

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

Strategic matters

Committee reports and recommendations

Animals Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

1. This document has been submitted by Chair of the Animals Committee.*

Introduction

2. This report covers the activities of the CITES Animals Committee in the period between the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16; Bangkok, Thailand, 3-14 March 2013) and the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17; Johannesburg, South Africa, 24 September-05 October 2016). During this period the Animals Committee met twice; firstly at its 27th meeting from 28 April to 3 May 2014 in Veracruz, Mexico (held jointly with the 21st meeting of the CITES Plants Committee) and its 28th meeting from 30 August to 3 September 2015 in Tel Aviv, Israel. Thanks to the generous hosting of Mexico and Israel, these meetings were productive and successful. The details and summary records of the meetings can be found on the CITES website. The Committee extends its warm and sincere appreciation to the governments of Mexico and Israel for hosting our Committee.
3. The composition of the Animals Committee for the reporting period is found in the table below. Ms. Carolina Caceres (Canada) acted as interim Chair from the close of the 16th Conference of the Parties to the 27th Meeting of the Animals Committee, at which time Ms. Caceres was elected as Chair and Mr. Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chair of the Animals Committee.

Composition of the Animals Committee (2013-2016)

Region	Regional Representative	Alternate
Africa	Mr Samuel Kasiki (Kenya) Mr.Hilary Madzikanda (Zimbabwe)	Ms Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka (Uganda) Mr Moustafa Fouda (Egypt)
Asia	Mr Shaker A.A. Khamdan (Bahrain) Mr Suharsono Soemorumekso (Indonesia)	Mr Nobuo Ishii (Japan) Mr Choo-Hoo Giam (Singapore)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Mr Paul Edward Ouboter (Suriname) Sr. Marcel Enzo Calvar Agrelo (Uruguay)	Sr. José Alberto Álvarez Lemus (Cuba) Sr. Nestor Herrera (El Salvador)

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

Europe	Mr Mathias Lörtscher (Switzerland) Mr Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom)	Mr Simon Nemptov (Israel) Ms Gaynor Karen (Ireland)
North America	Ms Carolina Caceres (Canada)	Ms Rosemarie Gnam (United States of America)
Oceania	Mr Hugh Robertson (New Zealand)	Mr Rod Hay (New Zealand)
Nomenclature Specialist	Ms Ute Grimm (Germany)	

3. Direction to the Animals Committee for the current reporting period is found in 18 Resolutions and 26 Decisions adopted by the CITES Conference of the Parties. This report will provide detailed information on actions taken by the Animals Committee to fulfil the terms of those Decisions and Resolutions where this information is not reported elsewhere on the CoP17 agenda. The full list of Decisions and Resolutions, as well as a summary of Animals Committee activities, can be found in Annex 1 of this report.

Activities pursuant to the Terms of Reference of the Animals Committee

4. The terms of reference for the Animals Committee, as well as general guidance on its operations, are found in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) on the *Establishment of Committees*. With regards to the guidelines on conflict of interest, at the opening of the 27th and 28th meetings of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat asked the participants to state any conflict of interest as defined in the Resolution. No member declared any financial interest that she or he considered would call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties.
5. Further, the members of the Animals Committee fulfilled their regional representation role as required under this Resolution. Animals Committee members submitted reports of their activities under a format previously agreed at the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee, reporting on an overview of major developments in the region, the activities of regional representatives, regional cooperation and priorities, as well as any meetings and workshops that occurred in the region. The impressive array of activities undertaken in each region can be found in these reports, posted on the CITES website. However, as in previous years, there remain communications challenges in some regions which are impacting some representatives' ability to provide a comprehensive accounting of all activities in the Region.
6. As Chair of the Committee, Ms. Caceres participated in the 6th meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, coordinated by the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species. The meeting took place on 7 October 2013, in Formia, Italy. Additionally, the Chair participated in all meetings of the Plants Committee and Standing Committee held during the reporting period in order to maintain strong linkages between our shared or inter-connected mandates. Ms. Caceres, as Chair of the Animals Committee, also chaired the Standing Committee working group on bushmeat and facilitated the workshop convened by the Standing Committee working group on illegal trade in cheetahs and hosted by Kuwait.
7. In consultation with the Plants Committee, the Animals Committee adopted revisions to their Rules of Procedure. In particular, the Committees noted that the current practise for selecting Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Animals Committee results in an extensive post-CoP period where the Committee is represented by an interim Chair. Given the expanding role of the Chair however, the Committee adopted changes that allow for the selection of Chairs and Vice-Chairs immediately after the close of the Conference of the Parties. These new procedures will be tested for the first time following the close of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Other changes to the Committee Rules of Procedure were to clarify the submission and dissemination of documents as well as when the decisions of the Committee come into effect, or were otherwise editorial (e.g. referring to "Chair" instead of "Chairman"). The full suite of changes can be found on the CITES website in the summary records of the 27th and 28th meeting of the Animals Committee.
8. During the course of the discussion, the Animals Committee noted that their Terms of Reference, as outlined in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16), would benefit from a review to align more closely with current practise and expectations of the Committee as well as remove redundancies with more recent Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. As such, and in consultation with the Plants Committee, the Animals Committee agreed to seek a mandate to review the Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16). As such, the Animals Committee

