

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 tenth session for Committee I

22 August 2019: 09h10 - 12h00

Chair: R. Hay (New Zealand)

Secretariat: I. Higuero
T. De Meulenaer
K. Gaynor

Rapporteurs: B. Austin
A. Caromel
J. Robinson
J. Vitale

Proposals to amend the Appendices

105. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II (cont.)

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 1 was withdrawn.

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 2 to transfer *Saiga tatarica* from Appendix II to Appendix I was introduced by Mongolia and the United States of America.

The United States noted that the current proposal did not conform to the CITES standard nomenclature (Wilson and Reeder, 2005) for *Saiga* spp., and invoked Rule of Procedure 24.2 to clarify that the intention was to transfer both *Saiga tatarica* and *Saiga borealis* to Appendix I. The Chair, with advice from the Nomenclature Specialist of the Animals Committee, ruled that as the intention of the amendment to the proposal was to make the proposal more precise it was therefore acceptable. The Russian Federation demurred but agreed to continue discussions on the proposal as amended by the United States.

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Israel, Qatar and Senegal supported the amended proposal to transfer *Saiga tatarica* and *Saiga borealis* from Appendix II to Appendix I as proposed by the United States. Kazakhstan opposed the proposal. China and the Russian Federation opposed the proposal in its current form but stated they would consider supporting a split-listing, the latter also suggesting the possible establishment of a strict quota. The European Union opposed the proposal but would consider supporting it if restricted to the population of Mongolia only.

The United States, under Rule of Procedure 24.2, following consultation with Mongolia, suggested amending the current Appendix-II listing of *Saiga tatarica* and *Saiga borealis* by including the following annotation: "A zero export quota is established for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes". The Secretariat suggested this be amended to the following: "A zero export quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes". Afghanistan, the European Union, Israel, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan all supported the amended proposal to add this annotation to the existing Appendix II listings. China proposed that the annotation be limited to *Saiga borealis*.

Amended proposal Cop18 Prop. 2 to include the annotation "A zero export quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes" in the current Appendix II listing for *Saiga tatarica* and *Saiga borealis* was accepted by consensus.

Species specific matters (cont.)

86. Saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.)

Canada introduced document CoP18 Doc. 86 and invited the Conference of the Parties to adopt the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to the document, including the amendments recommended by the Secretariat, and delete Decisions 17.267 to 17.274.

The United States of America supported the draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat in paragraph A of comments and the deletion of Decisions 17.267-17.274. It proposed an additional draft decision and the following amendments:

Directed to range States of saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.) (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives

- 18.AA a) The range States of the saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.) and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives, as identified by the Secretariat on the basis of CITES trade data, should fully implement the measures directed to them in the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2016-2020 [MTIWP (2016-2020)] and for 2021-2025 [MTIWP (2021-2025)], developed in support of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga* spp.) and its Saiga Action Plan; and
- b) Consistent with the measures directed to Saiga range States in the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope for 2016-2020 [MTIWP (2016-2020)], the range States of the saiga antelope are encouraged to establish internal market controls for saiga parts, including registration of stockpiles, labelling of parts and products, and registration of manufacturers and traders, and report such information to the CITES Secretariat.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 18.XX The Animals Committee shall, as appropriate, consider any findings and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.BB, and make recommendations as appropriate to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.CC The Standing Committee shall, as appropriate, consider any findings and recommendations submitted by the Animals Committee and the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.BB and 18.XX, and make recommendations as necessary.

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) welcomed document CoP18 Doc. 86 and summarised the draft work programme for the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope for 2021-2025.

The draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 86, as amended by the Secretariat and the United States of America, were accepted. It was agreed to delete Decisions 17.267 to 17.274.

105. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II (cont.)

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 3 to transfer the population of *Vicugna vicugna* of the Province of Salta (Argentina) from Appendix I to Appendix II with annotation 1, was introduced by Argentina.

Peru reported that the proposal was supported by the five range States of vicuña. Cuba, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, the United States of America and Uruguay also supported the proposal, concluding that the population no longer met the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I set out in Resolution

Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*, and celebrating Argentina's successful management programme, a sentiment echoed by Senegal.

Proposal Cop18 Prop. 3 to transfer the population of *Vicugna vicugna* of the Province of Salta (Argentina) from Appendix I to Appendix II with annotation 1 was accepted by consensus.

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 4, to amend the name of the population of *Vicugna vicugna* of Chile from "population of the Primera Región" to "populations of the region of Tarapacá and of the region of Arica and Parinacota" in annotation 1 to Appendix I and II, was introduced by Chile, noting that this was purely an administrative change to align the name with the Chilean administrative and political names and did not affect the level of protection afforded the species.

Cuba and Uruguay expressed support for the proposal.

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 4 to amend the names of the population of *Vicugna vicugna* of Chile from "population of the Primera Región" to "populations of the region of Tarapacá and of the region of Arica and Parinacota" in the Annotations to Appendix I and II, was accepted by consensus.

Proposal CoP18 Prop. 5 to list *Giraffa camelopardalis* on CITES Appendix II, was introduced by Chad on behalf of the co-proponents. Chad added that the proposal had the full support of the 32 member countries of the African Elephant Coalition, and that they would oppose any amendments to the proposal. Additional information was provided indicating that inclusion in Appendix II would not hinder legal hunting and trade but would allow better monitoring.

Costa Rica (on behalf of Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay), Kenya, Mali, New Zealand, Niger, Senegal and the United States of America supported the proposal. Chad, New Zealand and Senegal reiterated opposition to amendments, in particular split listing, as this would present implementation challenges.

Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa and the International Council for Game and Wildlife (CIC) did not support the proposal. South Africa urged Parties to recognise the conservation successes relating to sustainable use in southern African countries. Botswana, supported by Namibia and South Africa, proposed an amendment to the proposal to exclude the populations of Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), speaking also on behalf TRAFFIC, noted it was not clear whether the proposal met the listing criteria given the limited evidence that illegal killing was driven by international rather than domestic trade. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) stated that the species had been listed in Appendix II of CMS and would welcome cooperation with CITES if *Giraffa camelopardalis* were included in CITES Appendix II.

With no consensus, the Chair called for a vote, to be held at the start of the following session. As per Rule 25.6 of the Rules of Procedure, the vote would first address the proposal with the least restrictive effect on trade, which was the amendment by Botswana to include *Giraffa camelopardalis* in Appendix II with an annotation excluding the populations of Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia. In the event that this was rejected, the original proposal to include all giraffe populations in Appendix II would be voted on.

The meeting was adjourned at 11h59.