

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

SUMMARY RECORD

1. Opening remarks of the Chair

The Chair welcomed the participants and gave an opening speech.¹

2. Report of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General also welcomed the participants and gave an opening address.²

Administrative matters

3. Agenda

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 3.

The Committee adopted the draft agenda in document SC62 Doc. 3 without amendment.

There were no interventions.

4. Working programme

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 4.

The Committee adopted the draft working programme in document SC62 Doc. 4 with an amendment to delay discussion of item 8 until Friday 27 July.

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

5. Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 5. There was general support for the proposed amendment to Rule 21.

In relation to the participation of visitors at meetings, it was noted that, in accordance with Rule 33, the Rules of Procedure apply and that these say that sessions are open to the public unless otherwise decided. Speakers generally had no objection to the participation of visitors provided that it was clear that they have no right to intervene in discussions. One Committee member, however, expressed concern about giving unlimited access to visitors and one Party observer believed that visitors should be regulated and be required to present credentials.

The Committee adopted the proposed amendment to Rule 21, paragraph 1, as shown in the right hand column of the table under paragraph 12 of document SC62 Doc. 5, with an amendment to paragraph b), to insert the words "and distribute" after "provide", and "of the Committee" after "alternate members".

¹ The full text of the Standing Committee Chair's opening speech is available at: http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/62/chair_speech.php.

² The full text of the CITES Secretary-General's opening address is available at: http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/62/SG_speech.php.

The Committee confirmed that visitors should continue to be allowed to attend meetings of the Standing Committee.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland³), North America (the United States), Oceania (Australia) and the Depositary Government, and by China and Indonesia.

6. Credentials

The Secretariat introduced this agenda item.

The Standing Committee noted that 58 Parties were represented at the meeting, and that all delegations of Parties that were members of the Committee and all but two of the delegations of observer Parties had presented credentials. In addition, all of the observers representing organizations had presented credentials.

There were no interventions.

7. Admission of observers

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 7.

The Committee noted the list of organizations that had been invited to attend the meeting, as contained in document SC61 Doc. 7.

There were no interventions.

8. Relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme

8.1 Report of UNEP

The representative of UNEP introduced document SC62 Doc. 8.1. He apologized for the lateness of the document and assured the Committee that the report for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) would be submitted in a timely manner. He further emphasized UNEP's commitment to the full implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP and the Standing Committee.

In the discussion that followed, speakers expressed the need for: full compliance with the MoU before CoP16; and the need for a more complete report in future including information on the use of the 33 % that is retained by UNEP from the programme support costs, information on significant challenges (such as those resulting from the removal of the translator's posts from the Secretariat) and opportunities to improve substantive cooperation (referring for example to the Rio+20 conference and regional activities).

As Chair of the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee, South Africa reported on the establishment of the Fund, which had been set up under UNEP as a multi-donor trust fund. South Africa reiterated its request to UNEP for secretariat support to the African Elephant Fund's implementation of projects approved by its Steering Committee. The UNEP representative stated that UNEP was willing to look at possible options with the Steering Committee. He confirmed that the 7 % programme support costs were used for management of the Fund.

The Secretary-General noted that there were two aspects to the relationship of CITES with UNEP: the programmatic side and the administrative side. The programmatic side was relatively strong and cooperative. The Secretariat's relationship with UNEP-WCMC was also strong, noting that its services were provided under a contract with CITES and paid for from the Trust Fund. On the administrative side, however, the support provided by UNEP was in certain respects disappointing and the Secretary-General was in discussions on these issues with the Executive Director. The Secretary-

³ Also speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, unless indicated otherwise.

General endorsed the request to UNEP to provide support for the African Elephant Fund, in accordance with UN rules.

The Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) pointed out the relevant parts of the Subcommittee's report in document FBSC/SC62 Doc. 1 and requested that the Standing Committee endorse the recommendations in that document relating to UNEP, under the subheading *Agenda item SC62 Doc. 8.2*.

The Committee thanked UNEP for its report and requested UNEP to report in future on its use of the 33 % that it retains from programme support costs, as stipulated in the MoU. The representative of UNEP undertook to follow up with colleagues.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana), Asia (Japan), North America (the United States) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland, as Chair of the FBSC), and by South Africa.

8.2 Decisions of the UNEP Governing Council

The Secretary-General introduced document SC62 Doc. 8.2, which had been prepared at the request of the Standing Committee.

One Committee member expressed support for better synergies but not increased bureaucracy for the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) involved. He emphasized the need for the Conference of the Parties to remain in control and to decide on appropriate synergies.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 8.2 and the oral report of the Secretary-General. It endorsed the related recommendations of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee contained in document FBSC/SC62 Doc. 1.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States).

9. Financial matters

The Secretary-General introduced this agenda item. He drew attention to the enormous volume of work accomplished by the limited number of staff of the Secretariat, thanks to their willingness to consistently work excessive hours, but stressed that this was not sustainable. He noted that five senior staff members would be retiring in the following three years, representing a great loss of experience. He highlighted the budgetary position of the Secretariat for the triennium 2014-2016. Given the global financial crisis, the Secretariat would propose to maintain the same number of staff and the same operating costs. An increase in the budget was however necessitated because of the continuous devaluation of the American dollar against the Swiss franc and because of the increase in the UN standard staff costs, which were the basis for budget calculations (noting that this did not mean an increase in salaries paid). He also highlighted the USD 450,000 drawdown from the Trust Fund reserve to cover costs in 2012 and 2013, which could not be sustained. The Secretary-General stressed that the Secretariat was the Parties' Secretariat and that they were doing everything possible to reduce costs. He exhorted the Parties to maintain the current number of staff to ensure a viable Secretariat that could continue to meet the needs of the Parties. Finally, he described the work of the Secretariat to improve access to finance, including from the private sector, and the development of technologies for the benefit of CITES implementation.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Secretary-General.

There were no interventions.

9.1 Financial report for 2011

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 9.1. As Chair of the FBSC, Switzerland introduced the Subcommittee's report on this agenda item, in document FBSC/SC62 Doc. 1.

Greece, Italy and Mexico stressed their commitment to the payment of their Trust Fund contributions and assured the Committee that their payments in arrears would be paid in the course of 2012.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 9.1 and endorsed the recommendations of the FBSC pertaining to that document, as contained in document FBSC/SC62 Doc. 1.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was also made by the representative of Europe (the United Kingdom).

9.2 Costed programme of work for 2012-2013

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 9.2 and Switzerland, as Chair of the FBSC, introduced the Subcommittee's report on this agenda item, in document FBSC/SC62 Doc. 1.

Parties stressed the importance of translating documents, noting that funds should be made available for this purpose to allow for all countries to participate in discussions and to ensure that no country is marginalized. The Secretary-General shared these concerns, noting that all translations were now external because of the decision of the Conference of the Parties not to fund the posts of the internal translators. He thanked the United Kingdom for its donation of funds to pay for Computer-Assisted-Translation software, which helped in the preparation of documents for translation and enabled cost-savings.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 9.2 and endorsed the related recommendations of the FBSC contained in document FBSC/SC62 Doc. 1. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to submit an analysis of translation costs at CoP16.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (the United Kingdom), and by the Central African Republic and the Congo.

9.3 Future financial reporting

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 9.3 and Switzerland, as Chair of the FBSC, introduced the Subcommittee's report on this agenda item, in document FBSC/SC62 Doc. 1.

There was general support for the suggestion that the FBSC should become a permanent body. Two Committee members supported the suggested new format for the budget. One speaker stressed the need to consider the level of priority given to activities and suggested that the Trust Fund be used only for high-priority activities. Two speakers supported the suggestion of a zero nominal growth budget to be forwarded to CoP16. One also supported the idea of setting a higher minimum contribution for Parties, and suggested that translation costs be analysed, that changing the location of the Secretariat be considered and that staff not travel in business class, and that funds from the Global Environment Facility should be obtained .

The Secretary-General summarized the effects of a zero nominal growth of the budget, including the loss of staff posts and the need for a major item to be cut from the budget, such as the USD 110,000 for UNEP-WCMC to maintain the trade database. He felt that a smaller number of staff would make the Secretariat unviable and that consideration should in that case be given to merging it with another secretariat. Regarding travel costs, he noted that the UN rules specified business class only for travel in excess of nine hours and that staff nonetheless sometimes gave up this right. He noted that the Secretariat could not obtain funds from the GEF but wished to ensure that Parties could do so in future.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 9.3 and endorsed the related recommendations of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee contained in document FBSC/SC62 Doc. 1.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (the United Kingdom, speaking on its own behalf) and North America (the United States), and by Mexico and New Zealand.

9.4 Access to finance, including GEF funding

Switzerland, as Chair of the Working Group on Access to Finance of the FBSC, introduced document SC62 Doc. 9.4 (Rev. 1).

There was general support for the idea of investigating the availability of GEF funds for CITES implementation, as well as other funds. One speaker noted that Parties should consider how they prioritize CITES in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 9.4 and endorsed the related recommendations of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee contained in document FBSC/SC62 Doc. 1.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia).

9.5 African elephant fund

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 9.5. It indicated that the African elephant fund now totalled USD 640,000, with new financial contributions from China (USD 200,000), the United Kingdom (USD 178,000) and South Africa (USD 25,000), in addition to those from France, Germany and the Netherlands announced at the Committee's 61st meeting (SC61, Geneva, August 2011).

In the face of major challenges for protecting elephants and combating poaching in Africa, as illustrated by the illegal killing of hundreds of African elephants in northern Cameroon in February 2012, donors were urged to contribute to the African elephant fund and fully support the implementation of the *African elephant action plan*.

Various initiatives in support of the conservation of elephants were announced, including:

- a conference for all Asian and African elephant range States in 2013, convened by India;
- a high-level regional meeting in Central Africa to coordinate anti-poaching and elephant conservation measures; and
- a motion submitted by Germany and partners to the forthcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2012 to organize a high-level meeting to develop recommendations for elephant range States, ivory consuming countries and discussion at CoP16.

The United States was considering contributing to the African elephant fund. It reminded participants of its existing national African and Asian elephant conservation funds, and encouraged applications to these funds. The World Bank offered its expertise in the further development of the African elephant fund, referring to its experience with the establishment of a fund in support of the Global Tiger Initiative.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 9.5.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Cameroon, the Central African Republic, China, the Congo, Germany, India, Kenya, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and the World Bank.

10. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties

10.1 Structure and length of future meetings

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 10.1.

During the discussion that followed, there was some support for the idea of reducing the length of meetings of the Conference of the Parties but speakers noted that it was not clear that there would be a significant financial saving for the Trust Fund. The main concern was to ensure that any such reduction should not have a negative impact on the effective participation of small delegations.

The Committee agreed to propose that the second week of CoP16 be four days only, and that this should be a trial run. It agreed that the operation of CoP16 would be reviewed at its first subsequent regular meeting (SC65), where the Secretariat should present a financial analysis, so that it could be determined whether there had been savings on costs. The Committee also noted the view that the

change of structure of meetings of the Conference of the Parties should not result in more work being done in working groups, as this could disadvantage small delegations.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Egypt), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by the Central African Republic, Kenya and Mexico.

10.2 Arrangements for the 16th meeting

10.2.1 Preparation for CoP16

The Secretariat introduced this agenda item. The Next Host Country (Thailand) announced that CoP16 would be held in the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre and provided an oral report of its progress in planning for the meeting in collaboration with the Secretariat. This was noted with appreciation.

There were no interventions.

10.2.2 Agenda

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 10.2.2.

The draft provisional agenda for CoP16 annexed to document SC62 Doc. 10.2.2 was approved, without comment.

10.2.3 Working programme

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 10.2.3.

The draft provisional working programme for CoP16 annexed to document SC62 Doc. 10.2.3 was approved, without comment.

10.2.4 Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 10.2.4.

Regarding the possible amendments to Rules 20, 21 and 25.1, no objections were expressed.

Regarding the possible amendments to Rule 23.6, two Parties and one observer organization supported the idea and three Parties doubted the need and felt that further explanation was needed. One of the latter felt that, in cases where the Conference of the Parties was considering two or more proposals to amend the Appendices in relation to the same species, the proposal with the greatest scope of effect should be considered first.

One Committee member did not support any substantive change to the Rules.

