

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 II

3 October 2016: 14h00 - 17h30

Chair: J. Barzdo (Switzerland)

Secretariat: S. Flensburg
B. Janse van Rensburg
D. Kachelriess
D. Morgan

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
F. Davis
M. Groves
B. Price

Species specific matters

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

Japan, as chair of the drafting group established to address this item, introduced document CoP17 Com. II. 32, containing draft decisions and draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*, noting that there were still two outstanding issues: the definition of the term “country of origin” and the table in Annex 3 of the proposed amended Resolution. The Russian Federation had been opposed to the latter as currently drafted and wished to have their position on this in the record as follows:

“The Russian Federation, regarding the table of stocks of *Acipenseriformes* shared by range States attached as Annex 3 to the Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16), proposes to consider the Black Sea as a whole area for sturgeons, separate from the Danube river, until relevant scientific information allowing to divide the sea into segments corresponding to the sturgeon population areas is available.”

The United States of America stated that they did not think it was appropriate to review the term “country of origin” in a vacuum. They understood that the working group had agreed to remove the bracketed text on the definition of the country of origin in the amended Resolution and to submit the issue to the Animals Committee for further consideration. They proposed draft decisions to direct the Animals Committee to review the current CITES Guidelines for a universal labelling system for the trade in and identification of caviar.

The European Union and its members States believed the draft decisions in the document provided a means to progress the work intersessionally. They thought the bracketed text in Annex 1 should be retained and kept in brackets to highlight the fact that further work was required. Canada believed that retention of this text would create ambiguity.

The Islamic Republic of Iran sought more information on the table in Annex 3 and believed the issue of country of origin should be addressed by the Standing Committee in collaboration with the Animals Committee.

The International Caviar Importers Association was opposed to reopening the debate and to the changes in the text proposed by the working group.

The Secretariat proposed inserting after “country of origin of caviar” in draft decision 17.DD in document CoP17 Com. II.32 the following: taking into account the draft definition proposed by the majority of the Standing Committee Working Group on Sturgeons and Paddlefish, which reads: “country of origin of caviar: country in which a registered processing plant harvests roe of Acipenseriformes species to process caviar.”

The amended draft decision was supported by the European Union, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and the United States. The European Union agreed to the removal of the bracketed text from Annex 1 of the proposed amended Resolution and the United States agreed to withdraw their suggested draft decisions but believed this would undermine the possibility of making progress in the future.

The Committee agreed the proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16), without the bracketed text in Annex 1, and with the amendment to draft decision 17.DD proposed by the Secretariat.

Interpretation and implementation matters

25. Enforcement matters

and

26. Illegal international trade in wildlife

South Africa introduced document CoP17 Com. II. 25, containing proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) on *Compliance and enforcement* and Resolution Conf. 16.6 on *CITES and livelihoods* as well as a number of draft decisions.

Argentina, supported by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico and Peru, could not accept draft decision 17.C or sub-paragraph c) of draft decision 17.D. The United States of America agreed that these could be withdrawn. Regarding the proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 16.6, the United States suggested replacing “Support a mechanism” with Consider mechanisms in sub paragraph d) under URGES.

In the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16), the Chair suggested moving “with Parties” to immediately after “Share” in sub-paragraph b) under DIRECTS in the section ***Regarding additional actions to promote enforcement***. He also suggested replacing “to” in subparagraph c) of the same section with at each meeting of.

The Committee accepted the proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) and Resolution Conf. 16.6 and the draft decisions in document CoP17 Com. II. 25 as amended, including the deletion of draft decision 17.C and sub-paragraph c) of draft decision 17.D.

Strategic matters

17. Livelihoods and food security

Antigua and Barbuda introduced document CoP17 Com. II. 22 containing three draft decisions.

China, Japan and Livelihood International expressed support for the draft decisions, as did the United States of America who suggested deleting “establish a small working group to” and “further, all elements of” from 17.AA and replacing “work with” with invite in 17.BB. These changes were accepted by Antigua and Barbuda. For consistency, the Chair suggested that “working group” should be Standing Committee in the same paragraph.

