



**RESULTS OF  
THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF  
THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE**  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND • 19-24 APRIL 2008

AC = Animals Committee • PC = Plants Committee • SC = Standing Committee • RC = Resolution Conf. • CoP = Conference of the Parties

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTIONS	ACTION TAKEN
1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman		No document.	The AC confirmed the provisionally appointed Chairman, Thomas Althaus (representative of Europe), by acclamation.
No Document			
2. Rules of Procedure		<i>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i>	
2.1	2.1 Current Rules of Procedure  <b>AC23 Doc. 2.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains the Rules of Procedure adopted at AC20 in Johannesburg, 2004 and that remained in effect at AC21 (Geneva, 2005) and AC22 (Lima, 2006).</li> </ul>	See AC23 Doc. 2.2 below.
2.2	2.2 Proposed Amendments  <b>AC23 Doc. 2.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on Establishment of committees resolves that, "<i>the Animals and Plants Committees shall adopt their own Rules of Procedure, which shall, however, be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee as far as is practicable.</i>"</li> <li>Draft Rules of Procedure for meetings of the AC and PC were presented by the Committee Chairs at CoP14.</li> <li>This document contains the draft presented to CoP14 with minor amendments proposed by the Secretariat.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The AC/PC agreed to the following changes to the Draft Rules of Procedure [deleted text <del>strikethrough</del>, new text <u>underlined</u>]:</b></p> <p><b>Rule 7 (1):</b> The last sentence shall read: "<u>The Chairman may limit the number of delegates representing a non-governmental organization to one for practical reasons.</u>"</p> <p><b>Rule 7 (3):</b> Delete the following, "...and proof of the approval of the State in which the body is located."</p> <p><b>Rule 18:</b> Change as follows, "<u>The time and place of meetings shall be determined by the Chairman, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Committee, and in line with any instructions provided by the Conference of the Parties.</u>"</p> <p><b>Rule 20:</b> Change as follows, "<u>Documents to be considered at a meeting shall be provided to the Secretariat by Parties, or by members of the Committee, at the latest 75 60 days before the meeting ....</u>"</p> <p><b>Rule 22:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the text, "<i>Documents shall be placed on the Secretariat's website as soon as possible after they are received,</i>" add the following, "<u>but no later than 10 days after they have been technically agreed upon by both sides.</u>"</li> <li>Replace the following sentence, "<i>The documents shall also be provided to all Parties that may be directly affected by any discussion of the documents and to all Parties that request them,</i>" with, "<u>The Secretariat shall alert all Parties that may be directly affected by any discussion of the documents and provide copies to</u></li> </ul>

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			<p><i>all Parties that request them.”</i></p> <p><b>Rule 23:</b> Regarding information documents, add, “<i>However, such documents may be referred to if they relate to the existing agenda items, but not discussed.</i>”</p> <p><b>Rule 26:</b> Deleted.</p>
<b>3. Adoption of the agenda and working programme</b>			
3.1	3.1 Agenda <b>AC23 Doc. 3.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisional agenda for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The document was adopted with minor amendments.</li> </ul>
3.2	3.2 Working Programme <b>AC23 Doc. 3.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisional working programme for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The document was adopted with minor amendments.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Admission of observers</b> <b>No document</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A list of observers was provided at the meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The document was noted.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Regional reports</b> <b>AC23 Doc. 5.1-5.6</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The documents were noted.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees</b> <b>AC23 Doc. 6</b>		<p><i>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision 14.7 directs the AC and PC to evaluate the need to further review and revise the terms of reference in RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on Establishment of the Committees for presentation to CITES CoP15.</li> <li>The Secretariat provides a chart of instructions from CoP14 to the AC and PC for the period between CoP14 and CoP15.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AC/PC noted the document and agreed that there was no need to revise their Terms of Reference at present.