



MEDIA COVERAGE

May 2007 – July 2007

Too Precious To Wear:

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

The Hague, The Netherlands

June 3-15, 2007



www.tooprecioustowear.org



**2007 Clip Book for *Too Precious To Wear*
at the
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)**

1. Summary of key media coverage at CITES
2. Overview: listing of compiled news clippings
3. SeaWeb press releases
4. Clips ordered alphabetically by headline from May 2007-July 2007

Too Precious To Wear is made possible by the following organizations:

SeaWeb
The Tiffany Foundation
The Kingfisher Foundation
The Henry Foundation
The Ocean Foundation

Staff principles include: Patty Debenham, Elizabeth Flynn Neeley, Julia Roberson, and Shannon Crownover



www.tooprecioustowear.org

The following is a summary of our major communications efforts during the 14th Conference of the Parties of CITES (June 3-15, 2007), with summaries of highlighted media coverage to illustrate our successful and extensive outreach.

Media outlets

Agence France Presse - Sharp limits imposed on global trade in coral

This wire story focused on the initial decision to protect *Corallium* at CITES. Fernanda Kellogg was quoted in this article, announcing Tiffany and Co.'s support of SeaWeb's coral conservation campaign and taking a stand against using coral in their jewelry.

Associated Press – U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species

This wire story appeared in over 50 news outlets when it ran prior to the proposal of *Corallium* at CITES. It highlighted the need for red and pink coral conservation, as well as coral science and trade statistics and the resistance from Italian jewelry-makers. SeaWeb's conservation work, Tiffany and Co.'s pledge to not use coral and support from Andy Bruckner are also emphasized in Mike Corder's article.

Associated Press – Wildlife trade watchdog regulates trade in red coral

This June 13, 2007 wire story appeared in multiple news outlets, such as the International Herald Tribune and Fox News. It painted a vivid picture of why *Corallium* needs international trade protection. Andy Bruckner of NOAA added valuable information to this article about trading threats to coral.

Associated Press – New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference

This wire story appeared in over 40 outlets when it ran on June 15, 2007. It provided a summation of the end results of the CITES 14th Conference of the Parties meeting in The Hague, including the surprise decision to reverse red and pink coral trade protection.

Associated Press - Endangered species: Winners and losers

This wire story appeared in over 30 media outlets when it ran after the ending of the 14th Conference of the Parties. It focused on the greatest conservation victories, as well as the disappointing losses at CITES. One of the surprising upsets at CITES was the reversal of the initial vote to protect *Corallium*.

BBC News - Necklace noose loosened for coral

This in-depth article by BBC's Environmental Correspondent Richard Black appeared after the initial vote to protect corals. It highlights the current overharvesting of coral, opinions of the Italian lobby, and what an Appendix II listing entails. Quotes from Andy Bruckner and Fernanda Kellogg increased the article's impact.

BBC News – Cash Row at wildlife trade forum

This article appeared the day following the end of the 14th CITES Conference of the Parties and provided a summary of the Conference outcomes. A large section of this article is dedicated to the disappointments of the marine conservation community. The most depressing was the politically influenced secret ballot that overturned the original vote to list *Corallium* during the final hours of the Conference.

Dive News - Corallium Red Coral... Too Precious to Wear!

This media outlet published the press release SeaWeb released at the beginning of the CITES meeting. President of SeaWeb, Dawn Martin, Dr. Elliot Norse, Dr. Steve Cairns,

and Fernanda Kellogg are quoted in the re-published press release, advocating the need for and support of coral conservation.

Environmental News Service – CITES Decisions Map the future of Wildlife Trade

This June 15, 2007 article stressed the final outcomes of CITES with large photos to highlight major players in the meeting. It highlights the coral trade association lobbying strength and the overall tone of the coral discussion at CITES. Since there are no international trade restrictions currently in place, as WWF and TRAFFIC note, coral will continue to be the victims of a “free-for-all” overharvesting.

Reuters - Red and Pink Corals Get U.N. Trade Protection

Following the initial vote to list *Corallium* under Appendix II of CITES, this article noted the benefits of the new protection for corals and highlighted other existing threats to corals, such as climate change and pollution. SeaWeb provided information about the coral trade and an important quote from Andy Bruckner about trade regulation.

Science – Corals: Suffering from Whiplash

This brief article appeared after the surprising decision to reverse protections for red and pink coral. It focused on the politicking that occurred at the end of the meeting, and featured a quote from an extremely distressed Dr. Elliot Norse: “These animals are sitting ducks on the sea floor.”

Worldwire - A Red Letter Day for Red and Pink Corals at CITES

This wire story ran this story the same day *Corallium* received a vote for trade protection. Worldwire spoke to David Cottingham of the U.S. Delegation and Will Travers of the Species Survival Network, both of whom were thrilled with the initial decision. Numerous coral facts and background information are included in the Editor’s Note.

WWF International - CITES backs red, pink and other corals

This press release was circulated by WWF after corals won the vote for protection at CITES, highlighting how necessary this action is for the future survival of pink and red corals. Susan Lieberman, the Director of WWF’s Global Species Programme, acclaimed this listing as having the potential success as the stony corals listing over a decade ago.

New Media

Coral Reef Alliance Blog – Decision to Protect Red Coral Reversed

CORAL published SeaWeb's press release from June 15, 2007, as well as advertised the *Too Precious To Wear* logo and website on their blog. This press release highlighted the frustration of coral conservation groups and key voices for coral, but gave new vibrancy to the Too Precious To Wear campaign to persevere in the quest to save deep-sea corals.

Malaria, Bedbugs, Sea Lice, and Sunsets Blog - Now I'm Really Seeing Red: An Update

This personal blog, run by Rick MacPherson of the Coral Reef Alliance, first posted "Seeing Red" on June 13, 2007, hailing the decision to list *Corallium* under Appendix II of CITES. On June 15, 2007, "Now I'm Really Seeing Red: An Update" was posted, voicing concerns over the future of corals and dissatisfaction with special commercial interests.

Marketplace Transcript - CITES: Species, business in the balance

This broadcast discussed the financial ramifications of international species regulation. Dr. Elliot Norse of MCB I talked about the progression of coral trade; it is much easier to obtain coral for jewelry with the advent of sonar and bottom trawling. Tiffany and Co. was also mentioned in the transcript as a company that does not need to use coral in its jewelry to earn a profit.

