

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

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

SUMMARY RECORD

1. Opening of the meeting

The Secretary-General welcomed participants.

2. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr Carlos Ibero Solana (Europe) was elected Chair and Ms Carolina Caceres (North America) was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.

3. Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 3 (Rev. 1). The Rules of Procedure in the Annex were adopted. Clarification was sought on the changes to the Rules of Procedure agreed at the previous meeting of the Animals Committee.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Mexico and Humane Society International.<sup>1</sup>

4. Adoption of the agenda and working programme

4.1 Agenda

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 4.1 and clarified that, under agenda item 22, the document to be discussed was now document AC25 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1). With this modification, the agenda was adopted.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

4.2 Working programme

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 4.2. It was agreed to change the time for consideration of agenda items 14 and 18. With this modification, the working programme was adopted.

An intervention was made by the representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson) during discussion of this item.

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<sup>1</sup> As the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat intervene on all items, their names are not included in the lists of speakers.

## 5. Admission of observers

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 5 (Rev. 1) and the list of observers it contained was accepted. The presence of a small number of visitors, who would be able to observe but not participate in the meeting and whose attendance had been approved by the Chair, was also accepted.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

## 6. Regional reports

### 6.1 Africa

The representative of Africa (Mr Kasiki) presented the report in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 6.1. The report was noted.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

### 6.2 Asia

The representative of Asia (Mr Soemorumekso) presented the report in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 6.2 (Rev. 2). The report was noted.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

### 6.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean

The representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Calvar) presented document AC25 Doc. 63, noting that submissions for inclusion in the regional report from Brazil, Ecuador and El Salvador had been received after the report had been submitted. These were included, in Spanish only, in document AC25 Doc. 6.3 Addendum. Documents AC25 Doc. 6.3 and AC25 Doc. 6.3 Addendum were noted.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

### 6.4 Europe

The alternate representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher) presented document AC25 Doc. 6.4. In response to a question regarding restriction on imports into Europe of *Anguilla anguilla* under Article XIV of the Convention, the Secretariat confirmed that such matters fell under the remit of the Standing Committee. The report was noted.

An intervention was made by the representative of Africa (Mr Zahzah) during discussion of this item.

### 6.5 North America

The representative of North America (Ms Caceres) presented document AC25 Doc. 6.5. The report was noted.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

### 6.6 Oceania

The representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson) presented document AC25 Doc. 6.7. The report was noted.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

### 6.7 Evaluation of the purpose and content of regional reports

The representative of Europe (Mr Fleming) introduced document AC25 Doc. 6.7, noting that, although the submission of regional reports to the Animals and Plants Committees was a requirement under Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15), there was no guidance concerning the purpose or required

contents of the reports, which represented a significant reporting burden on Parties and generally took up a considerable amount of plenary time at meetings of the Committees. The document contained various options for the provision of regional information to meetings. During the discussions, it was acknowledged that there were problems in several regions in gathering information from Parties in timely fashion for inclusion in reports. However, it was also felt that the compilation of such reports was a valuable opportunity for representatives to find out what was going on in their regions, and for Parties to raise issues that concerned them.

Following the discussion, the Committee asked the representatives of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) and Europe (Mr Fleming) to prepare a draft recommendation based on option 3, in paragraph 9 c) of document AC25 Doc. 6.7, for consideration by the Committee the following day.

Later in the meeting the representative of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) introduced the draft text in document AC25 DG2 Doc. 1 and its Annex. The Committee agreed to the following changes to the text:

- In paragraph b), add , and specific requests to the Animals Committee, as appropriate; and
- In the Annex, paragraph 2, add at the end: d) Non-detriment findings.; and in paragraph 4, add (i.e. projects and publications, etc) after 'Scientific Authorities'.

With these changes, the Committee adopted the recommendation as follows:

The Animals Committee agreed:

- a) to focus the contents of the regional reports, as required in Annex 2 (paragraph f) under the second RESOLVES of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15), by regional representatives providing:
  - i) a report of the actions they have taken with respect to their duties under paragraphs a) to i) under the second RESOLVES in Annex 2 to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15); and
  - ii) additional information from Parties, relevant to regional cooperation and the work of the Animals Committee, within their region as defined in the template attached below; and
- b) to reduce the time allocated to the presentation of regional reports at meetings of the Animals Committee and for these reports to focus only on key issues of high importance, and specific requests to the Animals Committee, as appropriate;

#### **Template for the reports of regional representatives to the Animals Committee**

1. The content of the reports should contain the following with a focus on the scientific issues relating to the work of the Animals Committee.

##### Overview of major developments

2. A summary of the regional representatives' comments on the most important developments relating to the work of the Animals Committee within the region including those relating to the:
  - a) Review of Significant Trade;
  - b) Periodic Review of the Appendices;
  - c) Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes; and
  - d) Non-detriment findings.

##### Activities of regional representatives

3. A summary of the activities of regional representatives including any problems they have encountered or which are faced by their region, including participation by regional representatives

in any national, regional or international meetings or events relevant to the work of the Committee.

#### Regional cooperation and priorities

4. A summary of key cooperative activities within the region relevant to the work of the Animals Committee including regional priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES including activities to provide capacity building to the Scientific Authorities (i.e. projects and publications, etc) within the region and cooperation with relevant stakeholders and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

#### Meetings and workshops

5. A summary of significant meetings and workshops held within the region relevant to the work of the Animals Committee.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Mr Kasiki), Asia (Mr Pourkazemi and Mr Soemorumekso), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Calvar Agrelo), North America (Ms Caceres) and Oceania (Mr Robertson), and Mexico.

### 7. Cooperation with other multilateral instruments

The Secretariat reported that it had recently participated in the meeting to launch the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Diseases of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (FAO/CMS). It was agreed that an item on the relationship between wildlife trade and wildlife diseases would be included in the agenda of the 26th meeting of the Committee.

An intervention was made by CMS during discussion of this item.

#### 7.1 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (Decision 15.11)

The Secretariat made an oral presentation noting that, following the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Nagoya, October 2010), the future of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership was unclear. The Secretariat would keep a watching brief on indicator processes under CBD and ensure that CITES continued to be reflected in them. The Secretariat's presentation was noted.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

#### 7.2 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (Decision 15.12)

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 7.2. Following some discussion, during which the importance of IPBES, and the desirability of CITES being involved in it, were stressed, the Committee established a small drafting group to provide the basis for a submission to the Standing Committee regarding how the Committee and the Parties might be able to interact with and benefit from IPBES, including in relation to scientific capacity-building.

The drafting group comprised the representatives of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) and Europe (Mr Fleming), the Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms Clemente), China, India, Mexico, FAO and Humane Society International.

Later in the meeting the representative of Europe (Mr Fleming) presented the draft text in document AC25 DG1 Doc. 1. The Committee agreed to make the following changes:

- Paragraph 1 should now read: Considering that IPBES has held three consultative meetings and that, in December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to request the Governing Council of UNEP to convene a plenary meeting of IPBES, and that the Governing Council has determined that the first plenary meeting will take place in Nairobi in October 2011 to take important decisions on the structure, scope and functioning of IPBES.;
- In paragraph 4, change '2011' to 2010;

- In subparagraph 5 a), change 'The representatives of the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee should' to The Chairs of the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee and the Secretariat should; and
- In paragraph 6, change 'authorise' to authorities.

With these changes the draft text in document AC25 DG1 Doc. 1. was adopted as follows:

## IPBES

1. Considering that IPBES has held three consultative meetings and that, in December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to request the Governing Council of UNEP to convene a plenary meeting of IPBES, and that the Governing Council has determined that the first plenary meeting will take place in Nairobi in October 2011 to take important decisions on the structure, scope and functioning of IPBES.
2. Noting that Decision 15.12 and 15.13 (below) directed the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat to provide input into the process of the development of IPBES so that the Standing Committee can report at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as required by Decision 15.16, as follows:

### **15.12 Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat**

*Without taking a position about the necessity for, or nature of, such a Platform, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, participate in discussions concerning a possible IPBES, to provide all necessary input into the process of IPBES and to ensure that the role of CITES receives due recognition. The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee to seek additional guidance.*

### **15.13 Directed to the Secretariat**

*The Secretariat shall work with the United Nations Environment Programme to identify possible sources of external funding to support the participation called for in Decision 15.12.*

### **15.14 Directed to the Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee shall report at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the IPBES.*

3. The outcome of the process involved in Decision 15.12, was discussed at the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee. As this Decision is now largely discharged, this paper now seeks the additional guidance from the Standing Committee as required in Decision 15.12.
4. The Committees, noting the outcome of the third *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder meeting on IPBES in Busan (June 2010), recommended that the Standing Committee **instruct** the CITES scientific committees, through their chairs, and the Secretariat to continue their engagement with IPBES and **request** the Secretariat to continue to seek funds to enable this continued participation.
5. The Committees recommended that the Standing Committee endorse the following points to guide the engagement of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Secretariat and the Parties, in their engagement with IPBES.
  - a) The Chairs of the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee and the Secretariat should participate in the IPBES plenary meetings, subject to the availability of financial resources, to ensure that CITES is properly represented; their Terms of Reference should be determined by the Standing Committee;

- b) IPBES should support and establish a regular process for seeking the views and understanding the needs of biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral environmental agreements; and
  - c) IPBES should support access to reliable existing knowledge and generate knowledge on, and facilitate regular assessments of, the conservation and sustainable use of key species in ecosystems, including their economic valuation; IPBES should not duplicate the work of existing MEAS.
  - d) IPBES should provide particular support to the Scientific Authorities to the Parties to CITES. This could involve:
    - i) Improving access to knowledge to enable the CITES bodies and Parties to fulfil their functions more effectively, especially in the making of non-detriment findings and in the Review of Significant Trade;
    - ii) Documenting best practice in the use of science in biodiversity conservation and in ensuring the continued provision of ecosystem services;
    - iii) Providing capacity-building support to CITES Scientific Authorities from developing countries, upon request, to help them fulfil their specific obligations under CITES. This would both build capacity to carry out applied science and assist in meeting obligations under the Convention; and
    - iv) In addressing the science-policy interface from both sides, IPBES should ensure that decision-makers and policy-makers, such as CITES Management Authorities, benefit from capacity building support on how to obtain, interpret and use scientific advice in the taking of decisions and the adoption of policy measures.
6. Management Authorities of Parties are encouraged to coordinate and enhance information exchange with their competent national authorities for IPBES.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) and Europe (Mr Fleming), China, India and Mexico.

### 7.3 Climate change (Decision 15.15)

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 7.3. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to join the intersessional working group established by the Plants Committee at its 19th meeting (Geneva, April 2011) to produce draft findings and recommendations for further action on points a) to f) of paragraph 5 of the document.

