

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Geneva (Switzerland), 17 - 28 August 2019

Summary record of the fourth session for Committee I

19 August 2019: 14h05 - 16h50

Chair: R. Hay (New Zealand)

Secretariat: T. De Meulenaer
I. Camarena
K. Gaynor
D. Kachelriess

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
J. Gray
J. Vitale
E. Vovk

Species specific matters (cont.)

82. Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) (cont.)

The United States of America supported the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat in document CoP18 Doc. 82. The European Union stated it was willing to consider amendments proposed by Indonesia in the previous session.

The Chair invited the European Union, the United States and Indonesia to consider potential revisions to the draft decisions in Annex 1 of document CoP18 Doc. 82 in the light of these proposed amendments, and report back at a later session.

72. Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.) on CITES – a roadmap to success

Monaco introduced document CoP18 Doc. 72 containing draft decisions to improve the conservation of seahorses. It noted general support for an amended version of these produced by the Secretariat, as contained in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 72.

The United States stated it had made funding available for the implementation of elements of draft decision 18.BB and suggested the following edits to draft decision 18.BB c) ii) in Annex 1:

- ii) organize an expert workshop to discuss the implementation and enforcement of CITES for trade in *Hippocampus* spp., including the ~~consequences of~~ recommendations and outcomes from the Review of Significant Trade process, and propose practical steps to address implementation and enforcement challenges; and

Japan, Senegal, the Republic of Korea and Egypt supported the draft decisions in Annex 1. Monaco and Sri Lanka supported these as amended by the United States.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) stated that the IUCN Seahorse, Pipefish & Seadragon Specialist Group welcomed document CoP18 Doc. 72 and its draft decisions and informed Parties that IUCN was ready to assist in the implementation of these draft decisions, if adopted.

The draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 72, as amended by the United States of America, were accepted.

94. Conservation management of and trade in marine ornamental fishes

Switzerland introduced document CoP18 Doc. 94 containing draft decisions for the convening of a workshop to consider biological and implementation issues related to the marine ornamental fish trade.

Maldives and the United States of America supported the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat, the latter urging Parties to refer to information document CoP18 Inf. 31 on *CITES CoP history relevant to non-CITES listed species*. Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela were supportive of the draft decisions in Annex 1 but wished to expand the scope of paragraph 18.AA a) to include sessile invertebrates, and freshwater species, respectively. Canada supported work on trade in marine ornamental fishes in general but had concerns regarding CITES work on non-listed species and therefore did not support the draft decisions in the document. The European Union considered CITES to be the correct mechanism for studies of non-listed species of marine ornamental fish as international trade was one of the major threats to these species. It supported the draft decisions in Annex 1. Egypt, while supporting advances for conservation of marine ornamental fish described in the document, urged far greater efforts for 'real action' to conserve these species. Japan said it could support the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat, if funding were available.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) noted its interest in talking to funders and partners for the collaborative study proposed in information document CoP18 Inf. 69. Fondation Franz Weber supported the draft decisions and considered CITES to be the appropriate mechanism for this issue. The European Pet Organisation, speaking on behalf of Ornamental Fish International, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), and IWMC-World Conservation Trust, did not believe document CoP18 Doc. 94 was an accurate representation of the trade and that it was important that any future work on this matter involve industry and other key actors, such as FAO, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC.

Canada, Colombia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela confirmed that they would not impede consensus.

The draft decisions in document CoP18 Doc. 94, as amended by the Secretariat in paragraph E of its comments, were accepted.

Species specific matters (cont.)

85. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 85 reporting on progress with Decisions 17.285 to 17.290 on *Queen conch*. The Secretariat drew special attention to the third meeting of the working group on queen conch (Panama, 30 October-1 November 2018), as its outcomes were the basis on which the Secretariat considered these decisions could be renewed.

The Dominican Republic and the European Union supported the draft decisions in Annex 1.

Referring to the first in person meeting of the scientific statistical and technical advisory group of the joint queen conch working group in Miami in April 2019 at which the draft decisions had been reviewed, Belize, supported by Antigua and Barbuda and the Bahamas expressed concern that regional conversion factors had not been agreed and proposed amendments to the draft decisions. The United States also proposed amendments, Jamaica proposed additional amendments, for which Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas and the United States expressed some support. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela urged Parties to take into account the FAO Code of Conduct for managing queen conch.

Noting difficulty in proceeding without written versions of the amendments proposed by Belize and Jamaica, the Chair asked those two Parties to work with the United States and the European Union to produce a revised version of the decisions with reference to the amendments and to present the redrafted version to a later session of the Committee.

It was agreed to delete Decisions 17.288 and 17.290 as they had been fully implemented.

