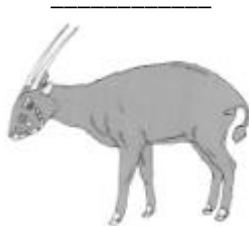


CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Seventeenth meeting of the Animals Committee
Hanoi (Viet Nam), 30 July-3 August 2001

Regional Reports

EUROPE

This report (for the period December 2000 – May 2001) has been prepared by the Dr Marinus S. Hoogmoed and Dr Katalin Rodics in their capacity as Regional Representatives for Europe.

General Information

1. Members: Dr Hoogmoed (the Netherlands) and Dr Rodics (Hungary). Because of logistics, Dr Hoogmoed keeps regular contacts with the CITES Scientific Authorities (SAs) of the members of the European Union (EU) through meetings of the EU Scientific Review Group, which met on 26 March 2001. Dr Rodics keeps contacts with the non-EU Parties in Europe.
2. The last Animals Committee meeting (AC16) was held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, United States of America, 11-15 December 2000. Both regional members and both alternate members attended the meeting.
3. Dr Hoogmoed was Chairman of the Animals Committee (AC) and devoted most of his working time to the running of the AC, which mainly involved:
 - a) contacts with the Secretariat about letters going out to the Parties concerning species under phase IV of the Significant Trade Review Process;
 - b) preparing for the 17th meeting of Animals Committee (AC17);
 - c) preparation and checking of the Proceedings of AC16;
 - d) preparation of the workshops on trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises (Decisions 11.93 and 11.150) and Syngnathids (Decisions 11.97 and 11.153);
 - e) maintaining contact with members of the AC;
 - f) maintaining contact with chairmen of AC working groups;
 - g) participating in discussions on many issues related to AC business;

- h) maintaining liaison with the Standing Committee;
- i) maintaining liaison with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and
- j) correspondence on diverse matters with Governments and NGOs.

For a more detailed report on the work of the Chairman up till 15 April 2001, see the report of the Chairman to the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC45 Doc. 16), which has also been distributed as an AC17 document.

4. Alternate members: Dr Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom) for Dr Hoogmoed and Dr Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) for Dr Rodics.
5. Number of Parties in Europe: 35 (with Moldova entering as a new Party in July 2001).
6. Number of Parties responding to communications: 19 (Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Georgia, Germany, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland).
7. Names of other institutions, NGOs contacted: none.
8. On 1 April 2001, Tom De Meulenaer, formerly of the CITES Scientific Authority of Belgium, took up the post of Senior Scientific Officer (Fauna) at the CITES Secretariat.

Follow-up on agenda items since the last AC

9. Regarding the review of the Criteria (Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev.)), the chairmen of the AC and the Plants Committee (PC) selected 6 members from among the representatives and alternates of each Committee, one per region, for the Criteria Working Group. As a result of the discussions and written comments received during the Joint Meeting of AC and PC in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, United States of America (7-9 December 2000), which was completely devoted to this subject, the chairmen of the Criteria Working Group, the AC and PC met with the Secretariat in Geneva on 19-21 April in order to prepare a revised text for Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev.) (with the exception of Annex 5, which was dealt with during a meeting in Spain, 21-23 May 2001).
10. During AC16, Germany generously offered to host a (European) regional meeting of the AC. This offer was followed up and on 24 January 2001 Drs Hoogmoed and Rodics, with Dr G. Van Vliet of the Cites Secretariat, had preparatory talks with the German Authorities. It was decided to hold the meeting in Bonn, Germany, 14-16 November 2001. Prior to the meeting, the CITES Secretariat will organize a training seminar, 12-13 November 2001.
11. Dr Rodics was a member of the Transport Working Group (chaired by Dr Irina Sprotte from Germany). Dr Althaus has been an active member of the Transport Working Group since 1989.
12. Dr V. Fleming, alternate member for Europe, is Chairman of the Coral Working Group, which was established during AC16 and responsible for looking at different aspects of the coral trade (e.g. identification problems) and trying to assemble material on artificial propagation / mariculture of corals. The Scientific Authority of the United Kingdom (Fauna) has commissioned work to look at the distinction between fossilized and non-fossilized coral rock in trade as a contribution to the work of this group. Dr Fleming also attended the *International Workshop on the trade in stony corals* in Jakarta, 9-12 April 2001, a meeting organized by the authorities of the United States of America and Indonesia. This very

positive meeting, with representatives of most exporting countries and some major importing countries, looked at developing management plans for sustainable harvests, and guidance for best collection practices and monitoring strategies. A presentation was made by Dr Fleming on the changes to the trade in corals arising from CoP11.