In addition to the members agreed by the Plants Committee, the working group would include the representative on the Animals Committee of North America (Ms Caceres) as co-chair, the representatives of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Álvarez), the alternate representatives of Europe (Mr Lörtscher) and Oceania (Mr Hay), Chile, China, India, Animal Welfare Institute, Defenders of Wildlife, International Environmental Law Project, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Natural Resources Defense Council.

It was agreed that the intersessional working group would report at the joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees in March 2012.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) and North America (Ms Caceres), the Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms Clemente) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

## 8. Strategic planning

### 8.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee

and

### 8.2 Establishment of the Animals Committee workplan

The Secretariat introduced documents AC25 Doc. 8.1 and SC61 Doc. 8.2.

The Committee established a working group comprising all the members and alternates in attendance at the present meeting in order to complete the table in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 8.2. It was agreed that reference to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) should be included in the revised table.

There was no further reporting on this agenda item in plenary.

An intervention was made by Pew Environment Group during discussion of this item.

## 9. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

### 9.1 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade [Decision 13.67 (Rev CoP14)]

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 9.1, noting that there were gaps in the advisory working group referred to in paragraph 6, and thanking the European Commission for providing funding for the case studies. Regarding the advisory working group, it was noted that the member from Indonesia should be Ms Siti Nurmalia Prijono. It was also agreed that the representatives of Africa (Mr Kasiki) and Europe (Mr Fleming) would try during the course of the meeting to obtain names from those countries that had not submitted them. Where this did not prove possible, they would propose the nomination of another country from the region in question. The Committee would consider proposed solutions later in the meeting.

The Committee subsequently agreed that Norway and Switzerland would replace Iceland and the Russian Federation on the advisory working group referred to in paragraph 6 of document AC25 Doc. 9.1. Names of individuals from these countries would be communicated to the Secretariat by the representative of Europe (Mr Fleming). Names of individuals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea to serve on the advisory working group would be communicated to the Secretariat by the representative of Africa (Mr Kasiki).

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Mr Kasiki), Europe (Mr Fleming) and Oceania (Mr Roberston), and Indonesia.

### 9.2 Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 9.2. In response to a request for an update on the online tool being developed to help keep track of the Review of Significant Trade, the Secretariat reported that it hoped it would be available before the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee.

An intervention was made by the representative of Europe (Mr Fleming) during discussion of this item.

### 9.3 Species selected following CoP13

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 9.3. It was noted that Madagascar had provided the representative of Africa (Mr Zahzah) with further information on the export quotas for *Mantella* spp. which would be made available to any working group established to consider this agenda item.

An intervention was made by the representative of Africa (Mr Zahzah) during discussion of this item.

### 9.4 Species selected following CoP14

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 9.4. In response to a query, the Secretariat indicated that responses from Parties would be made available to the Committee and to any working group established to consider this agenda item.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson) and South Africa.

#### 9.5 Species selected at AC24

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 9.5. India made an observation on the legal status of *Hippocampus* and *Tridacna* species in its territory.

No other interventions were made during discussion of this item.

#### 9.6 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP15

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 9.6. In response to queries concerning some of the data, the Chairman noted that they would be double-checked.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by China, Denmark and Israel.

#### 9.7 Programme for the conservation and sustainable use of *Falco cherrug* in Mongolia

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 9.7. Mongolia asked that a correction be noted in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 9.7. In paragraph 4. the phrase 'Consultant to Italian SA CITES' should be replaced with independent researcher. General satisfaction was expressed with progress in the conservation and sustainable use of *Falco cherrug* in Mongolia.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Japan, Kuwait, Mongolia and CMS.

The Committee then established a working group (Working Group 1) to consider further agenda items 9.2 to 9.7, with the following mandate:

##### Mandate (WG1)

##### With regard to agenda item 9.2

Review the response of Madagascar to the recommendations made at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee concerning the chamaeleons *Calumma* spp. and *Furcifer* spp. (except *F. lateralis*, *F. oustaleti*, *F. pardalis* and *F. verrocosus*) and advise whether proposed quotas should be agreed.

##### With regard to agenda item 9.3

- a) Establish deadlines for the recommendations put forward in paragraph 8 of document AC25 Doc. 9.3 in accordance with paragraph n) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13); and
- b) Determine whether *Mantella bernhardi* is a species of priority concern to be selected for review, in accordance with paragraph b) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13).

##### With regard to agenda item 9.4

- a) In accordance with paragraphs k) and l) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), review the reports and the responses received from range States contained in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 9.4, and, if appropriate, revise the preliminary categorizations proposed by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC);
- b) Refer to the Secretariat problems identified that are not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a); and
- c) In accordance with paragraphs m) to o) of the same Resolution, formulate recommendations for species of urgent concern and of possible concern.
  - For species of urgent concern, these recommendations should propose specific actions to address problems related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a). Such recommendations should differentiate between short- and long-term actions, and may include, for example:



- i) the establishment of administrative procedures, cautious export quotas or temporary restrictions on exports of the species concerned;
  - ii) the application of adaptive management procedures to ensure that further decisions about the harvesting and management of the species concerned will be based on the monitoring of the impact of previous harvesting and other factors; or
  - iii) the conducting of taxon- and country-specific status assessments, field studies or evaluation of threats to populations or other relevant factors to provide the basis for a Scientific Authority's non-detriment finding, as required under the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a) or 6 (a).
- For species of possible concern, these recommendations should specify the information required to enable the Committee to determine whether the species should be categorized as either of urgent concern or of least concern. They should also specify interim measures, where appropriate, for the regulation of trade. Such recommendations should differentiate between short- and long-term actions, and may include, for example:
- i) the conducting of taxon- and country-specific status assessments, field studies or evaluation of threats to populations or other relevant factors; or
  - ii) the establishment of cautious export quotas for the species concerned as an interim measure.

Deadlines for implementation of these recommendations should be determined. They must be appropriate to the nature of the action to be undertaken, and should normally be not less than 90 days but not more than two years after the date of transmission to the State concerned.

With regard to agenda item 9.5

- a) In accordance with paragraph f) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), review the available information; and
- b) If satisfied that Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a) of the Convention is being correctly implemented, recommend to the Committee that the species be eliminated from the review.

Consider *Mantella aurantiaca* in addition to the taxa included in document AC25 Doc. 9.5.

With regard to agenda item 9.6

- a) Review the information contained in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 9.6; and
- b) On the basis of that information, recommend species of priority concern for review by the Committee.

With regard to agenda item 9.7

Review the report from Mongolia in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 9.7 and give its advice on the development of the *Falco cherrug* programme in Mongolia.

Advise on the *Falco cherrug* export quota from Mongolia for 2011.

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chairs: Representatives of Europe (Mr Fleming) and North America (Ms Caceres);

Members: Representatives of Africa (Mr Zahzah), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Álvarez Lemus) and Oceania (Mr Robertson);

Party observers: Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, the Netherlands, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: CMS, European Union, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Midwestern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Care for the Wild International, Conservation Force, Conservation International, Defenders of Wildlife, Fundación Cethus, Humane Society International, International Animal Trade Organisation, International Wildlife Consultants, Natural Resources Defense Council, Ornamental Fish International, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Pet Care Trust, Pro Wildlife, Safari Club International, SWAN International, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

Later in the meeting, the representatives of Europe (Mr Fleming) and North America (Ms Caceres) introduced document AC25 WG1 Doc. 1. The Committee considered the document as follows:

With regard to sub-item 9.2 (Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade)

The Committee agreed to the following change in document AC25 WG1 Doc. 1 under the heading AC25 Doc. 9.2 – *Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade*:

In the fourth paragraph, add at the end of the first sentence: (*Calumma brevicorne*, *C. crypticum*, *C. gastrotaenia*, *C. nasutum*, *C. parsoni*, *Furcifer antimena*, *F. campani*, *F. minor*).

With this change, the recommendations in that part of the document were adopted as follows:

The Committee noted the progress in the implementation of the Review of Significant Trade.

The Committee considered the response of Madagascar to the recommendations made at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee concerning the chameleons *Calumna* spp. and *Furcifer* spp. (except *F. lateralis*, *F. oustaleti*, *F. pardalis* and *F. verrucosus*).

The Committee endorsed all the zero quotas proposed in the response from Madagascar and supported their publication by the CITES Secretariat.

The Committee noted that, given the late submission of the document and discrepancies within it, the working group had not felt able to formulate definitive advice to the Animals Committee at this meeting on the quotas proposed for the remaining eight species (*Calumma brevicorne*, *C. crypticum*, *C. gastrotaenia*, *C. nasutum*, *C. parsoni*, *Furcifer antimena*, *F. campani*, *F. minor*). The Committee agreed to reconsidered the response at its 26th meeting (March 2012) and, in the meantime, requested the Secretariat to clarify discrepancies with Madagascar.

No interventions were made during discussion of this sub-item.

With regard to sub-item 9.3 (Species selected following CoP13)

The Committee agreed to the following change in document AC25 WG1 Doc. 1 under the heading AC25 Doc. 9.3 – *Species selected following CoP13*:

In the second paragraph under a), change '2011' to 2012.

With this change, the recommendations in that part of the document were adopted as follows:

- a) Establishment of deadlines for recommendations in accordance with paragraph n) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13).

The Committee agreed that the deadline for compliance with the recommendations (paragraphs 8.b-d of document AC25 Doc. 9.3) would be 15 January 2012.

- b) *Mantella bernhardi*

The Committee agreed to include *Mantella bernhardi* as a species of priority concern for inclusion in accordance with paragraph b) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13).

An intervention was made by Defenders of Wildlife during discussion of this sub-item.

With regard to sub-item 9.4 (Species selected following CoP14)

After some discussion, in which it was noted that consensus had not always been reached in the working group, the Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC25 WG1 Doc. 1 and its Annex under the heading *AC25 Doc. 9.4 – Species selected following CoP14* as follows:

The Committee agreed that issues identified in discussion which did not directly relate to the implementation of Article IV of the Convention should be referred to the Standing Committee.

Regarding *Hippopotamus amphibius*, the Committee categorized Cameroon and Mozambique as of possible concern and Benin, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan (and South Sudan) and Swaziland as of least concern.

Regarding *Brookesia decaryi*, the Committee categorized Madagascar as of least concern. Were trade to resume, the species should be re-evaluated for inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade.

Regarding *Chamaeleo africanus*, the Committee categorized Niger as of possible concern.

Regarding *Chamaeleo feae*, the Committee categorized Equatorial Guinea as of possible concern.

Regarding *Cordylus mossambicus*, the Committee categorized Mozambique as of possible concern.