**Proposal to list Red and Pink Coral (*Corallium*)
On Appendix II at
The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)**

**Summary of News Clippings
May 2007 – July 2007**

Headline	Media Outlet	Byline	Date
A Red Letter Day for Red and Pink Corals at CITES	World-wire	World-wire	6/13/07
A shift in politics at world wildlife trade talks	Deseret News	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/16/07
America Seeking to Protect Coral	New York Sun	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
Animals win protection at conference	Nashua Telegraph	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/16/07
Around the Globe	Star Ledger	Star Ledger	6/10/07
Biodiversity: Action Plan Outlines Measures to Protect Endangered Species	European Report	European Report	6/20/07
Cash row at wildlife trade forum	BBC News	Richard Black, BBC News	6/16/07
Cedar trees fail to win protection	IOL - Independent Online	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	6/7/07
Cedar trees fail to win protection at U.N. talks	Reuters	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	6/7/07
Cedar trees fail to win protection at U.N. talks	Scientific American	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	6/7/07
CITES agree on sawfish trade ban	IOL - Independent Online	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
CITES Approves Strict Trade Limits on Ivory, Timber, Fish	VOA News	VOA News	6/16/07
CITES Approves Strict Trade Limits on Ivory, Timber, Fish	Digital Chosunibo (English Edition)	VOA News	6/17/07
CITES Approves Strict Trade Limits on Ivory, Timber, Fish	All American Patriots	VOA News	6/18/07
CITES backs red, pink and other corals	Webwire	Webwire	6/13/07
CITES backs red, pink and other corals	WWF International	WWF International	6/13/07

CITES backs red, pink and other corals	FishUpdate	FishUpdate	6/14/07
CITES CoP14 Highlights: Monday, 11 June 2007	Earth Negotiations Bulletin	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	6/12/07
CITES CoP14 Highlights: Thursday, 14 June 2007	Earth Negotiations Bulletin	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	6/15/07
CITES CoP14 Highlights: Wednesday, 13 June 2007	Earth Negotiations Bulletin	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	6/13/07
CITES deal wins reprieve for elephants	New Scientist	Debora MacKenzie	6/15/07
CITES Decisions Map the Future of Wildlife Trade	Environmental News Service	Environmental News Service	6/15/07
CITES Meet Concludes: Votes To Protect Elephants, Coral, Eels	RTT News	RTT News	6/16/07
CITES Support For Coral	tahrcountry	Tahrman Alembath	6/14/07
CITES, regulator of trade in wild animals	EiTB	EiTB	6/3/07
CITES: Commercially Traded Species Big Losers: WWF and TRAFFIC	Earth Times	World Wildlife Fund; TRAFFIC	6/15/07
CITES: Commercially Traded Species Big Losers: WWF and TRAFFIC	PR Newswire US	PR Newswire US	6/15/07
CITES: Commercially Traded Species Big Losers: WWF and TRAFFIC	Common Dreams.org	World Wildlife Fund; TRAFFIC	6/27/07
CITES: key decisions on protecting wildlife from trade	Agence France Presse	Agence France Presse - English	6/15/07
CITES: Species, business in the balance	Marketplace	Ashley Milne-Tyte, Marketplace, Reporter	6/11/07
Convention protects corals; not dogfish	Nature Newsblog	Nicola Jones	6/15/07
Coral Controversy	Akron Beacon Journal	Akron Beacon Journal	6/10/07
Coral harvesting endangers species, U.S. tells panel it wants world regulation of practices	Winston-Salem Journal	Associated Press	6/10/07
Corallium Red Coral... Too Precious to Wear!	Dive News	SeaWeb	6/13/07

Corals to join protected list	Dominion Post	Dominion Post	6/16/07
Corals, sharks fail to win international protection	blogfish - Ocean Conservancy	Mark Powell	6/15/07
Decision to Protect Red Coral Reversed	Coral Reef Alliance	SeaWeb	6/15/07
Decision to Protect Red Coral Reversed - Version 2	Coral Reef Alliance	SeaWeb	6/15/07
Elephants hope	Sunday Tasmanian (Australia)	Sunday Tasmanian (Australia)	6/17/07
Elephants, tigers are conference winners	St. Petersburg times	Associated Press	6/16/07
Elephants, tigers gain; sharks, coral lose	Vail Daily News	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
Elephants, tigers win support as wildlife trade conference ends	Minneapolis Star Tribune	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered Coral	ABC News - Philadelphia	Associated Press	6/10/07
Endangered species conference agrees to ban almost all trade in sawfish	Associated Press	Mike Corder, Associated Press Writer	6/11/07
Endangered species conference agrees to ban almost all trade in sawfish	International Herald Tribune	Associated Press	6/11/07
Endangered species conference agrees to ban almost all trade in sawfish	PR Inside (Pressemitteilung)	Associated Press	6/11/07
Endangered species find friends and foes at trade conference	Star Ledger	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/16/07
Endangered species forum dominated by budget row	Merco Press	Merco Press	6/17/07
ENDANGERED SPECIES: Corals: Suffering From Whiplash	Science	Virginia Morell	6/22/07
ENDANGERED SPECIES: Elephants Take Center Ring at CITES	Science	Virginia Morell	6/22/07
ENDANGERED SPECIES: Talks halt as African nations seek ivory trade agreement	Greenwire	Nathanial Gronewold, special to Greenwire	6/12/07
ENDANGERED SPECIES: U.N. panel approves 'milestone' ivory-trade agreement	Greenwire	Nathanial Gronewold, special to Greenwire	6/14/07
ENDANGERED SPECIES: U.N. panel decides against trade curbs for corals	E&E News PM	Nathanial Gronewold, special to E&ENews PM	6/15/07

ENDANGERED SPECIES: U.N. trade conference deadlocked on ending ivory ban	Greenwire	Nathaniel Gronewold, special to Greenwire	6/13/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Centre Daily Times	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Columbus Ledger-Enquirer	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Contra Costa Times	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Forbes Magazine	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Fort Wayne Journal Gazette	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Fort Worth Star Telegram	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Guardian Unlimited	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Houston Chronicle	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Kansas City Star	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	KTAR.com	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Macon Telegraph	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Miami Herald	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Monterey County Herald	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	News & Observer	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	San Luis Obispo Tribune	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Seattle Post Intelligencer	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	SunHerald.com	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	TheNewsTribune.com	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Times-Picayune	Associated Press	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Town Hall	Town Hall	6/15/07
Endangered species: Winners and losers	Washington Post	Associated Press	6/15/07
FACTBOX-CITES, regulator of trade in wild animals	Reuters	Reuters	6/3/07

