

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 20-24 April 2009

SUSTAINABLE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF SEA CUCUMBER FISHERIES (AGENDA ITEM 16)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair: Nancy Daves (United States of America)

Parties: Canada, China, Japan, Saudi Arabia and the United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: European Community, Earthtrust, Swan International and TRAFFIC.

Mandate

Regarding agenda item 9: *Sustainable use and management of sea cucumber fisheries:*

- a) Evaluate the outcomes of the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries; and
- b) Recommend appropriate follow-up actions at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Evaluation of the FAO report

The working group found that the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 516 Sea cucumbers: A global review of fisheries and trade, which was the proceedings of a technical workshop, does not contain overall recommendations, making it difficult to develop an overall response. However, the technical paper uses case studies to effectively highlight various management measures that are in place and this information can be used to develop best practices for management of sea cucumbers. The workshop provided a useful forum for experience-sharing that should be continued. Although many case studies did not evaluate the use of CITES as a complementary tool for management of sea cucumbers, the case study of the Galapagos contains a thorough "Evaluation of the pros and cons of a CITES listing."

Recommendations

1. The Secretariat should prepare a report containing the executive summary of the FAO Technical Paper and the "Evaluation of the pros and cons of a CITES listing" contained in the Galapagos case study and these should serve as the working group's evaluation of the FAO report for submission to CoP15;
2. The CITES Secretariat should request from FAO their technical guidelines on Sustainable management of sea cucumber fisheries and inform the Parties of the website link for the document, along with the website link for the workshop report, in a Notification to the Parties.