Regarding *Uroplatus* spp. from Madagascar, the Committee agreed the following categories for Madagascar:

*Uroplatus alluaudi* – of least concern  
*Uroplatus ebenau* – of possible concern  
*Uroplatus fimbriatus* – of possible concern  
*Uroplatus giganteus* – of least concern  
*Uroplatus guentheri* – of possible concern  
*Uroplatus henkeli* – of possible concern  
*Uroplatus lineatus* – of possible concern  
*Uroplatus malahelo* – of least concern  
*Uroplatus malama* – of possible concern  
*Uroplatus phantasticus* – of possible concern  
*Uroplatus pietschmanni* – of possible concern  
*Uroplatus sikorae* – of possible concern

Regarding *Gongylophis muelleri*, the Committee categorized Ghana as of least concern.

Regarding *Heosemys annandalii*, the Committee categorized the Lao People's Democratic Republic as of possible concern, and Brunei Darussalem, Cambodia and Viet Nam as of least concern.

Regarding *Heosemys grandis*, the Committee categorized the Lao People's Democratic Republic as of possible concern, and Brunei Darussalem, Cambodia and Viet Nam as of least concern.

Regarding *Heosemys spinosa*, the Committee categorized Brunei Darussalem, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cambodia and Viet Nam as of least concern.

Regarding *Testudo horsfieldii*, the Committee categorized Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as of possible concern, and Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and the Russian Federation as of least concern.

Regarding *Amyda cartilaginea*, the Committee categorized Indonesia as of possible concern.

Regarding *Scaphiophryne gottlebei*, the Committee categorized Madagascar as of possible concern.

The Committee agreed the recommendations in the table below, for those range States identified as of possible concern.

During discussion of this sub-item, interventions were made by the representatives of North America (Ms Caceres) and Oceania (Mr Robertson), UNEP-WCMC and Humane Society International.

**Recommendations for species of possible concern**

<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	
Cameroon (Possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Management Authority should clarify what legal protection is afforded to this species in Cameroon and provide an explanation for the perceived discrepancies between reported Customs data (imports) and CITES data (exports) referred to in document AC25 Doc. 9.4;</li> <li>b) Provide available information to the Secretariat on the distribution, abundance and conservation status and any current management measures in place for <i>H. amphibius</i> in Cameroon; and</li> <li>c) Provide justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the quantities of <i>H. amphibius</i> exported were not detrimental to the survival of the species and in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.</li> </ul>
Mozambique (Possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Management Authority should provide an explanation of the 'internal system of annual quotas' and other management measures in place and clarify the perceived discrepancies between reported Customs data (imports) and CITES data (exports) referred to in document AC25 Doc. 9.4;</li> <li>b) Provide information derived from the national survey undertaken in 2008 on the distribution, abundance and conservation status of <i>H. amphibius</i> in Mozambique, including details of methodologies employed; and</li> <li>c) Provide justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which, it has been established that the quantities of <i>H. amphibius</i> exported were not detrimental to the survival of the species and in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.</li> </ul>
<i>Chamaeleo africanus</i>	
Niger (Possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Management Authority of Niger should provide the Secretariat with available information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the distribution and abundance of <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> in its country; and</li> <li>ii) the justification, and the scientific basis, by which it has been established that the quantities exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) The Management Authority should establish an interim conservative quota for this species, based on estimates of sustainable off-take and available scientific information and provide details to the Secretariat.</li> </ul> <p>Within 2 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Conduct a national status assessment, including an evaluation of threats to the species; and advise the Secretariat of the details and any management measures in place;</li> <li>b) Establish a revised annual export quota for wild taken specimens based on the results of the assessment;</li> <li>c) The Management Authority should forward the quota details to the Secretariat (including zero quotas) and provide an explanation of how the Scientific Authority determined that the quantities would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and</li> <li>d) The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, should consider the information provided and, if satisfied, publish the proposed export quota.</li> </ul>

<i>Chamaeleo feae</i>	
Equatorial Guinea (Possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <p>a) The Management Authority should confirm that no export permits have been issued for this species since 1999, and provide an explanation to the Secretariat for the perceived discrepancies between reported Customs data (imports) and CITES data (exports) referred to in document AC25 Doc. 9.4;</p> <p>b) If there is no intent to allow export of this species for the foreseeable future, establish a zero quota which should be communicated to Parties by the Secretariat; or</p> <p>c) If trade is allowed, provide justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the quantities of <i>Chamaeleo feae</i> exported are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3</p>
<i>Cordylus mossambicus</i>	
Mozambique (Possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <p>– The Management Authority of Mozambique should provide the Secretariat with detailed information on:</p> <p>i) the distribution and abundance of <i>Cordylus mossambicus</i> in its country; and</p> <p>ii) the justification, and the scientific basis, by which it has established that the quantities exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and are in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 and iii), and provide an explanation for the quota apparently exceeded in 2003, 2004 and 2007.</p> <p>Within 2 years</p> <p>a) Conduct a national status assessment, including an evaluation of threats to the species and advise the Secretariat of the details of any management measures in place;</p> <p>b) Establish a revised annual export quota for wild taken specimens based on the results of the assessment;</p> <p>c) The Management Authority should forward the quota details to the Secretariat (including zero quotas) and provide an explanation of how the Scientific Authority determined that the quantities would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and</p> <p>d) The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, should consider the information provided and, if satisfied, publish the proposed export quota.</p>
<i>Uroplatus ebenai, U. fimbriatus, U. guentheri, U. henkeli, U. lineatus, U. malama, U. phantasticus, U. pietschmanni, U. sikorae</i>	
Madagascar (possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <p>a) The Management Authority of Madagascar should provide to the Secretariat detailed information on:</p> <p>i) the distribution and abundance of the <i>Uroplatus</i> spp. under consideration; and</p> <p>ii) the justification, and the scientific basis, to demonstrate that the 2011 export quotas, if not zero, will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and are in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3; and</p> <p>b) The Management Authority of Madagascar should provide to the Secretariat, for publication on the CITES website, any zero quotas established for <i>Uroplatus</i> spp.</p> <p>Within 2 years</p> <p>– The Management Authority of Madagascar develop methods and materials to properly identify <i>Uroplatus</i> spp in trade to</p>

	species level.
<i>Heosemys annandalii</i>	
Lao People's Democratic Republic (Possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Management Authority should clarify what legal protection is afforded to this species in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and liaise with the Management Authority of Viet Nam to provide an explanation for the perceived discrepancies between reported Vietnamese import data and Lao export data referred to in document AC25 Doc. 9.4; and either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) If there is no intent to allow export of wild caught specimens of this species for the foreseeable future, establish a zero quota which should be communicated to Parties by the Secretariat; or</li> <li>ii) If it is intended to permit trade, provide a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that any specimens to be exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and are in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Heosemys grandis</i>	
Lao People's Democratic Republic (Possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Management Authority should clarify what legal protection is afforded to this species in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and liaise with the Management Authority of China to provide an explanation for the perceived discrepancies between reported import data and reported export data referred to in document AC25 Doc 9.4; and</li> <li>b) Provide full details of the ranching facilities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, including stock numbers and source, annual production of eggs and hatchlings, as well as an assessment of the impact of this facility on wild populations; and either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) If there is no intent to allow export of wild caught specimens of this species for the foreseeable future, establish a zero quota which should be communicated to Parties by the Secretariat; or</li> <li>ii) If it is intended to permit trade, provide a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that any specimens to be exported will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and are in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>	
Tajikistan (non-Party) (Possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provide information on population distribution, size and trends; and</li> <li>b) Provide justification for and details of the scientific basis by which it has been established that the current quota for wild specimens is not detrimental to the survival of the species and in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, taking into account any potential unregulated and/or illegal offtake and trade.</li> </ul>
Uzbekistan (Possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provide justification for and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the current quotas are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, taking into account any potential unregulated and/or illegal offtake and trade; and</li> <li>b) In addition to the information provided on ranching in document AC24 Doc. 8.1, provide additional information to demonstrate how the impact of ranching operations on the wild population is assessed, including an assessment of the survival rate of female specimens used in the ranching operation.</li> </ul>

<i>Amyda cartilaginea</i>	
Indonesia (Possible concern)	<p>For submission by the deadline of documents for AC26 (15 January 2012)</p> <p>a) Consider revision of the current export quota for wild specimens, taking into account both harvest for domestic consumption and export, based on available estimates of sustainable offtake and scientific information, and forward the quota details, including how the quota is divided by province or district, to the Secretariat and provide information and data used by the Scientific Authority to determine that the quantities would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and</p> <p>b) The CITES Management Authority of Indonesia should provide the Secretariat and the AC Chair with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– English translations of the survey reports for West Kalimantan, South Sumatra, Riau and Jambi;</li> <li>– Data on the size distribution of animals in trade; and</li> <li>– A detailed explanation how survey data are used to establish the quota.</li> </ul> <p>Within 18 months:</p> <p>a) Explain how specimens from captive-production systems are distinguished in trade from wild-harvested animals and how their production is incorporated into quota and overall trade calculations;</p> <p>b) Establish a detailed monitoring programme for <i>Amyda cartilaginea</i> at representative sites, including sites where active harvest takes place, sites where harvest took place in the past, and sites [protected areas] where no significant recent harvest has taken place. Report to the Animals Committee on the monitoring programme. Initiate a detailed study of the population dynamics of <i>Amyda cartilaginea</i>, including growth rate, size and age at maturity, average annual reproductive output, and annual survivorship of different age classes. Demonstrate how the findings of the monitoring programme and population dynamics study will be used to establish adaptive management programmes for harvesting of, and trade in, <i>A. cartilaginea</i>, including changes to the conservative annual export quota; and</p> <p>c) The Indonesian Management Authority should work with UNEP-WCMC to evaluate trade data to explain the discrepancy between UNEP-WCMC CITES trade database and Indonesian exports reported in Indonesia's intervention at AC25.</p>
<i>Scaphiophryne gottlebei</i>	
Madagascar (Possible concern)	<p>Within 90 days</p> <p>a) Provide justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which, it has been established that the current quota for wild is not detrimental to the survival of the species and in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3; and</p> <p>b) Maintain the export quota at current levels or lower for wild specimens.</p>



With regard to sub-item 9.5 (Species selected at AC24)

Following some discussion, the Committee agreed to the following changes in document AC25 WG1 Doc. 1 under the heading *AC25 Doc. 9.5 – Species selected at AC24* as follows:

- In the sixth paragraph, beginning "Regarding *Huso huso*", insert within three weeks at the end of the second sentence; and
- In the seventh paragraph, beginning "Regarding *Hippocampus kelloggi*", delete the words "noting in particular the high proportion of trade in seahorses originating from Thailand and China and some data discrepancies regarding trade from Viet Nam."