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Cooperation with advisory bodies of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements</b> <b>AC23 Doc. 7</b>		<p><i>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i></p> <p>Reports on the activities of the Secretariat and the Chairs of the AC and PC in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Meeting of the chairmen of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB):</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July 2007 CSAB meeting agreed that it may be valuable for conventions to adopt, endorse or use guidelines developed by other conventions.</li> <li>CITES Secretariat suggests this include RC 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on the CBD’s <i>Addis Ababa principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity</i> and harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature of species.</li> <li>For the next CSAB meeting in May 2008, the secretariats will prepare a summary of guidelines which might be</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AC/PC noted the document.</li> <li>The U.K. stated that it would provide advice on the development of indicators of sustainable use under the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.</li> </ul>

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		<p>adopted, endorsed or used by the conventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BIP is an initiative led by UNEP-WCMC, with US\$3.6 million of funding from the Global Environment Facility, to streamline biodiversity indicators for the 2010 biodiversity target.</li> <li>▪ The CITES Secretariat was asked to be the key indicator partner for the 'Status of species in trade' element of the indicators of sustainable use.</li> <li>▪ Indicators are scheduled to be developed by the end of 2009 and the Secretariat will keep the Committees advised of progress.</li> <li>▪ Secretariat recommends that interested Committee members and observers offer comments and advice on the development of the indicators.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ International Steering Committee is comprised of representatives of governments, and inter-and non-governmental organizations, including the CITES Secretariat. Most recent meeting held in November 2007.</li> <li>▪ The Steering Committee recommended that urgent consideration be given to the establishment of a means and enhancement of existing institutions, to provide an objective source of information about biodiversity change and its impacts on ecosystem services and human well-being.</li> <li>▪ The Committee invited the Executive Director of UNEP to convene an intergovernmental meeting to consider establishing an international interface between science and policy to address these objectives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Conclusion:</b> The AC and PC are invited to identify volunteers to offer guidance on the development of indicators for the sustainable use of species in trade.</li> </ul>	
<b>8. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</b>			
8.1	<p>8.1 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade</p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 8.1</b></p>	<p><i>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides the Terms of Reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, adopted at CoP13 and a discussion paper on the evaluation, including an overview of species selected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC/PC agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the fundamental question to answer is, what is the contribution that the Review of Significant Trade makes to improved implementation of Article IV?</li> <li>▪ the advisory working group should identify elements that could be</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invites the AC and PC to determine how an advisory working group will be established and to instruct the Secretariat on further steps needed to undertake the evaluation.</li> </ul>	<p>completed by and reported on at CoP15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the advisory working group should report on this at the next AC and PC meetings and any concrete recommendations will be considered by working groups constituted by the next AC and PC meetings.</li> </ul>	
8.2	<p>8.2 Progress report on the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar</p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 8.2</b></p>	<p><i>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepared by Madagascar.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AC/PC agreed that the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar was now complete and that this country-based Review will be included as a case-study in the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade.</li> </ul>
8.3	<p>8.3 Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade</p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 8.3</b></p>	<p>Invites the AC to note a report that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States that the Secretariat received a review of recommendations to suspend trade made in Phases I to IV of the Review (all species selected before 2000) that had been in place for at least two years. The Secretariat will review and discuss with the AC/PC Chairs the conclusions that will be presented to SC57.</li> <li>States that a request from Tanzania to withdraw the recommendation to suspend trade in Fischer's lovebird (<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>) will be discussed at SC57.</li> <li>Provides a brief summary of the status of reviews undertaken after CoPs 11, 12, and 13.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The document was noted.</li> </ul>