FACTBOX-U.N. curbs trade in species from eels to elephants	Reuters	Reuters	6/15/07
FAO Panel Backs Trade Controls To Save Sawfish, Eels	Scoop	Akanimo Sampson	6/1/07
Fish and timber industries in the spotlight	IOL - Independent Online	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	5/28/07
Fourteenth Conference of the Parties to CITES: 3-15 June 2007	Earth Negotiations Bulletin	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	6/4/07
Gains, losses as CITES meet ends	Hindu	Associated Press	6/16/07
Ivory ban in the bag, UN wildlife body ends session	Agence France Presse	Marlowe Hood, Agence France Presse - English	6/15/07
Ivory ban in the bag, UN wildlife body charts its future	Agence France Presse	Marlowe Hood, Agence France Presse - English	6/15/07
Ivory ban in the bag, UN wildlife body debates its future	Agence France Presse	Marlowe Hood, Agence France Presse - English	6/15/07
Ivory deal sparks illegal market fears	Times Online	Rob Crilly in Nairobi	6/15/07
Last-minute reversal on protecting coral at UN wildlife body	Agence France Presse	Agence France Presse - English	6/15/07
Let's talk about those coral beads	Jewelry Supply.com: The Blog	Jewelry Supply.com: The Blog	6/12/07
Lucrative fish and timber face U.N. trade limits	Scientific American	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	5/28/07
Lucrative fish and timber face U.N. trade limits	Daily Times, Pakistan	Reuters	5/29/07
Lucrative fish and timber face UN trade limits	Reuters	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	5/28/07
Mixed results: International wildlife trade convention draws to an end	Webwire	Webwire	6/19/07
Nations meet to protect wildlife	BBC News	Richard Black, BBC News	6/3/07
Necklace noose loosened for coral	BBC News	Richard Black, BBC News	6/14/07
Netherlands: U.S. pushes to regulate coral crop	Tulsa World	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/10/07
New Security for Coral Reefs: Red and Pink Corals Get United Nations Trade Protection	HORIZON Solutions Site	Alister Doyle, Environment Correspondent, Reuters	6/19/07

New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Akron Farm Report	Arthur Max, Associated Press Writer	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Benton Crier	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Brockton News	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Carlisle Sentinel	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Casper Star Tribune	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Centre Daily Times	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Chandler News- Dispatch	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Chippewa Herald	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Columbus Ledger- Enquirer	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Contra Costa Times	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Dunton Springs Evening Post	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Ely Times & County	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Forbes Magazine	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Fort Wayne Journal Gazette	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Fort Wayne News Sentinel	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Fort Worth Star Telegram	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Herald News Daily	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Hinesberg Journal	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Houston Chronicle	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Howell Times and Transcript	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Jackson News- Tribune	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Jordon Falls News	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Kansas City Star	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07

New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Kindred Times	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Leading the Charge	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Macon Telegraph	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Meadow Free Press	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Miami Herald	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	MLive.com	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Monterey County Herald	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	MSN Money	Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	New Hope Courier	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	News & Observer	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Olympian	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	OregonLive.com	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Ottawa Recorder	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Penn Live	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Philadelphia Daily News	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Pioneer Times- Journal	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Prescott Herald	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	San Luis Obispo Tribune	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Seattle Post Intelligencer	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Sky Valley Journal	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	SunHerald.com	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Times-Picayune	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Town Hall	Town Hall	6/15/07

New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Westfall Weekley News	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	White Rock Reviewer	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	WRAL.com	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Central Florida News	Associated Press	6/16/07
New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference	Guardian Unlimited	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/16/07
Now I'm Really Seeing Red: An Update	Malaria, Bedbugs, Sea Lice, and Sunsets	Rick MacPherson	6/15/07
Pacific, Mediterranean coral trade to be restricted	ABC Radio Australia	ABC Radio Australia	6/14/07
Politicking not endangered at conservation convention	Chicago Daily Herald	Associated Press	6/16/07
Politics of wildlife shifts at conference	Knoxville News Sentinel	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/16/07
Proposal to limit harvest of red coral	San Francisco Chronicle	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/10/07
Proposal to protect rare corals OK'd	Saipan Tribune	DOI	6/21/07
Qatar/cites2/ The Hague	Qatar News Agency	UPI	6/16/07
Raiding the high seas for high-fashion coral	Minneapolis Star Tribune	Associated Press	6/9/07
Red and Pink Corals Get U.N. Trade Protection	Scientific American	Alister Doyle, Environment Correspondent (Reuters Life!)	6/13/07
Red and Pink Corals Get U.N. Trade Protection	Environmental News Network	Alister Doyle, Reuters	6/14/07
Red and Pink Corals Get U.N. Trade Protection	Reuters	Alister Doyle, Environment Correspondent	6/14/07
Red and Pink Corals Get U.N. Trade Protection	IOL - Independent Online	Alister Doyle, Reuters	6/14/07
Red and Pink Corals Likely to Gain Protection Under United Nations Treaty	Media Newswire	Media-newswire.com; Susan Bluttman	6/14/07
Red Coral in the Red	Science	Christopher Pala	5/25/07
Red Coral not protected in CITES	RoboSci Blog	Gregory Dudek	6/21/07
Sauvons les coraux rouges de Tunisie	zizou from Djerba Blog	Zied	7/13/07

Save The Tiger: WWF Campaigns For Ban On Chinese Tiger Trade	NewsPost India	WWF	6/7/07
Sea Change	Daily Breeze	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/10/07
Seeing Red	Malaria, Bedbugs, Sea Lice, and Sunsets	Rick MacPherson	6/13/07
Sharp limits imposed on global trade in coral	Agence France Presse	Agence France Presse - English	6/13/07
Sharp limits imposed on global trade in coral	France 24	AFP – Agence France-Presse	6/13/07
Sharp limits imposed on global trade in coral	Raw Story	AFP – Agence France-Presse	6/13/07
Sharp limits imposed on global trade in coral	Terra Daily	AFP – Agence France-Presse	6/13/07
Significant decisions	Malaysia Star Online Blog - Galaxie	TRAFFIC	6/26/07
Some species get more protection as wildlife politics shifts at international trade conference	WHDH-TV (NBC7 Boston)	Associated Press	6/15/07
Some species get more protection, as wildlife politics shift at international trade conference	PR Inside (Pressemitteilung)	Associated Press	6/15/07
Some species get more protection, as wildlife politics shift at international trade conference	Associated Press	Arthur Max, Associated Press Writer	6/16/07
Some species get more protection, as wildlife politics shifts at international trade conference	International Herald Tribune	Associated Press	6/15/07
Some species win protection at CITES conference	Plenty Magazine	Arthur Max, Associated Press	6/15/07
Spiny Dogfish, Porbeagle Shark, Sawfish, European Eel, Red And Pink Coral Make List Of Species Threatened By Trade	Underwater Times	Underwatertimes.co m News Service	5/16/07
SpotLight: 5 most endangered species in Malaysia	NST Online	Nisha Sabanayagam	6/7/07
Steps taken at CITES talks	Globe and Mail	Reuters	6/15/07
Summary of the Fourteenth Conference of the PARTIES to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora: 3-15 June 2007	Earth Negotiations Bulletin	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	6/18/07
Swiss hail "important progress" on ivory trade	NZZ Online	Swiss Info	6/15/07