One Committee member suggested the need to amend Rule 15 to indicate that the Alternate Chair of the meeting should be on the Bureau and replace the Chair in his/her absence. One NGO observer suggested the need to amend Rule 18 in relation to motions to close the debate.

The Committee supported the Secretariat's suggested amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties indicated in paragraphs 3, 10 and 11 of document SC62 Doc. 10.2.4. With regard to the suggested amendment to Rule 23, paragraph 6, the Committee requested the Secretariat to take account of the interventions that had been made in preparing its document on *Rules of Procedure* for consideration at CoP16. The Committee also noted that the United States was considering the submission of proposed amendments to Rules 15 and 23.6.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana), Asia (Kuwait), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States, speaking on its own behalf), and by Canada, Humane Society International and IWMC World Conservation Trust.

10.2.5 Selection of nominees for chairmanship of the committees

The Secretariat introduced this agenda item. The Chair reminded the Committee of the procedure for the nomination of Chairs of Committees for forthcoming meetings of the Conference of the Parties and reported the recommendations of the Selection Panel referred to in Notification to the Parties No. 2012/025 of 19 March 2012.

On the basis of the recommendations of the Selection Panel, the Committee agreed that its nominations to the Conference of the Parties for chairmanship of the Committees of CoP16 should be as follows:

- Chair of Committee I: Ms Carolina Caceres (Canada);
- Chair of Committee II: Mr Robert Gabel (United States); and
- Chair of the Credentials Committee: Ms Zhou Zihua (China).

There were no interventions.

10.2.6 Sponsored Delegates Project

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 10.2.6, emphasizing the need to ensure that at each Party was represented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties by at least two delegates. They added that they wished to harmonize the way financial support was provided to all the permanent committees.

Supporting the document, one Committee member stressed the need for donors to provide support for the Sponsored Delegates Project as early as possible and that this was a better way to provide support to delegates than directly to them. One Party was concerned about not using the Human Development Index as a basis for determining which Parties could receive financial assistance. It suggested that the Conference of the Parties should establish the basis for making the selection. IUCN drew attention to its problems in raising funds to pay for the Analysis of Proposals for CoP16, and asked for assistance.

The Committee adopted the recommendations contained in paragraphs 8 to 10 of document SC62 Doc. 10.2.6.

During discussion of this agenda item interventions were made by the representative of Europe (the United Kingdom), and by the Central African Republic, IUCN and SSN.

10.3 Improving transparency of voting during meetings of the Conference of the Parties

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 10.3.

In the ensuing discussion, a number of speakers referred to the need to limit the use of secret ballots to ensure transparency as much as possible. It was suggested that one way to achieve this was to increase the majority required to call for a secret ballot, for example to increase it to one-third of Parties. Another suggestion was to limit its use to administrative matters. Several speakers felt that the secret ballot was an important tool available to Parties to enable them to be able to vote without pressure.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 10.3. The Committee also noted that the Member States of the European Union were considering the submission of a proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties in relation to the use of the secret ballot.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa, (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Central and South

America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States), Oceania (Australia) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by Canada, Chile, China, India, Kenya and Mexico.

11. Provision of support for committee members

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 11.

In the discussion that followed, speakers highlighted problems with the various options presented as a possible basis for determining which members of the permanent committees should be eligible to receive financial support to attend committee meetings. Problems were highlighted with several of the possible options and there was no agreement on any particular basis. It was suggested that further input from Parties was needed.

The Standing Committee requested that the Secretariat use its discretion in deciding on which members of the CITES permanent committees should be supported to participate in meetings using the CITES Trust Fund.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of North America (the United States) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by Argentina, the Central African Republic, Indonesia and SSN.

Strategic matters

12. Scientific committee reports

12.1 Animals Committee

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced this agenda item. He summarized the implementation by the Animals Committee of the various tasks allocated to it through Resolutions and Decisions adopted or revised at CoP15. He highlighted those that were relevant to agenda items 14.5, 19, 27, 48 and 49, and said that the Animals Committee had submitted separate documents or prepared specific interventions concerning items 18, 39, 50.2, 53.1 and 53.2. He provided information on the work of the Animals Committee on:

- wildlife diseases and wildlife trade;
- the development of a draft resolution for the making of non-detriment findings for consideration at CoP16 (in collaboration with the Plants Committee);
- the transport of live specimens of CITES species, with updated guidelines and amendments to the relevant resolution proposed for consideration at CoP16; and
- the revision of the Review of Significant Trade.

Concerning the latter, he thanked Germany for funding and hosting the recent meeting of the advisory working group on the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade.

The Chair of the Animals Committee expressed concern about questions that had been raised regarding possible conflicts of interest of Animals Committee members relating to their activities in the Committee, and he requested that the Standing Committee address this issue at its 63rd meeting (SC63) in the context of its implementation of Decision 15.9.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Chair of the Animals Committee and endorsed the Animals Committee's proposal that the Secretariat's status in the CMS/FAO Task Force on Wildlife Diseases be changed from "core affiliate" to "observer" or "partner". The Committee also agreed with a proposal from the Chair of the Animals Committee that the Standing Committee reconsider its implementation of Decision 15.9 at SC63 on the basis of a document to be prepared by the Secretariat.

There were no interventions.

12.2 Plants Committee

The Chair of the Plants Committee reviewed the highlights of the 20th meeting of her Committee (Dublin, March 2012), including the joint sessions held with the Animals Committee. She thanked Ireland for hosting these meetings so generously.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Chair of the Plants Committee.

There were no interventions.

13. Implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013

and

24. National reports

24.2 Special reporting requirements (Section B)

The Secretary-General introduced document SC62 Doc. 13, stressing the two aspects of the subject matter: revision of the Strategic Vision in line with post-2010 biodiversity targets; and possible extension of the Strategic Vision to 2020.

Although some Parties favoured the extension of the Strategic Vision to 2020, some others were concerned about extending its validity without having conducted an assessment of whether the targets were being met. The other main points made during the discussion were as follows: although the text referred to poverty alleviation, CITES was not set up to address this issue; care was needed not to pick up too many of the Aichi Targets, the current balance being right; care should be taken not to divert resources from the core functions of CITES. One Party opposed the proposed addition to the text of Goal 3.

One Party requested that, in the title of objective 1.7, the Spanish version reflect the English more strictly, in particular the use of the word 'enforcing'.

The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to revise the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 13 on the basis of the interventions made during the discussion, and to forward the document for consideration at CoP16.

The Chair of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements (the United Kingdom) introduced section B of document SC62 Doc. 24.2, which dealt with *Strategic Vision indicators*. He explained the work done to review the indicators against the existing biennial report format and drew attention to the subsequent findings and recommendations of the Working Group. He noted that the task of the Working Group was not complete and that it envisaged meeting in September 2012, if that was agreeable to the Committee.

Support was expressed for the Working Group's recommendations and it was recognized that some external resources would be needed to support a face-to-face meeting of the Working Group. The Chair of the Standing Committee encouraged the Working Group to complete its work and to provide a draft discussion document for his approval in advance of the document deadline for CoP16.

Regarding the issue of indicators for the Strategic Vision, the Standing Committee agreed to the recommendation of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements in paragraph 41 of document SC62 Doc. 24.2.

During discussion of this agenda item, intervention were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and the Depository Government (Switzerland), and by Israel and Mexico.

14. Cooperation with other organizations

14.1 Overview

The Secretary-General stressed the importance of working in collaboration with other organizations, and in particular implementing agencies, in order to achieve the goals of CITES and the effective implementation of the Convention. He noted that the key consideration of the Secretariat in seeking to

cooperate with other organizations was how any potential cooperation could benefit the implementation of CITES. He drew particular attention to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) as a good example of collaboration.

There were no interventions.

14.2 Convention on Biological Diversity

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 14.2. It explained that experts attending the meeting on compliance with the Nagoya Protocol, mentioned in paragraph 4, had expressed particular interest in the CITES National Legislation Project, the existence of strong CITES compliance measures for persistent non-compliance and the use of voting by CITES Parties.

The Secretariat had visited the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in May 2012 to discuss issues of mutual interest and the Secretary-General had been discussing with the executive heads of CBD and other conventions a possible Biodiversity Liaison Group retreat in September 2012, which would build on previous retreats held in 2010 and 2011. The Secretariat drew attention to paragraph 89 of *The Future We Want* (adopted at Rio+20) on the contributions of multilateral environmental agreements and the need for additional coherence amongst them. Finally, it stressed the importance for CITES Parties to ensure that CITES be referenced in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), *inter alia* as this could help them access relevant GEF funds.

Appreciation and support were expressed for the continuing efforts made to enhance cooperation between CBD and CITES, as well as other biodiversity-related conventions. It was suggested that particular emphasis be placed on strengthening initiatives on synergy at the national level through, for example, NBSAPs. GEF funds for enabling activities were felt to be modest and, in this connection, Parties to CITES and CBD could draw benefits from developing joint projects on issues such as non-detriment findings and sustainable use. Attention was drawn to a resolution on synergies recently adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and it was noted that something similar was being considered in CITES.

Reference was made to Recommendation XVI/10 on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), adopted at the 16th meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and to be presented at CBD CoP11. Among other things, the Recommendation welcomed the draft resolution on cooperation between CITES and the GSPC proposed by the CITES Plants Committee and to be submitted at CITES CoP16. India would be hosting CBD CoP11 in Hyderabad in October 2012 and they invited participation by CITES, as that meeting could help promote the role and visibility of CITES in relation to CBD. The Secretariat confirmed that it would be attending and that it was working with CBD, CMS and UNEP to organize a side event on species and ecosystems. Other planned side events (e.g. on the sustainable use of medicinal plants and bushmeat) were also likely to reflect and contribute to cooperation between CITES and CBD.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 14.2.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (the United Kingdom) and by Argentina, India, Mexico and TRAFFIC.

14.3 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 14.3. It believed that the proposed *CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2012-2014* represented a pragmatic and realistic approach and thanked the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) for its cooperation in preparing the draft. Speakers welcomed the cooperation between the two Conventions. Some suggested that, in implementing the work programme, the Secretariat focus on:

- joint fund-raising;
- fishery bycatch;
- the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia;

- cooperation with the secretariats of other CMS Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding; elephants in central Africa; and
- the distribution, abundance, ecology of and local management plans for species included in section B of the Annex to the document.

Other speakers cautioned that the work should focus on CITES core business and be regularly reviewed.

The Committee appreciated the good cooperation between the Secretariats of CITES and CMS and endorsed the *CITES-CMS Joint Work Programme 2012-2014* contained in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 14.3.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Europe (Ukraine and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Argentina, the Central African Republic, Israel and CMS.

14.4 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 14.4. Noting that the current Memorandum of Understanding with the CITES Secretariat had been signed in 2000, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), welcomed the broadening of scope of cooperation between FAO and CITES.

The United States referred to the draft memorandum that it had submitted, which was presented in Annex 3 to the document. They believed that the draft MoU presented by the Secretariat in Annex 1 went beyond what was called for in Decision 15.18.

Some speakers considered Annex 1 satisfactory. Others favoured Annex 3. There was some discussion as to whether a new memorandum should focus only on forestry (as in Annex 3) or be incorporated into a wider memorandum. There was general support for increased cooperation between CITES and FAO and one Party stressed the importance of keeping an open mind and looking for opportunities to benefit all. Another stressed the need to ensure consistency with the Resolutions referring to relations between CITES and other treaties or organizations, such as Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*. However, there was no agreement on either of the draft memoranda.

The Committee agreed to establish a working group to advance the work on this issue on the basis of document SC62 Doc. 14.4, Annex 1, and to report at its 63rd meeting. It requested the Secretariat to draft terms of reference for consideration at a later session, when the membership of the working group would also be decided.

Later in the meeting, the Committee agreed that the task of the working group on this subject was to prepare a revised draft memorandum of cooperation, on the basis of document SC62 Doc. 14.4 Annex 1, for consideration at SC63. It also agreed that the members of the working group were: Canada (Chair), China, Japan, Peru, the United States, a Party representing the European Union, Lewis and Clark College and WWF.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Egypt), Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Canada, Israel, FAO and Lewis and Clark College.

14.5 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 14.5, noting that governments had established the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) at their meeting in Panama City, Panama, during April 2012.