With these changes, the recommendations in that part of the document were adopted as follows:

The Committee reviewed responses from the range States to the species selected at the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee.

Regarding *Tursiops aduncus*, the Committee congratulated the Solomon Islands for the efforts made thus far to meet the recommendations of the Animals Committee. The Committee retained the species in the Review of Significant Trade and noted that the next stage of the review should take into account the results of the population surveys currently underway.

Regarding *Balearica pavorina*, the Committee retained Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan (and South Sudan), Togo and Uganda.

Regarding *Balearica regulorum*, the Committee eliminated Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa and Zimbabwe based on the response provided. The remaining range States (Angola, Botswana, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia) were retained in the Review of Significant Trade.

Regarding *Mantella aurantiaca*, the Committee retained the species in the review and noted that the document was too detailed to consider at short notice.

Regarding *Huso huso*, the Committee eliminated Croatia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine based on the responses provided. The Committee eliminated Azerbaijan subject to written confirmation to the Secretariat of the zero quota being in place within three weeks. The remaining states (Bulgaria, Georgia, Hungary, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan) were retained in the Review of Significant Trade.

Regarding *Hippocampus kelloggi*, the Committee eliminated Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia. The Committee retained China, India, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

Regarding *Hippocampus spinosissimus*, the Committee eliminated Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia. The Committee retained Cambodia, China, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Regarding *Hippocampus kuda*, the Committee eliminated American Samoa (United States), Indonesia, Malaysia, New Caledonia (France) and South Africa. The Committee retained Australia, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Fiji, French Polynesia (France), India, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mozambique, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga and Viet Nam.

Regarding *Pandinus imperator*, the Committee retained Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo in the Review of Significant Trade.

Regarding *Tridacna spp.*, the Committee retained Solomon Islands in the Review of Significant Trade.

The Committee recommended that the Working Group on the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade consider the implications of species being eliminated on the basis of a zero quota and then subsequently resuming trade.

During discussion of this sub-item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr Fleming), the alternate representatives of Asia (Mr Giam) and Europe (Mr Lörtscher), China and India.

With regard to sub-item 9.6 (Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP15)

Concerns were raised regarding the inclusion of *Macaca fascicularis*, *Naja sputatrix*, *Ptyas mucosus*, *Python reticulatus* and the four *Hippocampus* species in the Review of Significant Trade. It was pointed out that these species, along with all the others included under this agenda item, would be at a very early stage in the review.

The Committee agreed to the following changes in document AC25 WG1 Doc. 1 under the heading AC25 Doc. 9.6 – *Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP15*:

- Change ‘Antipatharia – all range States’ to Antipatharia – all species in all range States; and
- Add at the end the following paragraph:

The Committee invited the Secretariat to reassure concerned Parties that a decision to include a species in the Review of Significant Trade was not, at the outset, intended as a punitive measure and that, if the Animals Committee were satisfied with the response, the review would conclude.

With these changes, the recommendations in that part of the document were adopted as follows:

The Committee agreed the following taxa as of priority concern for review:

*Macaca fascicularis* – all range States

*Psittacus erithacus* – all range States except those recently subject to previous recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade which were still in effect, namely: Cameroon, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

*Chamaeleo gracilis* – all range States

*Chamaeleo melleri* – all range States

*Chamaeleo quadricornis* – all range States

*Chamaeleo senegalensis* – all range States

*Kinyongia fischeri* – all range States

*Kinyongia tavetana* – all range States

*Ptyas mucosus* – all range States

*Naja sputatrix* – all range States

*Python reticulatus* - all range States

*Podocnemis unifilis* – all range States

*Kinixys homeana* – all range States

*Hippocampus barbouri* – all range States

*Hippocampus trimaculatus* – all range States

*Hippocampus algiricus* – all range States

*Hippocampus histrix* – all range States

Antipatharia – all species in all range States

*Catalaphyllia jardinei* – all range States

*Euphyllia cristata* – all range States

*Plerogyra simplex* – all range States

*Plerogyra sinuosa* – all range States

*Trachyphyllia geoffroyi* – all range States

The Committee invited the Secretariat to reassure concerned Parties that a decision to include a species in the Review of Significant Trade was not, at the outset, intended as a punitive measure and that, if the Committee were satisfied with the response, the review would conclude.

During discussion of this sub-item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Mr Soemorumekso), Europe (Mr Fleming) and Oceania (Mr Robertson), the alternate representatives of Asia (Mr Giam) and Europe (Mr Lörtscher), China, Indonesia, IUCN and Care for the Wild International.

With regard to sub-item 9.7 (Programme for the conservation and sustainable use of *Falco cherrug* in Mongolia)

It was pointed out that the national conservation programme for *Falco cherrug* was still in its infancy. Attention was also drawn to the number of birds killed by accidental electrocution each year. The Committee then adopted the recommendations in document AC25 WG1 Doc. 1 under the heading *AC25 Doc. 9.7 – Programme for the conservation and sustainable use of Falco cherrug in Mongolia* as follows.

The Committee endorsed the positive management regime for saker falcon, *Falco cherrug*, established by Mongolia and agreed to the proposed export quota of 300 live specimens for 2011. The Committee invited Mongolia to provide an update on the progress of this project at the 27th meeting of the Committee (April 2014).

During discussion of this sub-item, interventions were made by Humane Society of the United States and Wildlife Conservation Society.

10. Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendices I and II (Decisions 15.28 and 15.29)

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 10, and Annex 1 of the document; FAO introduced Annex 2; and IUCN introduced Annex 3.

After some discussion, during which it was observed that the three reports contained much useful analysis of a complex subject, the Committee established an intersessional working group with the following mandate:

- a) Examine the reports contained in the Annexes to document AC25 Doc. 10, namely *Report from the Secretariat* (Annex 1), *Report of FAO* (Annex 2) and *Report of IUCN/TRAFFIC* (Annex 3);
- b) Develop guidance on the application of criterion B and the introductory text of Annex 2 a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) to commercially exploited aquatic species proposed for inclusion in Appendix II;
- c) Recommend the best way to incorporate this guidance for use when applying the Resolution without affecting its application to other taxa; and
- d) Draft a proposal for adoption by the Animals Committee and submission at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee.

The intersessional working group would be chaired by the representative of North America (Ms Caceres) and would include the representatives of Africa (Mr Zahzah), Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) and Europe

(Mr Fleming), the Chair of the Plants Committee, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, the United States, the European Union, FAO, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, Fundación Cethus, Humane Society International, International Environmental Law Project, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Pew Environment Group, SWAN International, TRAFFIC and WWF.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi), India, Japan, the United States, Humane Society International, International Environmental Law Project, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Pew Environment Group and WWF.

11. Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species – Draft guide on the appropriate use of source codes

The Secretariat gave an oral report, noting that funding for an appropriate expert to prepare a guide to advise the Parties on the appropriate use of source codes in accordance with Decision 15.52 was likely to be available. The Chair of the Animals Committee would be consulted on the terms of reference for the work. The Secretariat's report was noted.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

12. Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II (Decision 15.51)

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 12. After some discussion, during which it was acknowledged that meeting current criteria for ranching proposals for transfer of species from Appendix I to Appendix II was onerous, the Committee established a working group (Working Group 2) with the following mandate:

Mandate (WG2)

Taking into consideration the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 12 and, if appropriate, document AC25 Inf. 9:

- a) Evaluate the merit of reinstating the ability to transfer suitably qualified populations that continue to meet the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), Annex 1, for transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) or Resolution Conf. 9.20 (Rev.); and
- b) If merit is found, draft a revision of paragraph A. 2 in Annex 4 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) to eliminate the requirement that downlisting proposals pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) or Resolution Conf. 9.20 (Rev.) must also meet the criteria in Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15).

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chairs: Representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Calvar and Mr Álvarez);

Party observers: Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, the Association of Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Humane Society of the United States and IWMC – World Conservation Trust.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Álvarez) introduced document AC25 WG2 Doc. 1. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to make the following changes to the document:

- In subparagraph 1. A. 2. b), delete ‘, if they satisfy the relevant criteria of Annex 1, and’; and
- Change the wording of paragraph 2. to: The Committee recommends that the Conference of the Parties consider the merits of identifying the relevant parts of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 9.20 (Rev.) and addressing them in a separate resolution submitted to the Conference of the Parties.

With these changes the recommendations in the document were adopted as follows:

1. The Committee agreed with paragraph a) of the mandate. With respect to paragraph b) of the mandate, the following revised text to paragraph A. 2. in Annex 4 was agreed.

#### **Annex 4 – Precautionary measures**

When considering proposals to amend Appendix I or II, the Parties shall, by virtue of the precautionary approach and in case of uncertainty either as regards the status of a species or the impact of trade on the conservation of a species, act in the best interest of the conservation of the species concerned and adopt measures that are proportionate to the anticipated risks to the species.

- A. 1. No species listed in Appendix I shall be removed from the Appendices unless it has been first transferred to Appendix II, with monitoring of any impact of trade on the species for at least two intervals between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
  2. Species included in Appendix I should only be transferred to Appendix II:
    - a) If they do not satisfy the relevant criteria in Annex 1 and when one of the following precautionary safeguards is met:
      - i) the species is not in demand for international trade, nor is its transfer to Appendix II likely to stimulate trade in, or cause enforcement problems for, any other species included in Appendix I; or
      - ii) the species is likely to be in demand for trade, but its management is such that the Conference of the Parties is satisfied with:
        - A) implementation by the range States of the requirements of the Convention, in particular Article IV; and
        - B) appropriate enforcement controls and compliance with the requirements of the Convention; or
      - iii) an integral part of the amendment proposal is an export quota or other special measure approved by the Conference of the Parties, based on management measures described in the supporting statement of the amendment proposal, provided that effective enforcement controls are in place;
    - b) Or when a ranching proposal is submitted in accordance with an applicable resolution and is adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
  3. No proposal for transfer of a species from Appendix I to Appendix II shall be considered from a Party that has entered a reservation for the species in question, unless that Party agrees to remove the reservation within 90 days of the adoption of the amendment.
  4. No species should be deleted from Appendix II if such deletion would be likely to result in it qualifying for inclusion in the Appendices in the near future.
  5. No species should be deleted from Appendix II if, within the last two intervals between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, it has been subject to a recommendation under the provisions of the Review of Significant Trade to improve its conservation status.
2. The Committee recommends that the Conference of the Parties consider the merits of identifying the relevant parts of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 9.20 (Rev.) and addressing them in a separate resolution submitted to the Conference of the Parties.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Álvarez), Europe (Mr Fleming) and North America (Ms Caceres), the alternate representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher), China, India, Mexico, Poland, the United States, CIC – International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society of the United States and IWMC – World Conservation Trust.