Swiss hail "important progress" on ivory trade	Swiss Info	Swiss Info	6/15/07
U.N. urges protection of animals from climate change	Reuters	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	6/3/07
U.N. urges protection of animals from climate change	Scotsman	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	6/3/07
U.N. urges protection of animals from climate change	Swissinfo	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	6/3/07
U.S. Backs Tiger, Elephant, Whale Conservation at CITES	Environmental News Service	Environmental News Service	5/29/07
U.S. Gains Passage Of Proposal To Protect Rare Corals At International Convention On Trade In Endangered Species	Federal Information and News Dispatch	Interior Department Documents and Publications, OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS	6/13/07
U.S. Gains Passage of Proposal to Protect Rare Corals at International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species	States News Service	States News Service	6/13/07
U.S. hopes to protect coral species, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen	Repository - Cleveland, OH	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/10/07
U.S. pushes to protect coral from extinction	Arizona Daily Star	Associated Press	6/10/07
U.S. Pushes To Protect Rare Coral Move Goes Against European Jewelry Makers	KTVU.com	Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Albany Times Union	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/8/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Anchorage Daily News	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/8/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Fresno Bee	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/8/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	The Herald – South Carolina	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/8/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Red Orbit	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/8/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	The Sacramento Bee	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/8/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	USA Today	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/8/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	AM New York	Mike Corder, Associated Press Writer	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Biloxi Sun Herald	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Centre Daily Times	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07

U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Columbus Ledger-Enquirer	Mike Corder, Associated Press Writer	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Denver Post	Mike Corder, Associated Press Writer	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Forbes Magazine	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Fort Wayne Journal Gazette	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Fort Wayne News Sentinel	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Fox News	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Houston Chronicle	Mike Corder, Associated Press Writer	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	KSTP.com	Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	KTAR.com	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Las Vegas Sun	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Leading the Charge	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Los Angeles Times	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Newsday	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Olympian	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Philadelphia Daily News	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	San Francisco Chronicle	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	San Luis Obispo Tribune	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Seattle Post Intelligencer	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	TheNewsTribune.com	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Town Hall	Town Hall	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Tuscaloosa News	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Washington Post	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07

U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Philadelphia Inquirer	Associated Press	6/10/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Akron Farm Report	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Benton Crier	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Brockton News	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Chandler News-Dispatch	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Dunton Springs Evening Post	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Ely Times & County	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Herald News Daily	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Howell Times and Transcript	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Jackson News-Tribune	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Jordon Falls News	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Kindred Times	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Meadow Free Press	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Olberlin	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Pioneer Times-Journal	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Prescott Herald	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	Sky Valley Journal	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species	White Rock Reviewer	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/11/07
U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species, Often Used by European Jewelers	Fox News	Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. pushes to protect red coral species, putting it at odds with European jewelry makers	North County Times	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. pushes to protect red coral species, putting it at odds with European jewelry makers	San Diego Union-Tribune	Mike Corder, Associated Press	6/9/07
U.S. pushes to protect red coral species, putting it at odds with jewelry makers	Canada East	Mike Corder, The Hague, Netherlands, AP	6/11/07

U.S. seeks to regulate red coral harvesting	Sun Sentinel	Wire Reports	6/10/07
UN curbs trade in species from eels to elephants	Khaleej Times	Reuters	6/15/07
UN moves to restrict trade in red and pink corals	Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)	Vancouver Sun	6/14/07
UN of wildlife trade' may throw lifeline to marine species	France 24	AFP – Agence France-Presse	6/11/07
UN of wildlife trade' may throw lifeline to marine species	Raw Story	AFP – Agence France-Presse	6/11/07
UN talks aid eels, elephants to ease extinctions	Forests.org	Alister Doyle, Reuters	6/15/07
UN urges forum to protect animals from climate change	Plenty Magazine	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	6/4/07
UN urges protection of animals from climate change	EiTB	EiTB	6/3/07
UN urges protection of animals from climate change	Scientific American	Anna Mudeva, Reuters	6/3/07
United States to Support Conservation of Tigers, Elephants, Whales, and Others	News Blaze	U.S. Department of Interior	2007
Wildlife conference to consider protection for deep sea coral	International Herald Tribune	Associated Press	6/9/07
Wildlife conference to consider protection for deep sea coral	PR Inside (Pressemitteilung)	Associated Press	6/9/07
Wildlife Conference to Mull Protection for Deep Sea Coral	China Post	Mike Corder, The Hague, Netherlands, Associated Press	6/10/07
Wildlife trade conference brings results in wildlife protection	Pravda - Russia	Associated Press	6/15/07
Wildlife trade experts to decide on trade in rare marine species	Raw Story	AFP – Agence France-Presse	6/11/07
Wildlife trade talks end with surprises	MSNBC	Associated Press	6/15/07
Wildlife trade watchdog regulates trade in red coral	Associated Press	Mike Corder, Associated Press Writer	6/13/07
Wildlife trade watchdog regulates trade in red coral	International Herald Tribune	Associated Press	6/13/07
Wildlife trade watchdog regulates trade in red coral	PR Inside (Pressemitteilung)	Associated Press	6/13/07
Wildlife Watchdog Agrees to Regulate Trade in Red Coral	Fox News	Associated Press	6/13/07
Winners and losers at Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	San Diego Union Tribune	Associated Press	6/15/07
Winners and losers at the 12-day CITES meeting	International Herald Tribune	Associated Press	6/15/07

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Winners and losers at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	The Advocate	The Advocate	6/16/07
WWF/TRAFFIC: CITES Backs Red, Pink and Other Corals	CCNMatthews	CCNMatthews	6/13/07
WWF/TRAFFIC: CITES Backs Red, Pink and Other Corals	Marketwire	WWF-Canada/TRAFFIC International	6/13/07
WWF's Top Ten List of Traded Species	Marketwire	WWF Canada	5/17/07



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VALUABLE MARINE SPECIES UP FOR GLOBAL TRADE PROTECTION

Fate of precious red coral and wild black caviar trade to be determined at international meeting; scientists and industry support stronger conservation measures

(June 4, 2007 - The Hague, The Netherlands) Delegates from 171 countries will debate over the next 10 days whether to include key marine species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). At the triennial meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP), wild caviar trade regulations may be tightened, and red coral, the most valuable of all coral species, will be considered for a listing that would establish trade monitoring to ensure global demand does not threaten the species' survival.