The Secretariat advised that it had later received a letter from UNEP seeking input from CITES on the intersessional work to prepare for the first plenary session of IPBES (tentatively scheduled for late January or early February 2013). It had informally discussed this letter with the Chairs of the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees, and shared with them recent decisions on IPBES adopted by the

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention. The Secretariat suggested that a working group of Committee members and observer Parties, or perhaps the Chairs of the Committees and the Secretariat, prepare specific recommendations for the Standing Committee on how CITES might engage with IPBES before and after CoP16.

The establishment of IPBES as an independent intergovernmental body was welcomed, though it was recognized that some aspects of its operation had not yet been addressed (e.g. the status of observers). It was considered timely for the Standing Committee to renew the mandate of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat to engage with IPBES, subject to external funding, so that such engagement may cover the period between the present meeting and CoP16. Moreover, the Standing Committee needed to ensure the preparation of a timely discussion document for CoP16 on IPBES-related developments, with recommendations on the future relationship between CITES and IPBES.

The Committee established a working group on IPBES comprising Colombia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Chair of the Plants Committee, under the chairmanship of Mexico, to prepare recommendations for discussion and decision later in the meeting.

Later in the meeting, following presentation and general acceptance of the working group's report in document SC62 Com. 6, it was pointed out that the Standing Committee needed to establish an intersessional working group to carry out its decisions related to IPBES.

The Committee endorsed the working group recommendations contained in document SC62 Com. 6. To facilitate implementation of the recommendations, the Committee established an intersessional working group on IPBES, chaired by Mexico and composed of Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Egypt, Ireland, Japan, the United Kingdom, IUCN and WWF.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by Argentina, Mexico and the Chair of the Animals Committee.

14.6 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 14.6, drawing attention to the proposed guidelines for cooperation between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and CITES contained in the Annex to the document.

Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of both organizations to enhance their cooperation, and it was suggested that such cooperation give due consideration to ICCAT as the only intergovernmental organization with responsibility for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas. Several Committee members supported endorsement of the proposed guidelines.

The Committee endorsed the *Guidelines for Cooperation between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)* contained in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 14.6.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Asia (Japan) and North America (the United States).

14.7 International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 14.7 and highlighted the activities that had been conducted under the auspices of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC). ICWC ensured a more coordinated enforcement response, which was necessary to combat wildlife crime effectively. The Secretariat also informed the Committee about the launch of the *ICWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*. Parties welcomed the activities conducted through ICWC.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 14.7 and supported the use of the *ICWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by the Congo and India.

14.8 World Trade Organization

The Secretariat introduced this agenda item, noting that CITES's requests for *ad hoc* observer status in the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade of the World Trade organization (WTO) were still pending. The Secretariat suggested that there still seemed to be insufficient support being voiced by CITES Parties for these requests.

At the invitation of the WTO Secretariat, the CITES Secretariat had participated in the WTO Advanced Course on Trade and Environment (Geneva, May 2012) which had brought together trade and environment officials from a number of countries. The Secretariats of CBD and the chemical and waste conventions had also participated in the course.

The Secretariat had also attended a session of a WTO seminar on international trade and invasive alien species (Geneva, July 2012), which had been organized by the Standards and Trade Development Facility [a global partnership comprising FAO, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization and WTO], in collaboration with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and OIE. Amongst other topics, participants had discussed the usefulness of European Union wildlife trade legislation and CITES mechanisms to manage invasive alien species.

The Secretariat had also attended the third meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, hosted by WTO in July 2012. The Secretariat mentioned that it had included a CITES contribution to Aichi Target 9 on invasive alien species in its mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision against the Aichi Targets (see document SC62 Inf. 4). At CoP16 (Bangkok, March 2013), the Conference of the Parties would consider adjustments to the CITES Strategic Vision to take account of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. The Secretariat wished to continue collaborating with other agencies in the Group, recognizing that its human and financial resources were modest and that there was a limited mandate for such work under Resolution Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14).

Finally, the Secretariat advised the Committee that it had been exploring the possibility of developing a short joint publication with WTO on the harmonious relationship between the two organizations for the past 40 years.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Secretariat.

There were no interventions.

15. Cooperation between Parties and promotion of multilateral measures

The Chair of the Working Group on Multilateral Measures (South Africa) introduced document SC62 Doc. 15, noting that the Working Group had met in the margins of the present meeting to further elaborate its recommendations on:

- terms of reference for the consultancy envisaged under Decision 14.30 (Rev. CoP15);
- a definition of 'stricter domestic measures' for use in the consultancy;
- options for the development of an inventory of stricter domestic measures;
- case studies that might be provided by Parties on a voluntary basis; and
- the need for an extension of the Group's mandate until CoP17.

The Chair mentioned that two non-governmental organizations, representing different points of view, would be invited to join the Working Group in the future. As a supplement to this introduction, the Secretariat advised the Standing Committee that it was continuing to work on the means to provide interactive national

profiles on the CITES website (e.g. containing information on stricter domestic measures and other aspects of CITES implementation), which could be maintained by the countries concerned.

Many Standing Committee members expressed support for the activities and recommendations of the Working Group, and noted the need to get a better overview of stricter domestic measures. One Party considered that internal measures should not create arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination against other countries. Another Party noted that stricter domestic measures went beyond the Convention and the Working Group's proposed definition helped to clarify this point. The provision of information on stricter domestic measures was seen as useful but this should not place a burden on Parties or the Secretariat and should be voluntary in nature. Parties' resource limitations were often responsible for their problems with implementing Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties.

Some Parties voiced concern about the Working Group's proposed definition of 'stricter domestic measures', saying that there was no mandate or necessity for the Group to define the term and that the proposed definition could be seen as limiting the right to adopt such measures. It was noted, however, that the Working Group recognized the clearly-articulated right under the Convention to adopt stricter domestic measures. A Party considered that the work on multilateral measures did not seem productive to date and that the Working Group's mandate should not be renewed.

Another Party suggested that the procedures governing the participation of Parties and non-governmental organizations in Standing Committee working groups were unclear and proposed that a list of existing working groups be placed on the CITES website together with their respective chairs and guidelines for participation in such groups.

The Committee accepted the terms of reference for the consultancy with the following amendments to paragraph 5. a) of document SC62 Doc. 15:

~~Agree on what its meant by~~ Give examples of stricter domestic measures, i.e. legislation, directives and policies, etc.

~~The following definition for~~ Solely for purposes of the consultancy, and not for the purpose of serving as a definition of the measures provided for under Article XIV, paragraph 1(a), of the Convention 'Stricter domestic measures' ~~is proposed for discussion~~ means:

~~**Stricter domestic measures:**~~ Domestic measures (legislation, regulations, decrees, policies, directives, notices, etc.) adopted by a Party regarding conditions or restrictions for international trade, taking, possession or transport of specimens of species included in the Appendices, or the complete prohibition thereof, which extend over and above the requirements of the Convention for that species with the aim of ensuring the conservation of the species through the mitigation of impacts, resulting from international trade in the species.

A footnote to the definition would read: This definition is intended to encompass only those stricter domestic measures with strong relevance to the conservation of the species through the mitigation of impacts resulting from international trade in those species.

The Committee agreed that it would be useful for the Secretariat to initiate in the future a portal or Web-based system for Parties to provide information on their stricter domestic measures on a voluntary basis.

The Committee recommended that the working group be continued until the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Norway), North America (the United States, speaking on its own behalf) and Oceania (Australia), and by Argentina, China, India, Israel, Mexico, South Africa, IUCN, Humane Society of the United States International, IWMC and Lewis and Clark College.

16. CITES and livelihoods

Peru, as Chair of the Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods, introduced document SC62 Doc. 16 and requested to postpone the discussion on this matter until later in the meeting to allow the Working Group to complete the draft resolution mandated in paragraph a) of Decision 15.5.

Later in the meeting, the Working Group Chair presented the results of the Group's deliberations as contained in document SC62 Com. 3. The following members of the Working Group had participated in the discussion: Australia, Austria, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel, India, Peru, UNEP-WCMC, Conservation Force, Humane Society International, SSN, TRAFFIC, WWF, Safari Club International and the CITES Secretariat. The Working Group Chair requested permission to extend the mandate of the Working Group to allow it to complete the pending tasks mandated in paragraphs b) and c) of Decision 15.5, and recommended the adoption of a new calendar of activities for the Working Group.

The Committee endorsed the draft resolution submitted by the working group in document SC62 Com. 3. The Committee agreed to extend the mandate of the Working Group to allow it to complete the pending tasks mandated in paragraphs b) and c) of Decision 15.5. It also agreed a new calendar of activities for the Working Group, as follows:

- a) Send to the members of the Working Group revised versions of the toolkit for the rapid assessment at the national level of the positive and negative impacts of implementing CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor and the voluntary guidelines for Parties to address the negative impacts, for their comments to be provided by 31 August 2012;
- b) Organize a meeting of the Working Group in Peru from 19 to 21 September 2012 to validate the final versions and submit them at CoP16; and
- c) Organize a side-event at CoP16 to showcase some of the best experiences involving CITES-listed species and poor rural communities.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), and by Peru (as Chair of the Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods).

17. National wildlife trade policy reviews

The Secretariat introduced this agenda item, noting that no additional wildlife trade policy reviews had been undertaken, possibly because a package of final guidance materials in the working languages of the Convention had not yet been provided. It reported that such a package was being planned for distribution at CoP16.

The Secretariat advised that the original pilot countries that had undertaken national wildlife trade policy reviews (i.e. Madagascar, Nicaragua, Uganda and Viet Nam) had taken some steps to implement the resulting recommendations (e.g. development and adoption of a formal wildlife trade policy), but that funding was needed for following up many of those recommendations. It further advised that the framework for undertaking such reviews offered a useful tool for self-assessment of the effectiveness of CITES implementation, and various government and academic researchers had found it a helpful model or example in this regard.

A member of the Standing Committee expressed interest in documentation related to wildlife trade policy reviews and suggested that CITES authorities and academics need to review this material.

The Committee noted the Secretariat's oral report.

During discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by the representative of Africa (Egypt).

18. Climate change

The United States introduced document SC62 Doc. 18 as co-chair of the Animals and Plants Committees' joint intersessional working group on climate change. They explained the background to the committees' findings and recommendations.

The Standing Committee supported the Animals and Plants Committees' findings in paragraph 4 and the conclusion in paragraph 5 of document SC62 Doc. 14, and agreed to report these at CoP16.

There were no interventions.

19. Capacity building

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 19, outlining progress made with activities and projects, including new courses available through the CITES Virtual College. It described projects implemented under Phase II of the capacity-building project funded by the European Commission, as well as efforts to establish partnerships and secure co-funding. The ongoing development of the CITES Virtual College was well received. A speaker stressed the need for the Secretariat to place greater emphasis on the establishment of regional cooperation in the implementation of capacity-building projects, so as to ensure inclusion of all Parties in such activities.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 19 and recommended that Parties support the Virtual College.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Egypt), Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), and by the Central African Republic, China and India.

20. CITES logo

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 20.

Whilst the potential benefits of a more flexible policy governing the use of the logo were acknowledged, most speakers stated that caution was in order. Risks included abuse of the logo as well as consumers misinterpreting the logo as proof of compliance with CITES rules, or endorsement by CITES Authorities or the Secretariat. Israel requested that their opposition to any policy-opening be put on record.

A speaker supported the Secretariat's proposal as it concerned entities already selected through adopted mechanisms, but another was concerned about giving them a free rein. Suggestions were made to open up the policy for a trial run, as well as to review the various options proposed by the Secretariat and adopt criteria or guidelines specifying how the logo might be used. For instance, they should clarify how operations that had registered some but not all the species that they bred in captivity may use the logo.

Given the variety of comments made, including requests for guidelines for the proposed widened policy, the Committee established an intersessional working group to look at this issue and report at SC63. The membership was as follows: Chile, China, Colombia, Ireland, Israel, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the United States (chair), Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, WWF and the Secretariat.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom), North America (the United States), Oceania (Australia) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by Israel.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Review of Resolutions

21. Substantive review of Resolutions

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 21 and the list of Resolutions for which it was considering proposing substantive amendments at CoP16, for the reasons indicated.