13. Non-detriment findings (Decisions 15.23 and 15.24)

The Chair introduced document AC25 Doc. 13. During the subsequent discussion, there was agreement that the deadline proposed by the Plants Committee at its 19th meeting for the preparation of draft guidelines was too soon, but disagreement concerning the composition of the proposed intersessional working group. Some felt that the group should be kept limited in size, and that Parties could make their contributions through their representatives on the Committees. Others believed that there should be wide direct involvement in the group. The United States asked for it to be noted in the record that they had asked that Parties be allowed to participate directly in the working group.

Following the discussion, the Committee endorsed the conclusions of the Plants Committee at its 19th meeting contained in paragraph 9 of document AC25 Doc. 13 with the following amendment:

In subparagraph 1. b), replace the text after the word 'produced' with *by 22 January 2012 for consideration at the joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees in March 2012. The Secretariat should be requested to circulate this draft to Parties in order for the comments to be considered during the joint meeting; and*

The Committee also agreed that the Secretariat should send a Notification to intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations asking them to submit representatives' *curricula vitae* to the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees if they were interested in participating in the intersessional working group. The Secretariat should also send a Notification to the Parties indicating the new date for production of the draft guidelines referred to in subparagraph 9. 1 b) of document AC25 Doc. 13 and encouraging Parties to make contact with their regional representatives.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Mr Zahzah), Asia (Mr Pourkazemi), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Álvarez), Europe (Mr Fleming), North America (Ms Caceres) and Oceania (Mr Robertson), the alternate representatives of Asia (Mr Giam) and Europe (Mr Lörtscher), the Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms Clemente Muñoz), China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, the United States, Humane Society International and WWF.

14. Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species (Decision 12.91) – Secretariat report

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 14, noting that an analysis of the responses to the questionnaire on national needs referred to in paragraph 8 would be included in an information document to be submitted to the Standing Committee at its next meeting (SC61, August 2011).

After some discussion, the Committee agreed to form a joint intersessional working group with the Plants Committee to assist in the implementation of Decision 15.24, paragraph c). The representative of North America on the Animals Committee (Ms Caceres) would co-chair the working group, which would also include the representatives of Africa (Mr Kasiki), Asia (Mr Soemorumekso), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Álvarez), Europe (Mr Fleming) and Oceania (Mr Robertson), and China, Indonesia, the Netherlands, UNEP-WCMC, Conservation Force, Defenders of Wildlife and Pan African Sanctuary Alliance.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Mr Kasiki), Asia (Mr Soemorumekso) and North America (Ms Caceres), China, India and TRAFFIC.

15. Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices

15.1 Overview of species under review

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 15.1. In discussion, the slowness of progress with the periodic review was raised as a problem. IUCN stated that they would be happy to provide assistance to the review through the Species Survival Commission network.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr Fleming), Mexico, IUCN and Humane Society International.

## 15.2 Periodic review of Felidae

### 15.2.1 Periodic review of Felidae [Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP15)]

The United States introduced document AC25 Doc. 15.2.1, drawing attention to the lack of progress with the review. India stated that they might review the biological status of *Prionailurus* spp. The representative of Africa (Mr Kasiki), speaking as Kenya, offered to coordinate the periodic review for *Panthera leo* and South Africa offered to work with Kenya on the review.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Africa (Mr Kasiki), India, Kenya and South Africa.

### 15.2.2 Review of Lynx species under the periodic review of species included in the CITES Appendices [Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15), Resolution Conf. 14.8, and Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP15)]

The United States introduced document AC25 Doc. 15.2.2. In discussion it was noted that improved identification materials for *Lynx* species had been produced.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Mexico and the Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

### 15.2.3 Review of the status of the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in the Appendices

Mexico introduced document AC25 Doc. 15.2.3.

The Committee agreed with the recommendation in document AC25 Doc. 15.2.3 that the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) be retained in Appendix I. It was noted that the disappearance of the species from Uruguay had been a result of persecution by cattle-ranchers.

An intervention was made by the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Calvar) during discussion of this item.

## 15.3 Review of *Colinus virginianus ridgwayi*

and

## 15.4 Review of *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*

and

## 15.5 Review of *Crocodylus amazonicus*

The United States introduced documents AC25 Doc. 15.3, AC25 Doc. 15.4 and AC25 Doc. 15.5.

Agenda items 15.3, 15.4 and 15.5 were then discussed together. There was some disagreement concerning the recommendations in the documents concerning *Colinus virginianus ridgwayi* and *Crocodylus amazonicus*. Some felt that these should not be supported as they were not in accord with scientific evidence, while others believed that the concerns of range States should be taken into account when formulating recommendations for proposals to amend the Appendices. Regarding the recommendation for *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*, concern was expressed that this did not follow the guidelines in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15).

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Álvarez), Europe (Mr Fleming) and North America (Ms Caceres), the alternate representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher), Mexico, Poland and the United States.

## 15.6 Selection of species for review following CoP15

UNEP-WCMC introduced document AC25 Doc. 15.6 and its Annexes. Discussion focussed on Annex 1 (*Output 1: Appendix-I species traded from wild sources for commercial purposes over the*

period 1999-2009). Some considered that analysis of this output should come under the remit of the Animals Committee, while others believed that, following Resolution Conf. 14.8, it should be addressed by the Standing Committee.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson), the nomenclature specialist on the Committee (Ms Grimm), Israel and Mexico.

Following the discussions on agenda items 15.1, 15.2.1, 15.2.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5 and 15.6, the Committee established a working group (Working Group 3) to consider all these agenda items with the following mandate:

Mandate (WG3)

With regard to agenda item 15.1

Make recommendations concerning ways and means of speeding up the Periodic Review of the Appendices.

With regard to agenda item 15.2.1

- a) Determine whether the way forward proposed by the United States for concluding the review of Felidae is acceptable; and
- b) Make recommendations to the Committee as appropriate.

With regard to agenda item 15.2.2

- a) Discuss the review on *Lynx rufus* submitted by the United States in document AC25 Doc. 15.2.2; and
- b) Make recommendations to the Committee as appropriate.

With regard to agenda item 15.3

- a) Discuss the review on *Colinus virginianus ridgwayi* submitted by the United States in document AC25 Doc. 15.3; and
- b) Make recommendations to the Committee as appropriate.

With regard to agenda item 15.4

- a) Discuss the review on *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri* submitted by the United States in document AC25 Doc. 15.4; and
- b) Make recommendations to the Committee as appropriate.

With regard to agenda item 15.5

- a) Discuss the review on *Crocodylus amazonicus* submitted by the United States in document AC25 Doc. 15.5; and
- b) Make recommendations to the Committee as appropriate.

With regard to agenda item 15.6

- a) Review Annex 1 (*Output 1: Appendix-I species traded from wild sources for commercial purposes over the period 1999-2009*), and determine whether further investigation is appropriate as transactions are potentially in contravention of the Convention;
- b) If so, propose recommendations to the Committee to be presented to the Secretariat or Standing Committee;



- c) Review Annex 2 [Output 3: Appendix-I species with minimal (<=5 trade records) or no trade over the period 1999-2009] and Annex 3 [Output 4: Appendix-II species with minimal (<=5 trade records) or no trade over the period 1999-2009], to determine whether taxa in these annexes may merit further consideration, with a view to possibly lowering their level of protection (for Appendix-I species) or delisting them (for Appendix-II species);
- d) Establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices for animal species; and
- e) Identify a draft list of taxa for review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chairs: Alternate representative of North America (Ms Gnam) and the Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr Ibero);

Party observers: Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, Namibia, Poland, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: the European Union, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, Animal Welfare Institute, Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Born Free USA, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society of the United States, IFAW, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Pet Care Trust, Pet Industry Advisory Council and Species Survival Network.

Later in the meeting, the alternate representative of North America (Ms Gnam) introduced document AC25 WG3 Doc. 1. Some speakers expressed discomfort with the recommendation that *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri* be proposed for transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II, feeling that the species should be proposed for deletion from the Appendices. India undertook to provide information on *Prionailurus* spp. in India to the Secretariat. The Committee then agreed to the following changes in the document:

- In paragraph 3, change 'requests' to recommends;
- In subparagraph 4. a), change 'requests' to recommends;
- In subparagraph 4. b), change 'agreed' to supports, 'Prionailurus' to Prionailurus and 'requests' to recommends;
- In subparagraph 4. c), change 'agreed' to acknowledged and 'should conduct' to had offered to lead;
- In subparagraph 4. d), change 'would' to had offered; in the second sentence insert also between 'group' and 'recommends';
- In subparagraph 4. e), change 'accepted' to supported;
- In paragraph 5, change 'accepted' to supported;
- In paragraph 6, change 'accepted' to supported;
- In paragraph 7, delete the second sentence;
- In paragraph 8, change 'accepted' to supported;
- In subparagraph 9. c), change '*Chlamydotis*' to *Chlamydotis*;
- In paragraph 11, change 'the Animals Committee request by AC26 a list' to the Animals Committee request UNEP-WCMC to produce by AC26; and
- Change the numbering of the final paragraph from '13' to 12. In the same paragraph, insert in conjunction with the Plants Committee, between 'consider' and 'necessary', and delete the part in parentheses.

With these changes, the recommendations in the document were adopted as follows:

1. The Committee explored ways to improve performance of the Periodic Review of the Appendices and agreed to consider the following:
  - a) Collaborating with graduate students and incorporating Periodic Reviews in the CITES Masters Programme;
  - b) Collaborating with other non-Party reviewers including taxon experts such as IUCN Specialist Groups;
  - c) Utilizing information on species' conservation status that is readily available from the IUCN;
  - d) Seeking financial support for reviews, including from importing / consumer countries, and paying for reviews as appropriate;
  - e) Completing all Periodic Reviews agreed by Animals Committee, recognizing that reviews for some species may be easier or less costly to complete than others;
  - f) Encouraging regional representatives to contact range States to encourage volunteers for reviews;
  - g) Identifying countries where species are endemic and asking those Range States to conduct reviews;
  - h) Contacting the Plants Committee Periodic Review Working Group Chair to inform them of AC work and suggest coordination with Range States where Parties are reviewing plant and animal species from the same country.
2. The Committee asked the Secretariat to draft and issue a Notification to invite Parties to volunteer to complete the outstanding Reviews. This Notification should include the information contained in document AC25 Doc. 15.1, Annex revised to include:
  - a) Listing range States for each species;
  - b) Clarifying "In Progress" to indicate which country is already reviewing a species and list "Volunteer Needed" where a reviewer has not yet been identified;
  - c) Adding a column that links to the IUCN Red List account of the species and the contact information for the species' Specialist Group.
3. The Committee created an intersessional Working group to look at Galliformes as a test case to conclude between now and AC26 (see document AC25 Doc. 15.1).
4. Recommendations specific to Felidae, document AC25 Doc. 15.2.1, Annex:
  - a) The Committee asked that a Notification for Periodic Review of Felidae species (from AC23) be drafted by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee for distribution asking Parties to volunteer to conduct the remaining reviews.
  - b) *Prionailurus*: The Committee agreed that a periodic review was a High Priority for *Prionailurus* and invited India to consider including this review in its NDF Workshop.
  - c) *Panthera leo*: The Committee acknowledged that Kenya and Namibia had offered to lead the review as a high priority with range State consultation.
  - d) *P. concolor cougar* and *P. concolor coryi*: The Committee acknowledged that the United States and Canada had offered to conduct the Periodic Review for the two North American subspecies included in Appendix I. The Committee also requested that the regional representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean assist in identifying volunteers for the remaining subspecies in their region.