With wild black caviar fetching more than U.S. \$100 an ounce and a finished red coral necklace retailing for up to \$20,000, these products are among the world's most valuable wildlife commodities. But 200-million-year-old sturgeon species, source of black caviar, have declined by up to 90 percent in the past 30 years, and global red coral catches have plummeted by 90 percent in the past two decades.

"It is a case in point of how the overwhelming popularity of luxury products from the sea can cause marine life populations to crash, sometimes to irreversible levels," said Dawn M. Martin, president of SeaWeb, an international NGO. "The CITES Conference of the Parties provides the only global venue to protect these vulnerable species from trade pressure. The international community has a chance to help put red coral and wild sturgeon on the road to recovery."

Red Coral, Too Precious to Wear

Red coral (scientific name: *Corallium* / AKA: pink coral) is a deep-sea animal that is threatened by climate change, overfishing and pollution.



Fished for more than 5,000 years, primarily as a material for jewelry and decorative objects, red coral has been marked by boom and bust cycles of discovery and overfishing. These cycles flood the global marketplace, depress prices, and lead to rapid exhaustion of the resource. Red coral today is mostly fished in the Mediterranean and western Pacific Ocean, for a total harvest of 50 metric tons, down 89 percent from the fisheries' peak of 445 metric tons in 1984.

The value of the trade is significant, with raw red coral selling for \$100 to \$900 per kilogram at auction. In 1999 alone, the Italian town of Torre del Greco reported red coral profits of \$174 million.

Support for Red Coral Protection

“Because of its value, global range, trade volume, and importance in the ecosystem, *Corallium* are among the important marine species being considered for a listing this year,” said Dr. Elliot Norse, a scientist and director of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute. The United States, the world’s largest documented consumer of red coral products with more than 26 million pieces imported from 2001 to 2006, proposed red coral for a CITES Appendix II listing after being petitioned by SeaWeb. Norse added, “For decades now, we’ve been loving red and pink coral to death. We must not let this happen.”

The red coral listing is supported by the CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC, WWF, the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, the Species Survival Network, and numerous scientists.

“Deep-sea corals such as *Corallium* are an important part of the ocean ecosystem,” said Dr. Steve Cairns, research scientist and curator at the Smithsonian Institution. “Ocean life depends on them for protection from predators and as gathering places for mating. Other coral species, black and blue for example, are already listed on the CITES Appendix II. If any coral species deserves to be protected, it is *Corallium*, which is traded more heavily and is extremely vulnerable to overfishing pressure.”

Concerns about overfishing are growing in the jewelry industry, prompting some, such as Tiffany & Co., to remove precious corals from their product lines.

Fernanda Kellogg, senior vice president of Tiffany & Co. and president of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, said, “Tiffany & Co. is committed to obtaining precious materials in ways that are socially and environmentally responsible. With regard to coral, we believe that coral harvesting as currently practiced is not sustainable and threatens marine ecosystems. We will not use this precious material in our jewelry until harvesting methods have been adopted that ensure the sustainability of coral reefs. Tiffany urges international officials to support stronger protection for red corals so we can be assured of the survival of these precious gems from the sea.”

Threat of Overfishing

The United States’ proposal cites scientific evidence that commercial fishing has decreased the genetic diversity within and among populations, reduced colony densities, and shifted size and age structure to small, immature colonies that are worthless to the red coral trade and unproductive in the ecosystem. In the Pacific Ocean, the destructive fishing method of bottom trawling for red coral is the marine equivalent of clear cutting old-growth forests. There is evidence that coral populations never fully recover after being bottom-trawled, and entire beds of red coral have been depleted within five years of discovery.

Potential Result of Red Coral Listing

Appendix II refers to species that are in need of trade control so as to avoid over-exploitation. While some range states have taken steps to better manage their red coral fisheries, much of the fishing is conducted in international waters and there are no consistent global regulations or binding agreements between nations.

There are more than 20 species of *Corallium* but only seven are currently traded and would be affected by an Appendix II listing. If the listing is approved at the CoP, red coral producing and consuming nations would be required to maintain sustainable trade through an export-import permit system. This system would enable better monitoring of the trade by international officials and would encourage the development of fisheries' management plans at a domestic level. It is also possible that individuals could face a limit on how much red coral they could take out of a country. Otherwise, the listing would not directly result in trade restrictions or fishing limits, but would establish a venue through which future conservation measures could be adopted.

For more information, visit www.tooprecioustowear.org



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Fished for more than 5,000 years, primarily as a material for jewelry and decorative objects, red coral has been marked by boom and bust cycles of discovery and overfishing. These cycles flood the global marketplace, depress prices, and lead to rapid exhaustion of the resource. Red coral today is mostly fished in the Mediterranean and western Pacific Ocean, for a total harvest of 50 metric tons, down 89 percent from the fisheries' peak of 445 metric tons in 1984.

The value of the trade is significant, with raw red coral selling for \$100 to \$900 per kilogram at auction. In 1999 alone, the Italian town of Torre del Greco reported red coral profits of \$174 million.

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“Because of its value, global range, trade volume, and importance in the ecosystem, *Corallium* are among the most important marine species being considered for a listing this year,” said Dr. Elliot Norse, a scientist and director of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute. “For decades now, we’ve been loving red and pink coral to death. We must not let this happen.” The United States, the world’s largest documented consumer of red coral products with more than 26 million pieces imported from 2001 to 2006, proposed red coral for a CITES Appendix II listing after being petitioned by SeaWeb.

The red coral listing is supported by the CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC, WWF, the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, the Species Survival Network, and numerous scientists.

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Potential Result of Red Coral Listing

Appendix II refers to species that are in need of trade control so as to avoid over-exploitation. While some range states have taken steps to better manage their red coral fisheries, much of the fishing is conducted in international waters and there are no consistent global regulations or binding agreements between nations.

There are more than 20 species of *Corallium* but only seven are currently traded and would be affected by an Appendix II listing. If the listing is approved at the CoP, red coral producing and consuming nations would be required to maintain sustainable trade through an export-import permit system. This system would enable better monitoring of the trade by international officials and would encourage the development of fisheries’ management plans at a domestic level. It is also possible that individuals could face a limit on how much red coral they could take out of a country. Otherwise, the listing would not directly result in trade restrictions or fishing limits, but would establish a venue through which future conservation measures could be adopted. For more information, visit www.tooprecioustowear.org

Wild Caviar: Let the Connoisseur Beware

Once plentiful in the Northern Hemisphere, sturgeons have suffered drastic population declines due to high demand for their roe, or caviar. Although sturgeons have been listed under CITES since 1998, Caviar Emptor, a campaign to protect the species, believes that the international caviar trade remains detrimental to the species' survival. At the CITES CoP, scientists and conservationists will call for additional trade restrictions, including a ban on the beluga caviar trade.