Concerns were expressed about the idea of including a *de minimis* exemption in Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP15) and about providing a definition of 'usual residence' in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15). Clarification was also sought regarding the ideas for revising several other Resolutions.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 21 and invited interested Parties and organizations to join the Substantive Review of Resolutions Forum on the CITES website, where the Secretariat would share its proposals and seek comments.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of North America (the United States) and by Mexico, Humane Society International and IWMC.

22. Review of Resolutions following Decision 14.19

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 22 and gave an update on progress. It explained that cut in the Secretariat's staff had reduced its capacity to conduct this review and called for volunteers to take the lead in the review in each language.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 21 and encouraged participants to step forward and volunteer to take the lead in the review.

There were no interventions.

Compliance and enforcement

23. National laws for implementation of the Convention

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 23 and provided an oral update on Parties' legislative progress. With regard to the priority countries identified in paragraph 20, Belize, Botswana and Kenya had provided updated information on their legislative progress. With regard to the other four priority countries identified in paragraph 20 (the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Paraguay and Rwanda), no response had yet been received and the Secretariat drew the Committee's attention to the recommendation in paragraph 36 that the Committee consider appropriate compliance measures, including a recommendation to suspend trade. The Secretariat clarified that Botswana has not been designated as a priority country and was included in paragraph 20 in error.

Members of the Committee expressed support for the Secretariat's work under the National Legislation Project and its recommendation in paragraph 36 mentioned above, noting that adequate legislation was an obligation under the Convention and that inadequate legislation undermined the Convention's effectiveness. They suggested that affected Parties be given 60 days to provide an update on their legislative progress.

Several Parties described their efforts to enact legislation, or to assist other countries to do so. Malaysia expressed its commitment to implementing enacted legislation that was recently placed in Category 1 and the United Republic of Tanzania explained that it was awaiting comments from the Secretariat on its draft legislation.

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should issue a Notification to the Parties recommending a suspension of commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Paraguay and Rwanda, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15), unless those Parties submitted updated information to the Secretariat on the progress made for the submission of legislation for parliamentary, Cabinet or ministerial approval by 1 October 2012.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand and the United Republic of Tanzania.

24. National reports

24.1 Late submission or non-submission of national reports

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 24.1, and gave an oral update on those Parties identified in paragraph 8 as having failed, without providing any justification, to provide annual reports for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010. It advised the Committee that annual reports had been submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Seychelles and Yemen. It further advised that no reports had yet been received from Guinea-Bissau, Nepal, Rwanda, Solomon Islands or the Syrian Arab Republic and drew the attention of the Committee to the recommendation contained in paragraph 12.

Noting the decision taken by the Committee under agenda item 23 on *National laws for implementation of the Convention*, the representative of Oceania (Australia) suggested that the five Parties identified by the Secretariat in its oral report be given 60 days to provide their missing annual reports.

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should issue a Notification to the Parties recommending a suspension of trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Guinea-Bissau, Nepal, Rwanda, the Solomon Islands and the Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP14), unless those countries submitted their missing annual reports to the Secretariat by 1 October 2012.

There were no other interventions.

24.2 Special reporting requirements (continued)

The Chair of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements (the United Kingdom) introduced document SC62 Doc. 24.2, noting that it was structured in four parts:

Issue A: Analysis of reporting requirements and potential for revision of the biennial report format;

Issue B: Strategic Vision indicators (already discussed under agenda item 13 above);

Issue C: Reporting illegal trade; and

Issue D: Review of the guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual reports.

He also noted that notes of the meetings that the Working Group had held in the margins of the present meeting were contained in document SC62 Com. 4.

With regard to Issue A (*Analysis of reporting requirements and potential for revision of the biennial report format*), the Chair of the Working Group drew attention to the four recommendations contained in paragraph 40 of document SC62 Doc. 24.2.

Members of the Standing Committee commended the Working Group for its considerable efforts and generally supported its recommendations. They also acknowledged that more work on this issue was needed before CoP16, e.g. to make reports more useful and outputs more valuable, reduce duplication of reporting or enhance the submission of reports.

With regard to Issue C (*Reporting illegal trade*), the Chair of the Working Group referred to the recommendations in paragraph 42 of document SC62 Doc. 24.2. He suggested that more thought might be needed on how to organize the reporting of illegal wildlife trade data – perhaps as a separate part of the CITES Trade Database. He also noted that the considerations of the Working Group only related to publicly available information; not data that would be shared in confidence among the enforcement community.

Members of the Standing Committee and observer Parties stressed the importance of gathering information and reporting on illegal trade, and generally supported the recommendations of the Working Group. In response to a question about the link between illegal trade and permits, the Chair of the Working Group explained that improvements in reporting practice should help detect fraudulent permits.

A Party noted that it was not easy to report illegal trade because relevant data were held by different agencies and criminal investigations or trials could take some time to complete. The Chair of the Working Group agreed that criminal procedures took time and explained that the Group's aim was to improve the information available to the governing bodies of the Convention.

With regard to Issue D (*Review of the guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual reports*), the Chair of the Working Group referred to the recommendations in paragraph 43 of document SC62 Doc. 24.2 and thanked UNEP-WCMC for having undertaken much of the detailed work on this aspect of the Working Group's remit. He stressed the importance of addressing the issues mentioned in paragraph 37 in order to improve the quality of the information in the CITES Trade Database, and thereby improve its usefulness to Parties.

Some members of the Standing Committee commented on several changes proposed by UNEP-WCMC and it was suggested that a deadline for the submission of additional comments be set, with the understanding that the Working Group would take them into account when further revising the guidelines.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements in paragraph 40 of document SC62 Doc.24.2, noting the need to avoid any unnecessary burden on Parties and the Secretariat. As paragraph 15. f) of that document underpinned some of those recommendations, the Committee amended it to read:

When making special reporting requirements, consideration should be given to making those time-limited, where this is appropriate, to avoid the potential for increasing unnecessarily reporting burdens.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations of the Working Group in paragraph 42 of the document.

The Committee noted that it had the authority under Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP14) to adopt new formats for annual and biennial reports. It invited Parties to send comments to the Secretariat by 1 September 2012 on the draft *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and on the draft sample report contained in Annexes 4 and 5 to document SC62 Doc. 24.2, respectively.

The Committee agreed that the Working Group should continue its work until the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17). It also asked the Chair of the Working Group to send the report of the Working Group to the Chair of the Standing Committee for approval prior to its submission for CoP16.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom, also as Chair of the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements), North America (the United States) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by China, Israel and UNEP-WCMC.

24.3 Reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 24.3, noting that the funds for the study foreseen in Decision 14.39 (Rev. CoP15) had become available only rather late, which had delayed the implementation of that Decision and Decisions 14.40 (Rev. CoP15) and 14.41 (Rev. CoP15).

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 24.3. It agreed that the Chair of the Standing Committee should report progress with the implementation of Decisions 14.39 to 14.41 (Rev. CoP15) at CoP16, and that the subject would then be on the agenda for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of Africa (Egypt) and by the Chair of the Plants Committee.

25. Ranching operations in Madagascar

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 25, noting that document SC62 Inf. 5 contained the report provided by Madagascar. It observed that the Working Group on Ranching Operations had met in the margins of the meeting and suggested that the Chair of the Working Group (France) be given the floor to report on the results of those discussions. The Chair of the Working Group thereafter read out the recommendations agreed by the Group and contained in document SC62 Com. 5.

Members of the Standing Committee supported the Working Group's recommendations, expressed appreciation for the cooperation that had been undertaken with Madagascar to date and observed that additional work was needed to address several outstanding issues, such as re-exports. Madagascar explained that it had a strict control system in place for imports and re-exports, but recognized that not all previous recommendations of the Standing Committee had yet been implemented. It drew attention to the ongoing political crisis in the country, expressed concern about the socio-economic impacts of the current recommended trade suspension and requested support for ensuring full compliance with the recommendations of the Working Group.

The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group on Ranching Operations in Madagascar that were contained in document SC62 Com. 5, and it requested Madagascar to look into the issue of re-exports.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (the United Kingdom) and by France (as Chair of the Working Group on Ranching Operations in Madagascar, Japan and Madagascar).

26. Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens

The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation of the Convention Relating to Captive-Bred and Ranched Specimens (the United States) introduced document SC62 Doc. 26. He added that, following a meeting of the Working Group on the sidelines, the Group recommended that Standing Committee request the Secretariat, where reasonable, to investigate the cases identified in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 26. Regarding the recommendations of the Working Group, the Secretariat suggested that the appropriate order for consideration of a draft document was first the Animals Committee, then the Standing Committee, then the Conference of the Parties.

There was general support for the recommendations of the working group, with the suggestion of the Secretariat. Support was also expressed for the development of guidelines for monitoring captive-breeding operations. The reference to captive breeding in the recommendations from the Working Group on Snakes was mentioned, as was the need to coordinate approaches.

The Committee directed the Secretariat, where reasonable, to investigate the cases identified in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 26.

The Committee approved the draft decisions in document SC62 Doc. 26, to be forwarded to CoP16, with the following amendments:

a) In the draft decisions directed to the Secretariat:

- under paragraph a), subparagraph viii) was deleted;
- paragraph b) was amended to read as follows:

Provide a draft of this report and additional materials to the Animals Committee at its 27th meeting, for review.

- paragraph c) was amended to read as follows:

Distribute the final report and materials to the Parties if endorsed by the Animals and Standing Committees.

b) In the draft decision directed to the Animals Committee, the words “Parties and the” were deleted;

c) In the draft decisions directed to the Standing Committee:

- In the first draft decision, the words “to the Parties concerned and the Conference of the Parties” were appended.
- The second draft decision was amended as follows:

16.XX At its 65th meeting, the Standing Committee shall consider ~~the need for amendments to existing resolutions or the development of a new resolution, as follows:~~

- a) ~~proposing amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) definitions of source codes to remove reference to the provisions of the Convention under which trade is occurring;~~
- b) ~~proposing amendments to an existing resolution or proposing a new resolution to develop a common understanding of the meaning and application of the provisions of Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5;~~
- e) proposing amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) or Resolution Conf. 14.3 or proposing a new resolution to provide a process for reviewing the

implementation of CITES for specific examples of trade in specimens that are claimed to be produced via captive breeding or ranching.

The Committee also approved a further draft decision to be submitted at CoP16, as follows:

The Secretariat shall report at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee on significant cases where it has taken initiatives or entered into a dialogue with Parties on trade in specimens declared as bred in captivity or ranched where there is serious doubt about the identified source of the specimens in trade.

The Committee noted that there was a need to coordinate the outputs from the Working Group on this subject with those from the Working Group on Snake Trade and Conservation Management relating to captive breeding.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Bulgaria), North America (the United States, also as Chair of the Working Group on Implementation of the Convention Relating to Captive-Bred and Ranched Specimens) and Oceania (Australia), and by China.

27. Review of Significant Trade

27.1 Implementation of recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 27.1 (Rev. 1), stressing the importance of the Review for the sustainability of trade and the credibility of the Convention, the detailed input made by the CITES scientific committees and the regular dialogue with affected Parties over several years before the cases came to the Standing Committee. The Secretariat requested the Standing Committee to note two amendments: the deadline for implementation of recommendation b) concerning *Swietenia macrophylla* from Belize should be changed from 30 September 2012 to 31 December 2012; and for the same species from Honduras, the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee had determined that the recommendations of the Plants Committee had been complied with.

Some speakers believed that the recommendations of the science committees could be too onerous for Parties to implement and others called for greater support to Party to comply with the recommendations. The Secretariat explained that the procedure for the Review of Significant Trade was currently under evaluation through a process laid out in Annex 1 to the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties. In addition, some support was offered to Parties to implement the recommendations through a capacity-building project funded by the European Union and through joint work with the International Tropical Timber Organization. One speaker called for a greater distinction to be drawn between cases categorized as 'urgent concern' and as 'possible concern' by the scientific committees.

Concerning the recommendations for action found in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 27.1 (Rev. 1), some speakers said that, in certain cases, more time should be given to the affected Party to implement the recommendations. Others called for the Committee to take a decision without delay. After dialogue between members, observers and the Secretariat, common ground was found.

