. Costa Rica proposed extending it to Appendix-III species.

Canada supported the proposed decisions. They agreed the principle of the proposed resolution to address fraudulent trade in captive-bred specimens and supported its adoption. However, Canada indicated that the resolution would need to be modified to be aligned with the revised version of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of significant trade in Appendix-II species* agreed by Committee I at the present meeting. They also noted that the review would be time-consuming and costly, and that Parties would need significant time to review resulting trade analyses before discussion by the Animal Committee. They proposed a number of additional draft decisions:

“Directed to the Animals Committee

At its 30th meeting, the Animals Committee shall prepare a report of its observations and recommendations regarding the first iteration of the Resolution on captive breeding, including opportunities for harmonisation with the process in the Review of Significant Trade Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) and other opportunities to achieve the aims of the Resolution most efficiently and cost effectively, taking into account the recommendations of the Secretariat, and transmit the report to the Standing Committee”.

Directed to the Standing Committee

At its 70th meeting, the Standing Committee shall prepare a report of its observations and recommendations regarding the first iteration of the Resolution on captive breeding, including opportunities for harmonisation with the process in the Review of Significant Trade Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), and other opportunities to achieve the aims of the Resolution most effectively and cost efficiently, and taking into consideration the report of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat. The Standing Committee will transmit its recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall provide a report of its observations and recommendations regarding the first iteration of the Resolution on captive breeding, including opportunities for harmonisation with the process in the Review of Significant Trade Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), and other opportunities to achieve the aims of the Resolution most effectively and cost efficiently, to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.”

The Chair established a drafting group to review the draft resolution and draft decisions in the Annexes to document CoP17 Doc. 32, taking into account Canada’s draft decisions and other comments and report back at a subsequent session. The group comprised: Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, the European Union (Chair), New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Creative Conservations Solutions, Humane Society International, TRAFFIC, and UNEP.

49. Illegal trade in Cheetahs (*Acinoyx jubatus*)

Kuwait introduced CoP17 Doc. 49, the annex to which contained a series of draft decisions incorporating changes suggested by the Secretariat. The Chair noted that a version of draft decision 17.C had already been agreed in the Committee II in its discussion of agenda item 29.

Kuwait supported the amendments to the draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat with the exception of the deletion of the original draft decision 17.G (directed to the Secretariat). They proposed retaining this with an amendment as follows:

17.G “The Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee on progress on all of the recommendations in Standing Committee SC66 Doc. 32.5, paragraphs 17 and 18, and progress in halting illegal trade in cheetahs”. Kenya supported retaining draft decision 17G with Kuwait’s amendments.

The European Union and its member States, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and the Cheetah Conservation Fund expressed their support for the amended draft decisions. The United States proposed that reference to the 69th or 70th meeting of the Standing Committee be retained in amended draft decisions 17.B and 17.F.

Zimbabwe reiterated the need for funding for the development of a CITES cheetah resource kit.

The draft decisions in the Annex to document CoP17 Doc. 49 as amended by the Secretariat were agreed with two exceptions. First, that the words “at its 69th or 70th meeting” in draft decisions 17.B and 17.F were

to be retained, as proposed by the United States; second, the original draft decision 17.G, with amendments made by Kuwait, was to be retained. The deletion of Decisions 16.71, 16.72, 16.73, 16.74 and 16.75 was also agreed.

50. Sturgeons and paddlefish (*Acipenseriformes spp.*)

The Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 50 with proposed amendments to Resolution Conf.12.7 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*, including a new Annex 3 to the Resolution. The Chair of the Standing Committee suggested that the stock overview in Annex 3 of this document be verified orally, and recommended the adoption of proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16), and the extension of Decisions 16.36, 16.37, and 16.38 adopted at CoP16 in this document.

Canada, China, the European Union and its member States, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the United States of America and the International Caviar Association all proposed various amendments to the proposals in the document.

The Chair established a drafting group to address these and report back to a subsequent session. The group comprised China, the European Union, Japan (Chair), France, Germany, Iran, Italy, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the International Caviar Association.

The retention of Decision 16.136-138 until CoP18 was agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 12h00.