recommends the adoption of a new Decision directing the Animals and Plants Committee to undertake such a review as outlined in the Recommendations section of this report (paragraph 35).

9. At its 28th meeting, the Animals Committee took note of and commented on the following draft proposals and assessments presented by Parties: assessment of three bird species included on Appendix III, presented by Mexico; proposal to remove the zero quota for the Mexican population of Morelet's crocodile; proposal to transfer *Crocodylus porosus* from Appendix I to II, presented by Malaysia; the conservation and trade in species of the genus *Abronia*, presented by Mexico; and a proposal to list *Lanthanotus borneensis* in Appendix I presented by Malaysia.
10. The Animals Committee also noted a report on regional cooperation on the management of and trade in queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) presented by Columbia to its 28th meeting and congratulated the range States for their efforts in enhancing regional cooperation on this species.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

11. Decision 16.15 on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) directs the Chair of the Animals Committee (and Plants Committee) to, among other, participate as observers in meetings if the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and report to the Standing Committee. As such, with external funding support from the United Nations Environment Programme or the European Union, representatives of the Animals or Plants Committee participated in the following MEP meetings:
 - MEP 1 (Bergen, Norway, June 2013), Ms. Carolina Caceres, Chair, Animals Committee
 - MEP 2 (Cape Town, South Africa, August 2013), Mr. Hesiquio Benítez, Vice-Chair, Plants Committee
 - MEP 3 (Bonn, Germany, March 2014), Mr. Vincent Fleming, Vice-Chair, Animals Committee
 - MEP 4 (Bonn, Germany, July 2014 and MEP 5 (Bonn, Germany, April 2015), neither the Chairs nor Vice-Chairs were able to participate.
 - MEP 6 (Bonn, Germany, October 2015), Ms. Carolina Caceres, Chair, Animals Committee

The Animals Committee, in fulfilling this direction, noted that some of the MEP meetings were more relevant to the mandate of the Scientific Committees than others. As such, to maximize use of limited resources, the Chairs of the Committees should be encouraged to focus their engagement and participation to those MEP meetings where there is most benefit to the CITES core mandate. In this regard, members of the Animals and Plants Committee participated in the IPBES sponsored e-conference aimed at preliminarily scoping the IPBES assessment of Sustainable Use; an assessment which is of particular relevance to the CITES mandate.

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

12. Decision 16.65 directs the Animals Committee to review reports commissioned by the Secretariat on this subject and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee. Accordingly, the Animals Committee, at its 27th meeting, reviewed the reports available at the time and established an inter-sessional working group to continue the review and discussion of this matter. The Committee presented its initial observations to the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee, including its conclusion that a mechanism is required to enable concerns regarding the potential misuse of source codes for specimens derived from captive production systems to be investigated and timely measures taken. The Committee presented its final observations and recommendations to the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee. The Committee expressed reservations about developing a captive breeding database but recommended the preparation of a new Resolution under which issues concerning compliance with the Convention for specimens declared as being produced in captivity could be addressed. The results of the Standing Committee deliberation of this issue can be found in document CoP17 Doc. 31. It should be noted that the full suite of reports the Animals Committee was directed to review were not available during the entire reporting period.

