

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This paper is submitted by Vincent Fleming (UK) and Mathias Loertscher (Switzerland)*.

General information

2. Animal Committee members: Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain) and Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom). Alternate members: Mathias Loertscher (Switzerland) and Radu Suci (Romania).
3. With Carlos Ibero Solana (CIS) acting as Chair-elect to the Animals Committee, Mathias Loertscher (ML) has agreed to undertake the duties of the regional representative as provided for in paragraph e) under the 1st DETERMINES in Annex 2 of Res. Conf. 11.1 (Rev. Cop15).
4. The representatives divide their duties as follows: Vincent Fleming (VF) represents those Parties (27) in the European Union (EU); Mathias Loertscher represents the remainder of Parties in the region not in the EU.
5. Number of Parties in region: 47; number of non-Parties: 3.

Communication with Parties since CoP15 (Qatar, March 2010)

6. All EU Scientific Authorities in the region were contacted on 25 March 2011 and subsequently in 26th April to request that they provide relevant information to the regional report. All non-EU Parties were contacted on 4 April 2011 with the same request. Despite these emails, responses were received from only the following Parties (Belgium, Germany, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom) and the European Commission on behalf of the EU collectively.
7. Carlos Ibero Solana and Vincent Fleming regularly attend all meetings of the EU Scientific Review Group (see below) enabling them to be kept in constant contact with all the other Scientific Authorities of the 27 EU Member States. Before the meeting of the Animals Committee all European Parties will be contacted by VF or ML to see if there are any issues which they want the regional representatives to raise at the meeting, especially by those Parties which cannot be represented themselves.
8. **Spain** is constantly supporting the activity of Mr. Carlos Ibero Solana as European Regional Representative in the Animals Committee (AC) and as Interim Chair of this committee since the 15th Conference of the Parties (March 2010). This position has implied duties such as permanent coordination with the CITES Secretariat on issues related to the AC, coordination with the AC members and alternates; attendance at meetings, such as the 'CITES Asian snake trade workshop', held in Guangzhou, China, on

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

11th-14th April 2011; preparation of the agenda for the 25th meeting of the AC and partial attendance at the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, 18-21 April 2011) to deal with common issues of both the Plants and Animals Committees, among others.

CITES activities in the region

9. Review of Significant Trade. In December 2010, the Animals Committee were asked by the Chair (December 2010) to make a decision by postal procedure on the possible inclusion, for a second time, of *Mantella aurantiaca* in the Review of Significant Trade. Regional representative (VF) commented in favour of including the species. Following comments from other Committee members, this proposal was adopted in March 2011.
10. Periodic Review of the Appendices. No action reported.
11. CITES projects. Germany. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation is currently running a project on the determination of age and origin of ivory from the African elephant *Loxodonta africana*. A globally unique database and a new, more precise method for the age identification of ivory should help to prevent international markets being infiltrated by poached or illegal ivory. The entire project is part of Germany's contribution to the implementation of the international action plan for the African elephant and the scientific results of the research project will be made available internationally. For more information see <http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/cites/project%20description%20english.pdf>.
12. Germany again prepared proposals for the 15th Conference of the Parties, submitted by Sweden on behalf of the member States of the European Community, to list porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) and spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) on Appendix II of CITES.
13. E-permitting: **Switzerland** and the **United Kingdom** have initiated their pilot project on e-permitting and since April 2010 exchange permit data on a regular basis. The format used is in accordance with the e-permitting toolkit adopted at CoP 15. Together with the CITES Secretariat, Switzerland and the United Kingdom further visited the WCO headquarters in order to initiate a process by which the formats used in the e-permitting toolkit will be part of the next WCO data model and therefore have even wider acceptance. Finally, Switzerland hosted a meeting of the e-permitting WG in Berne, where further steps in the development of the paperless trade were discussed. The **Czech Republic** plans to soon join the data exchange trial between UK and Switzerland. In addition, the use of the EPIX database as a global data housing system was discussed and will further be explored with the EU. Finally **Switzerland** and **France** plan to initiate a paperless permit trial in 2012/13.
14. **United Kingdom**. The UK Scientific Authority (Fauna) commissioned the following projects:
 - a) Use of Nonatec mini-microchips for marking juvenile tortoises & other reptiles and amphibians. Currently it is not considered to be acceptable, based on veterinary advice, to use standard microchips on juvenile tortoises, potentially enabling such specimens to be traded illegally. This project trialled the use of these nanochips; the results have been presented to the EU Scientific Review Group and will be made available as a published report in the near future.
 - b) '*Fish and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): a methodology to identify high risk commercially-exploited aquatic organisms in trade and an analysis of the potential application of MEAs*' – this project, aimed to develop a method to enable a strategic overview of the potential application of Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (especially CITES & CMS) to commercially exploited aquatic organisms. The result of the work, undertaken by TRAFFIC International, should be available by the time of the Animals Committee meeting.
15. Registration of operations breeding Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes. No action reported.
16. Others. Regional representative (VF) drafted a discussion paper for consideration by the Committee on the reporting requirements of regional reports. This paper should be available for consideration at the Animals Committee meeting in July.
17. Regional representatives (CIS & VF) responded to a consultation to the Animals Committee regarding a proposal by the United States to include hellbenders *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis* in Appendix III of CITES.