Scientists Call for Bans

Ellen Pikitch, executive director of the Pew Institute for Ocean Science and lead scientist for Caviar Emptor, said, "With beluga sturgeon, we have a fish on the brink of extinction, and we must act now if these ancient species are to survive. It is vital that CITES delegates strengthen the regulations that govern the global caviar trade and consider a trade ban for the most endangered species such as the beluga. Right now, the choice is protection or extinction."

According to Russian surveys, the population of stellate sturgeon, source of sevruga caviar, is just 10 percent of its 1978 level, and numbers of Russian sturgeon, source of osetra caviar, have dropped 50 percent during the same period. The same data show precipitous declines in beluga sturgeon, suggesting a 45% drop in population numbers from 2004 to 2005.

Local Caspian scientists concerned about overfishing and poaching have been predicting the need for a fishing ban for years. Dr. Vladimir Ivanov, the former Director of the Caspian Fisheries Research Institute, said in a book published in 2000: "Sturgeon resources are in a precarious condition. Without taking effective measures, a moratorium on sturgeon fishing is inevitable."

Black Sea nations voluntarily halted exports of caviar this year, and Romania has imposed a long-term fishing moratorium. Dr. Radu Suciu, head of the Sturgeon Research Group for Romania's Danube Delta National Institute, said, "Romania realized that decisive action was needed to prevent the complete disappearance of this fish and implemented a 10-year ban on all sturgeon fishing in May 2006. We urge other sturgeon range states, particularly in the Caspian Sea, to consider similar actions. These moratoriums may be the only chance the sturgeons have for survival and recovery in their native waters."

Importers Can Encourage Conservation

At the CITES CoP meeting, changes to Resolution 12.7 governing the sturgeon and caviar trade will be negotiated. The resolution requires sturgeon range states (Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran, along with the Black Sea nations) to agree on sustainable fishing and export quotas; to take measures to combat illegal trade; and to implement a regional conservation plan.

"So far, enforcement of the CITES resolution for the caviar trade has been ineffectual," said Dawn Martin, president of SeaWeb and one of the Caviar Emptor partners. "Despite Caspian nations' lack of cooperation with trade regulations, the CITES Secretariat approved caviar export quotas this year after imposing a ban in 2006. This inconsistency puts sturgeons at risk and sends a mixed message to range states about the seriousness of our concerns. This week's meeting provides importing nations with a chance to put real pressure on the Caspian states to conserve sturgeon before it is too late."

Despite evidence of substantial damage to sturgeon populations, a proposal to weaken caviar trade regulations is up for consideration at the CITES CoP meeting.

For more information, visit www.caviareemptor.org and www.cites.org.



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PRECIOUS RED CORALS TO RECEIVE GLOBAL TRADE PROTECTION

Conservationists applaud strong action for valuable marine species by international community

(June 13, 2007 - The Hague, The Netherlands) Red corals received international trade protection today after 62 countries voted to list these overfished species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

With a finished necklace retailing for up to \$20,000, precious red corals are among the world's most valuable wildlife commodities. But destructive fishing methods and over-harvesting means global red coral catches have plummeted by 90 percent in the past two decades. CITES delegates voted by a 69% majority in favour of the proposal to list the species under Appendix II, which means the trade in red corals (scientific name: *Corallium* / AKA: pink corals) will be regulated by a system of import-export permits, allowing officials to closely monitor the trade for sustainability and collect more information on the status of these marine animals.

Dr. Andy Bruckner, the author of the US proposal to list *Corallium*, welcomed the listing: "Red coral is the most valuable and widely traded out of all the coral species, and CITES protection will help ensure the future of the species and the red coral industry. We are pleased that the international community has recognised the threats *Corallium* face, and is taking the necessary steps to safeguard these species."

The value of the trade is significant, with raw red coral selling for \$100 to \$900 per kilogram at auction. In 1999 alone, the Italian town of Torre del Greco reported red coral profits of \$174 million. Italy and some Asian countries were among the strongest opponents to the listing, having fished for coral in the Mediterranean and western Pacific for centuries. Yet the United States, the world's largest documented importer of red corals, and conservationists said the protection afforded by a CITES listing will safeguard the industry for future generations by ensuring trade is non-detrimental to the survival of the species.



Since 2005 there has been a worldwide resurgence in coral popularity, and it is in high demand for jewelry, art and curios, particularly in Europe and Asia.

To advance the proposal's implementation, the United States will participate in international technical workshops in Italy and the Pacific region before the listing goes into effect.

Dawn M. Martin, president of SeaWeb, the international NGO that originally petitioned the United States for the listing, said, "For many years, unsustainable harvesting of red corals has been allowed to continue unchecked. SeaWeb applauds the member nations of CITES for voting for protection of red corals instead of extinction. The fashion industry should also be commended for helping to create a demand for coral conservation."

Fernanda Kellogg, senior vice president of Tiffany & Co. and president of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, said, "With regard to coral, we believe that coral harvesting as currently practiced is not sustainable and threatens marine ecosystems. We will not use this precious material in our jewelry until harvesting methods have been adopted that ensure the sustainability of coral reefs."

Sylvie Chantecaille, founder of independent cosmetics company Chantecaille Beauté, said, "We are particularly concerned about corals and the remarkable species and ecosystems they support which are declining throughout the world. Listing under CITES is a profound and important step in achieving protection of these precious ocean gems." Chantecaille has created a unique powder encased in a faux coral compact to benefit the Pew Institute for Ocean Science's Reefs of Hope coral research project.

Science shows that commercial fishing has decreased the genetic diversity within and among populations, reduced colony densities, and shifted size and age structure to small, immature colonies that are worthless to the red coral trade and unproductive in the ecosystem. In the Pacific Ocean, the destructive fishing method of bottom trawling for red coral is the marine equivalent of clear cutting old-growth forests. There is evidence that coral populations never fully recover after being bottom-trawled, and entire beds of red coral have been depleted within five years of discovery.

Red coral today is mostly fished in the Mediterranean and western Pacific Ocean, for a total harvest of 50 metric tons, down 89 percent from the fisheries' peak of 445 metric tons in 1984.

There are more than 20 species of *Corallium* but only seven are currently traded and will be affected by the Appendix II listing. The listing does not directly result in trade restrictions or fishing limits, but will establish a venue through which future conservation measures can be adopted.