8.4	<p>8.4 Species selected following CoP13</p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 8.4</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides reports on biology, management, and trade of the <i>Testudo graeca</i> (spur-thighed tortoise) population of Lebanon, and <i>Mantella</i> spp. (<i>Mantella</i> frogs) and the responses of range States to these reports.</li> <li>The AC is requested to review these reports and responses and revise the categorizations provided and to formulate recommendations for species of urgent concern and of possible concern.</li> <li><b><i>Testudo graeca</i> (Lebanon)</b>: From 1996–2005, an estimated 34,000 specimens were exported, of which half have been declared as captive-bred. All exports from Lebanon have been suspended since 2004. Report recommends classification as Least Concern (no action to be taken).</li> <li><b><i>Mantella</i> spp. (Madagascar)</b>: 15 species for which status ranges from Least Concern to Critically Endangered. Exports numbered an estimated 150,000 specimens from 2000-2005. Report recommends classification as Least Concern (no</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>Testudo graeca</i></b>: The AC agreed with the classification of Least Concern and decided that the species should be eliminated from the Review.</li> <li><b><i>Mantella</i> spp.</b>: The AC agreed with the classification of the species as Least Concern with the exception of <i>Mantella crocea</i>, <i>Mantella expectata</i>, <i>Mantella milotympanum</i>, and <i>Mantella viridis</i> which were classified as Possible Concern. For these species, Madagascar will be asked to provide additional data on the population estimates and on the non-detriment finding in order for the AC to reconsider its status at AC24. Regarding <i>Mantella aurantiaca</i>, Madagascar is to inform the Secretariat of any quota that may be set and the Secretariat is to keep the AC informed.</li> </ul>

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<p>8.5</p> <p>8.5 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP14</p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 8.5</b></p>	<p>action to be taken) for all species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reminds the AC that RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species directs the AC <i>inter alia</i> to select species of priority concern for review.</li> <li>● Provides a summary of annual recorded net level of exports for Appendix-II species over the five most recent years.</li> <li>● Reminds the AC that the Secretariat, in April 2007, proposed the inclusion of <i>Huso huso</i> (beluga sturgeon) in the Review with immediate effect. The Committee voted on and declined this proposal in August. The Secretariat may again propose its inclusion in the Review after reviewing the 2008 export quotas.</li> <li>● Suggests that the AC consider available information on the export of <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> (Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin) from Solomon Islands (including the export of 28 specimens in November 2007 and the establishment of an export quota of 80 dolphins per year) and determine whether <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> should be included in the Review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The AC agreed that the following species will be included in the Review of Significant Trade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> (hippopotamus) (excluding Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo)</li> <li>▪ <i>Heosemys annandalii</i> (yellow-headed temple turtle) (excluding Malaysia)</li> <li>▪ <i>Heosemys grandis</i> (giant Asian pond turtle)</li> <li>▪ <i>Heosemys spinosa</i> (Asian spiny turtle) (excluding Malaysia)</li> <li>▪ <i>Indotestudo forstenii</i> (Forsten's tortoise)</li> <li>▪ <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i> (Horsfield's tortoise)</li> <li>▪ <i>Amyda cartilaginea</i> (Asiatic softshell turtle)</li> <li>▪ Genus <i>Uroplatus</i> (flat-tailed geckos)</li> <li>▪ <i>Brookesia decaryi</i> (spiny leaf chameleon)</li> <li>▪ <i>Chamaeleo africanus</i> (African chameleon) (Niger only)</li> <li>▪ <i>Chamaeleo feae</i> (Fe's chameleon) (Equatorial Guinea only)</li> <li>▪ <i>Cordylus mossambicus</i> (Mozambique girdled lizard)</li> <li>▪ <i>Gongylophis muelleri</i> (Müller's sand boa) (Ghana only)</li> <li>▪ <i>Scaphiophryne gottlebei</i> (rainbow burrowing frog)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The AC agreed that the following species would be excluded from the Review of Significant Trade, but will be the subject of further actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Saiga tatarica</i> (saiga antelope): the Secretariat will correspond with China in order to clarify specific questions that arose during discussion (permit category, size of stocks, origin of stocks) and report to AC24.