Review of Significant Trade

13. Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* directs the Animals Committee to review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade following a prescribed procedure. During the reporting period,

the Committee continued the Review process for species previously selected, and selected new species for review. A summary on the progress in the implementation of the review at the time of the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee can be found in AC28 Doc. 9.2.

14. Of species selected after the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, 20 remained in the process pending range State response to recommendations established by the Standing Committee. During its 27th meeting, the Animals Committee formulated some additional recommendations with respect to *Tridacna* spp. for consideration by the Standing Committee. Similarly, during its 28th meeting, the Animals Committee reviewed information provided by Cameroon for *Hippopotamus amphibius* and formulated recommendations for consideration by Cameroon and the Standing Committee.
15. The Animals Committee, during its 27th meeting, reviewed information provided by range States and information compiled by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre for 23 taxa selected after the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15, Doha, 2010), and retained in the review after the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee [see document AC27 Doc. 12.4 (Rev.1)]. Of these 23, 17 taxa were categorized as either “urgent concern” or “possible concern” as outlined in the table below. The remaining species/country combinations were categorized as “least concern” and removed from the Review of Significant Trade process. Additionally, issues not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a) were identified and referred to the Secretariat (see document AC27 WG1 Doc.1).

Taxa selected after CoP15	Category	Range State
<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Urgent concern	Lao People's Democratic Republic
	Possible concern	Cambodia, Viet Nam
<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	Possible concern	Central African Republic
<i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i>	Urgent concern	Togo
	Possible concern	Benin, Ghana
<i>Chamaeleo senegalensis</i>	Possible concern	Benin, Ghana
<i>Kinyongia fischeri</i>	Urgent concern	United Republic of Tanzania
<i>Kinyongia tavetana</i>	Possible concern	United Republic of Tanzania
<i>Triceros melleri</i>	Possible concern	Mozambique
<i>Triceros quadricornis</i>	Possible concern	Cameroon
<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>	Possible concern	Lao People's Democratic Republic
<i>Python reticulatus</i>	Possible concern	Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia
<i>Podocnemis unifilis</i>	Possible concern	Peru
<i>Kinixys homeana</i>	Possible concern	Benin, Togo
<i>Hippocampus algiricus</i>	Urgent concern	Guinea, Senegal
<i>Hippocampus trimaculatus</i>	Urgent concern	Thailand
Antipatharia	Possible concern	Taiwan, Province of China
<i>Plerogyra simplex</i>	Possible concern	Fiji
<i>Plerogyra sinuosa</i>	Possible concern	Fiji

16. The Animals Committee developed recommendations for the 25 species/range State combinations selected after CoP15 and categorized as either “possible concern” or “urgent concern” (see document AC27 WG1 Doc.1). During its 28th meeting, the Animals Committee reviewed information provided by Cambodia and Viet Nam regarding *Macaca fascicularis*, and Peru regarding *Podocnemis unifilis*. The Committee formulated some additional recommendations on *Macaca fascicularis* for consideration by Cambodia and the Standing Committee. The Committee informed the Standing Committee that the recommendations to Viet Nam on *Macaca fascicularis* had been implemented but drew its attention to high levels of illegal trade in this species. The Committee also informed the Standing Committee that the recommendations to Peru on *Podocnemis unifilis* had been implemented and further congratulated Peru on its work conserving this species, as an example of sustainable use and community involvement
17. Following CoP16, the Animals Committee, during its 27th meeting, selected 20 taxa for inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade (refer to AC27 WG1 Doc. 1). The Committee, during its 28th meeting, reviewed information provided by the range States, noting with some concern the poor response rate from range States and the effect this had on its ability to evaluate the species. The Committee decided to

remove five taxa from the Review and retain species/country combinations for 15 taxa as outlined in the table below.

