

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 third session for Committee I

19 August 2019: 09h05 - 12h00

Chair: R. Hay (New Zealand)

Secretariat: T. De Meulenaer
K. Gaynor

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
E. Jennings
J. Robinson
E. Vovk

Interpretation and implementation matters (cont.)

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

South Africa introduced document CoP18 Doc. 48, proposing an amendment to Resolution Conf. 13.5 (Rev. CoP14) on *Establishment of export quotas for black rhinoceros hunting trophies*, in order to increase from an annual export quota of five hunting trophies of adult male black rhinoceros to an adaptive quota of a total number of adult black rhinoceroses not exceeding 0.5% of the total population in South Africa in the year of export. Based on the most recent population data shared in information document CoP18 Inf. 78, the adaptive quota would currently equate to nine adult males. South Africa supported the amendments to the Resolution proposed by the Secretariat in paragraph J of its comments.

Noting that the proposed offtake was clearly sustainable, Botswana, Canada, Eswatini, the European Union, Japan, Mozambique, Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe and IWMC-World Conservation Trust supported the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.5 (Rev. CoP14).

Gabon, Kenya and the Born Free Foundation (speaking also on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, Center for Biological Diversity, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Environmental Investigation Agency, Humane Society International, OSCAP, ProWildlife, Robin des Bois and Species Survival Network) did not support the proposed amendments, raising concerns regarding: the greater impact of the proposed export quota in combination with current poaching rates on the species population increase; the lack of current population figures on which to base adaptive quotas; and the lack of a clear need to increase the existing quota which had not been reached in the past years.

Senegal proposed that further research on population impact be carried out and the findings presented at CoP19.

Noting the general support for the proposal, the Chair asked South Africa to clarify issues with interested Parties outside the meeting. Further discussion of document CoP18 Doc.48 was adjourned.

Species specific matters (cont.)

63. Eels (*Anguilla* spp.)

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 63, noting that Decisions 17.186 to 17.189 of CoP17 had been fully implemented with support from the European Union.

Canada, Egypt, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea supported the proposed draft decisions presented in Annex 4 of document CoP18 Doc. 63. Both Canada and New Zealand expressed concern with over-commitment of CITES resources on non-CITES-listed eel species.

The United States of America supported the proposed draft decisions in Annex 4, subject to the following amendments:

18.AA d): “develop measures or implement more effectively existing measures to improve the traceability of eels in trade (both live and dead),”

18.BB d): “improve traceability of *Anguilla* spp. in trade (both live and dead); and”

The European Union supported the deletion of Decisions 17.186 to 17.189, and the proposed draft decisions subject to the following amendments:

18.AA a): “submit any non-detriment finding studies on European eel they have undertaken to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website; explore the different approaches that might be taken for making non-detriment findings for European eels traded as fingerlings (FIG) compared with those traded as other live eels (LIV); collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding such studies and their outcome, especially where the Parties share catchments or water bodies; seek review and advice from the Animals Committee or other suitable body on any non-detriment findings for European eel where appropriate;”

18.CC b): “collate available information on the biology of *Anguilla anguilla* in collaboration with experts, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Anguillid Specialist Group, with a view to determining whether the ~~species~~ glass eel (fingerling) lifestage can be considered to have a “low probability of surviving to adulthood”, and report its findings to the Animals Committee;”

New Zealand supported the amendments proposed by the European Union and the United States, and welcomed the focus on traceability. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia asked the Secretariat to publish export quotas by 1 January of each year, and Algeria asked the Animals Committee to provide expert advice and support to inventory its national eel population. Egypt identified the need for greater clarity on the large-scale sustainability of stocks, and the Republic of Korea offered to update the next meeting of the Animals Committee on national and regional eel conservation efforts.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) reported that *in-situ* eel conservation and conservation of habitats would be further addressed at its forthcoming COP13. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), speaking also on behalf of the Zoological Society of London and TRAFFIC, supported the amendments in Annex 3 resulting from the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee, while warning of the need to address the impact on other eel species of the 2009 listing in Appendix II of the European Eel. The Global Guardian Trust, speaking also on behalf of the Japanese Eel Farmers Society and the IWMC World Conservation Trust, reported on regional collaboration between *Anguilla japonica* range States.

The Committee agreed to support the deletion of Decisions 17.186 to 17.189. The draft decisions proposed in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 63 without the square brackets, subject to the amendments proposed by the European Union and the United States of America, were accepted.

64. Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae)

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 64. He confirmed that the full study called for in Decision 17.192 had been delayed, although a summary report was now available in information document CoP18 Inf. 68. The Secretariat expressed gratitude to the United States for funding and to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for coordination of the study.