</li> <li>▪ <i>Huso huso</i> (beluga sturgeon): will be discussed at AC24. The Secretariat and the range States should provide a document to AC24 with detailed scientific information on which to base a decision.</li> <li>▪ <i>Pandinus imperator</i> (emperor scorpion): The results of recent missions will be published on the CITES website.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>8.5.1</p> <p>8.5.1 Selection of the Solomon Islands population of <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> for inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade</p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 8.5.1</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prepared by Israel, this document reports that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Solomon Islands exported 33 live <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> in July 2003 and an additional 28 live specimens in October 2007; Solomon Islands has indicated that it intends to allow future exports of up to 100 live dolphins each year.</li> <li>▪ The 2003 capture of dolphins in the Solomon Islands included more than 100 animals and captures in 2007 almost as many again.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Israel withdrew the document.</li> <li>● The AC encouraged the Solomon Islands to pursue its research on the status of its population and invited the Solomon Islands to participate in an IUCN meeting on population assessment to be held in the Oceania region, as well as a meeting on non-detriment findings (NDF) organized by Mexico.</li> <li>● The AC encouraged the organizers of the NDF meeting to make</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In response to these exports, the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group has stated that that “a non-detriment finding under CITES is not possible for these populations, and that exports should not take place.”</li> <li>• Encourages the AC to include Solomon Islands population of <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> in the Review of Significant Trade.</li> </ul>	<p>the population of <i>Tursiops aduncus</i> of the Solomon Islands a case study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC asked the Representative from Oceania to report on further developments on this matter at AC24.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Review of the use of source code ‘R’</b></p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 9 (Rev. 2)</b></p>	<p>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision 14.52 directs the AC/PC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ obtain information on the management program for species to which source code ‘R’ is applied</li> <li>▪ review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching and identify common elements in these programs</li> <li>▪ based on this review, propose a definition of ranching and the use of source code ‘R’ to CoP15</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provides data on all exports of specimens of species with the source code declared as ‘R’, for the years 1991-2005 and requests the AC/PC to select countries using the code on a regular basis so that the Secretariat may request information on the management programs for these species.</li> <li>• AC/PC are invited to decide how they will review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An intersessional working group was established and it also was decided that animal and plant issues will not be considered together, but their consideration will follow the same process.</li> <li>• The working group will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ send a select group of Parties applying the ‘R’ code a questionnaire regarding their management program for these species, and</li> <li>▪ undertake a literature review of the application of ranching or management systems that resemble ranching for different taxa.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The working group will report the results on the Party questionnaire and literature review to AC24, including a proposal on how to proceed with a definition of source code ‘R’.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. International expert workshop on non-detriment findings</b></p> <p><b>AC23 Docs 10</b></p>	<p>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared by Mexico on behalf of the International Steering Committee in charge of the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings.</li> <li>• Decision 14.49 encourage Parties to provide financial support for an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings (NDFs).</li> <li>• Provides information on the date, venue, objectives, format, working groups, and species to be discussed in the workshop.</li> <li>• Invites AC and PC Members, Parties, and NGOs to suggest experts and case studies to be considered for discussion in the workshop.</li> <li>• Invites Scientific Authorities to provide information on the use of the IUCN checklist in making non-detriment findings.</li> <li>• Invites Parties, NGOs and IGOs to provide financial support for the workshop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC/PC noted the document.</li> </ul>

