

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

Summary record of the eighth session of Committee II

8 March 2013: 9h20-11h50

Chair: R. Gabel (United States of America)
Secretariat: J. Barzdo
M. Silva
M. Yeater
Rapporteurs: P. Cremona
S. Delany
S. Glaser
A. Mathur

Adoption of summary records

The Committee reviewed the summary record in documents CoP16 Com. II Rec. 1 and CoP16 Com. II Rec. 2. In the first of these, the Secretariat asked that the first paragraph relating to agenda item 8.2, be amended to read, "Document CoP16 Doc. 8.2 was presented by the Secretariat and included a cost analysis of the translation of documents, an update of which would be available at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee."

Regarding document CoP16 Com. II Rec. 2, under agenda item 25, seventh paragraph, Australia indicated a missing comma between "did not" and "the latter". Under the same agenda item, the paragraph beginning "The Chair noting" should read The Chair noted. Mexico asked for a change to the Spanish version, by replacing "son desechos" with son productos desechos in the proposed revised text for Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev.). With these amendments, the summary records were adopted.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking

38. Purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates

Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee working group on purpose-of-transaction codes, introduced document CoP16 Doc. 38 (Rev 1) and its annex, containing proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) on *Permits and certificates*.

Guyana welcomed the proposed revisions, as well as the addition to the explanation of code 'T', as proposed by the Secretariat in the document. Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, also expressed its support, but proposed an amendment to the last sentence of the annex by replacing "or exporting Party to meet obligations" with Party to meet other Parties' obligations.

Australia expressed the view that there was no requirement for purpose codes on export permits and import permits to match where import permits were issued as a stricter domestic measure. It felt that a reduced set of purpose codes, as proposed in the document, was acceptable although not ideal and cautioned that there was ambiguity with regard to commercial and non-commercial exhibitions; it believed that there was some ambiguity regarding codes 'Q' and 'N', and that further discussion was needed, and that code 'Z' should be retained. Indonesia agreed and was also concerned about the proposed removal of

code 'D'. China considered that the use of purpose code 'Q' not to be generally for commercial transactions and opposed inclusion of this code in the list of primarily commercial purposes. It also felt that code 'Z' should not be removed and believed this code should be moved to the list of non-commercial codes. The Philippines supported the proposed revision, if code 'B' were retained. South Africa noted that it frequently used code 'N', which was proposed to be removed. It had concerns over the implementation of the suggested changes and asked for further discussions. The United States of America hoped that the remaining issues could be resolved at this meeting but felt that, otherwise, the Standing Committee's working group would need to continue its discussions. Botswana, China and South Africa agreed.

Mexico noted that code 'H' was also being used for transactions that should be reported under code 'T'.

Brazil, Peru and Serbia did not support the proposed revision and considered further reviews to be required. Serbia voiced concerns over the simplifications proposed; it did not agree that permit codes on import and export permits could differ. Brazil asked for the current codes to be retained and was concerned over implementation issues should the changes proposed be adopted. Lewis & Clark College concurred.

The Committee agreed that the matter should be referred back to the Standing Committee working group on purpose-of-transaction codes for intersessional consideration, and therefore to amend Decision 14.54 (Rev. CoP15), paragraph d), to change the reference to the "62nd meeting of the Standing Committee" to the 66th and to change the reference to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 17th.

39. Transport of live specimens

Austria, as one of the Co-Chairs of the joint Animals Committee and Plant Committee working group on transport of live specimens, introduced document CoP16 Doc. 39 (Rev. 1) and its annexes, containing proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP15) on *Transport of live specimens*, and draft *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants*.

The United States supported the recommendations in the document and thanked the International Air Transport Association for its input. Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, also supported the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) and, to ensure consistency, proposed the following amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) on *Permits and certificates*:

- In Annex 1, paragraph n), replace "animals": with specimens, delete "or, if it covers plants" and add at the end and the CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants;
- In Annex 2 in Block 5 of the "Standard CITES form", it should read:

If for live animals, this permit or certificate is valid only if the transport conditions comply with the IATA Live Animals Regulations; if for live plants, with the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations; or, in the case of non-air transport, the CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants;
- In Annex 3 in Block 5 of the "Model travelling expedition certificate" add the following to the end of the last sentence: , or, in the case of non-air transport, the CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants.

South Africa supported the recommendations in the document and these proposed amendments. The Secretariat noted that further consequential amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) would be necessary to ensure consistency, for example in the "Instructions and explanations" on the back side of the permit forms and sought the approval of the Conference of the Parties to make these amendments. After a request for clarification from Chile, amendments proposed by Ireland were agreed, the proposed amendments in the document were all accepted, and the offer of the Secretariat was accepted. It was agreed to repeal Decisions 15.59 and 15.60.