13. Duties of members of AC and their alternates (in accordance with each subject outlined in paragraphs a)-k) of Decision 11.90).

a) Where necessary and feasible the alternates were contacted.

b) Communication with Parties in the region.

i) Dr Hoogmoed met representatives of SAs of member States of the EU on 26 March 2001. An update about AC matters was given.

ii) Dr Rodics sent a letter on 13 February 2001 to all SAs and Management Authorities (MAs) of Europe, informing them about the upcoming European Regional Meeting (the first of its kind) in Bonn, Germany and asking them about issues they would like to discuss at the meeting. Eighteen responses were received: ten from eastern Europe, 3 from other non-EU member countries, 5 from EU member countries. On 2 May 2001, a letter was sent to all European SAs and MAs to inform them about AC17 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 30 July–3 August 2001 and requesting them to send comments for the agenda and documents (if need be).

iii) Dr Rodics had regular contacts with eastern European countries. She gave lectures about AC work:

- in a workshop on CITES issues in Estonia, Tallin, 5-7 March 2001, where MAs and SAs of Belarus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine were present;
- in an introductory CITES seminar in Donovaly, Slovakia, 18-20 April 2001 where one representative each from the MA, customs and police of Belarus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine were present.

Both meetings were sponsored by the Danish Government and organized by DANCEE (Danish Co-operation for Environment in Eastern Europe). On behalf of the Eastern European countries involved we want to express our gratitude to Denmark for this support.

c) It has been decided that Dr Rodics will represent the non-EU countries of Europe and Dr Hoogmoed the EU countries. The persons mentioned as contacts for the SAs in the list provided by the Secretariat are considered contact persons. Communications are also sent to MAs of the countries concerned. The following European countries are non-Parties to CITES: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Holy See, Ireland, Lithuania, Macedonia, San Marino, and Yugoslavia.

d) Where appropriate, the role and importance of AC has been emphasized.

e) See under b).

f) Has been done.

g) This seems to be a redundant point, as the Parties will be informed anyhow by the Secretariat when the Proceedings of the meetings are distributed. The proceedings of

AC16 are ready in English, but still need to be translated into French and Spanish. Only once those versions are ready can the Proceedings be distributed. Thus, in this respect, no action has been undertaken.

- h) Has not been applicable.
- i) This is another point that is easier said than done. The language used in Decision 11.90 says that a regional meeting should be organized, but the reality is that this is not very likely to happen, as in the past such meetings were never held in any of the regions, although some sub-regional meetings seem to have taken place. Thanks to a generous offer of Germany, the First European Regional Meeting of AC will take place in November 2001 in Bonn, Germany and will be completely funded by Germany. We wish to express our gratitude to Germany for this gesture.
- j) There were two sub-regional meetings in eastern Europe (Estonia, Slovakia) as indicated in point b).
- k) Not yet applicable.

Capacity building activities.

- 14. Dr Rodics participated in CITES workshops in Estonia and Slovakia.
- 15. Dr Rodics participated in a *Eurogroup Against Birdcrime* meeting in Slovenia, Celje, 7-8 April 2001.
- 16. Dr Rodics gave a lecture about the illegal trade of birds of prey in eastern Europe in an International Meeting for Protection of Birds of Prey. It was held in Hungary, Szeged, 30-31 April 2001.

Difficulties of implementation encountered in the region

- 17. Corals remain a problem with regard to identification. Another problem that relates to a number of eastern European countries is the trade in caviar and the labelling of tins of caviar. These problems are being addressed at the moment by the AC through the Significant Trade Review Process and through a working group on caviar labelling.
- 18. In eastern Europe there are many implementation problems. The basic one is that there are not enough staff for the satisfactory implementation (in most countries there are only two persons to deal with CITES matters). The other problem is that in eastern Europe nature is usually richer in natural resources than in western Europe. This means that much effort is required to save it from over-exploitation, which in the case of CITES means illegal activities. The eastern European countries have to spend a lot of money and energy to protect their species from illegal catching and smuggling. Most eastern European countries do not have enough staff to guard the habitats of the species that are in demand.
- 19. SA members in most eastern European countries are not specifically paid for CITES work and have to do this work in addition to their normal job.

Other topics related to CITES and animal species

- 20. Triggered by the experience of discussions during AC16 concerning the definitions to be made under Resolution Conf. 11. 14 and the problems encountered there, it was decided that a small delegation of the CITES Secretariat, including the Chairman of AC, would participate in the First Meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organisation's

Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, in order to establish how aspects of CITES relate to this subject (and to the Convention on Biological Diversity). The meeting took place in Geneva, Switzerland, 30 April–3 May 2001. The meeting spent 1.5 days (!) trying to find consensus about a Chairman. A document of the Secretariat of WIPO was discussed and agreement was reached on some possible tasks. It was clear that not much attention had been given to organisms protected by CITES, but it was brought to the attention of the meeting that CITES certainly played a role in this field.

21. Several EU countries ([France](#), [Netherlands](#), [United Kingdom](#)), [with dependent territories in the Caribbean](#), participated in the First CITES wider Caribbean hawksbill turtle dialogue meeting in Mexico City, Mexico, 15-17 May 2001, because of their ties with several island states/territories in the Caribbean. This meeting can be considered a follow-up of the discussions that took place during CoP11 and as motivated by the Cuban proposals to downlist the hawksbill turtle.

Work to be done until the next Animals Committee

22. Depends on decisions taken at AC17. At least the work on the review of the Appendices, coral (including artificial propagation/mariculture), the Significant Trade Review Process, freshwater turtles and tortoises, Syngnathids, and transport will continue.

Report written by M. S. Hoogmoed and K. Rodics
Leiden, 8 May, 2001