

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Committee I

Regional cooperation on the management of and trade
in the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This document has been prepared by Colombia as chair of the working group on this matter established in the third session of Committee I. It is based on matters arising from the discussion on document CoP16 Doc. 65 (Rev. 1) at the third session of Committee I.

Directed to the range States of *Strombus gigas*

- 16.AA Range States of *Strombus gigas* are encouraged to adopt and, where applicable, move towards implementation of the recommendations made by the Queen Conch Expert Workshop (Miami, USA, 22-24 May 2012), as reviewed, amended and validated by the Working Group on Queen Conch of the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (CFMC), the Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), and expressed in the Declaration of Panama City (25 October 2012).
- 16.BB Range States are encouraged to participate in the development of national, sub-regional and regional plans for the management and conservation of *S. gigas* and to share information and collaborate on:
- best practices and guidance for the making of Non-Detriment Findings for trade in *S. gigas* in compliance with Article IV of the Convention;
 - relevant national, sub-regional and regional legislation; and
 - enforcement issues, including illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU).
- 16.CC Range States of *S. gigas* should:
- in coordination with the Working Group on Queen Conch, develop conversion factors at different levels of processing of *S. gigas* for standardization of data and reporting instruments on the catch and trade in meat and other products;
 - adopt these conversion factors by the end of 2015 and report them to all range States of *S. gigas*, FAO and the CITES Secretariat; and
 - by the end of 2016 apply the agreed conversion factors in their *S. gigas* fishery management and national, regional and international reporting, and include the degree of processing of *S. gigas* products in the description field of the export permit.
- 16.DD Range States of *S. gigas* should collaborate in exploring ways to enhance the traceability of specimens in international trade, including, but not limited to, catch certificates, labelling systems and the application of genetic techniques.

16.EE Range States of *S. gigas* should collaborate in developing and implementing joint research programmes at sub-regional level to support the making of Non-Detriment Findings and public education programmes.

16.FF Range States of *S. gigas* should provide information to the Secretariat to allow it to report to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with Decision 16.FF.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.GG The Secretariat shall:

- a) invite FAO and other relevant international and regional bodies to provide assistance to range States of *S. gigas* in order to enhance the capacity of their Scientific Authorities to make Non-Detriment Findings through the provision of training, technical support, the establishment and promotion of best practices and standards, and research support;
- b) make existing examples of best practices, guidance and other relevant information for the making of Non Detriment Findings for trade in *S. gigas* available on the CITES website, and notify Parties accordingly;
- c) communicate conversion factors and guidance for reporting on trade in *S. gigas* to the Parties, encouraging them to specify these conversion factors in their annual reports;
- d) collaborate with FAO to assist range States and Parties as necessary in applying conversions factors, and in improving harmonization of reporting to CITES and FAO.

16.HH On the basis of information provided in accordance with Decision 16.EE ,and in consultation with the range States of *S. gigas*, the Working group on Queen Conch and FAO, the Secretariat shall report on the progress of implementation of these Decisions at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.