

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



Sixtieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Doha (Qatar), 25 March 2010

SUMMARY RECORD

1. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Alternate Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee

The Secretariat, as temporary chair of the meeting, confirmed that, following the elections at CoP15, the current members of the Standing Committee were as follows:

Africa: Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt and Uganda;

Asia: the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan and Kuwait;

Central and South America and the Caribbean: Colombia, Costa Rica and Dominica;

Europe: Bulgaria, Norway, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

North America: the United States of America;

Oceania: Australia; and

Non-elected members: Qatar (previous host country), Switzerland (Depositary Government) and Thailand (next host country).

Norway was nominated as the new Chair of the Standing Committee. Norway thanked the Committee for the honour but noted that their acceptance of this position would have to be confirmed in the following weeks. Therefore the Committee agreed that Norway would be the new Chair, subject to its confirmation.

The Committee elected the United States as its Vice-Chair and Kuwait as its Alternate Vice-Chair.

The representative of Norway chaired the rest of the meeting, thanking the members of the Committee for the privilege and for the confidence they had shown in his country.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Kuwait), Europe (Norway) and North America (the United States), and by Chile.

2. National reports

The Secretariat drew the Standing Committee's attention to agenda item 12 on *National reports* of its 59th meeting (SC59), which had been carried over to the present meeting in order to allow the Secretariat time to consult with concerned Parties. On the basis of its consultations, the Secretariat advised the Committee that the following Parties had now submitted their missing annual reports and were no longer potentially subject to a Standing Committee recommendation to suspend trade: Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Nicaragua, Palau, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Swaziland. As missing reports had not yet been received from Cape Verde, the Comoros and Samoa, the Secretariat reiterated the recommendation contained in paragraph 5 of document SC59 Doc. 12 with regard to those Parties.

The Standing Committee determined that Cape Verde, the Comoros and Samoa had failed to provide annual reports for three consecutive years and agreed that the Secretariat should issue a Notification

recommending that Parties not authorize any trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with those three Parties until they have provided the required number of reports.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the regional representative of North America (the United States).

3. Ranching operations

The Secretariat drew the Standing Committee's attention to agenda item 15 of SC59 on *Ranching operations*, which had been carried over to the present meeting so that the SC58 Working Group on ranching operations in Madagascar could meet in the margins of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15). The Secretariat then reported the following.

At its 58th meeting (SC58, Geneva, July 2009), the Standing Committee had agreed on a list of 15 priority actions to be undertaken by Madagascar by 31 December 2009 in order to avoid a Standing Committee recommendation to suspend all international trade in specimens of Nile crocodiles originating from Madagascar. The actions identified were described in Annex 2 to document SC59 Doc. 15. The Committee had also decided to reconsider the situation at SC59. As agreed by the Committee, the Secretariat had sent a letter to Madagascar which formally expressed the Committee's serious concerns and conveyed to them the list of the 15 actions that they should implement as soon as possible.

France had provided funding so that two out of these 15 actions could be carried out. These two actions (an audit of the five ranching facilities for the Nile crocodile in Madagascar and a training workshop) had been implemented with the technical support of the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG). However, they could take place in February 2010 only, and not in September 2009 as requested by the Standing Committee at SC58.

As a result of the late implementation of these two actions, the Secretariat had been unable to make a recommendation to the Standing Committee at its 59th meeting and it had therefore been decided that the SC58 Working Group on ranching operations for *Crocodylus niloticus* in Madagascar would meet during CoP15 to report at the present meeting.

Members of the Working Group (France, Germany, Japan, Madagascar, the United States, the Secretariat, the CSG and representatives from the leather industry in Japan) had convened in the margins of CoP15 and developed their work on the basis of both the CSG's report on the training workshop and the audit of the five ranching facilities in Madagascar, and a progress report provided by Madagascar.

The Working Group had determined that the audit of the five ranching facilities and the training workshop had confirmed that there were reasons for serious concerns about the situation in Madagascar. In addition, the Working Group had also determined that the 13 other actions had been poorly implemented by Madagascar.

The Working Group therefore suggested to the Standing Committee that it recommend to the Parties that they suspend their imports of specimens of Nile crocodile from Madagascar. However, the Working Group also recommended to the Standing Committee that it reconsider the situation intersessionally, provided that a series of actions were fully and concretely implemented by Madagascar.

The Secretariat drew the Committee's attention to the fact that Madagascar had supported this recommendation from the Working Group, provided that the situation could be re-assessed by the Standing Committee through postal procedure before its 61st meeting. This postal procedure would be engaged only if the Secretariat considered that the actions identified were fully implemented by Madagascar by 30 September 2010. Finally, the Secretariat noted that Madagascar should report at SC61 on its implementation of the priority actions agreed at SC58.