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<b>11. Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices</b>			
11.1	11.1 Schedule and responsibilities for species selected for periodic review between CoP13 and CoP15  <b>AC23 Doc. 11.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a list of species that were agreed to be included in the Periodic Review, as amended after CoP14.</li> <li>Reminds the Parties that <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> (fin whale) was deleted from the list after CoP14 because of Decision 14.81, which states that "no periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the moratorium by the International Whaling Commission is in place."</li> <li>Reminds the Parties that <u>all</u> species of Felidae have been included in the list in accordance with Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP14).</li> <li>Notes that <i>Crossoptilon harmani</i> (Tibetan eared pheasant) is now recognized as a subspecies of <i>C. crossoptilon</i> and requests the AC to decide whether the subspecies, <i>C. c. harmani</i> should be retained in the Review.</li> <li>Requests the AC to establish how it will conduct the reviews of species that were selected after CoP13 and establish a schedule.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AC established an intersessional working group on the periodic review of these taxa, which will report to AC24.</li> <li>The AC directed the Secretariat to publish a Notification to Parties, calling for voluntary financial contributions for conducting the review of taxa for which no voluntary experts could be identified by the AC.</li> <li>If funds became available, the AC directed that the Secretariat should consult with the chairmen of the AC and the intersessional working group, and select taxa for review and experts to be contracted.</li> <li>The AC agreed to request CoP15 to approve the allocation of funds to the periodic review of animal taxa.</li> <li>The AC agreed that <i>Crossoptilon crossoptilon harmani</i> (Tibetan eared pheasant) should be retained in the list of species to undergo periodic review.</li> </ul>
11.2	11.2 Periodic review of Felidae		
11.2.1	11.2.1 Periodic review of Felidae – progress report from the United States of America  <b>AC23 Doc. 11.2.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepared by the United States of America.</li> <li>Reports that they have initiated a survey of US state and Canadian provincial authorities in order to obtain an updated bobcat population estimate for North America and will include this information in a final <i>Lynx</i> spp. status review at AC24.</li> <li>Proposes a strategy for the review of Felidae including the removal of the following species from the Review, based on RC 14.8 c) ii): Asian big cat species (<i>Panthera tigris</i>, <i>Uncia uncia</i>, <i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>, <i>Panthera pardus</i> within its Asian range, and <i>Panthera leo persica</i>), <i>Panthera pardus</i>, and <i>Panthera leo</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AC agreed that a Notification to the Parties will be sent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recommending that the following species be removed from the review: <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>, <i>Caracal caracal</i>, <i>Catopuma temminckii</i>, <i>Leptailurus serval</i>, <i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>, <i>Panthera leo</i>, <i>Panthera pardus</i>, <i>Panthera tigris</i>, <i>Pardofelis marmorata</i>, and <i>Uncia uncia</i>.</li> <li>inviting Parties to volunteer to do reviews on any of the species listed in the Annex to AC 23 Doc. 11.1.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The AC agreed that a review should be done for the genus <i>Prionailurus</i> which includes <i>P. bengalensis</i>, <i>P. iriomotensis</i>, <i>P. planiceps</i>, <i>P. rubiginosus</i> and <i>P. viverrinus</i>.</li> <li>The AC agreed that an update is needed of the CITES ID Manuals for all Felidae species but especially of the genera <i>Lynx</i>, <i>Leopardus</i> and <i>Prionailurus</i>.</li> <li>Mexico volunteered to do a review for <i>Panthera onca</i>.</li> </ul>
11.2.2	Status of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepared by Mexico.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A meeting will be organized for the management and law</li> </ul>

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	populations of <i>Lynx rufus</i> in Mexico  <b>AC23 Doc. 11.2.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In support of the implementation of Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP14), Mexico committed itself to reviewing the status of <i>Lynx</i> populations in its territory.</li> <li>• Provides the initial results of a research project to estimate the population density and diet of <i>Lynx rufus</i> (bobcat) in Mexico.</li> </ul>	enforcement authorities of the United States of America, Canada, and Mexico to meet with range States of <i>Lynx lynx</i> (Eurasian lynx) and <i>L. pardinus</i> (Iberian lynx) to discuss possible problems of illegal trade of those species.