For more information, visit www.tooprecioustowear.org. *Too Precious to Wear* is a program of SeaWeb to advance coral conservation.





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COUNTRIES REVERSE DECISION TO PROTECT PRECIOUS RED CORALS *Conservationists decry move as politically motivated; urge industry and range states to act*

(June 15, 2007 - The Hague, The Netherlands) Scientists, conservationists and many government officials expressed outrage when a proposal to protect precious red corals from international trade was reversed today. Delegates voted by secret ballot to overturn their initial decision to list these overfished species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), following a massive lobbying effort by the coral industry and some exporting countries. The proposal initially passed on Wednesday, with 62 countries voting in support of the listing.

Scientists have long called for trade protection for red corals (scientific name: *Corallium* / AKA: pink corals), with over 2,000 other coral species listed under CITES. Red corals are among the world's most valuable wildlife commodities, with a finished necklace retailing for up to \$20,000, precious. But destructive fishing methods and over-harvesting means global red coral catches have plummeted by 90 percent in the past two decades. The move to reopen the red coral debate on Friday was instigated by Tunisia and seconded by Algeria and Morocco, all coral exporting countries. A secret ballot was requested and despite the proposal receiving support from the majority of delegates present, it fell short of the required two-thirds majority needed for a CITES listing.

Dr. Andy Bruckner, a NOAA scientist and the author of the U.S. proposal to list *Corallium*, said the outcome was shocking: "Over the past twenty years, overfishing of red coral has put these animals at great risk. A CITES listing would have helped safeguard the species as well as the coral industry. Effective conservation for red coral now requires cooperation by range states to implement appropriate domestic measures, to ensure the survival of these species."

The U.S. responded to the reopening of the debate, saying they had held extensive conversations with red coral-producing nations to construct a proposal that would advance the conservation of the species. The



U.S. also commended the management plans present in some countries and said a CITES listing would help protect the coral industry for future generations.

The unusual reversal, which took place after the conference was scheduled to have ended, means the trade in red corals will be allowed to continue unchecked, threatening the species' survival. There was significant support for the listing from the United States (the largest red coral importer in the world), the European Union (a major exporter), Mexico, the CITES Secretariat, as well as numerous NGOs, including SeaWeb, TRAFFIC, WWF and the Pew Institute for Ocean Science.

Opponents to the red coral proposal, such as Japan, a major red coral trading nation, and industry group ASSOCORAL, referred to an FAO assessment that did not support the listing. SeaWeb stated to delegates at the conference that FAO's analysis was flawed because it only took into account the remaining number of coral colonies but not their size, which is a more accurate measure of population health.

Dawn M. Martin, president of SeaWeb, the international NGO that originally petitioned the United States to propose the listing, said, "Never before have our oceans been in such peril, and this reversal by CITES delegates, which leaves red corals unprotected, is deplorable. Red corals are threatened by trade and fully meet the criteria for CITES protection. It is now up to consumers and the industry to ensure that we do not love red coral to death. Conscientious jewelers like Tiffany & Co. have already removed precious corals from their product lines, and we urge others to do the same."

The value of the red coral trade is significant. In 1999 alone, the Italian town of Torre del Greco reported red coral profits of \$174 million. The United States, the world's largest documented importer of red corals, and conservationists said the protection afforded by a CITES listing would have safeguarded the industry for future generations by ensuring trade is non-detrimental to the survival of the species.

Science shows that commercial fishing has decreased the genetic diversity within and among populations, reduced colony densities, and shifted size and age structure to small, immature colonies that are worthless to the red coral trade and unproductive in the ecosystem. In the Pacific Ocean, the destructive fishing method of bottom trawling for red coral is the marine equivalent of clear cutting old-growth forests. There is evidence that coral populations never fully recover after being bottom-trawled, and entire beds of red coral have been depleted within five years of discovery.

Fernanda Kellogg, senior vice president of Tiffany & Co. and president of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, said, "With regard to coral, we believe that coral harvesting as currently practiced is not sustainable and threatens marine ecosystems. We will not use this precious material in our jewelry until harvesting methods have been adopted that ensure the sustainability of coral reefs."

Martin added, "We will continue to work tirelessly to get these threatened animals the protection they deserve. It is unconscionable when politics and profit stand in the way of science and conservation. SeaWeb's Too Precious To Wear campaign will continue to advance coral conservation and will urge the international community to protect these species."

For more information, visit www.tooprecioustowear.org. *Too Precious to Wear* is a program of SeaWeb to create a demand for coral conservation.





World-Wire
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

A RED LETTER DAY FOR RED AND PINK CORALS AT CITES

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands, June 13, 2007 --/WORLD-WIRE/-- Delegates attending the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) today approved a proposal offered by the United States to list red and pink corals (*Corallium* spp.) on Appendix II of the Convention. Will Travers, Chairman of the Species Survival Network, today congratulated the United States delegation for its leadership on the coral issue.

Precious corals are particularly popular in America, Europe and Asia as jewelry and art objects, but increasing global demand is rapidly exhausting this slow-maturing ocean resource. "In the Pacific Ocean, international trade is causing serious depletion of the species as new coral areas are discovered and are rapidly destroyed," said Linda Paul of Earthtrust, a member of the Species Survival Network.

Collection methods for the deeper-dwelling species destroy entire colonies and their associated vital fish habitat. It may take as long as 100 years for them to recover. Over 26 million pieces of red and pink coral jewelry and art objects were imported into the US from 2001 to 2006. Precious corals have been used since the Stone Age, but destructive harvesting methods and the booming global demand threaten the very survival of red and pink coral reefs throughout their range.

"CITES has taken a big step towards protecting red and pink corals," said David Cottingham of the US Delegation. "These measures would allow limited trade of jewelry from coral that is harvested in a sustainable manner and, if properly enforced, ensure that international trade in corals is undertaken responsibly."

EDITORS NOTES • Distribution: 26 species found throughout the world in tropical, subtropical and temperate oceans; only known populations of *Corallium* large enough to support commercial harvest are found north of 19° N latitude, including seven species collected in the Western Pacific and one collected in the Mediterranean.