62. Draft decisions on the conservation of amphibians (Amphibia)

Costa Rica introduced document CoP18 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) containing draft decisions regarding amphibian conservation in its Annex 1. It announced that, with the support of several Parties, it wished to form a working group to refocus the draft decisions. Notwithstanding this, Colombia, Indonesia, Israel, Mali, Paraguay and Peru supported the draft decisions in the document. Defenders of Wildlife, speaking also on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, Eurogroup for Animals, Humane Society International, Pro Wildlife, Species Survival Network, World Animal Protection, International Fund for Animal Welfare, and Wildlife Conservation Society, supported elements of the draft decisions. Canada, China and the European Union, echoed by Creative Conservation Solutions, said they could not support all of the draft decisions in their current form. The United States of America stated their interest in considering a more focused approach to the draft decisions.

The Chair established a working group, chaired by Mexico, comprising the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Defenders of Wildlife, Documentation Center for Species Protection, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Humane Society International, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, and Wildlife Conservation Society. The working group shall consider the draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) and, on the basis of views expressed in this session, develop recommendations to revise or adopt these draft decisions.

Interpretation and implementation matters (cont.)

Regulation of trade (cont.)

48. Black rhinoceros hunting trophies: Export quota for South Africa

South Africa presented the outcome of the discussions which had taken place between sessions, and proposed the following amendments to paragraph 1 of Resolution Conf. 13.5 (Rev. CoP14) on *Establishment of export quotas for black rhinoceros hunting trophies*:

1. APPROVES the establishment of an annual export quota of five hunting trophies of adult male black rhinoceros from ~~South Africa and five from~~ Namibia and a total number of hunting trophies of adult male black rhinoceros not exceeding 0.5% of the current total black rhinoceros populations in South Africa in the year of the export (equally applied to all three subspecies i.e. 0.5% of the total population of each of the three subspecies);

South Africa will set a minimum science-based threshold for black rhinoceros populations, below which the above quota shall not apply;

Nigeria believed the original text proposed by the Secretariat was sufficient. The Secretariat stated that the adaptive management approach provisionally proposed in South Africa's amendments was agreed upon subject to effective communication of these quotas to the Secretariat, which would then communicate these to the Parties in a timely manner.

The Committee agreed the amendment to paragraph 1 of Resolution Conf. 13.5 (Rev. CoP14) on *Establishment of export quotas for black rhinoceros hunting trophies* proposed by South Africa, and to the proposal of the Secretariat regarding a new paragraph 3, as reflected in paragraph J of its comments.

Species specific matters (cont.)

87. Conservation of the Titicaca water frog (*Telmatobius culeus*)

Peru introduced document CoP18 Doc. 87, recommending conservation actions for the Titicaca water frog, and proposed draft decisions 18.AA, 18.BB and 18.CC as an alternative to the draft resolution included in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 87.

Costa Rica, speaking on behalf of Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Uruguay, and supported by Colombia, Mali and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, expressed approval of the draft decisions presented by Peru. Canada, the European Union and

the United States of America opposed these, expressing concerns that they would be more appropriately addressed in domestic or bilateral action plans undertaken by Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as they fell outside of the CITES mandate. Defenders of Wildlife, also on behalf of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), recognised the joint efforts undertaken by Peru and Bolivia (Plurinational State of).

The Chair established a working group, chaired by the United States of America, and comprising Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, the European Union, Guatemala and Peru; and Defenders of Wildlife, the German Society of Herpetology (DGHT) and Wildlife Conservation Society. The working group shall consider the draft decisions read by Peru whilst introducing document CoP18 Doc. 87; and, on the basis of views expressed in Committee I, develop recommendations as appropriate to revise or adopt the decisions.

70. Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and other marine turtles (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae)

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 70 pertaining to the implementation of Decisions 17.222 and 17.223, and the resulting study detailed in information document CoP18 Inf. 18 on *Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities*.

Costa Rica, also speaking on behalf of Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, believed that the Conference of the Parties should consider stronger and additional conservation action with respect to the conservation of hawksbill turtles and other marine turtles than proposed in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 70.

The European Union, Fiji, Jamaica, Malaysia and the Solomon Islands echoed Costa Rica with regard to the need for faster and stronger implementation of the measures detailed in information document CoP18 Inf. 18, and wished to be part of any working group, as did Australia and the United States of America. A desire to participate in any working group formed was also expressed by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) speaking also on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, TRAFFIC and Wildlife Conservation Society.

The Chair established a working group chaired by Australia, and comprising Cabo Verde, China, Costa Rica, the European Union, Fiji, Finland, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet Nam; and CMS, Fauna and Flora International, Humane Society International, IUCN, SPREP, TRAFFIC and WWF. The working group shall draft CITES-relevant decisions on the basis of recommendations in the study produced pursuant to Decision 17.222 a) available as information document CoP18 Inf. 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 16h50.