41. Use of taxonomic serial numbers

Canada, as the Chair of the Standing Committee working group on the use of taxonomic serial numbers, introduced document CoP16 Doc. 41 (Rev. 1). It supported the recommendations made by the Secretariat in the document.

The United States, while expressing support in principle, believed that, until the CITES database contained all the Taxonomic serial numbers, these should not be included in permits. It also proposed the following addition at the end of the last sentence of the draft decision directed to the Secretariat in paragraph C. under “Comments from the Secretariat”: and make this information available to the Parties by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

This was agreed and the two draft decisions in paragraph C. under “Comments from the Secretariat” were accepted.

44. Identification Manual

44.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document CoP16 Doc. 44.1, providing an overview of the current status of the Wiki Identification Manual. Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, and supported by Mexico, agreed with the draft revision to Resolution Conf. 11.19 in the Annex to the document. The draft revision was accepted.

45. E-commerce of specimens of CITES-listed species

The Secretariat introduced document CoP16 Doc. 45, noting the growing trend in e-commerce of CITES-listed species. It advised that the actions contained in Decision 15.58 had been implemented, and urged Parties to continue addressing the recommendations outlined in Decision 15.57, stating that it would provide advice to Parties on how best to provide it with the requested information in due course. In response to a query from Ireland on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, the Secretariat confirmed that communications with Interpol regarding development of a secure web resource were ongoing, and that it hoped that a secure connection could be established by the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, supported by the United States, agreed that Decision 15.58 had been fulfilled, and that Parties should continue to address the recommendations in Decision 15.57.

The United States proposed the adoption a draft decision, the text of which had been agreed by the Standing Committee as follows:

The Standing Committee shall, in collaboration with the Secretariat, liaise with the World Customs Organization with regard to the inclusion of CITES-listed species in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

This was accepted and it was agreed to delete Decision 15.58.

Exemptions and special trade provisions

46. Personal and household effects

China, as Chair of the Standing Committee working group on personal and household effects, introduced document CoP16 Doc. 46 (Rev. 1) and its Annex, containing proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP14) on *Control of trade in personal and household effects*.

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, supported the proposed amendments in principle. It regretted that many Parties had not responded to requests for information on their treatment of personal and household effects. It favoured stricter measures, such as those adopted by the European Union, until such information were available. Additionally, in order to ensure that rhinoceros horns would not be included in any exemption, it proposed adding a new subparagraph under subparagraph b) under “AGREES that Parties shall” to read: for the export of all hunting trophies. This was supported by Israel, Kenya and Mexico. After some discussion, South Africa, supported by Botswana, Canada and Namibia, proposed instead that such a paragraph should read rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory.

The Russian Federation drew attention to its national law on import and export of personal and household effects and requested the Secretariat to distribute the information to all Parties.

Mexico noted that, if amendments referring to hunting trophies were accepted then paragraphs 11, 12 and 16 in Annex 1 of the document would have to be amended accordingly. The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation observed that the first sentence of paragraph 16 in Annex 1 should include a reference to hunting trophies of Appendix-I specimens as well as Appendices II and III; "They" in the second sentence of the paragraph should be replaced by Only Appendix II and III.

Noting general support for the document, and in response to a suggestion from the United States, the Chair established a drafting group comprising Canada, Ireland on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, South Africa and the United States to prepare on a revised text for consideration at a future session.

48. Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens

The Secretariat introduced document CoP16 Doc. 48 (Rev. 1), which reported on the outcomes of the Standing Committee working group on implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens. It noted growing concerns regarding the questionable origins of many specimens in trade that were reportedly captive-bred or ranched. The Annex to the document contained draft decisions and the Secretariat proposed the deletion of the word "respectively" in paragraph b) of the first draft decision directed to the Secretariat.

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, Switzerland and the United States supported the recommendations in the document. It stated that the European Union had committed funding for immediate release in order that activities outlined in the document could be completed. Switzerland and the United States advised that the activities outlined in paragraph a) vii) of the first draft decision should incorporate and not duplicate related work associated with agenda item 57 on *Snake trade and conservation management*.

Indonesia suggested the inclusion of an additional paragraph in the first draft decision, under Paragraph a) vii), as follows:

develop a socio-economic feasibility study according to scientific peer review involving scientists from respective range States;

Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of the European Union and Croatia, supported by the United States, opposed this, believing that consideration of socio-economic issues would complicate the primary objectives of the draft decision. Indonesia agreed to withdraw its proposed addition.

The IWMC World Conservation Trust drew attention to a correction needed in the French version of subparagraph a) iii) of the first draft decision, to refer to the examples cited in subparagraph a) i).

The draft decisions in the Annex to the document, with the amendment suggested by the Secretariat were accepted. The Committee agreed to retain Decisions 15.52 and 15.53.

The meeting was adjourned at 11h50.