

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 ninth session of Committee II

29 September 2016: 14h25 - 18h17

Chair: J. Barzdo (Switzerland)

Secretariat: D. Morgan
P. Jonsson

Rapporteurs: J. Gray
M. Groves
B. Price
C. Rutherford

58. International trade in *Encephalartos* spp.

South Africa introduced document CoP17 Doc.58, the Annex to which contained three draft decisions. In the document, the Secretariat had proposed amendments to these, including a new draft decision directed to the Secretariat. South Africa concurred with most of the Secretariat's comments but wished to maintain the whole of draft decision 17.xx directed to all Parties and paragraph a) of the decision directed to the Secretariat.

The United States of America and Zimbabwe supported the proposals as presented by South Africa. The European Union and its member States also supported these, with the addition of the text on the basis of a standard protocol provided by South Africa at the end of subparagraph c) of draft decision 17.xx directed to all Parties. Japan supported the Secretariat's comment DIRECTED TO ALL PARTIES on seizures of specimens of *Encephalartos* spp. and did not support the proposal by South Africa on this issue.

The draft decision directed to all Parties in the Annex to document CoP17 Doc. 58, as amended by the European Union and its member States, and the draft decision to the Standing Committee in that Annex were agreed. Paragraph a) of the draft decision directed to the Secretariat in the document's Annex, together with the draft decision directed to the Secretariat in paragraph D of the its comments in the document, were agreed.

60. Asian big cats

60.1 Report of the Standing Committee

The Chair of the Standing Committee, introduced document CoP17 Doc. 60.1, Annex 1 to which contained a series of draft decisions incorporating amendments suggested by the Secretariat. Deletion of Decisions 16.68 to 16.70 was proposed, as these were considered to have been implemented.

Bangladesh, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka supported the adoption of all the draft decisions. India and Russian Federation highlighted their success in tiger conservation. The Lao People's Democratic Republic stated that they were committed to closing intensive tiger breeding facilities that were violating domestic legislation.

China agreed with the draft decisions with the exception of the suggested change by the Secretariat to 17.H, sub-paragraphs a) and b) where they wished to retain the reference to “Asian big cats”. Supported by Creative Conservation Solution, they proposed that Decision 14.69 be deleted as they felt that it preempted the outcome of the review process set out in the new draft decisions.

The European Union and its member States and the United States of America expressed support for the retention of Decision 14.69, to which China assented.

The draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP17 Doc. 60.1 were agreed with the amendments proposed by China, as was deletion of Decisions 16.68, 16.69 and 16.70.

60.2 Proposal of India

India introduced document CoP17 Doc. 60.2, containing a number of draft decisions. In the document, the Secretariat had suggested that the content of one of these (the first draft decision 17.xx *directed to Parties*) be incorporated into Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*.

Nepal, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and TRAFFIC, also speaking on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund, supported the draft decisions and the Secretariat’s suggestion. Japan proposed including the text when possible before “to share images” in the proposed new paragraph k) of Resolution 12.5 (Rev CoP16).

India agreed to withdraw the second two draft decisions directed to the Parties in light of the amendments to Resolution 12.5 (Rev CoP16).

Amendments to the draft decisions were suggested by China, the European Union and its member States, and Indonesia. The Chair established a drafting group comprising these and India and asked them to produce new draft decisions for consideration at a later session.

The amendment to Resolution 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), to include new paragraph k) with Japan’s proposed text was agreed.

Further amendments were made to the remaining draft decisions in paragraph 10 of the document and a drafting group was formed consisting of China, the European Union and its member States, India, and Indonesia to produce a clean text for the consideration at a later session of the Committee.

64. Pangolins (*Manis* spp.)

The European Union on behalf of the Chair of the Standing Committee introduced document CoP17 Doc. 64 which contained a draft resolution in its Annex 1 and draft decisions in its Annex 2. Deletion of Decisions 16.41 and 16.42 was proposed in the document.

Ethiopia, Peru, Senegal, South Africa and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) expressed their support. The Philippines, supported by Kenya, supported the draft resolution, but suggested new preambular text to reflect the fact that pangolin species had been accepted for Appendix-I listing at the present meeting. The Chair proposed adding and that the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting included all pangolins in Appendix I after preambular paragraph four of the draft resolution.

The United States of America supported the resolution and decisions, and proposed insertion of stock-piles of specimens and derivatives of pangolins and stockpile management including existing registration systems as a new sub-paragraph iv) in sub-paragraph b) of decision 17.A.