The Committee agreed with the actions recommended in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 27.1 (Rev. 1), with the following exceptions:

- *Hippopotamus amphibius* from Cameroon:

Existing recommendation replaced by: "The Standing Committee recommends that all Parties suspend trade in all specimens of *Hippopotamus amphibius* from Cameroon if the recommendations of the Animals Committee are not implemented to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee within one month of the close of SC62 (i.e. by 26 August 2012)."

- *Hippopotamus amphibius* from Mozambique:

Existing recommendation replaced by: "The Standing Committee recommends that all Parties suspend trade in all specimens of *Hippopotamus amphibius* from Mozambique if the

recommendations of the Animals Committee are not implemented to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee within one month of the close of SC62 (i.e. by 26 August 2012)."

- *Pericopsis elata* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Existing recommendation replaced by: "The deadline for implementation of recommendation a) of the Plants Committee will be extended until 31 May 2014 to allow the Democratic Republic of the Congo to submit to the Secretariat the final report of the project on non-detriment findings for *Pericopsis elata* in that country and comply with the recommendation. Regarding recommendation b) of the Plants Committee, the export quota for *Pericopsis elata* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be 25,000 m³ for 2012 and until the results of the above-mentioned project are available. The Secretariat should publish this quota on the CITES website."

- *Swietenia macrophylla* from Belize:

The deadline for implementation of recommendation b) should be changed from 30 September 2012 to 31 December 2012.

- *Swietenia macrophylla* from Honduras:

The Committee noted that the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee had determined that the recommendations of the Plants Committee had been complied with.

In addition, the Committee requested the Secretariat to remind Solomon Islands about the need to respond to the Animals Committee's recommendations made in relation to *Tursiops aduncus*.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Egypt), Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by Cameroon, Honduras, Israel, Madagascar, Natural Resources Defense Council and Pro Wildlife.

27.2 Review of recommendations to suspend trade made more than two years ago

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 27.2 (Rev. 1), adding that, with respect to paragraph 7, India had complied with the recommendations concerning *Pterocarpus santalinus* made by the Committee at its 61st meeting (Geneva, August 2011) and established a zero export quota for specimens from the wild. Consequently, the Committee's recommendation to Parties to suspend trade in this species from India had been withdrawn. Further, with respect to Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae species from Viet Nam, progress had been made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Plants Committee, and the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee proposed that the Committee's recommendation to Parties to suspend trade in these species from Viet Nam be withdrawn.

In response to questions about the possibility of continued exports of specimens of *Pterocarpus santalinus* from India from confiscated, seized or artificially propagated sources, the Secretariat explained that these were governed by Resolution Conf. 9.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Article VII, paragraph 5, of the Convention, and not Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a), which were the subject of the Review of Significant Trade. Some speakers remained concerned about the sustainability of trade in specimens of *Malacochersus tornieri* from the United Republic of Tanzania, particularly for specimens of ranched origin. During the discussion, clarification was provided about the size of the export quota for *Prunus africana* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

With the exception of the recommendation related to *Malacochersus tornieri* from the United Republic of Tanzania, which it agreed to reconsider at SC63, the Committee adopted the recommendations in paragraph 8 a) iv) and in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 27.2 (Rev. 1) and the oral recommendation by the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee to withdraw its recommendation to suspend trade in Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae species from Viet Nam.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to note that the correct export quota established for *Prunus africana* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo was 72,000 kg.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by India, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Chair of the Plants Committee

27.3 Population status and management plan of the African grey parrot in Cameroon

Cameroon introduced document SC62 Doc. 27.3, which summarized information on an initiative to re-establish trade in African grey parrots, based on a national population survey and a comprehensive management plan. The full study was available as document SC62 Inf. 14. Cameroon requested that the Committee agree to an annual export quota of 3,000 live *Psittacus erithacus*, explaining that the study had concluded that an export quota of 4,000 to 6,000 specimens would be sustainable.

The Secretariat clarified that the Animals Committee had selected the population of African grey parrots in Cameroon for its Review of Significant Trade in 2004, and formulated recommendations in 2006. These included:

- establishing a moratorium on exports;
- developing a national management plan and a scientifically-based field survey to establish the population status of these parrots; and
- considering re-establishing export quotas when the results of the survey were available and the management plan implemented.

At its 55th meeting (The Hague, June 2007), the Committee had decided that the Secretariat should publish a zero export quota for African grey parrots from Cameroon in 2008. At its 57th meeting (Geneva, July 2008), it had decided that, until the recommendations regarding surveys and management plans were complied with, the Secretariat should maintain a zero export quota for Cameroon.

The Secretariat was of the opinion that Cameroon had now implemented the recommendations directed to it by undertaking field surveys, developing a management plan, and establishing an export quota for live *Psittacus erithacus*. The Chair of the Animals Committee concurred with this view.

Several members of the Committee commended Cameroon for its work. There was a suggestion to postpone by one month the decision concerning the allocation of an export quota, but this was not generally supported.

The Secretariat drew attention to Decisions 14.83 and 14.84 concerning African grey parrots to which Cameroon's actions could contribute, and announced that the European Commission had generously provided funding to assist with the implementation of these Decisions.

The Committee agreed to an annual export quota of 3,000 live specimens of *Psittacus erithacus* from Cameroon, and that any increase of that export quota should be reviewed by the Animals Committee.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and North America (the United States), and by Cameroon and the Chair of the Animals Committee.

28. E-commerce of specimens of CITES-listed species

The Chair of the Working Group on E-commerce of Specimens of CITES-listed Species (the United Kingdom) introduced document SC62 Doc. 28, noting that, by May 2012, Parties had not submitted to the Secretariat the information requested in Decision 15.57 on best practices and on websites adhering to codes of conduct. Nevertheless, several members of the Working Group had stated that they would submit this information shortly. A speaker supported the re-establishment of the Working Group and noted Canada's contribution to the development of a toolkit to assist with the regulation of legal trade in specimens of CITES-listed species via the Internet.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 28 and extended the mandate of the Working Group, in accordance with the recommendation made in paragraph 9 of that document.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia) and Europe (the United Kingdom, as Chair of the Working Group on E-commerce of Specimens of CITES-listed Species), and by Canada and TRAFFIC.

29. Enforcement matters

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 29. It expressed concern about an increased trend in the illegal trade in pangolins that was being detected, and reported on developments in Guinea since the Secretariat's mission in September 2011.

Speakers were concerned about the continuing problems of illegal wildlife trade in Guinea but several felt that more time should be given to Guinea to work with the Secretariat to find a solution. However, it was recognized that the problems could not continue indefinitely and that a deadline was needed for specific actions to be taken.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 29 and the additional information provided orally by the Secretariat, including an analysis of feedback received from Guinea on the implementation of recommendations from the Secretariat to ensure effective implementation of the Convention. In compliance with Resolution Conf. 14.3, paragraph 29. g), the Committee instructed the Secretariat to issue a warning to Guinea to take urgent measures to implement the recommendations made during the 2011 mission of the Secretariat to Guinea. The Committee also instructed the Secretariat to provide Guinea with a clear set of minimum actions that should be undertaken. It requested Guinea to implement these actions and to provide a report to the Secretariat on progress by 31 December 2012. Finally, it asked the Secretariat to evaluate that report and make a recommendation at SC63.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Egypt), Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Cameroon and China.

30. Central African wildlife trade law enforcement initiative

The Central African Republic introduced document SC62 Doc. 30.

Speakers welcomed the Action Plan, congratulated the *Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale* (COMIFAC, Commission of Central African Forests) countries on the initiative and stressed the need for support at the highest level to tackle the escalating problems of poaching in central Africa.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 30.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by WWF.

Trade control and marking

31. Introduction from the sea

The Chair of the Working Group on Introduction from the Sea (Brazil) introduced document SC62 Doc. 31. He provided a brief chronology of discussions held on this topic since 2000 and noted that the Standing Committee had endorsed at its 61st meeting (SC61, Geneva, August 2011) a proposed way forward, with the understanding that more work would be done on the chartering issue. Since SC61, the Working Group had developed additional text on the chartering issue and this text had been agreed by all Group members except Argentina and the European Union. The Group had fulfilled its mandate regarding implementation issues, as shown in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 31. The Working Group had come to a consensus on most issues fairly readily and hoped that the results of its efforts could be submitted for consideration at CoP16.

Argentina and the European Union explained why they could not yet join the consensus on the chartering issue and indicated that they would not object to the Standing Committee transmitting the Working Group's results to CoP16, without endorsement.

Members of the Committee and observer Parties thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for the excellent work done by the Working Group. They noted the open and transparent process leading up to the Working Group's report, involving interested stakeholders with CITES and fishery expertise, and the significant

progress that had been made. The majority of those intervening on the issue supported transmission of the Working Group's report to CoP16, with or without endorsement. One observer organization considered that the Working Group had found an elegant solution to a long-standing problem and encouraged the Committee to forward the Group's results to CoP16. It was noted that all Parties and observers would have an opportunity to make statements on the issue before or at CoP16.

Nevertheless, certain Committee members and observer Parties considered that more discussion within the Working Group, and among all Parties to the Convention, seemed to be needed. In their view, introduction from the sea was a complex issue and particular concerns about its practical implementation had been raised and not yet addressed. They considered that more data and capacity building were needed and that the opinions of fishery experts may not be sufficiently reflected in the Working Group's results. To address these concerns, it was suggested that:

- a) the Secretariat ask Parties whether they had any difficulties with implementing the Convention provisions related to introduction from the sea and, if so, whether they had any ideas for addressing those difficulties;
- b) Regional Fishery Management Organizations be asked for their input and such input be incorporated into a discussion document for SC65; and
- c) the Working Group develop an implementation manual on introduction from the sea for Parties.

The Chair of the Working Group noted the transparency of the Working Group's process and the full involvement of a range of experts, including representatives of Regional Fishery Management Organizations and of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the progress made by the Working Group and agreed to transmit the results of its work to CoP16, recognizing the reservations expressed by certain Parties.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (Norway and the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by Argentina, Brazil, China, Denmark and WWF.

32. Electronic permitting

The Chair of the Working Group on Information Technologies and Electronic Systems (Switzerland) introduced document SC62 Doc. 32, noting activities by the Working Group to build regional capacity with regard to the development of e-permitting systems and to establish partnerships with international and regional organizations. Speakers expressed strong support for the Working Group and interest in UNEP-WCMC's project on the Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX).

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 32 and supported the recommendation in paragraph 18 that the Conference of the Parties extend the mandate of the Working Group. The Central African Republic, Kenya and South Africa expressed interest in joining the Working Group.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia), Europe (the United Kingdom), Oceania (Australia) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by Argentina, the Central African Republic, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia and South Africa.

33. Purpose-of-transaction codes on CITES permits and certificates

The Chair of the Working Group on Purpose-of-Transaction Codes (Canada) introduced document SC62 Doc. 33, noting that the discussions of the Working Group were continuing, and requesting an extension until the deadline for submission of documents for CoP16 to complete its report.

Speakers expressed appreciation of the work done so far, agreeing on the need for clarification and simplification of the purpose codes to be used on permits. They supported the request to allow the Working Group to continue its work and prepare a document for CoP16. It was noted that there was agreement in the Working Group that the purpose code on an export permit need not match the code on

any import permit for the same specimens. Some speakers commented on specific aspects of the draft report of the Working Group and on the use and definitions of specific codes.

The Committee agreed that the Working Group on this subject should continue its work, taking account of the comments made in the discussion, and prepare a document for the Chair of the Committee, in advance of 4 October 2012 (the deadline for submission of documents for CoP16). The Chair would then decide whether to forward this document for consideration at CoP16.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by Argentina, Canada (also as Chair of the Working Group on Purpose-of-Transaction Codes), China, Israel, Kenya, CIC and SSN.

34. Streamlined process for cross-border movement of musical instruments containing specimens of species included in the Appendices to CITES

The United States introduced document SC62 Doc. 34, noting that they were considering the possibility of submitting a draft resolution on this subject for consideration at CoP16, similar to Resolution Conf. 10.20, and welcomed comments. Speakers supported the initiative and the consideration of this subject at CoP16.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 34 and recommended that the United States take into account the suggestions of several Parties and their offers to cooperate on the preparation of a document for CoP16.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana), Europe (the United Kingdom) and Oceania (Australia), and by Argentina, Canada and New Zealand.

