

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES (DECISION 15.79)  
(Agenda item 18)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Co-Chairs: representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean Asia (Mr Calvar and Mr Álvarez);
- Parties: Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States; and
- IGOs and NGOs: IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature, Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Animal Welfare Institute, Conservation International, Helholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Humane Society International, Pet Care Trust, ProWildlife, Species Management Specialists, Species Survival Network, SWAN International, TRAFFIC International and Wildlife Conservation Society.

Mandate

In support of the activities of the Standing Committee intersessional Working Group on Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles, the working group shall:

1. Assess progress, if any, with the study to identify and discuss factors that are 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. As this study should provide guidance for Parties to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles, advise on its integration into recommendations and actions emanating from agenda item 8; and
2. Review 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 consideration by the Committee, which could make recommendations at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee or 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Recommendations

1. a) Draft Decision 16.XX, directed to the Secretariat:

The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, contract independent consultants to undertake a study, taking into account the findings of the Cancun NDF workshop and other pertinent sources of information, to identify and discuss factors that are of particular relevance to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles, including (but not limited to) turtle population status and dynamics, trade dynamics, production systems, and the trade in parts and

derivatives. This study should provide guidance to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles.

b) Draft Decision 16.XX, directed to the Secretariat:

The Secretariat shall make the results of the study available to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee for their consideration.

c) Draft Decision 16.XX, directed to the Animals Committee:

The Animals Committee should review the study undertaken in Decision 16.XX and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee and the Parties.

d). Draft Decision 16.XX, directed to the Standing Committee:

The Standing Committee should review the study undertaken in Decision 16.XX and the Animals Committee recommendations, and make its own recommendations, as appropriate.

2. The Animals Committee requests the Secretariat to prepare a Notification to inform Parties that the reports of the workshops on conservation of tortoises and freshwater turtles held at St. Louis (September 2010) and Singapore (February 2011) are available at ([http://www.fws.gov/international/DMA\\_DSA/CITES/animals/turtles.html](http://www.fws.gov/international/DMA_DSA/CITES/animals/turtles.html)) and at the WCS website [insert WCS web page URL once document is available], and that the IUCN study of progress on conservation of and trade in CITES-listed tortoises and freshwater turtles in Asia is available on the CITES website (AC25 Doc. 19, Annex).

The Animals Committee requests that the Secretariat include in this Notification the following:

The Animals Committee encourages Parties to take note of the information and recommendations contained in these documents, and, if appropriate, to consider preparing amendment proposals or formulate and implement appropriate domestic and other measures to address the conservation of tortoises and freshwater turtles.

3. The AC recommends that the SC review the reports of the workshops on conservation of tortoises and freshwater turtles, held at St. Louis (September 2010) and Singapore (February, 2011), available at ([http://www.fws.gov/international/DMA\\_DSA/CITES/animals/turtles.html](http://www.fws.gov/international/DMA_DSA/CITES/animals/turtles.html)) and at the WCS website [insert WCS web page URL once document is available], and make its own recommendations, as appropriate.