The Global Guardian Trust (GGT), speaking also on behalf of IWMC-World Conservation Trust and OPES OCEANI, reported on progress made regarding management measures for precious corals.

The renewal of Decisions 17.192 and 17.193, with the amendment proposed by the Secretariat to Decision 17.193, was accepted by the Committee.

67. Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*)

Canada introduced document CoP18 Doc. 67. on behalf of the Standing Committee, and drew attention to the significant amount of work that had been undertaken to improve effectiveness of the Appendix-II listing of the species, and implementation of the previous Decisions.

China, Indonesia and Japan supported the draft decision proposed in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 67. Japan highlighted the need to further address the issue of illegal trade in commercially exploited aquatic species, and welcomed further discussion of this under agenda item 12.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) expressed concern regarding Indonesia's use of source code 'R' when referring to 'grow-out' fish, but supported further work on this pathway. The IWMC-World Conservation Trust supported the comments by Japan concerning difficulties in implementing and enforcing CITES listings of marine fish species.

The draft decision, as proposed by the Standing Committee in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 67, was accepted.

68. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

68.1 Report of the Animals Committee

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 68.1, which reported on implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation and management of sharks* undertaken by the Animals Committee, drawing attention to the progress achieved on the matter since CoP17. These included establishment of a sharks and rays working group at both the 29th and 30th meetings of the Animals Committee, the dedicated marine species officer position in the CITES Secretariat, and the creation of the sharks and rays portal on the CITES website. He thanked all those who had contributed to improvements in implementation of the Elasmobranchii species listings in the CITES Appendices through *inter alia* the production of identification materials, the development of Non-detriment Findings (NDFs) and the organization of workshops for Parties.

The European Union expressed support for the work carried out by the CITES Secretariat pertaining to the activities set out in document CoP18 Doc. 68.1, and encouraged also other Parties to fund this work.

68.2 Report of the Secretariat

The CITES Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 68.2, which provided an overview of work undertaken to implement Decisions 17.209 to 17.216 and included a number of draft decisions and proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, the latter reflecting topics raised in recent Animals and Standing Committee meetings as likely to be long-term priorities to enhance the implementation of CITES listings of Elasmobranchii species.

Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Mexico, Samoa, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates all expressed support for the proposed draft decisions and amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) in the document, several suggesting amendments.

Peru, speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Uruguay, stated that a key aspect to strengthen the management and implementation of shark listings would be to evaluate shark fin stockpiles acquired prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II. It asked the Secretariat to publish the existing guidelines, and create new guidelines on the management and monitoring of shark products in transit. Peru, supported by Gabon, proposed specific amendments to draft decision 18.AA. Japan did not support these proposed amendments believing they would create major implementation problems for importers.

The United States of America supported the activities proposed in the draft decisions in Annex 1 but considered that several activities directed to the Secretariat would be more appropriately directed to the Animals and Standing Committees. It proposed edits to several of the draft decisions. Canada supported the draft decisions of Annex 1 and the amended draft resolution in Annex 2 in principle, but also proposed some editorial changes.

The World Conservation Society (WCS), speaking also on behalf of Florida International University, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Paul G Allen Family Foundation/Vulcan Inc., Shark Conservation Fund, The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Blue Resources Trust and The Shark Trust, voiced their support for the marine species officer position in the Secretariat.

The Chair established a working group comprising: New Zealand (Chair), Angola, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, the European Union, Gabon, Fiji, Finland, France, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet Nam; and Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); and Bloom Association, the Blue Resources Trust, China Aquatic Products Processing and Market Alliance, China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Gulf Elasmobranch Project, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Natural Resources Defense Council, OCEANA Inc., OPES OCEANI, Save our Seas Foundation, Sea Save Foundation, Sea Shepherd Legal, the Shark Trust, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society and Zoological Society of London.

The working group on sharks and rays shall:

- a) review the proposed draft decisions in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 68.2, taking account of amendments proposed in-session; and
- b) discuss proposed changes to the amendment of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 68.2.

82. Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*)

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document CoP18 Doc. 82 and congratulated Indonesia on the comprehensive action plan and valuable progress made relating to conservation and management of this species, also noting that the species was not listed in the CITES Appendices.

Indonesia summarised the multiple measures it had taken to ensure conservation and sustainable trade of the species, including habitat protection, awareness raising and community involvement. Indonesia supported the recommendation by the Secretariat in decision 18.BB of document CoP18 Doc. 82, but suggested revisions to decision 18.AA and 18. CC.

The session was adjourned at 12h00.