35. Leopard export quotas

The United States introduced document SC62 Doc. 35 and reported on its fruitful discussions in the sidelines of the present meeting, which had led to broad agreement. Speakers supported the initiative to seek a revision of Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP14) to clarify the provisions relating to trade in leopard skin trophies.

The Committee noted that the United States had consulted with interested Parties and that it intended to submit a document on this subject for consideration at CoP16.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana) and Europe (the United Kingdom).

36. Physical inspection of timber shipments

The United States introduced document SC62 Doc. 36. It noted that work on the identification and measurement of CITES-listed timber species, and the physical inspection of timber shipments, had been carried out since CoP14, despite the Standing Committee's heavy workload. It suggested that the Committee take note of the Working Group report provided by the Chair (Italy) at SC61, showing the measures that Parties had taken to address these issues. The United States also suggested that a decision be drafted for consideration at CoP16 directing the Secretariat to obtain more information from Parties, in order to complete the work undertaken by the Working Group, and to provide access to such information on the CITES website, particularly for plant and enforcement authorities.

The representative of Europe (the United Kingdom) supported the development of a toolkit that could help Parties take a standardized approach to the issues addressed by the Working Group, and described some of the existing tools that might be incorporated into such a toolkit. The Chair of the Standing Committee thereafter asked the United States to put its recommendations in writing, in consultation with the representative of Europe. When the Committee reopened discussion on this agenda item, the United States reported on the results of its bilateral consultations and presented a draft decision that the Committee might submit for consideration at CoP16.

The Committee agreed that the United States, on behalf of the Working Group on Physical Inspection of Timber Shipments, would prepare a discussion document for the approval of the Chair of the Standing

Committee and subsequent submission at CoP16. The Committee further agreed that the discussion document would include a draft decision as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

By the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall:

- i) Obtain information and materials from those Parties that have reported that they have developed tools and procedures for the identification and measurement of CITES-listed tree species, and the physical inspection of timber shipments;*
- ii) Compile the information on the CITES website so that it can be accessed by CITES plant inspection and enforcement authorities; and*
- iii) Incorporate this information into its capacity-building activities related to timber trade.*

No other interventions were made.

37. Use of taxonomic serial numbers

The Chair of the Use of Taxonomic Serial Numbers Working Group (Canada) introduced document SC62 Doc. 37, summarizing its activities and the lack of consensus on the usefulness and feasibility of incorporating Taxonomic Serial Numbers (TSN) as an element of CITES data sets. Discussions ensued on whether the Working Group should continue discussions up to CoP16 in order to consider technical aspects of database design and data sharing and to develop criteria for potential TSN providers.

The Standing Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 37 and adopted the recommendations made in subparagraphs 26. a) and c) of that document.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland), and by Canada and Israel.

38. Identification manual

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 38, noting that external funding was required to enhance the Wiki version of the CITES identification manual. It acknowledged feedback submitted by Parties and described efforts to establish partnerships.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 38.

There were no interventions.

39. Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendices I and II

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document SC62 Doc. 39, drawing attention to a typographical error in the last line of the Spanish version of the document. Speakers recognized that there were differences of view on the interpretation of the criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendix II and that the Animals Committee's recommendations were a satisfactory compromise. Attention was drawn to the link between the interpretation of the criteria and the terms of reference of the *FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially-Exploited Aquatic Species*, which was expected to meet before CoP16.

The Committee supported the recommendations of the Animals Committee in document SC62 Doc. 39 and stressed the need for Parties to explain clearly which approach they chose for applying Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), Annex 2 a, criterion B, when preparing their amendment proposals.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by FAO.

Exemptions and special trade provisions

40. Personal and household effects

The Chair of the Working Group on Personal and Household Effects (China) introduced document SC62 Doc. 40, and drew attention to Annex 1 to the document, which contained a proposed annex to Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP14), comprising additional guidance for the uniform interpretation of the personal or household effects exemption under the Convention. The Working Group had not identified species or specimens requiring special treatment but 'commodities' were proposed for certain treatment under Annex 1. The Working Group had experienced difficulties in obtaining information from Parties on their treatment of personal or household effects, and the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements and the Working Group on Multilateral Measures were looking at this issue as well.

The Working Group Chair proposed that the Group prepare a revised draft annex to Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP14) and consult with the Chair of the Standing Committee before conveying its full report to CoP16.

Members of the Standing Committee expressed appreciation and support for the efforts of the Chair and the Working Group. One member described newly enacted national legislation which gave effect to the personal or household effects exemption. Another suggested that the Working Group's recommendations could go further, e.g. encourage the use of export permits for hunting trophies and the adoption of a precautionary approach where a Party's recognition of the personal or household exemption was unclear.

The Committee endorsed the way forward recommended by the Working Group on Personal and Household Effects, namely that the Group would continue its work on a proposed annex to Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP14), finalize its report and, after obtaining approval from the Chair of the Standing Committee, submit the report for consideration at CoP16. The Working Group on Personal and Household Effects would also request the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements and the Working Group on Multilateral Measures to consider means for collating information about how each Party had implemented Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP14).

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by China (as Chair of the Working Group on Personal and Household Effects).

41. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

The Secretariat briefly introduced document SC62 Doc. 41 before the Chair gave the floor to the Philippines and Indonesia as the Parties respectively applying for and objecting to the CITES registration of a captive-breeding operation.

The Philippines stressed their desire to engage constructively in international trade. This registration would contribute to wildlife conservation, and the applications contained all the documents necessary at the time of acquisition of the parental breeding stocks. They thanked the Animals Committee for recognizing the availability of birds in international trade at the time, as shown in the trade records, and fully supported its conclusions. Finally, they reminded the Committee that the Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia was a voluntary initiative and not a prerequisite to the registration.

Indonesia supported conservation efforts through *ex situ* operations in general, but they had strong concerns about the conditions of acquisition of the parental stocks under consideration. CITES export and re-export permits were required at the time trade had taken place, and yet all that the Philippines could provide were pre-Convention certificates and permits that did not specify the species. They also refuted the conclusions of the Animals Committee, arguing that those were in contradiction with Articles IV and X of the Convention, as well as trade records from UNEP-WCMC, which did not show any legal trade in 1981 and 1982. Accepting this registration might also set a precedent for submitting registration applications without evidence of legal acquisition. Finally, there was information linking the applicant to a known smuggler.

Some thought that the applications complied with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), but others disagreed, arguing that the applications had already been rejected in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and did not contain any new information. A suggestion was made to postpone a decision in order to give time to Indonesia and the Philippines to come to an agreement. This was welcomed by various

speakers. The Chair of the Animals Committee clarified that there had been no consensus in his Committee, which was neither supporting nor rejecting the registration. Its assessment of the trade data available had pointed to a probability of legal imports, no more, and it had referred the issue of legal origin to the Standing Committee. The stalled cooperation between the two countries concerned was deemed regretful. Many operations did not seek registration because they could not demonstrate legal acquisition, particularly in developed countries. This weakened the Resolution and a way forward should be found, such as cooperation between *ex situ* operations and countries of origin.

The Philippines responded that previous submissions had concerned more species, and that the applications under consideration were before the Committee in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15). It regretted the fact that the permits were not more precise, but reminded participants that those were all that was required at the time. As for collaboration with Indonesia, it was ongoing but not a requirement in the Resolution and should therefore not hold up the registration. Indonesia reiterated its opinion that the pre-Convention certificates were not valid and that trade records did not show legal imports into the Philippines. This was disputed by the Philippines, as trade had occurred between two countries that were not Parties at the time.

The Chair summarized that there was a wide agreement to see more operations applying for registration and complying with CITES rules. He acknowledged that cooperation between *ex situ* operations and countries of origin was not a prerequisite, but also felt that there was a strong feeling among Committee members that this paved the way forward. Nevertheless, a participant reiterated that the crux of the matter was the legal origin of the parental stocks.

The Committee postponed a decision on the acceptance or rejection of the registration applications from the Philippines until its 63rd meeting, so as to leave time for Indonesia and the Philippines to further their cooperation efforts and to report on progress at that meeting. The Committee also encouraged cooperation between Parties with *ex situ* breeding operations and those with *in situ* conservation programmes.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait) and Europe (Norway), and by China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Mexico, the United States, the Chair of the Animals Committee and Humane Society International.

Species trade and conservation

42. Great apes

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 42 and several Parties expressed their appreciation for this report. A Party indicated that it would monitor progress with the missions that the Secretariat planned to undertake to gorilla range States. It was also suggested that chimpanzees be covered by these missions and that special attention be given to permits issued for these species.

Switzerland informed participants of a "Project GAPIN II Workshop for Frontline Customs Officers at Airports" that had been held in Zürich, Switzerland, from 19 to 22 June 2012. The Democratic Republic of the Congo indicated that some illegal trade in great apes had been detected on its border with Burundi.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 42 and requested the Secretariat to report on the technical mission to gorilla range States at CoP16.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and the Depository Government (Switzerland), and by IUCN.

43. Asian big cats

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 43.

Botswana noted that the CITES Secretary-General had sent a letter to the International Olympic Committee to draw attention to the plight of Asian big cats, and it welcomed the use of such platforms for raising public awareness.

It was emphasized that Asian big cat numbers were very low and that a review of implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) was needed. Several speakers stressed how important it was for

Parties to report on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) and Decision 14.69, and the Secretariat was asked first to issue a Notification to remind Parties of their reporting requirements, and second to report on the status of Asian big cats at CoP16. It was stressed that reporting should not focus on tigers only but should include all Asian big cat species. It was also said that campaigns were needed to raise awareness of the issues affecting Asian big cats negatively.

In response to a question on progress with the development and use of the ICCWC Wildlife Enforcement Indicators, the Secretariat explained that the process was ongoing and that experts would be consulted for input once the initial phase of indicator development was concluded.

China thanked the Secretariat for the support provided to tiger range States and informed participants that it had established a number of collaborative law enforcement initiatives. China believed that demand should be addressed in accordance with the Saint Petersburg declaration and stated that it had banned the medicinal use of tiger bones 19 years ago.

India highlighted the role of Project Tiger, which had been implemented in that country in 1973. The need for training of field staff in DNA collection and the use of DNA forensics were also highlighted. India also expressed the view that the demand for tiger parts and derivatives was still high and it explained in detail the measures it had implemented to put a stop to it.

The World Bank thanked the Secretariat for its strong support and provided an overview of the activities of the Global Tiger Initiative. It highlighted several challenges, such as the significant role still played by demand, the lack of enforcement at ground level, the fact that criminals were now better organized, and the increasing poaching of leopards. The World Bank also indicated that it would promote the piloting of the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* in tiger range States.

Other speakers stressed the importance of effective demand-reduction strategies and expressed concerns over captive-breeding facilities and the role they could play in illegal trade.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 43 and agreed that the Secretariat should issue a Notification to Parties reminding them of their reporting obligations, to enable a full assessment at CoP16. That Notification should stress that information was required for all Asian big cats. It should also stress the need for information relating to compliance with Decision 14.69, by requesting:

- a) All Parties with intensive operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale to fully implement Decision 14.69 in respect of the number of breeding operations and also for the total number of tigers; and
- b) All Parties to declare stockpiles of captive-bred or confiscated tiger body parts and derivatives along with actions proposed to consolidate or destroy the stockpiles.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Egypt), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China, India, Israel, the World Bank, TRAFFIC and the Wildlife Protection Society.

44. Bushmeat

The Chair of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) introduced this agenda item. He described relevant ongoing activities, particularly FAO's large project concerning the management of and trade in bushmeat in Central Africa and WWF's 'Project bushmeat'. He committed to submit a report at CoP16 pursuant to Decision 14.74 (Rev. CoP15), but requested support from the Secretariat in this regard.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Chair of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group, provided in compliance with Decisions 14.73 and 14.74 (Rev. CoP15). The Committee requested that the Secretariat liaise with the Working Group for the preparation of the report that the Working Group should submit for CoP16.

There were no interventions.

45. Tibetan antelope

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 45 and reported on information provided by China about the seizures of specimens of Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*).

General support was expressed for the Secretariat's recommendation to propose at CoP16 that the reporting requirement be deleted from the text of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13) and that the Secretariat report only on current or urgent issues, if necessary.

It was pointed out that illegal trade in specimens of this species might again increase in future and stressed that significant cases should be brought to the attention of the Committee as appropriate.

