

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Summary record of the 13th session of Committee II

13 June 2007: 09h10-12h15

Chairman: C.S. Cheung (China)

Secretariat: J. Barzdo
J. Sellar
J.C. Vasquez
M. Yeater

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
J. Gray
J. Hepp
W. Jackson

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement issues

26. Compliance and enforcement (continued)

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, introduced document CoP14 Com. II. 23 and explained that the other members of the drafting group were Argentina, Brazil and the United States of America. They noted that the Secretariat had proposed merging the draft decisions in document CoP14 Doc. 25 with those in document CoP14 Doc. 26. The drafting group had based its draft decisions, in document CoP14 Com. II. 23, on the draft decisions recommended by the Secretariat in document CoP14 Doc. 26.

The Secretariat stated that it had announced earlier that it would try to consolidate decision texts relating to the CITES Enforcement Experts Group. However, timing of the production of documents CoP14 Com. II. 23 and 27 had precluded this.

The United Kingdom read through the changes to the draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP13) proposed in the document, because it was not yet available in all working languages of the Convention. The draft decisions and draft revisions to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP13) were agreed.

Trade control and marking issues

42. Physical inspection of timber shipments (continued)

Italy, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, introduced document CoP14 Com. II. 18, the result of a drafting group established in the Committee's tenth session. Besides

Italy, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Equatorial Guinea, Mexico and the United States had participated in the working group.

Chile, on behalf of the South and Central America and the Caribbean region, supported the draft decisions in the document. The United States also expressed support, adding that, if they were adopted, the United States would urge the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to consult extensively with enforcement agencies and industry representatives in importing and exporting countries. They said they were ready to contribute to the tasks outlined in the draft decisions and that they would help to update a tropical wood identification guide produced by Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada.

Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Peru and TRAFFIC, expressed a desire to be part of the working group referred to in the draft decisions, should it be established. Italy welcomed wide participation in the working group, especially from Africa and Asia, and added that they were content to chair the group.

Mexico stated that there were problems with the Spanish translation of the document and that they would provide suggested corrections to the Secretariat in writing. The Secretariat proposed replacing ~~this should be submitted~~ in the final paragraph of the draft decision directed to the Secretariat with report. With this amendment, the draft decisions in document CoP14 Com. II. 18 were agreed.

Exemptions and special trade provisions

45. Personal and household effects (continued)

China introduced document CoP14 Com. II. 16 on behalf of the working group set up in the Committee's third session to consider the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.7 and the draft decision contained in document CoP14 Doc. 45.

Israel congratulated the working group. The United States fully supported document CoP14 Com. II. 16, but noted that paragraph b) ii) under "AGREES" would need amendment should *Corallium* be listed in Appendix II. The Chairman requested that this be brought up in Committee I in association with the listing proposal.

Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, proposed amendments to the draft resolution text in the document, namely the replacement of "250 grams" with 125 grams in the first indented phrase under paragraph b) ii) under "AGREES" and the addition of ,whereby the container has to be labelled in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP 14) at the end of that phrase. They also proposed changes to insert three new paragraphs before the existing paragraph b) of the draft decision, as follows:

- b) clarify the interpretation of Article VII, paragraph 3 b) of the Convention;
- c) assess whether there are specific species or types of personal or household effects which, in view of conservation concerns, would require different treatment under this Resolution;
- d) collate information about how each Party has implemented Resolution Conf. 13.7, particularly with regard to requirements for export permits, and assess whether this indicates the need to amend the Resolution.

This was agreed and document CoP14 Com. II. 16 was approved as amended.

Species trade and conservation issues

52. Asian big cats (continued)

India endorsed the Secretariat's recommendations in Annex 7 of document CoP14 Doc. 52. They stated that enforcement was crucial for the survival of Asian big cats and highlighted their efforts to enhance national legislation and strengthen anti-poaching patrols. They appealed to China to phase out tiger farms, consolidate stockpiles of tiger bones and maintain their ban on domestic trade ban of tiger bones. They introduced their draft decisions in document Com. II. 9 and noted their appreciation

for conservation efforts undertaken by other tiger range States, especially China's efforts to regulate internal trade.