- e) The Committee supported the United States' recommendation to maintain certain felidae species as lower priority species for review (document AC25 Doc. 15.1, Annex 1).
5. 15.2.2: The Committee supported the United States' recommendation to retain *Lynx rufus*, *Lynx canadensis* and *Lynx lynx* in Appendix II, and *Lynx pardinus* in Appendix I.
  6. 15.3: The Committee supported the United States' recommendation to maintain *Colinus virginianus ridgwayi* in Appendix I.
  7. 15.4: The Committee agreed to follow Annex 4 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 and recommend *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri* for downlisting to Appendix II rather than delisting from the Appendices altogether.
  8. 15.5: The Committee supports the United States' recommendation that *Crocodylus amazonicus* be retained in Appendix II.
  9. 15.6: Output 1: (Appendix-I species traded for commercial purposes). The Committee recommended that further investigation be undertaken for the following species as transactions were possibly in contravention of the Convention:
    - a) *Saguinus oedipus*
    - b) *Pygathrix nemaeus*
    - c) *Chlamydotis undulata*
    - d) *Psittacula echo*
    - e) *Crocodylus intermedius*
    - f) *Pterocnemia pennata*
    - g) *Struthio camelus*
    - h) *Brachylophus fasciatus*
    - i) *Brachylophus vitiensis*
    - j) All Cheloniidae

The Committee requested the Chair of the Animals Committee to report this recommendation to the Standing Committee.

Output 3: The Committee recommended that, for those species identified in Output 3 (Appendix-I species with minimal or no trade over the period 1999-2009) (document AC25 Doc. 15.6, Annex 2) as "LC" (Least Concern) or "LR/LC" (Low Risk / Least Concern) or "EX" (Extinct) in the IUCN category, range States for these taxa be contacted and requested to comment within 90 days on the need to review the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the review [in accordance with paragraph e) of Resolution Conf. 14.8].

Output 4: The Committee recommended that, for species identified in Output 4 (Appendix-II species with minimal or no trade over the period 1999-2009) as "EX" in the IUCN category, range States for these taxa be contacted and requested to comment within 90 days on the need to review the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the review [in accordance with paragraph e) of Resolution Conf. 14.8]

10. Schedule for Periodic Review: The Committee asked the Secretariat for a Notification to go out as soon as the executive summaries of the present meeting were agreed and adopted and recommended that further review and scheduling occur in line with the process established in Resolution Conf. 14.8.
11. In order to complete the work related to Output 2 (document AC25 Doc. 15.6) and in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.8, the Committee requested UNEP-WCMC to produce by AC26 a list of Appendix-II species that were categorized by IUCN as "EN" (Endangered) or "CR" (Critically Endangered) to enable the Committee to make recommendations, as appropriate, for evaluating whether these species warranted a review.
12. The Committee agreed to consider in conjunction with the Plants Committee necessary amendments to improve Resolution Conf. 14.8 and decide on such proposed amendment recommendations by the close of AC26.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Mr Soemorumekso), Europe (Mr Fleming) and Oceania (Mr Robertson), the alternate representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher), Canada, India, Mexico, the United States and Humane Society International.

## 16. Sturgeon and paddlefish

### 16.1 Secretariat's report

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 16.1. During discussions, it was noted that no progress had been made in improving the status of sturgeons in the wild, with ongoing decline in Caspian Sea stocks of particular concern, and that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and illegal domestic and international trade in sturgeon products remained serious problems. FAO stated that it was willing to assist sturgeon range States with stock assessments and setting of catch quotas, potentially through its Central Asian Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development. The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation were encouraged to submit notifications to the Secretariat concerning their respective bans on commercial sturgeon fishing in the Caspian Sea, so that this information could be transmitted to Parties. The Secretariat's report in document AC25 Doc. 16.1 was then noted.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi), the Russian Federation, FAO, IUCN and Caviar Petrossian.

### 16.2 Progress report on the evaluation of the existing sturgeon stock assessment and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology in the Caspian range States

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 16.2 and its Annex. In discussion the Committee emphasized the importance of the issue and concurred with the assessment in the Annex to the document that current stock assessment methods were inadequate. IUCN stated its willingness to help improve methods through the Sturgeon Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission.

The Committee then established a working group (Working Group 4) with the following mandate:

#### Mandate (WG4)

Analyse, *inter alia*, the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 16.2, and draft time-bound recommendations to be presented to the Standing Committee. Such recommendations shall concern actions to be undertaken regarding:

- a) Progress in implementing the provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) that are relevant to the Animals Committee; and
- b) The Animals Committee's evaluation of the assessment and monitoring methodologies used for shared stocks of Acipenseriformes species.

#### Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair: Representative of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi);

Vice-Chair: Representative of Africa (Mr Zahzah);

Party observers: Azerbaijan, China, Poland, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: the European Union, IUCN, the Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Caviar Petrossian and IWMC – World Conservation Trust.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) introduced document AC25 WG4 Doc. 1. The Committee agreed that TRAFFIC would join and that the World Sturgeon Conservation Society would be invited to join the intersessional working group referred to in paragraph 9 of document AC25 WG4 Doc. 1. The recommendations in the document were then adopted as follows:

The Committee:

1. Took note of the Caspian Sea range States' commitment to improving the current status of the sturgeon conservation and to ensure sustainable use of the resource.
2. Agreed that insufficient sturgeon stock assessment expertise in the region and appropriate institutional structure to support such activities were the major impediments to the progress in implementation of FAO recommendations for improving the stock assessment methodology and TAC estimation.
3. Requested CITES, FAO and other international organizations to provide financial and technical support in stock assessment activities, including training and capacity building.
4. Recommended to the Caspian Sea range States to establish a regional sturgeon stock assessment committee under the existing institution that would be responsible for data analysis, stock assessment and development of management recommendations. The committee should include sturgeon biologists and stock assessment scientists. Creation of such committee was critical for establishing a transparent and objective process of collegial data review, analysis and management advice. The tasks for the committee should include those provided hereinafter to these recommendations.
5. Requested CITES and FAO support in providing stock assessment experts that could serve on such committee as independent experts, providing objective technical assistance to this group at the initial stage.
6. Recommended to the range States to hold regular regional workshops to develop common stock assessment methodology and approaches to IUU fishing, fishery management and restoration of stocks.
7. Recommended to the Caspian Sea range States to provide progress report on an annual basis, starting with the next Animal Committee meeting (AC26).
8. Took note that the Caspian Sea range States, with the exception of Azerbaijan, had not responded to the communication from the Secretariat as noted in document AC25 Doc. 16.2, paragraph 6, and urged the Caspian Sea range States to report to the Secretariat on the progress in implementing the report.

In addition, the Committee:

9. Asked the Working Group to continue its work intersessionally to review Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) regarding caviar labelling, product sources and species identification, etc., and, if necessary, propose draft amendments.
10. Asked the Standing Committee to instruct the Secretariat to better assist the Caspian Sea range States in implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) through fund-raising and technical support, specifically regarding combating illegal catch and trade, increasing public awareness and encouraging fishery community involvement in management and conservation of sturgeon.
11. Urged the Parties involved in caviar trade to reinforce their control of such trade due to serious concern over the legality of sturgeon products on the market.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi), Europe (Mr Fleming) and North America (Ms Caceres), the Russian Federation, IUCN, TRAFFIC and the Secretariat.

## Tasks for the Stock Assessment Committee

Develop a three-phase workplan.

### Phase 1

1. Complete data inventory, improve of existing survey methodology, develop of clear management goals, and establish biological reference points and stock rebuilding plans.
2. Improve the existing assessment methodology based on trawl survey by:
  - Developing time series of average catch per trawl by species as an index of relative abundance.
  - Evaluating trends in relative abundance (catch per trawl or unit area). Calculate confidence limit intervals for mean catch per trawl and coefficient of variation.
  - Analysing accumulated data with respect to possible changes in survey design to improve survey precision (consider stratified random, systematic, cluster designs, etc).
  - Evaluating survey precision and required sample size for various levels of precision
  - Considering uncertainty in current estimates of catchability coefficient and ways of reducing the uncertainty.
  - Considering design of a new study for catchability coefficient estimation.

### Phase 2

1. Develop a rebuilding plan for each stock that is considered overfished.
  - Specify the rebuilding time-frame.
  - Specify target stock biomass for rebuilding period.
  - Establish a monitoring procedure to control progress on rebuilding and make appropriate adjustments.
2. Develop biological reference points and establish a management control rule for each stock.
  - develop target and limit reference points for stock biomass.
  - develop target and limit reference points fishing mortality.
3. Review candidate assessment models and select those applicable given data availability. Candidate models included but not limited to, are production models, age structured VPA / statistical catch at age, equilibrium dynamic pool models (YPR and SPR analysis), etc. Once a suite of models is selected for the analysis, the committee will conduct a data workshop and a stock assessment workshop to produce estimates of mortality and population size and evaluate the status of stocks in relation to reference points.
4. Whenever the stock status is considered satisfactory to allow commercial harvest, develop TAC on a precautionary basis.
5. Initiate regional cooperation for population (stock) identification using molecular genetics tools.

### Phase 3

1. Upon successful completion of these tasks, review progress and revise the workplan according to the recommendations listed above as well as in document AC25 Doc. 16.2 and following the outcomes of the committee's work and emerging needs.
2. Report progress to the range States which in turn should report to CITES.