Taxa selected after CoP16	Range States retained	Notes
<i>Tayassu pecari</i>	None	
<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	None	The AC encouraged polar bear range States to apply a cautious approach in relation to the management of sub-populations that are assessed as declining or data deficient (uncertain).
<i>Manis gigantea</i>	Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda	The AC drew attention to concerns raised at the First Pangolin Range States Meeting (June, 2015) about the lack of robust biological information on African pangolin species and increasing levels of international trade in these species. In light of the large number of range States that did not respond (only the United Republic of Tanzania responded) and concerned that the CITES trade database does not reflect recent levels of trade, the AC decided to retain all range States for <i>M. gigantea</i> and <i>M. tricuspis</i> that do not have national legislation prohibiting their export. To assist this selection process, the AC requested the Secretariat consult with UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group to identify those range States without relevant national legislation. The Secretariat was requested to finalize the selection of range States for a detailed review in consultation with the AC.
<i>Manis tricuspis</i>	Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zambia	
<i>Amazona festiva</i>	Guyana	
<i>Uromastyx ornata</i>	None	The AC noted there was no reported trade from any of the range states and referred the issue of trade reported from non-range States to the Standing Committee.
<i>Uromastyx aegyptia</i>	Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic	
<i>Triceros montium</i>	Cameroon	
<i>Varanus ornatus</i>	Togo	
<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i>	Indonesia, Malaysia	The AC noted concerns related to illegal trade from Myanmar and referred the issue to the Standing Committee.
<i>Malayemys subtrijuga</i>	Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia	
<i>Notochelys platynota</i>	Indonesia	
<i>Chelonoidis denticulata</i>	Guyana, Suriname	
<i>Geochelone sulcata</i>	Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Sudan, Togo	
<i>Testudo graeca</i>	Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic	
<i>Hippocampus erectus</i>	None	The AC likely errors in trade records due to species identification challenges and referred these issues to the Standing Committee.
<i>Ornithoptera croesus</i>	Indonesia	

Taxa selected after CoP16	Range States retained	Notes
<i>Ornithoptera meridionalis</i>	None	
<i>Ornithoptera rotschildi</i>	Indonesia	
<i>Hirudo medicinalis</i>	Turkey (distribution uncertain)	

Illegal trade in cheetahs

18. Decision 16.72 directs the Animals Committee to review a study on the illegal trade in cheetahs and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee. The results of the Animals Committee review were presented to the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee and included, among others, a recommendation for a face to face workshop of relevant Parties and organizations to address the concerns raised.

Non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles

19. Decision 16.111 directs the Animals Committee to review a study on factors of relevance for non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee and Parties. The requested study was prepared by the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group as a guide to CITES Scientific and Management Authorities on non-detriment findings and trade management for these species. The study was presented to the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee, which noted with appreciation the helpful guidance and useful case studies contained within. As such, the Committee welcomed the study and recommended to the Standing Committee that it be communicated to the Parties. The full study can be found in the Annex to document AC28 Doc. 15 on the CITES website. The implementation of Decision 16.111 is further described in document CoP17 Doc. 73, where it is proposed to be deleted.

Reporting requirements

20. Decision 16.45 directs the Animals Committee to review the special reporting requirements identified by the Standing Committee which relate to animals and provide advice on the continued need for these requirements. The Committee undertook this review during their 27th meeting and provided their advice to the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species

21. Decision 15.53 requests the Animals Committee to review a draft guide on the appropriate use of source codes prepared by the Secretariat. The Animals Committee reviewed the document at their 28th meeting and provided detailed comments to the Secretariat which can be found in document AC28 Com. 7 on the CITES website. The Animals Committee recommended that the Secretariat seek further feedback, particularly for resolving inconsistent or conflicting direction between existing Resolutions and prepare a new version of this guidance taking into account the Committee's suggestions and any additional comments received.

Registration captive breeding facilities

22. Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes* requires the Animals Committee to comment on objections made against the registration of a captive breeding facility. In April 2014, the Animals Committee reviewed an objection by the Philippines against the registration by the United States of America of a breeding operation of *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*. The Committee's comments on the objection were forwarded to the Parties concerned (see documents SC65 Doc. 35 and SC66 Doc. 42.1). In October 2015, the Secretariat informed the Animals Committee that an objection to the application to register an operation breeding *Astrochelys radiata* in Mauritius had been received from Madagascar. The Animals Committee reviewed the material supporting the objection and noted that Mauritius had demonstrated that the registration is in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15). As such, the Animals Committee did not concur with the objection (see document SC66 Doc. 42.2).