China acknowledged the efforts of range States to conserve this species and to combat illegal trade, and it expressed the view that a regular review of the enforcement measures taken by the Parties in eliminating the illegal trade in Tibetan antelope products should be maintained.

A speaker highlighted that the conservation status of the species had improved significantly and that including the species in Appendix I had greatly contributed to this recovery. It further stated that continued enforcement was needed to combat illegal trade and supported continued reporting to CoP.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 45 and endorsed the recommendation that the Secretariat propose at CoP16 that the reporting requirement be deleted from the text of the Resolution.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by China, India and IUCN.

46. Elephants

46.1 Elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 46.1 (Rev. 1) and expressed its gratitude to the European Union for the financial support that had allowed it to implement Decision 14.78 (Rev. CoP15). IUCN, South Africa (on behalf of the African elephant range States), the Secretariat and TRAFFIC presented their key findings, as contained in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 46.1 (Rev. 1). The Secretariat then drew attention to its recommendations in paragraph 6 of the document.

Participants commended the quality of the report, and broadly supported its findings and the Secretariat's recommendations. They expressed general concern about the current 'elephant poaching crisis', and the inadequate control of illegal trade in ivory in exporting, transit and destination countries. Various speakers called for additional reporting obligations for Parties that were significantly involved in the illegal ivory trade chain (and not only destination countries), better collaboration between enforcement agencies in elephant range States and countries where ivory shipments were seized, clear timelines for meeting reporting obligations, and measures to combat the illegal trade in live Asian elephants. Furthermore, several countries commented on their efforts in combating poaching and the illegal trade in ivory (with China referring to document SC62 Inf. 8 on *Control of trade in ivory in China*).

Later in the meeting, the United Kingdom provided revised text for a number of recommendations in paragraph 6 of document SC62 Doc. 46.1 (Rev. 1).

The Committee adopted the recommendations in paragraph 6 of document SC62 Doc. 46.1 (Rev. 1) with the following amendments:

- d) ~~China should submit a written report on the implementation of its internal ivory trade control system, including a review of its internal ivory trade data and measures taken to comply with the provisions in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Decision 13.26 (Rev. CoP15). China should submit this report to the Secretariat by 15 November 2012, so as to give enough time to the Secretariat to evaluate the report and convey its findings and recommendations to the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee.~~ Parties identified in the ETIS analysis as being involved in substantial illegal ivory trade as a source, transit, or destination country are requested to submit a written report, by the deadline for the submission of documents for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 63rd meeting (1 January 2013), on their implementation of the provisions of

Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Decision 13.26 (Rev. CoP15) concerning their controls of trade in ivory, including measures to control domestic ivory trade.

- g) ~~Parties in East Africa~~African elephant range States, especially Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, are encouraged to increase their national and regional enforcement activities to detect and prevent illegal ivory trade. Increased intelligence-led enforcement actions should be undertaken, supported by the use of risk profiling, detection dogs, DNA analysis, isotopic analysis, other forensic analyses and controlled deliveries. ~~The Parties in East Africa are encouraged to collaborate closely with the Parties and territories identified in recommendations d) and h). Parties may request assistance from the Secretariat in improving and coordinating their regulatory and enforcement measures, enhancing their collaboration and facilitating targeted international support, bearing in mind that the provision of such assistance is subject to resource constraints of the Secretariat.~~
- h) ~~While it is recognized that Parties and territories identified as key transit points for illegal trade in ivory have made efforts to improve their enforcement activities, these Parties and territories are encouraged to collaborate with the countries of origin and destination in order to enhance law enforcement effectiveness at ports of entry and exit. This applies in particular to Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, where multiple large-scale ivory seizures have been recorded recently.~~Parties and territories identified in recommendation d) are encouraged to collaborate closely with the Parties from where confiscated ivory from large-scale ivory seizures was exported or re-exported by providing samples of the seized ivory to assist with DNA profiling and other techniques for determining its origin and facilitating effective investigations and prosecutions. The results of the investigations and the forensic work should be shared amongst relevant Parties.
- i) Parties may request assistance from the Secretariat in improving and coordinating their regulatory and enforcement measures, enhancing their collaboration and facilitating targeted international support, bearing in mind that the provision of such assistance is subject to resource constraints of the Secretariat.
- ij) All elephant range States are urged to take immediate action to protect their elephant populations through improved monitoring and effective enforcement, to prevent illegal trade in ivory, and live elephants, and to report their actions through the MIKE system.

The following subparagraphs to be renumbered sequentially.

- ep) The Secretariat shall evaluate the China's reports, submitted in compliance with the recommendation in paragraph d) above and convey its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 63rd meeting.

With regard to the Parties referred to in the adopted paragraph d), the Standing Committee noted that the Secretariat would provide guidance to the relevant Parties about their reporting requirements as well as assistance, to the extent possible.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by the Central African Republic, China, India, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Environmental Investigation Agency, IUCN, SSN and TRAFFIC.

46.2 Ivory trade control in Thailand

Thailand introduced document SC62 Doc. 46.2, providing further information on the actions that it had undertaken to control its domestic trade in ivory and to comply with relevant provisions in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) and Decision 13.26 (Rev. CoP15). These included: measures to register or license the importers, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers dealing in raw, semi-worked or worked

ivory products; information campaigns about legal provisions for trading ivory; trade controls; attempts to modify existing legislation; and efforts to combat illegal trade in ivory.⁴

While recognizing the efforts made by Thailand, participants noted: the urgent need for legal reforms to control the domestic market for ivory effectively; problems relating to trade in live animals; difficulties in distinguishing ivory from wild and domesticated elephants on Thai markets, possibly leading to abuses; and uncertainties regarding the management of confiscated ivory. Thailand committed to take the necessary steps to address shortcomings, and welcomed all technical inputs and support.

The Committee noted the invitation by Thailand for the Secretariat to undertake a mission to the country before SC63.

The Committee noted the written and oral reports of Thailand, with appreciation. Nevertheless, the recommendations agreed under agenda item 46.1 for Thailand to submit a written report concerning domestic trade in ivory and protection of elephants for consideration at SC63 still applied.

The Committee instructed the Secretary-General to continue collaborating with Thailand on the matter of ivory trade controls on its territory.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Asia (Japan) and Europe (the United Kingdom), the Next Host Country (Thailand), and by Elephant Family, TRAFFIC and WWF.

46.3 MIKE-ETIS Subgroup

The Chair of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup (Uganda) introduced this agenda item.

The Subgroup had convened on three occasions in the margins of the present meeting. At these meetings, the Subgroup had reached consensus on proposed amendments to the MIKE and ETIS Sections of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15). The Subgroup had also taken note of progress in the implementation of MIKE and ETIS, as well as of the ongoing and planned fundraising efforts by the two programmes. Finally, the Subgroup had endorsed proposed amendments to the terms of reference for the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group.

The Committee took note of the oral report on the progress made by the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup.

There were no interventions.

46.4 Decision-making mechanism for authorizing ivory trade

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 46.4, stressing that it had organized a consultancy as instructed by the Committee and within available means. The study in the Annex to the document, entitled *Decision-making mechanisms and necessary conditions for a future trade in African elephant ivory*, was then presented by one of its co-authors, who also addressed a number of ensuing queries.

Participants raised several technical and procedural issues concerning the study and the best way forward. These included: compliance with the Terms of Reference of the study agreed by the Committee at its 57th and 61st meetings; the impacts of a future trade mechanism on elephant conservation and the timing for the implementation of such a system; the practical operation of a single ivory selling point as proposed in the study; etc.

Several participants deplored the lack of a French version of the initial draft of the study. The Secretary-General explained that the budget had allowed the Secretariat to make the executive summary of the draft study available in French, as well as the full and final study now under consideration.

⁴ See also document SC62 Inf. 11 submitted by Thailand on Ivory trade control in Thailand.

At the request of the Chair of the Committee, informal consultations took place to discuss a time frame and process for the further implementation of Decision 14.77, and the best way for using the study and its proposed principles and approaches. The outcomes were presented by Botswana later in the meeting.

The Committee endorsed the following next steps in the development of an ivory trade decision-making mechanism:

- a) In order to assist the Standing Committee with its implementation of Decision 14.77, the Secretariat should invite further comments from the stakeholders identified at its 61st meeting on the study contained in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 46.4. Replies should be submitted by 31 August 2012;
- b) On the basis of the study and the responses received, the Secretariat should review the information and prepare a document for review by the same stakeholders and the Chair of the Standing Committee. Comments should be submitted well in time for the Secretariat to prepare a document for submission at CoP16;
- c) The Secretariat should take all contributions into account and prepare a document on behalf of the Standing Committee for consideration at CoP16. This document should be approved by the Chair of the Standing Committee prior to its submission, and state that it has not been endorsed by the full Standing Committee;
- d) The report should include, in an annex, details of the responses that it seeks to address and from which it is derived, where the respondents have given their approval for these to be presented in this way; and
- e) The Secretariat should inform the Standing Committee of progress in the conduct of the work by electronic means.

It was requested that all drafts and documents that were to be circulated before CoP16 needed to be made available in English and French, and the Secretary-General called for external funding to cover the costs of translation.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and Egypt), Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by the Central African Republic, China, the Congo, Denmark, India, Israel, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, IWMC and WWF.

46.5 Review of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15)

46.5.1 Report of the working group

The Chair of the Working Group to Revise Parts of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) (India) introduced document SC62 Doc. 46.5.1.

and

46.5.2 Revision of the MIKE and ETIS sections of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15)

The Chair of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup (Uganda) introduced document SC62 Doc. 46.5.2.

The Chair of the Committee thanked the Chairs of the working groups responsible for reviewing Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15), and proposed that the outputs of the two groups be merged in an amended Chair's text for consideration by a joint working group. This was generally supported.

The Standing Committee established a joint working group on the review of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15), co-chaired by India and Uganda, which was asked to revise a Chair's text on the revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15), which was based on the reports of the working groups referred to in agenda items 46.5.1 and 46.5.2.

Later in the meeting, Uganda reported that the group had made good progress within the limited time available, but that it had been unable to finish the full revision of the Chair's text. The preamble of the Resolution and the section concerning marking had been reviewed by the joint Working Group, and the sections on MIKE and ETIS, which had been fully reviewed by the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, had been integrated into the draft.

In order to finalize its work and assist the Committee in implementing Decision 15.74, the joint Working Group proposed the following schedule:

- a) The members of the joint Working Group should provide written comments on the Chair's text by 15 August 2012 to the Co-Chair (India);
- b) India would consolidate these comments into a new draft that would be circulated to the members of the Working Group in the first week of September 2012;
- c) The members of the Working Group should provide any comments they might have on this consolidated text to the Secretariat by 15 September, which would prepare a final version in consultation with the Chair of the Committee; and
- d) The Chair of the Committee, on behalf of the Committee, would submit the document at CoP16.

The Committee agreed that the Working Group should continue its work to prepare a proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15). The document should be submitted to the Chair of the Standing Committee for approval and submission for consideration at CoP16.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representative of Africa (Uganda), and by India and South Africa

47. Rhinoceroses

The Chair of the Working Group on Rhinoceroses (the United Kingdom) introduced document SC62 Doc. 47.1 and the Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 47.2 immediately afterwards.

47.1 Report of the working group

A Party expressed concern about the current high levels of poaching during its intervention, and several Parties supported the recommendations made in document SC62 Doc. 47.1. It was also mentioned that the reintroduction of rhinoceroses in range States had been discussed at a meeting of the Southern African Development Community.

A Party proposed that the Secretariat send to the countries concerned the requests for information contained in document SC62 Inf. 13 and that the responses be sent to the Working Group through the Secretariat. The paramount importance of demand-reduction strategies was stressed and a request was made for the Working Group to focus on this issue.

China criticized the study⁵ to identify available scientific evidence and documented evidence of traditional cultural practices and beliefs linked to the medicinal properties of rhinoceros horn, and in particular any that related to its curative properties for cancers and strokes. China thought that the results of the study were misleading and could be easily challenged.

47.2 Report of the Secretariat

South Africa thanked the Secretariat for its report and supported the recommendations it contained. It then reported in detail on measures it had implemented to combat rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros trade. A Committee member suggested that Viet Nam provide the Secretariat with detailed information on the measures it had implemented to combat illegal killing of rhinoceroses. India reported that its population of greater one horn rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) had increased from 2,201 to 2,505.