The Committee accepted the three draft decisions as amended by the United States of America and the Chair.

Interpretation and implementation matters

and

Species specific matters

40. International trade in live Appendix-II animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations

and

57.4 Trade in live elephants: Proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) on *Trade in live elephants*

The United States of America introduced document CoP17 Com. II. 30 containing proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP16) on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* and three draft decisions.

Canada generally supported the revisions and the draft decisions and proposed that "RECOMMENDS" in the second operative paragraph of the proposed revised Resolution be replaced by ENCOURAGES.

South Africa and the United States of America proposed the deletion of "that those animals and their progeny" in the second operative paragraph of the proposed revised Resolution.

The Association for Zoos and Aquariums supported the revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP16).

The revised Resolution and draft decisions in document CoP17 Com. II. 30 were agreed, as amended by Canada, South Africa and the United States of America.

41. Identification of origin of cetaceans bred or kept in captivity

Ukraine introduced document CoP17 Com. II. 35 which included three draft decisions and noted that Ukraine was to be added to the membership of the working group in document CoP17 Com. II. 35.

The Chair suggested the addition of the words "The Animals Committee shall" at the beginning of draft decision 17.XX.2. The United States of America requested the addition of the following text at the end of draft decision 17.XX.3 "regarding conservation of, and trade in *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*."

The draft decisions in document CoP17 Com. II. 35 were agreed as amended by the Chair and the United States of America.

Interpretation and implementation matters

Trade control and traceability

45. Traceability

and

46. Pilot testing of a global traceability information system for reptile skins

Mexico introduced document CoP17 Com. II. 29, which contained four draft decisions. The Russian Federation suggested the insertion of 'at its 68th meeting' after 'The Standing Committee shall' in the first line of draft decision 17.AA.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) proposed the addition of the text "as well as existing systems" after "ongoing projects" in draft decision 17.DD paragraph a) subparagraph ii).

The draft decisions in document CoP17 Com. II 29 were agreed as amended by the Russian Federation and IUCN.

Species specific matters

60.2 Asian big cats (Felidae spp.) Proposal of India

The European Union introduced document CoP17 Com. II. 31 containing two draft decisions which were agreed.

Administrative and financial matters

7.3 Financial reports for 2014-2016

7.4 Budget and Programme of work for the period 2017 to 2019

and

7.5 Access to finance, including GEF funding

Botswana, as chair of the Budget working group, introduced document CoP17 Com. II 33 containing draft decisions on Access to finance and document CoP17 Com. II. 34 containing a draft resolution on financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2017-2019 which is showing an increased level of 0.24% compared to the current triennium 2014-2016. They noted that the following additional paragraph in the resolution relating to capacity-building activities had been proposed by the working group today and was not reflected in the posted version

“DIRECTS the Secretariat to increase its efforts to strengthen its capacity building activities, including by conducting of at least one training workshop for CITES Management Authorities/Scientific Authorities and Enforcement entities per region, upon request, between the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, intersessionally, depending on availability of resources.”

The United States of America supported the draft resolution and noted that they intended to seek ways to support work relating to captive-breeding and ranching that was not covered by the core budget. New Zealand aligned themselves with the United States and thanked them for their continued support for this work. The European Union and New Zealand supported the budget, but noted that the core budget was not as ambitious as they would have liked. The European Union stated that they intended to continue to provide significant support via the voluntary budget. France supported the documents.

The draft decisions in document CoP17 Com II. 33 were agreed.

The draft resolution in document CoP17 Com II. 34, with a core budget increase of 0.24% and the additional paragraph as presented by Botswana was agreed.

Interpretation and implementation matters

Existing Resolutions and Decisions

21. Review of Resolutions and Decisions

The Secretariat presented document CoP17 Com II. 20 which included revisions to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*. These were agreed as presented.