China stated their intention to maintain the voluntary 1993 ban on domestic trade unless a policy review otherwise demonstrated that lifting the ban would provide positive benefits for wild tiger populations. They drew attention to a fact sheet disseminated at the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee and the International Tiger Symposium and in their national report on implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5. They also noted plans to convene a tiger conservation workshop in July 2007, postponed from May at the request of a coalition of non-governmental organizations. They called attention to increased collaboration on enforcement, highlighted public education efforts and stated that they were considering an amnesty for pre-Convention products. They also raised questions related to an investigation into allegations of tiger meat sales that had been discussed at the International Tiger Symposium recently in Nepal. They also detailed their efforts to contact the reporter who originally raised these allegations. China stated that they had distributed further information related to this subject to Parties via the document distribution area.

Bhutan expressed support for document CoP14 Doc. 52, and suggested amendments to the text of the draft decisions contained in document CoP14 Com. II. 19. In the draft decisions directed to the Parties, they proposed: replacing "should" with shall in the first and fourth decisions; and, in the second decision, replacing the first "should" with shall, and the second "should" with are invited to.

In the draft decisions directed to the Secretariat, Bhutan proposed: replacing the phrase "(building on recent scientific work, including the 2006 Tiger Conservation Landscape Assessment)" with and other relevant organizations in the first decision; inserting and in consultation with tiger range States after "Experts Group" in the third decision; and replacing the second decision with:

The CITES Secretariat, in consultation with Parties having or seeking to have specialized wildlife crime units, shall provide technical assistance and assist with the identification of additional opportunities for technical and financial support.

Bhutan outlined various tiger protection and conservation initiatives underway in the country, such as the designation of protected areas based on tiger habitat and the creation of corridors to link habitat fragments. They warned that poaching, poor law enforcement, and demand for traditional medicines had caused the tiger population to dwindle. They informed delegates that a population survey using camera trapping techniques was underway, and that the government had established a programme to compensate people for losses due to human-wildlife conflicts.

Cambodia, as a tiger range State, noted their support for the recommendations in CoP14 Doc. 52 and supported the draft decisions as introduced by India.

Nepal, as Chairman of the Global Tiger Forum, highlighted the International Tiger Symposium held in April 2007 in Kathmandu, noting that habitat fragmentation, decline of the prey base, illegal trade, and human-tiger conflict had been identified as primary threats. They encouraged Parties to improve the implementation of regional enforcement networks, and called for restricting captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. They invited interested Parties to join the Global Tiger Forum.

The Russian Federation supported the amendments suggested by Bhutan, noting that some had been discussed in the Working Group, and expressing surprise that they were not reflected in the document. They then outlined tiger conservation activities in their country, noting: the creation of a special inspection team for tigers in 1994; increased penalties for poaching; establishment of a national park that included tiger habitat; and work on establishing a trans-frontier protection area.

Indonesia, also as a range State, welcomed the amendments as proposed by Bhutan and the Russian Federation and highlighted tiger conservation efforts, which included establishing a tiger protection unit in Sumatra, the formation of a tiger action plan and a nationwide conservation campaign. Thailand, as another tiger range State, called attention to domestic management and conservation efforts and particularly pointed to the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network as a way to provide capacity to enforce CITES, particularly for tigers and Asian big cats. They thanked China for the

invitation to attend the July workshop and also stated their support, in principle, for the original draft decisions.

Swaziland did not believe captive breeding of tigers had a conservation purpose and warned that the practice might result in confusion for enforcement officials because it was difficult to differentiate between wild-caught and captive-bred specimens.

The United States also supported the amendments proposed by Bhutan, and called for the development of new approaches to address tiger issues. They expressed concern regarding domestic pressure within China to re-open the tiger trade, and warned that any trade in captive-bred specimens would result in more poaching and illegal trade. They advocated strengthening enforcement efforts in range States, and proposed additional text for document CoP14 Com. II. 19. They suggested replacing the fourth draft decision directed to the Parties with:

Parties with intensive tiger breeding operations on a commercial scale shall implement measures to restrict the captive populations to those that have the potential to contribute to internationally-recognized breeding conservation programmes; tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives.

They also suggested adding a fifth draft decision directed to the Parties as follows:

All Parties evaluating their domestic tiger trade control policies shall take into consideration the view of the Parties as expressed in Resolution Conf. 12.5 to remove references to parts and derivatives of Appendix-I Asian big cats from the official pharmacopoeia and include acceptable substitute products that do not endanger other wild species, and introduce programmes to educate the industry and user groups in order to eliminate the use of substances derived from Appendix-I Asian big cats and promote the adoption of appropriate alternatives.

The Chairman suggested that the United States discuss these paragraphs with other Parties during the lunch break, hoping for consensus at the next session.

The Chairman closed the session at 12h15.