

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 II

Tortoises and freshwater turtles

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Standing Committee working group on tortoises and freshwater turtles, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat, on the basis of documents CoP16 Doc. 58.1 (Rev. 1) and CoP16 Doc. 58.2 (Rev. 1), after discussion in the 11th session of Committee II.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.A Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall contract independent consultants to undertake a study, taking into account the findings of the Cancún workshop on non-detriment findings and other pertinent sources of information, to identify and discuss factors that are of particular relevance to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles. These factors should include, but not be limited to, tortoises and turtle population status and dynamics, trade dynamics, production systems, and the trade in parts and derivatives. This study should provide guidance to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles.
- 16.B The Secretariat shall make the results of the study referred to in Decision 16.A available to the Animals Committee for consideration, if possible, at its 27th meeting.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 16.C The Animals Committee shall review the study undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.A and make recommendations, as appropriate and if possible, at its 27th meeting for consideration by the Standing Committee and the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.D The Standing Committee shall review the study undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.A and the Animals Committee recommendations, and make its own recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties or for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Parties

- 16.E The Parties, particularly those of the Asian region, should collect data on seizures of CITES-listed live tortoises and freshwater turtles, and report these data annually to the Secretariat, along with the disposition of the specimens. The Parties should provide the data in conjunction with their annual report submission. These data should be reported for confiscations through the end of 2019.

The Parties should report, if possible, on the following parameters: species, numbers of specimens, destination (for exports) or source/re-exporting country (for imports), and disposition of the animals as per Resolution Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Disposal of confiscated live specimens of species included in the Appendices*.

16.F The Parties are encouraged to collect and report data voluntarily, in the same manner as indicated in Decision 16.E, on confiscations of international shipments of non-CITES freshwater turtle species, so that such data may shed light on illegal trade methods and provide useful information to enforcement and management authorities.

16.G Parties are encouraged to collect and report voluntarily comparable data on confiscations of specimens of CITES and non-CITES species of tortoises and freshwater turtles traded domestically. Parties are encouraged to provide the data annually in response to the invitation by the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.H The Secretariat shall invite the Parties to provide the information specified in Decisions 16.F and 16.G, consider the information submitted under Decision 16.E, and report on its evaluation of the data received to the Standing Committee for its next regular meeting, and make recommendations for the implementation and enforcement of the Convention.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.I The Standing Committee shall consider the reports submitted by the Secretariat and its recommendations, and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Directed to the Parties

16.J Considering the large-scale illegal and undocumented trade in parts and derivatives from CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles, the Parties, ~~particularly those of the Asian region,~~ should:

- a) take note of this problem and take steps to address it within their national systems to ensure that CITES permits are properly issued and the Convention is fully implemented and enforced;
- b) examine their enforcement efforts regarding the trade of these parts, and derivatives, and take adequate steps to deter and detect illegal and undocumented trade;
- c) conduct education and outreach efforts directed towards turtle farms, buyers and sellers of turtle shell, bones, cartilage (calipee), and other parts, medicinal product manufacturers, shippers, brokers, and other key stakeholders to better ensure that turtle parts and derivatives are traded in compliance with national laws and CITES requirements; and
- d) report their progress in these areas, via the Secretariat, at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.K The Secretariat shall:

- a) forward the reports provided in compliance with Decision 16.J to the Standing Committee, making any recommendations it deems appropriate;
- b) seek funding to establish and convene a CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force, which should undertake an exchange of intelligence and develop strategies to combat illegal trade. The members of the Task Force could include ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, and those Parties in Asia that are most affected by the illegal trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles and their parts and derivatives; and
- c) report on the work of the Task Force at the 65th or 66th meeting of the Standing Committee and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.L The Standing Committee shall consider at its 65th or 66th meeting all the information and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 16.K and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Directed to the Parties

16.M Parties, particularly those in the Asia region, are encouraged to:

- a) increase enforcement activities to deter, detect and address illegal and undocumented trade in CITES-listed live tortoises and freshwater turtles, and their parts and derivatives, *inter alia* by providing relevant training to national enforcement authorities, strengthening the enforcement and implementation of the Convention for these species, disseminating identification materials and increasing awareness amongst the judiciary; and
- b) provide relevant information on their progress in these areas to the Secretariat for reporting at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.N The Secretariat shall:

- a) recognizing the ongoing prevalence of an illegal trade in live tortoises and freshwater turtles for the medicinal, food, and pet trades which is threatening the survival of some species in the wild and impacting the integrity of the Convention, seek external funding and, subject to its availability, hire a consultant to analyse reported data, identify species prevalent in illegal trade, and document illegal trade incidents, trade routes (including the Internet-based trade), methods of concealment, and other aspects relevant to enforcing CITES provisions concerning trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles;
- b) subject to external funding, contract a consultant to identify and evaluate tortoises and freshwater turtle identification and capacity-building materials, and assist with developing additional materials as deemed necessary, including the preparation and distribution of multilingual [Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Malaysia (Melayu), Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, English, Hindi, Khmer, Lao, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese, and other languages as appropriate] identification materials focused on the shells and shell pieces of Asian tortoises and freshwater and terrestrial turtles; and
- c) report on progress on Decision 16.M, paragraph b), and paragraphs a) and b) above, including its recommendations, at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.O The Standing Committee shall consider at its 65th and 66th meetings all information submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 16.N and make any recommendations it deems appropriate.

Directed to the Animals Committee

16.P The Animals Committee shall, as a matter of priority, include *Cuora galbinifrons* and *Mauremys annamensis* in its Periodic Review of the Appendices.