South Africa asked for the following draft decisions relating to the management and conservation of the African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) to be considered by the Committee as a replacement for Decisions 14.82 and 14.85. They noted that they were posted on the CITES website in English and French and read the draft decisions to the record for translation into Spanish.

Directed to the Secretariat

17.x The Secretariat shall seek funding to assist range States in the development and implementation of National Action Plans for the conservation of *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*.

- 17.x Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the range States, appoint relevant experts to develop regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*, in collaboration with the range States, relevant experts, nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, taking into account the national management plans.

Directed to range States

- 17.x The range States of *Psittacus erithacus* should participate in the development and implementation of regional management plans for the conservation of and trade in *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*.
- 17.x The range States should, with the support of the CITES Secretariat, relevant experts, relevant CITES Parties, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, develop National Action Plans, with timeframes, deliverables, and milestones, for the conservation of the species. The following key issues should be addressed:
- a) Actions to undertake scientifically based field surveys to establish the population status of the species in the range States;
 - b) The establishment and maintenance of information systems / databases relating to the populations;
 - c) The development and implementation of relevant long-term monitoring systems to enable range States to monitor trends in the populations;
 - d) The development and implementation of national management plans, where required. These plans should provide for regional cooperation, where appropriate;
 - e) Actions to implement law enforcement programmes to combat poaching and illegal trade (both national and international) and report on the results of the programmes in terms of enforcement efforts, seizures and prosecutions; and
 - f) The investigation of the possibility of establishing *in situ* captive-breeding facilities for the species, in collaboration with States with breeding facilities.

Directed to the Secretariat and Parties

- 17.x The Secretariat, Parties, donors, relevant experts, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, are requested to support range States of *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* and *P. erithacus timneh*, as appropriate, to develop and implement National Action Plans for the conservation of the species.

They also proposed a draft decision relating to the registration of captive breeding facilities, which with editorial amendments from the European Union read as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat, the Parties and the Animals and Standing Committees

- 17.x Until the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in the evaluation of applications to register facilities breeding *Psittacus erithacus* for commercial purposes, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), consideration should be given to:
- i) the recommendations of the Management Authority and Scientific Authority of the Party;
 - ii) national measures to regulate domestic trade in this species, which may not previously have been required due to its former Appendix II status ;
 - iii) any compliance measures directed to the Party submitting the application to register the facility; and
 - iv) whether the Party has been included in the Review of Significant Trade concerning the species in the prior 10 years from the effective listing date.

The European Union proposed that “and trade in” was replaced with “and management of” in second draft decision 17.x under “Directed to the Secretariat” and the first draft decision 17.x under “Directed to range States”.

Angola, Gabon and the Wildlife Conservation Society supported the draft decisions as amended. TRAFFIC welcomed the development of regional and national action plans and indicated that they would be happy to support range States in the development of these plans.

The draft decisions, in part to replace Decisions 14.82 to 14.85, were agreed, as amended by the European Union.

The Secretariat noted that following the agreements reached by the Committee at earlier sessions, a number of Decisions had been superseded but not formally agreed for deletion. The Decisions were as follows:

CoP17 Doc. 15. Capacity building

The deletion of Decisions 16.28-16.31 and Decision 12.91 (Rev CoP16) was agreed.

CoP17 Doc. 66. Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*): Enforcement measures

The deletion of Decision 16.93 was agreed.

CoP17 Doc. 24. National Ivory Action Plans process

The deletion of Decisions 16.78 paragraph a), 16.79 and 16.80 was agreed.

CoP17 Doc. 50. Sturgeons and paddlefish (*Acipenseriformes spp.*)

The deletion of Decisions 16.136 to 16.138 was agreed.¹

The meeting was closed at 17h00.

¹ *Agreement made in error: these decisions had already been agreed for retention in summary record CoP17 Com. II Rec. 8 (Rev. 1), which had been adopted.*