Snake trade and conservation management

23. Decision 16.103 directs the Animals Committee to review studies requested by the Conference of the Parties and advise the Standing Committee on the feasibility of snake traceability systems. Decision 16.104 requests the Animals Committee to consider the final IUCN red list assessment for Asian snakes and make recommendations to the Standing Committee. The Animals Committee undertook the activities requested and reported its recommendations to the 65th and 66th meeting of the Standing Committee. In particular, the Animals Committee invited the Standing Committee to consider preparing a Resolution on the conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes for adoption by the Conference of the Parties. The Animals Committee further noted that more fulsome review of the studies requested by the Conference of the Parties is needed, particularly on the draft guidance to assist parties in the making of Non-Detriment Findings, management systems for wild populations and the establishment of export quotas for Appendix II snake species. The Committee proposed the current Animals Committee expert working group continue to review this work in advance of the next meeting of the Animals Committee. With regards to the IUCN red list assessment, the Animals Committee reviewed the information at its 28th meeting and provided its comments to range States and to the IUCN. The results of the Standing Committee deliberation of this issue can be found in document CoP17 Doc. 71.

Sturgeons and paddlefish

24. Decision 16.137 directs the Animals Committee to review a study commissioned by the Secretariat on the identification of sturgeon and paddlefish specimens in trade. Funds were not available to complete this study in the reporting period and the Animals Committee thus was not able to fulfil the terms of Decision 16.137.
25. Additionally, Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* directs a number of actions to the Animals Committee including three-year cyclical evaluation of assessment and monitoring methodologies used for shared stocks of these species. However, in the context of a fishery increasingly reliant on aquaculture, the Animals Committee proposed to the Standing Committee that a re-evaluation of the role of the Committee, as currently outlined of Resolution Conf. 12.7, may be merited. The Animals Committee comments were taken into consideration during the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, whose outcomes are found in document CoP17 Doc. 50.
26. The Animals Committee also noted and provided comments on an *Evaluation of the 'register of licensed exporters and of processing and repackaging plants for specimens of sturgeon and paddlefish species'* submitted by Germany and on *Sturgeon management in the Russian Federation* presented by the Russian Federation at its 27th and 28th meetings respectively.

Periodic Review of the Appendices

27. Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16) on *Periodic Review of the Appendices* outlines a process and guidelines for the Animals and Plants Committee to undertake a periodic review of species included in the CITES Appendices. Following CoP15, the Animals Committee selected 41 taxa for review between CoP15 and CoP17. Of these, the reviews for 16 taxa were either stopped or concluded at the time of CoP16. For the remaining 25 taxa, the Committee stopped the review of eight taxa due to a lack of volunteers. Noteworthy, the Committee welcomed the interest of Bhutan in reviewing two of these taxa if financial support were available to undertake the review. As the Committee could not offer financial support, these taxa were, regrettably, removed from the process. An additional seven taxa are subject to ongoing review. The Committee extends its appreciation to Brazil (*Saguinus martinsi*, *Cacajao melanocephalus*, *Pionopsitta pileata*), Colombia (*Caiman crocodilus apaporiensis*), Cuba (*Chondrohierax uncinatus wilsonii*, *Grus canadensis nesiototes*), and the Republic of Korea (*Dryocopus javensis richardsi*) for their ongoing work.
28. Of the remaining taxa selected after CoP15, the Committee reviewed four taxa at its 27th meeting and six at its 28th meeting, the outcomes of which are found in the table below. For those species where a change in Appendices was recommended, the Committee encouraged the range State reviewer to submit the proposal to CoP17.

Species	Decision	Reference
MAMMALIA		
<i>Monachus tropicalis</i>	Delete from Appendix I (extinct)*	AC27 ExSum. Cons.
<i>Pteropus tokudae</i>	Defer (extinct)*	AC27 ExSum. Cons.