⁵ See document SC62 Doc. 47.2, Annex (Rev. 2).

The Committee noted documents SC62 Doc. 47.1 and Doc. 47.2 and endorsed the recommendations they contained. The Committee also endorsed the proposals made by the working group during the meeting, as detailed in document SC62 Inf. 13, which included that the Secretariat should send to the countries concerned the requests for information contained in document SC62 Inf. 13 and that the responses should be sent to the Secretariat, which would forward them to the Rhinoceros Working Group.

Zimbabwe reported in detail on measures it had implemented to combat rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros trade.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Asia (Japan and Kuwait), Europe (Bulgaria and the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by India, Kenya, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

48. Snake trade and conservation management

The Chair of the Working Group on Snake Trade and Conservation (Switzerland) introduced document SC62 Doc. 48.

Participants generally supported the proposals made by the Working Group, with some suggestions to broaden their scope in order to incorporate global concerns about the management of trade in snakes.

The Committee accepted the report of the Working Group on this subject, contained in document SC62 Com. 2, and endorsed the recommendations in its Annex, with an amendment to the first recommendation, which should read as follows:

The working group recommends that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties regarding the possibility of illegal trade in snakes in Asia, using any relevant information provided by the Parties and relevant organizations at the Guangzhou workshop, as well as any other information available and deemed appropriate before the end of the year.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran), Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and the Depositary Government (Switzerland, also as Chair of the Working Group on Snake Trade and Conservation), and by China, Indonesia and the Chair of the Animals Committee.

49. Tortoises and freshwater turtles

The Chair of the Working Group on Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles (the United States) introduced document SC62 Doc. 49 (Rev. 1). The recommendations made by the Working Group met with general support.

The Committee accepted the report of the Working Group on this subject, contained in document SC62 Doc. 49 (Rev. 1), and endorsed its recommendations, including a series of non-substantive amendments made orally and to be forwarded to the Secretariat.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan) and North America (the United States, as Chair of the Working Group on Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles), and by China and Malaysia.

50. Sturgeons

50.1 Caviar trade database

The Secretariat introduced document SC62 Doc. 50.1. A Committee member supported the continuation of the database and another encouraged range States to submit the required information for inclusion in the database. Argentina indicated that it was in the process of registering a sturgeon farm.

The Committee noted document SC62 Doc. 50.1.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran) and Europe (Bulgaria), and by Argentina.

50.2 Monitoring of progress

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced this agenda item. He explained that, regrettably, the Animals Committee had been unable to prepare a written document for the present meeting. He deplored the lack of responses and collaboration from Caspian Sea range States that were necessary for the Animals Committee to fulfil the tasks entrusted to it in Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14), and assumed that the relevant recommendations emanating from the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee had remained without follow-up. In view of the rapidly declining sturgeon fishery in the Caspian Sea, he recommended a revision of the responsibilities of the Animals Committee laid out in the Resolution. He also indicated that the Animals Committee had included *Huso huso* in the Review of Significant Trade and had made relevant recommendations.

The participants expressed general concern about the lack of meaningful actions by the five Caspian Sea sturgeon range States in implementing the recommendations contained in document SC61 Doc. 48.2. The United States reiterated its offer expressed at SC61 to assist Caspian Sea range States financially in implementing these recommendations, providing that a clear work plan containing clear deadlines was established. It was suggested that FAO and the Secretariat help Caspian range States in implementing the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

The Committee noted the oral report of the Chair of the Animals Committee and regretted the lack of a document for this agenda item. It also noted that the Secretariat would submit a document for consideration at CoP16 proposing a revision of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14).

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (the Islamic Republic of Iran) and North America (the United States), and by the Chair of the Animals Committee.

51. Humphead wrasse

The Chair of the Working Group on the Humphead Wrasse (China) introduced document SC62 Doc. 51, indicating that a workshop on enforcement related to this subject was planned for September 2012. General support was expressed for the recommendation made by the Working Group and the workshop.

The Committee agreed that the Working Group on this subject should continue its work and prepare a document for approval by the Chair of the Standing Committee before 4 October 2012, to be forwarded for consideration at CoP16.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by China (as Chair of the Working Group on the Humphead Wrasse), Indonesia and the Philippines.

52. Bigleaf mahogany and other neotropical timber species

52.1 Progress report of Peru

Peru introduced document SC62 Doc. 52.1. It reported that the harvesting of bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) was being effectively monitored and that related information was publicly available. Additional progress had been made on a system of control mechanisms (e.g. the first mapping of the Peruvian forest sector and a timber tracking system), which was scheduled for completion in 2014. Peru also stated that: the setting and use of export quotas for 2011 and 2012 had been cautious; subnational and national authorities were working together; a national committee had been established; and the United States was providing *in situ* and other support.

Members of the Standing Committee and the Chair of the Plants Committee congratulated Peru on its progress. A number of Committee members considered that Peru had fully implemented relevant Standing Committee recommendations and that this item no longer needed to appear in the Committee's agenda. Others proposed that additional updates be requested from Peru as its control system would not be in place until 2014. They also sought clarification as to where harvesting was taking place, the basis for the 2011 and 2012 quotas and the conversion factor used to set the quotas.

Peru clarified the basis for its annual export quotas, said that the submission of additional data was not required, and considered that it had implemented relevant Standing Committee recommendations. It was suggested that additional information could be included in Peru's national reports and that conversion rates were a technical issue being addressed by the Plants Committee.

The Committee noted the update provided by Peru on its efforts to develop a modern and effective information system, including a timber tracking component. It agreed that Peru would not need to report on its additional efforts at SC63 and encouraged Peru to include any new information in its national reports.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Egypt), Asia (Kuwait), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Colombia, Costa Rica and Dominica), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Peru and the Chair of the Plants Committee.

52.2 Recommendations arising from the report of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document SC62 Doc. 52.2, highlighting the draft decisions contained in paragraphs 4 a) and c) on cooperation with the World Customs Organization to review harmonized tariff codes for tree species and a technical mission to the Dominican Republic regarding trade in bigleaf mahogany. She advised the Standing Committee members that the Plants Committee was requesting their approval for the submission of these draft decisions at CoP16. She further advised the Committee about a recent letter from the Dominican Republic which indicated that its trade in bigleaf mahogany was well-managed and that Fiji's involvement in such trade warranted a Secretariat mission to that country.

Standing Committee members expressed support for the draft decisions presented by the Plants Committee. One member noted that Fiji had written to the Secretariat in April 2012 to provide information on its trade in bigleaf mahogany during the period 2007-2011. It further noted that Fiji was trading bigleaf mahogany as an exotic species grown in plantations and suggested that a Secretariat mission should go first to the Dominican Republic and then to Fiji, if necessary.

Other members mentioned their good relations with Peru and their intention to liaise bilaterally with Peru regarding additional progress made on its anticipated timber tracking system. They supported continuing work on bigleaf mahogany trade in Belize, Ecuador, Nicaragua and the Plurinational State of Bolivia under the Review of Significant Trade.

The Committee agreed to submit at CoP16, through its Chair, a draft decision directing the Secretariat to continue liaising with the World Customs Organization on harmonized tariff codes, in particular those related to tree species.

The Committee also agreed that, pending the availability of external funds, the Secretariat should undertake a mission to the Dominican Republic. Finally, it agreed that the Secretariat should undertake a subsequent mission to Fiji if the mission to the Dominican Republic indicated that it was necessary, and if related external funds were available.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom), North America (the United States) and Oceania (Australia), and by the Chair of the Plants Committee.

CITES Appendices

53. Periodic Review of the Appendices

53.1 Species selected for review between CoP15 and CoP17

The Chairs of the Animals Committee and Plants Committees reported on progress with the Periodic Review of the Appendices and appealed to Parties to volunteer to carry out such reviews. Speakers expressed interest in knowing how the review of the African lion was progressing.

The Committee noted the species selected for review between CoP15 and CoP17 as contained in Annexes 2 and 3 to Notification to the Parties No. 2011/038 of 21 September 2011. The Committee encouraged Parties to volunteer to undertake these reviews and welcomed the offer of Kenya and Namibia to update the Committee on progress with the review of *Panthera leo* (the African lion) at SC63.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Europe (the United Kingdom), and by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees.

53.2 Revision of Resolution Conf. 14.8

The Chair of the Plants Committee presented document SC62 Doc. 53.2 and the results of joint work undertaken with the Animals Committee. Speakers welcomed the draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 14.8 in the Annex to the document and some suggested changes to the proposed text. As there was little time to discuss these, it was proposed to include them in square brackets and reconsider them during further discussions at CoP16.

The Committee endorsed the submission at CoP16 of the revised version of Resolution Conf. 14.8 contained in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 53.2, and agreed that amendments suggested during the discussion would be added in square brackets. The Committee agreed to refer the suggestion in paragraph 14. c) of document SC62 Doc. 53.2 to its Finance and Budget Subcommittee.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Japan), Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States), and by Mexico.

54. Development and application of annotations

54.1 Report of the working group

and

54.2 Report of the Plants Committee

The Chair of the Working Group on Annotations (the United States) introduced document SC62 Doc. 54.1 and the Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document SC62 Doc. 54.2. The Chair of the Working Group noted the substantial effort, particularly by the Plants Committee, which had gone into the development and periodic revision of annotations. He observed, however, that not all annotations were easy to interpret or implement and that this presented challenges for the Parties. The aim of the Working Group was to consider annotations in a broader context, taking into account any technical input that might be provided by the Plants Committee. He reported that the Working Group had achieved some progress since SC61 and had met in the margins of the present meeting. Nevertheless, additional work was needed and he proposed extending the mandate of the Working Group until 4 October 2012 so that it could develop a draft document for consideration by the Chair of the Standing Committee and then submission for consideration at CoP16.

He also suggested that the draft document for CoP16 address the following:

- proposed revisions to various Resolutions which address various aspects of annotations;
- draft terms of reference for a continuation of the Working Group on Annotations after CoP16;
- the development and placement of definitions for terms in the annotations;
- the creation of a consolidated working group for annotations (e.g. a merger of working groups under the Standing Committee and the Plants Committee, or a Standing Committee Working Group that would work with the Plants Committee); and
- involvement of various disciplines in the development and review of annotations, e.g. technical, administration and enforcement experts.

The Chair of the Plants Committee noted, in addition to document SC62 Doc. 54.2, the range of work on annotations undertaken by the Plants Committee, largely in response to Decisions directed to it by the Conference of the Parties. She further noted that the Plants Committee was not always able to resolve all outstanding issues on its own (e.g. the alignment of annotations #11 and #12) and therefore needed the assistance of the Standing Committee as well as the CoP.

Several members of the Standing Committee and observers expressed support for the idea of extending the Working Group on Annotations and broadening it to include the Chair and members of the Plants Committee. The importance of agreeing on a definition of 'extract' and on how to align annotations #11 and #12 was stressed.

The Committee agreed to extend the Working Group on Annotations so that it may work intersessionally to produce a discussion document for the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee and subsequent submission at CoP16. The Committee endorsed the suggestion of the Working Group chair to include the Chair and the members of Plants Committee in the Working Group to give them the opportunity to provide relevant input, particularly in relation to document SC62 Doc. 54.2.

During discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (the United Kingdom) and North America (the United States, as Chair of the Working Group on Annotations), and by Argentina, Brazil and the Chair of the Plants Committee.

Regional matters

55. Reports of regional representatives

The regional representatives introduced agenda items 55.1 to 55.6 and the related documents.

The Committee noted the reports of the regional representatives.

There were no interventions.

Concluding items

56. Any other business

The Committee noted the comments of a number of participants regarding earlier agenda items. The Chair noted that he had no objection to the addition of members to working groups after they had been established by the Committee, subject to the discretion of the chair of each working group.

57. Determination of the time and venue of the 63rd and 64th meetings

The Committee noted that its 63rd meeting would take place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 2 March 2013, and that its 64th meeting would be held immediately after the close of CoP16, on 14 March 2013.

58. Closing remarks

Following remarks by members of the Committee, observers representing Parties and non-governmental organizations, and the Secretary-General, the Chair thanked all participants, the Secretariat and the interpreters.