Promotion of CITES in the region

Capacity building activities, awareness campaigns

18. **Belgium.** In April 2011, the Management Authority gave a general presentation about CITES, including a focus on tourist souvenirs, to around 45 school children.
19. In April 2011, the Belgian Management Authority gave a presentation about CITES, with a focus on permit requirements and other obligations relating to CITES, to a bird-hobbyist association.
20. **Germany.** As in the past members of the German Scientific Authority (Fauna) have taken part in CITES seminars organized for Customs officers in Germany and we have updated brochures and information systems on CITES provided by our agency to the public.
21. **Slovakia** organised training for Prosecutors, Judges, Customs, Police and Environmental Inspectors in September 2010. The main theme of the training was EU legislation. The training was prepared in cooperation with experts from the Germany and the United Kingdom within the EC project
22. **Spain** is offering the Master's Degree Course on "Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework". The programme is organized by the International University of Andalusia with the collaboration of the Spanish CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, the Carolina Foundation of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the CITES Secretariat.
23. The General Objective of the programme is to provide specialised high quality training in the scientific bases, techniques and instruments that make it possible to implement and develop the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It is appropriate for people who are involved or wish to become involved the implementation of CITES or the development of the scientific and technical work required for its operation at the executive level.
24. The Master's Degree Course has already been given ten times by the International University of Andalusia. Quality specialised training has been given to **258** individuals from 72 countries (Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Surinam, Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania, Thailand, Ukraine, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe).
25. On 7 June 2010 the CITES Secretary-General participated in the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Master course and presented the CITES Virtual College hosted in the Virtual Platform at the International University of Andalusia.
26. **Spain** has organized 6 courses on CITES (3 in 2010 and 3 in 2011) for the Nature Protection Service (Seprona) of the Civil Guard, the Spanish Environmental Police, which is also Enforcement Authority of CITES in Spain. These courses, of 35 hours of theory and practice each, covered global aspects of CITES, scientific and management duties, as well as the involvement of the Environmental Police in CITES issues. 136 members of the Seprona attended the courses.
27. **Switzerland** has introduced a toolkit for fauna controls at their borders. This kit contains various identification manuals, samples of the most commonly traded reptile leathers, and identification tools for shatoosh, ivory and different other CITES specimens.
28. **United Kingdom.** Training courses in CITES, with the participation of the UK SA (Fauna) and other UK CITES Authorities, were provided to UK Customs and Police forces. Regular support is provided to enforcement authorities including the provision of witness and impact statements. The UK SA (Fauna) also organises annually a meeting involving Police forces and other enforcement agencies, UK conservation agencies, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and NGOs to determine priorities for the enforcement of crimes against wildlife, including CITES species.

29. The UK SA (Fauna) also participated in CITES training courses for Anguilla (September 2010), an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. The UK SA (Fauna) also provided a lecturer (VF) to contribute to the CITES MSc course at the International University of Andalusia.
30. **The European Commission.** The European Commission adopted the 2009 and 2010 Annual Action Programme implementing the Thematic Strategy Paper for the Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy (ENRTP). Funding has been provided to the CITES Secretariat for two large and important CITES projects:
 - a) 500,000m EUR available for implementation of the CITES CoP 15 decisions
 - b) a total of 2,500,000m EUR for a CITES capacity building project (running until end 2012), focusing on capacity building to MAs, SAs and EAs in developing countries. This project will be implemented through regional workshops, including a focus on implementation of non-detriment findings (NDF). Based on the assessment of needs from countries, follow up implementation projects on, for example, NDFs and implementation/enforcement can be set up to support countries in CITES implementation. Additional funding for a second phase for in-country support is presently in preparation.