Species	Decision	Reference
AVES		
<i>Grus Canadensis pulla</i>	Retain in Appendix I	AC27 ExSum. Cons.
<i>Lichenostomus melanops cassidix</i>	Transfer to Appendix II	AC28 Summary Record
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni</i>	Retain in Appendix I	AC28 Summary Record
<i>Psephotus dissimilis</i>	Retain in Appendix I	AC28 Summary Record
<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata</i>	Transfer to Appendix II	AC28 Summary Record
REPTILIA		
<i>Sphenodon</i> spp.	Retain in Appendix I	AC28 Summary Record
<i>Epicrates inornatus</i>	Transfer to Appendix II	AC27 ExSum. Cons.
BIVALVA		
<i>Epioblasma sampsonii</i>	Defer (extinct)*	AC28 Summary Record

* For extinct species, the range State has indicated it will await the outcomes of the CoP on treatment of extinct species prior to finalizing or submitting these periodic reviews (see document CoP17 Doc. 85).

29. During its 27th meeting, the Animals Committee noted that Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16) does not require the Committee to select new species until after CoP17. However, in response to Decisions 16.124 and 16.125, three turtle species were included in the periodic review process. Additionally, during its 27th meeting, the Animals Committee accepted the offer of Brazil to conduct additional periodic reviews for *Leopardus braccatus*, *L. geoffroyi*, *L. pardalis*, *L. tigrinus*, *L. wiedii* and *Puma yagouaroundi*.
30. Decision 16.124 directed the Animals Committee to include *Cuora galbinifrons* and *Mauremys annamensis* in the periodic review. Viet Nam presented the reviews of these two species to the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee, who agreed with the recommendation to transfer these two species to CITES Appendix I. Thereby, the Animals Committee completed its implementation of Decision 16.124 (see also document CoP17 Doc. 73). Decision 16.125 directed the Animals Committee to include *Chelodina mccordi* in the periodic review, which it did at its 27th meeting. The Committee gratefully accepted Indonesia's offer to undertake this periodic review during its 27th meeting. The review for this turtle species is ongoing.

Extinct or possibly extinct species

31. Decision 16.164 directs the Animals Committee to review the provisions for extinct species in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) on *Criteria for amendments of Appendices I and II* and make recommendations. The Committee, working jointly with the Plants Committee, reviewed the Resolution and developed broad principles that could be applied for treating extinct or possibly extinct species included in the Appendices (including practical implementation challenges). Specifically, the Committees noted: provisions and guidance relating to extinct or possibly extinct species should apply to, or be developed for, species included in Appendices I and II (and Appendix III); the CITES and IUCN use of terms and definitions for extinct species should be consistent; extinct species should not normally be included in the Appendices, but extinct species already listed may be retained where one of the conditions outlined next are met; and extinct species should be retained in either Appendix I or II if (i) their removal might unduly complicate the interpretation of the Appendices and/or (ii) if such removal might risk trade in parts and derivatives of CITES-listed extant species being 'laundered' as if they were specimens of the unlisted extinct species, especially if they were look-alikes, and/or (iii) if they may be affected by trade in the event of their re-discovery. Accordingly, the Committees proposed modifications to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) to the Standing Committee. The outcomes of their deliberations can be found in document CoP17 Doc. 85.

Inclusion of species in Appendix III

32. Pursuant to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP16) on the *Inclusion of species in Appendix III*, the United States notified the Animals Committee that they were considering inclusion of four native freshwater turtle species, common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), Florida softshell turtle (*Apalone ferox*), smooth softshell turtle (*Apalone mutica*), and spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifera*), in CITES Appendix III and provided their rationale for such a listing. The United States invited the Committee to provide views on the potential effects of including these species in CITES Appendix III. The Committee noted that the species were all found within the United States and native to North America, with the *Chelydra serpentina* and *Apalone spinifera* also distributed in Canada, and *Apalone spinifera* in Mexico. The Committee concluded that the rationale for listing provided by the United States was compelling and in line with the guidance provided in the Resolution. The Committee did not identify any particular potential effects of this proposed Appendix III listing to draw to the attention of the United States.