17. Conservation and management of sharks – Report on the implementation of NPOA-Sharks and regional plans, and on relevant information from the range States

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 17 noting that late submissions had been received from Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Japan and Mexico, and that these were now available on the CITES website. Discussion centred on the extent to which CITES should be involved in the conservation and management of sharks. Following the discussion, the Committee established a working group (Working Group 6) with the following mandate:

Mandate (WG6)

In the context of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) regarding provisions addressed to the Animals Committee, and taking into consideration document AC25 Doc. 17, including its Annex 1:

- a) Examine the information provided by range States in Annex 2 to document AC25 Doc. 17 on trade and other available relevant data and information;
- b) Develop species-specific recommendations, if necessary, on improving the conservation status of sharks; and
- c) Commence drafting a proposal for the Animals Committee report about progress on shark and ray activities for submission at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair: Representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson);

Vice-Chair: Alternate representative of Asia (Mr Ishii);

Member: Alternate representative of Asia (Mr Giam);

Party observers: Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Thailand and the United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: CMS, the European Union, FAO, IUCN, Defenders of Wildlife, Fundación Cethus, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pew Environment Group, SWAN International, TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson) introduced document AC25 WG6 Doc. 1 and its Annex. The Committee agreed that an intersessional working group would continue to work on this agenda item, comprising the members of Working Group 6, with the representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson) and the alternate representative of Asia (Mr Ishii) as co-Chairs.

The Committee agreed to the following changes to document AC25 WG6 Doc. 1 and its Annex:

- Add to the Animals Committee after ‘Recommendations’;
- In paragraph 1, delete the square brackets in the final sentence, which would now read: The Secretariat should provide the information received to the intersessional working group on sharks for subsequent consideration at Animals Committee meetings.;
- In paragraph 3, delete ‘,based on the questions in the Annex to the present document,’ from the opening sentence;
- Change paragraph 4. a), to read: shark questionnaires to major shark fishery States or entities, based on the questions in the Annex to the present document, to avoid duplication of effort and in particular to maximize the likelihood of responses; and
- In the Annex, paragraph 2, add after ‘towards this goal’, Have conservation measures been put in place? Have critical habitats been identified?; and in paragraph 10, change ‘require’ to report and delete ‘reporting’.

With these changes, the recommendations in the document and its Annex were adopted as follows:

The Committee:

1. Requested that the Secretariat issue a Notification to all Parties inviting them to submit a list of shark species (Class Chondrichthyes) that they believe require additional action to enhance their conservation and management, including if possible any concrete measures which they believed to be needed. The list should include a summary of additional supporting information. The Secretariat should provide the information received to the intersessional working group on sharks for subsequent consideration at Animals Committee meetings.
2. Requested that the Secretariat continue to update the Animals Committee on developments related to the inclusion of standards found in the CITES Toolkit on e-permitting with the World Customs Organization data model, particularly with regard to fulfillment of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) to report trade in sharks at the species level, where possible, and to report on product codes used for trade in sharks.
3. Requested that the Secretariat solicit input from Parties on:
  - a) whether they had domestic measures (e.g., laws or regulations) regulating the fishing, retention, and/or landing of shark or ray species in their waters, and whether those measures applied to certain species only or apply to all species; and
  - b) whether they had domestic measures (e.g., laws or regulations) regulating the import or export of shark parts and products (fins, meat, skin, organs, etc), and if so, what those measures were; and
  - c) provide that information to the Animals Committee and Parties.
4. Requested that the CITES Secretariat closely collaborate with the FAO Secretariat, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Secretariats, regarding:
  - a) shark questionnaires to major shark fishery States or entities, based on the questions in the questionnaire provided below, to avoid duplication of effort and in particular to maximize the likelihood of responses;
  - b) the elaboration of the current FAO review on the implementation of the IPOA-Sharks, in particular the inclusion of trade information and the provision of available information and other support to FAO for this purpose; and
  - c) review of Regional Fishery Management Organization shark regulations and their geographical coverage, including stock assessments, ecological risk assessments, conservation and management measures (including trade-related measures); and
  - d) report this information to the Animals Committee.
5. Requested that the Secretariat consult and closely collaborate with the CMS Secretariat on shark issues, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Secretariats, and report to the Animals Committee.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Mr Zahzah), North America (Ms Caceres) and Oceania (Mr Robertson), the alternate representative of Asia (Mr Giam), Canada, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, the United States, CMS, FAO, Pew Environment Group, TRAFFIC and WWF.



**Questionnaire for CITES Parties engaged in fishing and trade of sharks  
(Class Chondrichthyes) based on the principles of the IPOA-Sharks**

Please provide a brief response (less than 200 words) to the following questions.

1. Ensure that shark catches from directed and non-directed fisheries are sustainable
  - Do you have national measures directed towards this goal? If so, please summarize these measures and the status of implementation.
  - Are you a member of any Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) that have adopted measures for the conservation and management of sharks? If so, please summarize your implementation of or any difficulties with these measures.
  - Have you signed or ratified the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing? What is the status of implementation of the agreement?
  - With regard to fisheries enforcement activities, describe the problems that you are observing.
2. Assess threats to shark populations, determine and protect critical habitats and implement harvesting strategies consistent with the principles of biological sustainability and rational long-term economic use
  - What data collection and research measures have you undertaken towards this goal? Have conservation measures been put in place? Have critical habitats been identified?
3. Identify and provide special attention, in particular to vulnerable or threatened shark stocks
  - What measures do you have in place to reduce or eliminate take, mortality and/or trade of vulnerable or threatened shark species?
4. Improve and develop frameworks for establishing and coordinating effective consultation involving all stakeholders in research, management and educational initiatives within and between States
5. Minimize the unutilized incidental catches of sharks
  - Have you taken any measures and regulations towards this goal? If so, please summarize.
6. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function
7. Minimize waste and discards from shark catches, in accordance with Article VII.2.2(g) of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (for example, requiring the retention of sharks from which fins are removed)
  - Do you regulate shark finning (i.e., the removal and retention of fins from the shark and the discard at sea of the remainder of the carcass, live or dead)? If so, how?
8. Encourage full use of dead sharks
  - Have you taken any measures towards this goal? If so, please summarize (please cross-reference question #5). What is the status of implementation?
9. Facilitate improved species-specific catch and landings data and monitoring of shark catches
  - See question below.
10. Facilitate the identification and reporting of species-specific biological and trade data
  - To what extent do you report species-specific data and monitoring of catches, landings, and trade of sharks? Please specify which taxa (family, genus, or species) of sharks are reported.
  - Please specify which product codes are used for the trade of sharks.

18. Snake trade and conservation management (Decisions 15.75 and 15.76)

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 18. During discussions, the problem of snake products being mislabelled as having originated in captive-breeding or ranching operations was emphasized. Following discussion, the Committee established a working group (Working Group 5) with the following mandate:

Mandate (WG5)

- a) Consider the relevant results of the Asian snake trade workshop contained in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 18; and
- b) Provide recommendations to the Animals Committee for approval to be presented to the Standing Committee.

It was agreed that nomenclatural issues raised in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 18 would be dealt with by the Nomenclature Working Group (Working Group 8).

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chairs: Representative of Asia (Mr Soemorumekso) and the alternate representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher);

Member: Alternate representative of Asia (Mr Giam);

Party observers: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Poland, Thailand and the United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: the European Union, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, Animal Welfare Institute, Conservation International, Ecoterra International, Humane Society International, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Pro Wildlife, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and TRAFFIC.

The Committee agreed that the alternate representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher) would chair the intersessional working group referred to in paragraph 7 of document AC25 WG5 Doc. 1, and that all those interested would be welcome to join the group.

Later in the meeting, the alternate representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher) introduced document AC25 WG5 Doc. 1. During discussion, the view was expressed that the recommendation proposed in paragraph 3 of the document extended beyond the mandate of CITES. The question was raised of how the proposed recommendation in paragraph 5 would be carried out in practice. The Committee then agreed to the following change in the document :

The first sentence of paragraph 3 should now read: Given the current lack of sufficient scientific data, the Animals Committee encourages Scientific and Management Authorities to establish conservative annual catch and export quotas for CITES-listed snake species in trade and communicate those quotas to the CITES Secretariat.

With this change, the recommendations in the document were adopted as follows:

1. Subject to external funding and with appropriate assistance, the Animals Committee agreed, as a matter of priority:
  - a) to undertake a study of production systems for Asian snake species listed in CITES Appendix II and the use of CITES source codes. In evaluating different production systems, the biological feasibility and, where possible, economic viability of captive production operations should be considered;
  - b) based on this study, to develop guidance to assist the Parties in evaluating captive-breeding operations and other production systems; and

- c) to conduct one or more workshops in the use of this guidance for CITES and other relevant authorities of range States of Asian snake species, including sea snakes, subject to international trade.

The status of this work should be reported at AC26 and SC62.

2. The Animals Committee agreed to review the output of the IUCN Red Listing process for Asian snakes and make recommendations at AC26 for the consideration of the Parties with regard to amending the CITES Appendices.
3. Given the current lack of sufficient scientific data, the Animals Committee encouraged Scientific and Management Authorities to establish conservative annual catch and export quotas for CITES-listed snake species in trade and communicate those quotas to the CITES Secretariat. The Committee asked the Secretariat to communicate this recommendation through a Notification to the Parties.
4. By CoP16, the Animals Committee would assist the Parties (through consultation with relevant experts) by identifying the types of data and building on existing examples of good management practices that could assist the Parties in making non-detriment findings and setting quotas for Appendix-II snakes in trade.
5. Subject to external funding and with appropriate assistance, the Animals Committee agreed to select one or more high-value snake species in the pet trade (e.g. unique colour or morphological forms, range-restricted endemics), engage independent consultants to carry out case studies to determine the impacts of legal and illegal harvest for the pet trade on wild populations, and identify the information necessary to prepare non-detriment findings for those species. Recognizing that such case studies were a high priority, the Animals Committee shall liaise with the Secretariat, Parties, and the academic and conservation communities to enable such studies to be carried out. Those species identified in document AC25 Doc. 18 as meeting these criteria should be considered as potential case studies. The Animals Committee agreed to provide a progress report at CoP16.
6. The Animals Committee agreed:
  - a) subject to external funding and with appropriate assistance, to engage independent consultants to investigate methodologies to differentiate between wild and captive-bred CITES-listed snakes, including parts and derivatives, in trade;
  - b) to encourage interested institutions to investigate forensic identification and make this information available to the Animals Committee; and
  - c) to report on the status of this work at CoP16.
7. Through an intersessional working group, the Animals Committee agreed to collate and evaluate existing identification materials for live snakes, parts and derivatives, and make recommendations at AC26 regarding the need for additional materials. With the assistance of the Secretariat, existing materials should be brought to the attention of the Parties.
8. Noting the potential conservation impacts of undocumented trade in CITES-listed snakes, and specimens thereof, the Animals Committee encouraged the Standing Committee to examine the trade, including the trade in venom and other frequently unreported specimens.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi) and Oceania (Mr Robertson), the nomenclature specialist on the Committee (Ms Grimm), the alternate representatives of Asia (Mr Giam) and Europe (Mr Lörtscher), Chile, China, India, Indonesia, the United States, Humane Society International and TRAFFIC.