11.3	11.3 Periodic review of species selected prior to CoP13  <b>AC23 Doc. 11.3 (Rev. 2)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a table that includes the status of the Review for all 33 species selected before CoP13.</li> <li>• There have been no volunteers for the following species: <i>Cephalophus sylvicultor</i> (yellow-backed duiker), <i>Mirounga leonine</i> (Southern elephant seal), and <i>Pteropus macrotis</i> (big-eared flying fox).</li> <li>• Provides reports for the reviews of <i>Rhea americana</i> and <i>Tupinambis merianae</i> (previously <i>T. teguixin</i>) by Spain; recommends that both species be retained in Appendix II.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC agreed to retain <i>Rhea americana</i> and <i>Tupinambis merianae</i> (previously <i>T. teguixin</i>), reviewed by Spain, in Appendix II.</li> <li>• Regarding the species selected but not yet reviewed, the AC directed the Secretariat to write to the range States concerned and ask for their opinion as to whether these reviews were still required. If a range State replies positively, it will be expected to conduct the review. If the answer is negative, or no reply is received, then the species will be deleted from the list and no review will be conducted.</li> </ul>
<b>12. Selection of a representative for the Standing Committee Working Group reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of the universal tagging system and the trade in small crocodylian leather goods</b>  <b>AC23 Doc. 12</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision 14.62 states that SC57 shall establish a working group to “initiate a process to review the implementation and effectiveness of the universal tagging system and the trade in small crocodylian leather goods, including their impact on the effectiveness of the Convention”. A representative of the AC shall be included.</li> <li>• The AC is invited to select a representative for the SC working group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC selected Dietrich Jelden of Germany as its representative on the Standing Committee Working Group.</li> </ul>
<b>13. Sturgeons and paddlefish</b>			
	13.1 Secretariat’s report  <b>AC23 Doc. 13.1 (Rev. 1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) directs the Secretariat to provide at each AC meeting a written report on activities related to the conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish.</li> <li>• Provides a list of quotas established for sturgeon species for the quota year 1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009, and notes that the caviar trade database is now accessible to CITES authorities only.</li> <li>• The Secretariat believes that some aquaculture operations may be laundering caviar of illegal-origin.</li> <li>• Reminds Parties that the personal the personal effect exemption for caviar was reduced to 125 g at CoP14, which</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The document was noted.</li> </ul>

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<p>has a street value of almost US\$1,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests the AC to note the report.</li> </ul>	
<p>13.2 Evaluation of the assessment and monitoring methodologies used for stocks of Acipenseriformes species shared between different range States</p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 13.2</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RC 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) directs the AC to carry out an evaluation of the assessment and the monitoring methodologies used for stocks of Acipenseriformes species and report to the SC.</li> <li>• Provides the most recent reports on assessment and monitoring methodologies for Acipenseriformes species from stocks shared between different range States.</li> <li>• Invites the AC to determine how it will carry out the evaluation and reminds the AC that documents for SC54 are due 15 May 2007.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC developed recommendations regarding management of Acipenseriformes species for the following individual basins: the Caspian Sea; Amur / Heilongjiang River; and the Black Sea, Danube River and Azov Sea. These recommendations include urging the Secretariat to promote a workshop to review existing sturgeon stock assessment / Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination methodology and to develop a scientific methodology that is internationally acceptable.</li> </ul>
<p><b>14. Nomenclatural matters</b></p> <p><b>AC23 Doc.14</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared by the specialist on zoological nomenclature.</li> <li>• Recommends the formation of a Nomenclature Working Group to discuss the following matters: a) Checklist of CITES species: update (UNEP-WCMC); b) Papilionidae; c) Corals; d) Species described after the adoption of the current taxonomic references; e) Specific taxon issues: <i>Hirudo medicinalis</i>; f) Illegal copies of checklists available on CITES website; and g) Any other business related to nomenclature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC recommended that the Secretariat send a Notification to the Parties to inform them that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the AC will propose to put <i>Glaucidium mooreorum</i>, <i>Micrastur mintoni</i>, and <i>Pionopsitta aurantiocephala</i> in the Checklist of CITES Species at CoP15 (they were omitted accidentally).</li> <li>▪ that domesticated forms of dogs and dingos should not be regarded as being covered by the CITES listing of <i>Canis lupus</i> and the AC will submit a proposal to this effect at CoP15.</li> <li>▪ with regard to the subspecies of <i>Puma concolor</i>, the Appendices, will be left as they are and the Animals Committee will submit an amendment proposal to that effect at CoP15. .</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The AC requested all Parties, NGOs and IGOs to provide to the Nomenclature Specialist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ names of specialists in corals and Papilionidae, or addresses of known respective international databases, in order to continue work towards a future standard reference for these species.</li> <li>▪ information on newly described species published after the publication of adopted standard references.</li> <li>▪ information on specialists regarding <i>Hirudo medicinalis</i> or European <i>Hirudo</i> species.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The AC recommended that the Chair and/or the Secretariat should raise the issue of working towards better harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature of species covered by the respective Conventions at the next meeting of the Chairmen of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) and report to AC24.</li> </ul>