Ranching

33. Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) on *Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II* directs the Secretariat to seek appropriate and technical advice on proposals to amend the Appendices for the purposes of ranching, in consultation with the Animals Committee. The Animals Committee was consulted on one such proposal concerning *Crocodylus acutus* in the Bay of Cispatá, Tinajones, La Balsa and surrounding sectors in Colombia, and provided its advice to the Secretariat on meeting the requirements of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15), for transmission to the proponents.

Acknowledgements

34. The ever-growing mandate and expectations on the Animals Committee would be impossible to fulfil without the continued commitment, professionalism and dedication of the Committee members; their energy is inspiring! I am honoured to work with these talented people and very grateful for the opportunity to learn from their collective experience. I extend my very special thanks to our out-going nomenclature expert, Ute Grimm, for her fundamental and essential contributions to CITES and the Committee. I would also like to thank my colleagues in Canada and the North American Region for supporting me as Chair, and especially Rosemarie Gnam, for taking on the duties of the regional representative. I must also extend my very sincere gratitude to the CITES Secretariat and the members of the Scientific Services Team under the able guidance of David Morgan (formerly) and Tom De Meulenaer. Thank you to Johannes, Daniel, Elena as well as John, Juan Carlos, H  l  ne, Haruko, Marceil, Marcos, Nadia and all the other members (or former members) of the Secretariat for making sure no decision is missed, no recommendation forgotten. My thanks to the observer Parties, IGOs and NGOs who freely contributed their expertise and knowledge towards robust decision-making at meetings of the Committee. I would like to acknowledge my fellow Chairs, Øystein St  rkersen and Margarita Clemente for your support and cooperation in helping the Animals Committee perform its duties. Finally, my sincere gratitude to Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service, who has provided me with the time and resources necessary to take on the responsibilities as Chair.

Recommendations

35. As outlined in paragraph 8 of this report, the Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the following Decision:

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

The Animals and Plants Committee shall review their terms of reference as contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) on *Establishment of Committees* in order to, as necessary: remove redundancies with other activities directed to the Committees by Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties; reflect current practise including provision of scientific advice upon request of Parties; and otherwise clarify the functions of the Committees in their role as science advisory bodies to the Conference of the Parties. The Animals and Plants Committees shall present any proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) arising from their review to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

36. The Conference of the Parties is invited to note the report of the Animals Committee.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The report of the Chair of the Animals Committee refers to specific Animals Committee activities and issues that are dealt with jointly by the Animals and Plants Committees. Many are the subject of separate agenda items, as also shown in Annex 1 to the present document. The Secretariat provides its comments on these issues under the corresponding agenda items. These separate documents also contain tentative budgets and sources of funding for the draft resolutions or decisions proposed by the Animals and Plants Committees.
- B. Regarding the Rules of Procedure for the Animals Committee mentioned in paragraph 7, the Secretariat would like to draw attention to document CoP17 Doc. 11 on *Rules of procedure for the CITES bodies*, in which it proposes several draft decisions to review and harmonize the Rules of Procedure of the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees, and align them as closely as possible with those of the Conference of the Parties.
- C. The Secretariat supports the intention of the draft decision proposed in paragraph 35 of the present document, and concurs with the view that its implementation can be accommodated within current budget allocations (see Annex 2). The Secretariat notes that at the present meeting, under agenda item 12 (Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees), the Standing Committee recommends to amend and extend Decisions 16.9 and 16.10 to continue reviewing the conflict of interest policy, and propose amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) on *Establishment of Committees*, as necessary (see document CoP17 Doc. 12). In order to ensure consistency, the Animals and Plants Committees, and the Standing Committee should collaborate closely in their review of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16). Alternatively, the Animals and Plants Committees may wish to provide the outcome of their review to the Standing Committee, for the Standing Committee to submit a consolidated revision of the resolution to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- D. On the basis of the present report and the decisions mentioned therein by the Chair of the Animals Committee, it is recommended that Decision 16.125 be deleted.
- E. The following Decisions that are referred to in the present document are discussed under separate agenda items: 15.53 (see document CoP17 Doc. 32), 16.15 (see document CoP17 Doc. 14.4), 16.45 (see document CoP17 Doc. 35.1), 16.65 (see document CoP17 Doc. 32), 16.72 (see document CoP17 Doc. 49), 16.103 and 16.104 (see document CoP17 Doc. 71), 16.111 (see document CP167 Doc. 73), 16.124 (see document CoP17 Doc. 73), 16.137 (document CoP17 Doc. 50) and 16.164 (see document CoP17 Doc. 85).