#### 19. Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Decision 15.79)

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 19. The Committee established a working group (Working Group 7) with the following mandate:

### Mandate (WG7)

- a) Review the study from the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (IUCN/SSC TFTSG) contained in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 19; and
- b) Draft recommendations for adoption by the Animals Committee to be eventually presented to the Standing Committee and/or at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair: Representative of Africa (Mr Kasiki);

Vice-Chair: Alternate representative of Asia (Mr Giam);

Party observers: China, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN, the Association of Midwestern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Conservation International, International Animal Trade Organisation, Pet Care Trust, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Pro Wildlife and Wildlife Conservation Society.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Africa (Mr Kasiki) introduced document AC25 WG7 Doc. 1. The Committee adopted the recommendations in the document as follows:

1. Subject to external funding and with appropriate assistance, the Animals Committee agreed to engage independent consultants to undertake a study to identify and discuss factors that were of particular relevance to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles, including (but not limited to) turtle population status and dynamics, trade dynamics, and the trade in parts, products and derivatives. This study should provide guidance for Parties to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles.

The Animals Committee agreed to report on progress at AC26 and CoP16.

2. The Animals Committee agreed to review at its 26th meeting the results of the North American Turtle Trade Workshop, held in Saint Louis in September 2010, and the Asian Turtle Conservation Workshop held in Singapore in February 2011, and additional pertinent information, and make recommendations for the consideration of the Parties to amend the CITES Appendices with regard to turtle species.
3. The Animals Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a Notification to encourage Parties to engage partners with expertise and resources when evaluating disposal options for confiscated live turtles, such as repatriation or addition to *in situ* or *ex situ* conservation breeding programmes, taking into account Resolution Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) on the disposal of confiscated live specimens, to maximize the conservation value of such confiscated specimens of rare tortoises and freshwater turtles.
4. The Animals Committee wished to inform the Standing Committee that the ability of Parties to make accurate NDFs was undermined by the often undocumented trade in parts and derivatives, and by the sometimes questionable use of source codes C, F and R, and therefore the Animals Committee requested the Standing Committee to place particular emphasis on these topics in its recommendations.
5. The Animals Committee noted with concern the trade management challenges identified in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 19 for tortoises and freshwater turtles. The Animals Committee requested that the Standing Committee consider proposing a decision at CoP16 directing Parties to report on their implementation of recommendations contained in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 19 regarding enforcement and compliance.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

20. Sea cucumbers [Decision 14.100 (Rev. CoP15)]

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 20. During discussion, the need to help improve the capacity of countries to manage sea cucumber fisheries was emphasized, and there was debate on the extent to which CITES should be involved in the conservation and management of sea cucumbers. It was reported that the identification manual on sea cucumbers being prepared by FAO was expected to be published electronically within the next few weeks.

The Committee established an intersessional working group to evaluate the outcomes of the FAO Workshop on Sustainable Use and Management of Sea Cucumber Fisheries, conducted in 2007, and to recommend at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties appropriate follow-up actions to support this initiative. The group would be co-chaired by the representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson) and the United States, and would include Australia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, FAO, IUCN, Humane Society of the United States, SWAN International and TRAFFIC.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by China, FAO and Humane Society International.

21. Transport of live animals (Decision 15.59)

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 21, noting that no formal responses to the Notification to the Parties referred to in paragraph 6 had been received.

The Committee agreed to form a joint intersessional Transport Working Group with the Plants Committee to assist the two Committees with the implementation of Decision 15.59. Austria would co-chair the group, which would also include the alternate representative of Europe on the Animals Committee (Mr Lörtscher), China, India, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, Animal Exhibitors Alliance, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA, Ecoterra International, IFAW, International Environmental Resources, Ornamental Fish International, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Pet Care Trust and Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

22. Nomenclatural matters

The nomenclature specialist on the Committee (Ms Grimm) introduced document AC25 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1). Regarding *Crocodylus johnsoni/Crocodylus johnstoni*, the Committee agreed to the approach suggested in paragraph 3 of document AC25 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1) and asked its nomenclature specialist to prepare a draft notification along the lines of Notification to the Parties No. 2008/051 for the Secretariat to transmit to the Parties.

The Committee then established a working group (Working Group 8) with the following mandate:

Mandate (WG8)

In order to enable the Animals Committee at its 26th meeting to decide on appropriate recommendations to make to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting,

- a) Develop recommendations regarding the nomenclature issues in paragraphs 4-9 of document AC25 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1); and
- b) Develop recommendations on how to carry out the tasks in Decisions 15.62, 15.63 and 15.64, paragraph a).

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair: The nomenclature specialist on the Animals Committee (Ms Grimm);

Member: The Chair of the Animals Committee;

Party observers: Belgium, Mexico and the United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, Conservation International and Humane Society International.

Later in the meeting, the nomenclature specialist introduced document AC25 WG8 Doc. 1. The Animals Committee noted that the recommendation in subparagraph a) v) of the document regarding *Agalychnis* was no longer necessary as action was being undertaken in the form of an appropriate footnote and a Notification to the Parties.

With regard to the recommendation on *Epipedobates machalilla* contained in subparagraph a) vii) of the document, the Committee agreed that the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Álvarez) would contact Ecuador to determine whether Ecuador was willing to prepare a proposal for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Humane Society International indicated that they would be willing to help in the preparation of a proposal.

With regard to the recommendation on Decision 15.63 contained in paragraph b) of the document, the Committee noted that its nomenclature specialist had volunteered to carry out the exercise outlined in the decision for amphibians, and that Belgium had volunteered to do so for mammals.

With regard to the recommendation on paragraph a) of Decision 15.64 contained in paragraph b) of the document, the Committee agreed that its nomenclature specialist would take the lead in establishing the intersessional working group on corals.

The Committee agreed to delete 'or' in subparagraph a) v) of document AC25 WG8 Doc. 1. With this change, the recommendations in the document were adopted as follows:

- a) With regard to paragraphs 4-9 of the document AC25 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1) the Committee has formed the following recommendations:
  - i) the Committee recommended to propose the adoption of the revision of *Uromastyx* by WILMS et al. (2009) as new standard nomenclatural reference for this genus;
  - ii) the Committee recommended to adopt the combination of the current main standard reference BÖHME (2003) together with the new publication of KOCH & al. (2010) as main standard nomenclatural reference for monitor lizards, Varanidae;
  - iii) the Committee did not recommend to place the species *Gongylophis conicus* back into the genus *Eryx*;
  - iv) by the listing of certain *Naja taxa* as single species in Appendix II, the CITES community had already clearly indicated that they were regarded as species under CITES. Therefore, the Committee recommended that no action be undertaken;
  - v) with regard to the question as to which species were covered by the new listing of the frog genus of *Agalychnis* spp. in Appendix II, the Committee asked the Secretariat to clarify this, as appropriate, by a respective footnote to the Appendices and a Notification to the Parties;
  - vi) the Committee considered snapshots of the taxonomic online databases for all amphibians, fish and spider species placed on the CITES website as the most suitable solution for standard nomenclature references for these groups and therefore asked the Secretariat to contact the copyright owners of these database in order to explore the conditions under they would be willing to agree to such an arrangement;
  - vii) A single special problem had been identified with regard to the frog species *Epipedobates machalilla*, which had been transferred recently from the genus *Colosthus* to *Epipedobates*. The Committee therefore recommended to solve this problem by preparing a proposal for CoP16 to include *E. machalilla* in Appendix II.
- b) With regard to the tasks outlined in Decisions 15.62, paragraph b), 15.63 and 15.64, paragraph a), the Committee agreed on the following recommendations:
  - Decision 15.62, paragraph b)

The Committee recommended that the task outlined in Decision 15.62 paragraph b) be included into Resolution Conf. 12.11 by adding it after letter f) in the Recommendation section of that Resolution.

- Decision 15.63

The Committee called for volunteers to carry out the exercise outlined in this decision for the class of mammals, reptiles other than Testudines and Amphibians in the format as the list already presented in Annex 4 to document AC25 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1), and to transmit these documents to the nomenclature specialist on the AC until 15 November 2011, so that they may be included in time for the nomenclature report to be presented at AC26.

- Decision 15.64, paragraph a)

The Committee agreed that an intersessional technical working group of coral specialists should be established to identify potential standard coral references and/or suggest ways on how such standard references could be developed and to report the results at AC26.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Oceania (Mr Robertson), the nomenclature specialist on the Committee (Ms Grimm), Belgium, Mexico, the United States and Humane Society International.

23. Identification of CITES-listed corals in trade [Decision 15.64 b)]

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 23, which contained in its Annex a list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level was acceptable, but which should be identified to species level where feasible. The Committee established an intersessional working group with a mandate to draft a proposed update of that list for consideration at the 26th meeting of the Committee. The group would be co-chaired by the representatives of Asia (Mr Soemorumecko) and Europe (Mr Fleming), and would include Australia, the United States, Ornamental Fish International and TRAFFIC.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

24. Progress report on the Identification Manual

The Secretariat introduced document AC25 Doc. 24, noting that transition from a paper-based manual to a Web-based database was now complete. There were nearly 500 registered users of the CITES Wiki Identification Manual, but fewer than 20 of these had requested editing rights. All recent changes for the manual concerned plants, not animals. Discussion centred on finding ways of improving the content of the manual, and on the difficulty in some developing countries of accessing material over the Internet.

Following the discussion, the Committee noted document AC25 Doc. 24 and asked the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties asking those who had difficulty accessing the Identification Manual over the Internet to inform the Secretariat if they would be interested in receiving an electronic copy of the manual periodically on some other appropriate mediums, such as DVDs. In the same Notification, Parties and others should be encouraged to contribute to the Identification Manual.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Mr Kasiki), North America (Ms Caceres) and Oceania (Mr Robertson), Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Humane Society International.

25. Time and venue of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee

The Committee noted that the meeting would be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15 to 20 March 2012 (excluding Sunday, 18 March). The joint meeting of the Animals Committee and Plants Committee would be held in Dublin, Ireland, from 22 to 24 March 2012.

No interventions were made during discussion of this item.

26. Any other business

Honduras provided information regarding the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) with reference to the regional report for Central and South America and the Caribbean.

No further interventions were made during discussion of this item.

27. Closing remarks

The Secretary-General thanked all those present for making the meeting successful and the Chair closed the meeting.