Following consultations in the margins of the session with the United States of America and China, the European Union proposed amendments to the draft resolution, as follows: deletion of “as a result... trade” at the end of the second preambular paragraph beginning “CONCERNED”; amendment of the preambular paragraph beginning “COMMENDING” to continue “...the efforts made by some range, transit and consumer States and other Parties to address...”; in the seventh preambular paragraph, substitution of “RECOGNIZING” with EMPHASIZING and insertion of urgently before “needed” at the end of the paragraph; insertion of exchange of information on trade routes and patterns after “coordinated activities” in sub-paragraph c) under URGES in the first operative paragraph; insertion of including hunters after “local communities” in the fourth operative paragraph; insertion of such as scales, meat, leather and other cultural

uses after “pangolin parts and derivatives,”; replacement of “CALLS UPON” with URGES in the seventh operative paragraph; and, also in that paragraph, rearrangement of the position of “population assessments” such that the relevant phrase would read “which include population assessments, the making of non-detriment findings for trade in the species, ~~population assessments~~, monitoring, and management and conservation measures;.

The Committee accepted the draft resolution in Annex 1 of document CoP17 Doc. 64, as amended and the draft decisions in Annex 2 of the document, also as amended. It agreed to the deletion of Decisions 16.41 and 16.42.

68. Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 68, Annex 1 to which contained draft decisions Annex 2 to which contained amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP15) on *Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses*, and Annex 3 to which contained a form for collection and sharing of data on rhinoceros horn seizures and on samples for forensic analysis intended as a new annex to the revised Resolution. The document also included a recommendation to delete Decisions 16.86 to 16.92. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and TRAFFIC introduced their joint report on the status of African and Asian rhinoceroses which constituted Annex 5 to the document.

Canada, the European Union and its member States, India, Kenya, South Africa, Swaziland, the United States of America and Viet Nam generally supported the proposals in the document. Several of these suggested amendments including, in the case of the United States, some new draft decisions. Viet Nam outlined their government’s efforts, including legislative revisions, to support rhinoceros conservation. South Africa reported on the key pillars it had in place to bolster rhinoceros conservation and its strong support for CITES processes in support of these. Botswana and India also outlined their domestic efforts to combat illegal rhinoceros trade.

Born Free, speaking also on behalf of the Species Survival Network, and Safari Club International broadly supported the proposals in the document.

The Chair established a drafting group, comprising Botswana, Canada, China, the European Union (Chair), India, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United States of America, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Born Free Foundation, Safari Club International and TRAFFIC to produce text based on Annexes 1 - 3 to document CoP17 Doc. 68 for consideration at a subsequent session..

73. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP17 Doc. 73, Annex 5 to which contained three draft decisions. In the document, the deletion of Decisions 16.109 to 16.124 was proposed. However, the Secretariat now proposed that Decision 16.120 be maintained and Decision 16.119 be retained with the following amendments:

- a) ~~forward the reports provided pursuant to Decision 16.118 to the Standing Committee, making any recommendations it deems appropriate;~~
- b) a) seek funding to with funding already secured, establish and convene a CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force which should undertake an exchange of intelligence and develop strategies to combat illegal trade. The members of the Task Force could include ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, and those Parties in Asia that are most affected by the illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles and their parts and derivatives; and
- e) b) report on the work of the Task Force at the ~~65~~ 69th ~~or 66th~~ meeting of the Standing Committee...

Guyana, IUCN, TRAFFIC and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) supported the draft decisions in Annex 5 to the document. With respect to Decision 16.119, the United States of America noted with regret that the CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force had not yet met and believed that the Parties needed to chart a clear pathway for the Task Force. They largely supported the draft decisions in Annex 5 to the document and also had new draft decisions to propose.

Madagascar highlighted its efforts to counter tortoise smuggling, reporting the recent arrest of six poachers. It called upon all Parties to share information on smuggling cases and collaborate in general with its efforts to halt the illegal trade.

The Committee accepted the draft decisions in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 73, and agreed the deletion of Decisions 16.109 to 16.118 and Decisions 16.121 to 16.124. The Chair asked the United States to make the text of its proposed new decisions available to the next session of Committee II and added that, if these were subsequently agreed, Decision 16.119 and 16.120 would become redundant.

The meeting was adjourned at 18h30.