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS DIRECTED OR RELEVANT TO THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

Resolution or Decision	Title	Animals Committee activities
Committee Terms of Reference		
Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16)	Establishment of Committees	Activities undertaken outlined in this report; the Nomenclature Specialist report is found in document CoP17 Doc. 81.1
Administrative matters		
Conf. 16.2	Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the biennium 2014-2016	No activities to report
Strategic matters		
16.9, 16.10	Potential conflict of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees	No action to report
16.15	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	Activities outlined in this report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 14.4
16.29	Capacity-building	Directed support provided to the Secretariat as needed; reference document CoP17 Doc. 15
Interpretation and implementation of the Convention		
<u>Compliance and enforcement</u>		
Conf. 14.3	CITES compliance procedures	No action to report
16.65	Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched	Activities outlined in this report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 32
Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	Activities outlined in this report
13.67 (Rev. CoP14)	Review of Significant Trade	Report found in document CoP17 Doc. 33
16.72	Illegal trade in cheetahs (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>)	Activities outlined in this report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 49
16.111	Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)	Activities outlined in this report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 73
Conf. 16.7	Non-detriment findings	No action to report
<u>Reporting</u>		
16.45	Review of reporting requirements	Activities outlined in this report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 35.1
<u>Trade control and traceability</u>		
15.53	Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species	Activities outlined in this report
16.59	Identification Manual	Report found in document CoP17 Doc. 48.2
Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16)	Identification Manual	Report found in document CoP17 Doc. 48.2
15.64	Identification of CITES-listed corals in trade	Report found in CoP17 Doc. 81.1
Conf. 8.13 (Rev.)	Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade	No action to report
Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16)	Transport of live specimens	No action to report
Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15)	Universal tagging system for the identification of crocodylian skins	No action to report

Resolution or Decision	Title	Animals Committee activities
<u>Exemptions and special trade provisions</u>		
Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15)	Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes	Activities outlined in this report
<u>Species trade and conservation</u>		
16.149	Bushmeat	No action to report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 75.1
16.67	Great Apes (Hominidae spp.)	No action to report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 61
Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16)	Conservation of and trade in great apes	No action to report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 61
Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16)	Conservation and management of sharks	Reports found in documents CoP17 Doc. 56.1 and 56.2
16.103, 16.104	Snake trade and conservation management (Serpentes spp.)	Activities outlined in this report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 71
16.137	Sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.)	Activities outlined in this report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 50
Conf. 12.7 (Rev.CoP16)	Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish	Activities outlined in this report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 50
Maintenance and amendment of the Appendices		
Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16)	Standard nomenclature	Report found in document CoP17 Doc. 81.1
Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16)	Periodic Review of the Appendices	Activities outlined in this report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 82.1
13.93 (Rev. CoP16)	Review of the Appendices: Felidae	Report found in document CoP17 Doc. 82.2
16.124	Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)	Activities outlined in this report; also reference document CoP17 Doc. 73
16.125	Roti Island snake-necked turtle (<i>Chelodina mccordi</i>)	Activities outlined in this report
14.81	Great whales	No action to report
16.162	Annotations	No action to report; reference documents CoP17 Doc. 83.1 and 83.2
16.164	Extinct or possibly extinct species	Activities outlined in this report; reference document CoP17 Doc. 85
16.131, 16.132	Freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae spp.)	Report found in document CoP17 Doc. 87
Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16)	Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II	No action to report
Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP16)	Inclusion of species in Appendix III	Activities outlined in this report
Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15)	Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II	Activities outlined in this report

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The author of this document notes the following:

- With respect to the proposed Decision, the Secretariat would be expected to provide general technical support to the Animals and Plants Committees' undertaking these activities in line with their general support functions.
- The members of the Committee would be expected to commit time and effort to the proposed review as part of their duties on the Committee.
- There are no additional direct costs anticipated.