The CSG then presented the actions that the SC58 Working Group had agreed Madagascar should implement before the Standing Committee could reconsider the situation. These were:

- a) Review, update, adopt and initiate implementation of the Strategy and Management Plan for Crocodiles in Madagascar that was prepared in 2004 (see document SC55 Doc. 13, Annex B). Madagascar shall provide the Secretariat with a copy of the new Strategy and Management Plan signed by the Minister of Environment and Forests.

- b) Establish legally-binding size limits with regard to crocodiles harvested from the wild in order to protect breeding stock.
- c) Further to the training workshop, develop and implement a system of control of the ranches. In particular, their registers should include the following information:
 - i) source of incoming stock (i.e. referenced authorization of each provider of eggs and source from which skins or hatchlings were obtained);
 - ii) date and place of slaughter;
 - iii) information relating to scute-clipping of hatchlings at the time of hatching, so that captive and ranched specimens can be identified;
 - iv) identification of skins according to their origin, that is captive-bred or ranched specimens (through internal tagging system);
 - v) captive breeding (eggs and hatchlings produced); and
 - vi) if the ranch has a tannery, information on the skins that are processed and converted into products.
- d) With regard to the artisanal industry: quantify numbers of artisanal and conventional retail outlets and tanneries; carry out inventories of current stocks (products and skins); develop and make it compulsory for the artisans to keep stock registers. These registers should include the following information:
 - i) referenced authorization of each provider of live animals, skins and/or products; and
 - ii) date of sale and details of buyer.

In addition, ensure that all artisans are registered or licensed with the government; and carry out random and regular inspections. Madagascar shall report to the Secretariat on the enforcement measures it has taken.

- e) Further to the inventory of stocks and through regular inspections, ensure that skins and products entering the national and international markets are within the established legally-binding size limits; all products and skins not in compliance must be seized and destroyed and perpetrators must be prosecuted in accordance with appropriate national legislation.
- f) Ensure that only licensed and authorized egg collectors carry out egg collection for the ranching programme, and that a collection report is submitted to the *Direction Générale des Forêts* (General Directorate for Forests, the CITES Management Authority for Madagascar).
- g) Update all relevant databases relating to crocodile management, including human/crocodile conflicts.
- h) Provide the Secretariat with all relevant measures (e.g. law, decrees, 'notes de service', licence conditions for tanneries) affecting harvesting, use of and trade in Nile crocodiles specimens in Madagascar, as well as copies of the minutes of the 'National Crocodile Committee'.
- i) On the basis of the audit carried out, establish the 2010 export quotas for ranched specimens (source code 'R') from each ranching operation.

The Secretariat further clarified that the SC58 Working Group recommended that the Committee adopt a recommendation to suspend trade with Madagascar in Nile crocodile specimens. After 30 September 2010, the Secretariat would assess whether the actions listed in paragraphs a)-i) above have been implemented by Madagascar. Should that be the case, the Secretariat would initiate a postal procedure under which the Standing Committee would reconsider the matter and determine whether to withdraw its recommendation to suspend trade. Madagascar confirmed its acceptance of the Working Group's recommendations and expressed its commitment to follow the steps that were being proposed. Both the Secretariat and the CSG stated that they would continue to stay in regular contact with Madagascar and to provide technical back-up as needed.

The Standing Committee agreed to recommend a suspension of trade with Madagascar in Nile crocodile specimens until 30 September 2010. It further agreed to review the situation via postal procedure after 30 September 2010 if the Secretariat determined that Madagascar had implemented the actions agreed at this meeting, and to then determine whether its recommendation should be withdrawn.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), the previous host country (Qatar), Madagascar and the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group.

4. Elephants: MIKE and ETIS subgroup

The Secretariat recalled the agreement at SC59 that the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup would be reconvened at the present meeting, noting that the Subgroup worked primarily through email and in English. After a short discussion, it was agreed to reconvene the Subgroup with the following members: Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Japan, Mali, Uganda, the United States and the United Kingdom.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Uganda).

5. Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The representative of the Depositary Government recalled the discussions on this agenda item at SC59 and proposed that the Committee choose its members to serve on a working group of the Standing Committee that would discuss with the Executive Director of UNEP the relationship between CITES and UNEP, or to serve on a working group to be established by the Executive Director to discuss this subject. Members of the Committee supported the proposal and believed that, as far as possible, the membership of the working group should maintain a regional balance.

It was agreed that the following Parties would serve on the working group: Australia, Colombia, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, and Switzerland as the Depositary Government. It was further agreed that Egypt should also participate for Africa if it was willing and the Secretariat was requested to contact Egypt about this.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Bulgaria and the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by the Depositary Government (Switzerland).

6. Closing remarks

The Chair thanked all of the participants for their cooperation in completing the work quickly. He offered renewed thanks to Mr Willem Wijnstekers as the outgoing Secretary-General for his work for CITES over many years.