<p><b>15. Conservation and management of sharks</b></p>		

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTIONS	ACTION TAKEN
<p>15.1 Reports from Parties on implementation of IPOA-Sharks, opportunities to improve monitoring, verification and reporting of catch, bycatch and discards, and use of commodity codes</p> <p><b>AC23 Doc.15.1</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision 14.106 directs the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties requesting them to provide details of their commodity codes for fish products, imports, exports and re-exports, for both CITES-listed and non-listed species, collate the responses and report to AC23.</li> <li>• Decision 14.115 directs the Parties to encourage shark fishing and trading entities to identify opportunities to: a) improve the monitoring and reporting of catch, bycatch, discards, market and international trade data; b) establish systems to provide verification of catch information; c) report on their progress at AC23 and AC24; and d) implement the FAO International Plan of Action for Sharks (IPOA-Sharks) as a matter of priority.</li> <li>• Provides responses received from Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Grenada and Malaysia to CITES Notification No. 2007/033 of 5 October 2007, which requested Parties to submit the information requested in Decisions 14.106 and 14.115. Additional reports were provided by China, Cuba, Ecuador, and the European Commission.</li> <li>• Provides Recommendation 07-06 (Supplemental Recommendation by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Concerning Sharks) adopted at the 2007 ICCAT Meeting.</li> <li>• Invites the AC to note the document, and to reflect on future actions it would consider pertinent regarding these matters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC requested that the Secretariat monitor discussions within the World Customs Organization regarding the development of a customs data model, and the inclusion therein of a data field to report trade at the species level, and to notify Parties regarding the existence of these discussions and significant developments therein.</li> <li>• The AC encouraged the Standing Committee to identify and assess options for developing a more universal tracking system, including but not limited to the approach highlighted by Canada in Doc. AC23 Inf. 2 regarding the monitoring of international wildlife trade with coded species data.</li> <li>• The AC encouraged Parties to develop and utilize customs codes for shark fin products that distinguish between dried, wet, processed and unprocessed fins.</li> <li>• The AC noted that FAO announced it will be convening a Workshop on 'Status, limitations and opportunities for improving the monitoring of shark fisheries' in November 2008.</li> </ul>
<p>15.2 Identification of shark species of concern that require consideration for inclusion in the Appendices if their management and conservation status does not improve</p> <p><b>AC23 Doc.15.2</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RC 12.6 on Conservation and management of sharks directs the AC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ examine information with a view to identifying key species and examining these for possible listing under CITES.</li> <li>▪ make species-specific recommendations to CoPs if necessary on improving the conservation status and regulation of international trade in these species.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Decision 14.107 directs the AC to continue activities specified under RC 12.6, including refinement of the list of shark species of concern, and report to CoP15.</li> <li>• Provides Parties' responses to CITES Notification No. 2007/033 regarding their management measures for endangered shark species.</li> <li>• Invites the AC to discuss the progress made and decide on future activities, work plans and timelines for the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC requested the USA, based on their work in AC23 Inf. 6 regarding recommendations on the refinement of the list of shark species of concern, to chair an intersessional group on the implementation of Decision 14.107 and prepare a paper for discussion at AC24.</li> </ul>

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<p>15.3 Linkages between international trade in shark fins and meat and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing</p> <p><b>AC23 Doc.15.3</b></p>	<p>implementation of RC 12.6 and Decision 14.107.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision 14.117 directs the AC, in consultation with FAO, to examine and report on linkages between the international trade in shark fins and meat and IUU shark fishing activities, including the main species of sharks taken by IUU fishing, and the relative importance of fins compared to meat in international trade arising from IUU fishing.</li> <li>• States that the CITES Secretariat has communicated with the FAO Secretariat and will report orally on the outcome.</li> <li>• The Secretariat suggests the AC establish a working group on this issue and provide recommendations as to how to proceed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC encouraged Australia to submit the report on IUU shark fishing that it is preparing, to AC24 for discussion and for use in implementing Decision 14.117.</li> </ul>