The scientific community in the region and CITES

The European Commission and the 27 Member States of the EU

31. EU Scientific Review Group. The Scientific Review Group of the European Union with the CITES Scientific Authorities of the 27 Member States, chaired by the European Commission, meets regularly (usually 4 times a year) in order to discuss scientific aspects of the CITES implementation, including the importation into the EU of several animal species. The Group also works inter-sessionally to provide advice on scientific issues.

Eel management in the EU and consequences of the listing in CITES Appendix II

32. The European Union adopted in 2007 internal legislation on eel conservation, namely Council Regulation (EC) No. 1100/2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel in order to improve the conservation status of the species.
33. In accordance with the obligations set out in this Regulation, Member States of the EU have developed eel management plans at national level and/or river basin level. These plans, which are to be approved by the European Commission, include management measures (e.g. reduction in fisheries, improving river continuity, reducing pollution) aiming to ensure that the escapement of adult eels towards their marine spawning grounds reaches at least 40% of a pristine baseline in the long term.
34. Since the entry into force of the listing of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) in CITES Appendix II in March 2009, the situation of the species has been closely monitored by the Scientific Review Group (SRG), which gathers all scientific authorities of the EU Member States. This information is essential for the SRG to assess whether export from and import into the EU of European eels and derived products can take place without having a harmful effect on the conservation status of the species. Such a common assessment is the basis of opinions delivered by national scientific authorities in the EU Member States on import and export applications, in line with Council Regulation 338/97. The SRG found that, given the fact that European eel consists of one single stock, it is essential that a consistent approach is defined for export from and import into the European Union.
35. The SRG has reviewed the situation of European eels extensively at its meetings on 14 September 2010 and 6 December 2010. At the latter meeting, it concluded unanimously that given currently available information about the conservation status of European eels it would not be possible, for the time being, for scientific authorities in the EU to deliver a "non detriment finding" for any export from, or import into, the EU of European eels.
36. As a consequence, the SRG concluded that all national scientific authorities in the EU should issue negative opinions concerning applications for exports from or import into the EU of European eels.
37. Detailed letters on the regime on eel trade have been sent to range states and to relevant trade partners.

Collaboration with other Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements

38. Mr. Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain), on behalf of the Animals Committee, attended the “*Ad hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*” held in Busan (Republic of Korea) on 7th – 12th June 2010. He also attended, on behalf of the Animals and Plants Committees, to the 4th meeting of the “*Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB)*”, held in Gland, Switzerland, on 13th February 2011.
39. Dr Vincent Fleming attended a Symposium on ‘*The relevance of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) to the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species in exporting countries*’, 17-20th May 2011 in Vienna, organised by **Austria** and the **European Commission**.

Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

40. **Belgium**. In January 2011, the MA distributed information on CITES to antique shops and auction houses. In April 2011, the MA also met with an umbrella organization for charity shops in order to jointly establish guidelines regarding CITES products that are donated to these shops.
41. **United Kingdom**. The UK SA (Fauna), together with other UK CITES Authorities, participates in a number of formal liaison meetings with representatives of traders and NGOs a number of times each year. The UK SA has also been participated in meetings of the ‘Sustainable Eel Group’, a body consisting of UK eel fishermen, traders, scientists, NGOs, government agencies and regulators, all with the common aim of restoring viable eel populations and ensuring sustainable fisheries.

Emerging issues

42. None reported.

Other activities

43. **Switzerland** is in the process of establishing a new national legislation. This legislation will pass the parliament this summer and will most likely be introduced in 2012.
44. **European Union**. The European Commission has concluded a number of contracts in order to provide assistance in CITES implementation, enforcement and scientific matters. UNEP-WCMC has been contracted to provide the trade data which the Member States and the Commission need to implement Community legislation. The contract provides for reviews and studies of species as well as the EC wildlife trade database which contains up-to-date information on the species and the legislative framework in the EC. They are also responsible for synthesis of Member States’ annual reports. TRAFFIC has been contracted to assist the Commission in the management of the CITES website, and to provide studies and assessments on particular topics.
45. The European Commission is now carrying out the revision of the EC CITES implementing regulations and further guidance.
46. The European Union has already reflected the changes to the Appendices agreed during the last Conference of the Parties in the Annexes to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97.