<p><b>16. Transport of live animals</b></p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 16</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) directs the AC to: a) participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA; b) examine additional references for transport of live specimens for incorporation into RC10.21 (Rev. CoP14); c) examine developments related to the transport of live plant specimens for incorporation into RC10.21 (Rev. CoP14); and d) examine regularly high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future.</li> <li>• Decision 14.59, directs the AC <i>inter alia</i> to: a) participate in the regular meetings of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and the reviews of the OIE Guidelines for the Transport of Animals by Sea, by Land, and by Air; b) collaborate with OIE in the development of its web portal with information on regulations and guidelines for transport for live animals other than by air; c) examine new or additional references for transport of live animals; and e) report to CITES CoP15, including proposals to amend RC 10.21 (Rev.CoP14).</li> <li>• The next meeting of the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board will take place in spring 2008 and there will be (another) opportunity to nominate a representative to the Live Animals and Perishables Board Advisory Panel in late 2009 as members are selected for a two-year term.</li> <li>• The Committee is invited to decide on the actions needed to implement these instructions and a schedule for this work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A joint working group of the AC and PC elected Andreas Kaufmann from Austria as the new Chairman of the Transport Working Group (TWG) and noted that Michael Kiehn from Austria would represent the PC on this issue.</li> <li>• The AC agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the Chair of TWG, who will participate in meetings of the Live Animal and Perishables Board of IATA, shall report on developments at AC24.</li> <li>▪ the CITES Secretariat shall be asked to provide funding to allow the Chair of the TWG to monitor regular meetings of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission</li> <li>▪ the Chair and other members of the TWG shall participate in ongoing reviews of the OIE Guidelines for the Transport of Animals by Sea and the OIE Guidelines for the Transport of Animals by Land.</li> <li>▪ the TWG will work intersessionally to determine the need for and feasibility of creating CITES guidelines on transport of live animals by land and/or sea as a supplement to the IATA Live Animal Regulations.</li> <li>▪ the CITES Secretariat shall send a Notification to the Parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- requesting Parties interested in receiving a current IATA Live Animal Regulation Manual to respond so that the level of funds needed can be assessed and the funds located;</li> <li>- providing IATA contact information to Parties to facilitate training opportunities regarding the IATA Live Animal Regulations; and</li> <li>- requesting Parties to send information concerning cases of high mortality of live specimens. The TWG will seek to identify likely causes of mortality, and, where possible, make</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<p><b>17. Progress report on the Identification Manual</b></p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 17</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a report on the progress made with the production of the Identification Manual that currently can be viewed on-line in PDF format files.</li> <li>• The Secretariat proposes to transform the Manual into a web-based database in which the identification segment for each species or group of species could be created and modified by users in an approach known as a “Wiki”.</li> <li>• A demonstration of a Wiki format CITES Identification Manual will be presented during the meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>recommendations to address the identified problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The document was noted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>18. Proposal to transfer the Mexican population of <i>Crocodylus moreletii</i> from Appendix I to Appendix II</b></p> <p><b>AC23 Doc. 18</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared by Mexico</li> <li>• Species identified by IUCN as Lower Risk.</li> <li>• Mexico estimates the global wild population at more than 100,000 individuals with nearly 20,000 adults. IUCN states that there are more than 10,000 mature individuals in the wild.</li> <li>• Mexico bans taking of wild specimens but allows trade in products from three captive-breeding facilities registered with the CITES Secretariat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexico introduced the document and said it would consider suggestions made, including extending the proposal to cover all populations of the species.</li> </ul>
<p><b>19. Time and venue of the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee</b></p> <p><b>No document</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No document.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AC noted that AC24 will held in Geneva in April 2009 unless a Party wishing to host the meeting offer to do so by 15 June 2008 at the latest and can cover the cost differences involved in holding the meeting in their country.</li> </ul>
<p><b>20. Any other business</b></p> <p><b>No document</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No document.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexico noted that there had been no formal decision by the CoP regarding back-to-back meetings of AC and PC, and that Parties had to incur greater costs when meetings were held at different times and in different locations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>21. Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>No document</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No document.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair commended the spirit of collaboration and the excellent progress that had marked the meeting,</li> </ul>

## SPECIES SURVIVAL NETWORK

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