* Population: global harvest statistics from 1950 to 2001 indicate a rapid decline in abundance of Mediterranean and Pacific species corresponding with the discovery, inception of commercial fishing, increase in landings, overexploitation, and, ultimately, exhaustion of the resource; most western Pacific populations of *Corallium* have been depleted within 4–5 years of their discovery; throughout the Mediterranean, *C. rubrum* populations have shown a dramatic decrease in their size, age structure and reproductive output over the last 20 years, with the only remaining commercially valuable beds are now found along the African coasts from Morocco to Tunisia, in the Bonifacio Strait off western Sardinia and along the Spanish coasts

*

* Threats: primary threat to *Corallium* is over-harvesting for the international trade in precious corals; secondary human impacts include pollution, sedimentation, tourism and

recreational diving (Mediterranean), and incidental take and habitat degradation associated with longline fishing and bottom trawling (Western Pacific)

* Trade: millions of items and thousands of kilograms per year are traded internationally as jewelry and in other forms; international demand drives serial depletions of Corallium as new stocks are discovered and rapidly exhausted

* Corallium is the most valuable genus of precious coral and is highly valued for jewelry and art objects; superior beads fetch prices of up to US\$50 per gram and necklaces cost up to US\$25,000

There are no international trade control or management measures for the genus Corallium.

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Deseret News
Saturday, June 16, 2007

A shift in politics at world wildlife trade talks

By Arthur Max, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Elephants emerged safer and tigers won a vote of support, but sharks and corals failed to win protection at a two-week wildlife trade conference that ended Friday.

The conference also saw a shift in conservation politics, with ministers throwing their weight behind negotiations.

China emerged for the first time as a major player at the triennial meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species, or CITES, surprising delegates with its activism.

The signatories of the CITES treaty, adopted in 1975 to rescue rare plants and animals threatened with extinction, turned their attention as never before to common timber and fish vital to the economies of many nations.

And critics worried about the increasing role of politics as the 171-nation CITES met to review its lists of tens of thousands of threatened species, with the first ministerial-level meeting at a CITES conference.

"The ministerial forum has added a strong political dimension," said Will Travers, head of the Species Survival Network, a coalition of about 80 nongovernment agencies. "It's too early to say whether this is good or bad, but I am concerned," he said.

The ministers were credited with breaking an 18-year deadlock over the sale of ivory by southern African countries, which were allowed a one-time sale of accumulated tusks to Japan, the only authorized buyer. In exchange, the elephant and ivory issues would be taken off the CITES agenda for nine years.

The conference ended in disappointment for environmentalists. An earlier committee decision that would have regulated the trade in pink and red coral used for jewelry was overturned by the full plenary. Proposals to control the trade in spiny dogfish sharks, widely fished for fast food, also fell.

South American and Asian countries with powerful timber industries helped defeat proposals to regulate trade in Spanish cedar and rosewood species, which conservationists say are being stripped from rain forests.

But big-money fisheries and timber were put on notice, and those species that failed to win protection were certain to come up again in future meetings.

Not all commercial varieties lost. Among newly regulated species were the European eel, considered a delicacy in much of the continent, and the brazilwood tree, the source of top-quality bows for stringed musical instruments.

The conference also increased scrutiny in the caviar trade — long plagued by a booming black market — to help save the Caspian Sea sturgeon.

"We have listed new species that have been outside the scope of the Convention for economic reasoning rather than scientific," said CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers. "I think that should continue."

Conservationists said trade considerations overwhelmed scientific criteria in many instances, with countries still voting in favor of short-term economic growth.

"It's sad to see, because this is one of the more progressive conventions we have," said Peter Pueschel of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Delegates spent the final day snared in a budget fight, spending more than four hours debating whether to raise the \$4.6 million budget of the CITES secretariat by 7.5 percent, or \$340,000. The United States, which pays 22 percent of the budget, objected. In the end, a 6 percent increase was approved.

"There are so many things they want CITES to do, but nobody is willing to pay for it. It's pitiful," said Susan Lieberman, of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

CITES veterans said they noted a shift of power among the parties.

China, an importer of tropical timber and a major investor in Africa, was at the center of several contentious issues, but its record was mixed. In one of the more significant showdowns, it failed to block a resolution urging it to maintain a 1993 ban on the sale of tiger parts for traditional medicine and warning it to rein in its program of breeding tigers.

In other power shifts, the European Union swung many issues and aroused some anger for voting as a 27-member bloc. Japan was less aggressive than it had been in previous meetings. And the United States "was not the powerhouse it was 15 years ago," said Travers, of the pro-wildlife coalition.

The Sun

The New York Sun
Saturday, June 9, 2007

America Seeking to Protect Coral Move Creates Tension with Europeans

BY MIKE CORDER - Associated Press
URL: <http://www.nysun.com/article/56223>

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - America is leading a push to protect a type of red coral that grows deep in the world's oceans and seas, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen who have harvested the species for generations to make artwork and jewelry.

Under the American proposal up for debate at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meeting in The Hague, trade in several species of red coral, or corallium, would be regulated for the first time to ensure harvesting and global sales do not threaten their survival.

The proposal is expected to come up for a vote next week, worrying the fishermen and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, who harvest the coral for their livelihood in the town in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

"We started 800 years ago and we want to continue," said Ciro Conditto of Assocoral, a lobbying group representing the craftsmen in the Mediterranean town. "We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life."

America is the world's biggest market for corallium products, importing more than 26 million pieces from 2001 to 2006, according to the Washington-based environmental group SeaWeb.

The value of corallium is boosted by the fact it is difficult to gather because it grows as deep as 3,280 feet. It is also rare because it grows so slowly - in some cases, just 0.06 inches or less per year - and takes up to seven years to reach maturity, with low reproduction rates.

Raw coral can sell for about \$400 per pound at auction, and artworks or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$20,000, depending on the size and quality.

One place corallium jewelry is no longer sold is Tiffany and Co.

"Until we are convinced that coral harvesting is sustainable and does not threaten marine ecosystems, we believe this cautionary principle should continue to apply," the company says on its Web site.

In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed - a practice that devastates the coral and threatens other marine wildlife that use coral colonies as a place to feed, mate and escape predators.

"It is like clear-cutting a forest - it pulls everything up, there's a lot of loss and you remove the large colonies, the small colonies and cause a lot of damage to the habitat," said Andy Bruckner of the American National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the Mediterranean, trawl fishing has been replaced by scuba-diving harvesters and some countries have imposed quotas and minimum size limits. But the coral is still struggling.

"We're afraid that if things continue the way they are it could lead to species being depleted from large areas," said Mr. Bruckner.

On the Net:

Seaweb coral protection campaign: <http://www.tooprecioustowear.com>

Ciro Conditto of Assocoral: <http://www.assocoral.it>

Nashua Telegraph
Saturday, June 16, 2007

Animals win protection at conference

By ARTHUR MAX, The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands – Elephants emerged safer and tigers won a vote of support, but sharks and corals failed to win protection at a two-week wildlife trade conference that ended Friday.

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The signatories of the CITES treaty, adopted in 1975 to rescue rare plants and animals threatened with extinction, turned their attention as never before to common timber and fish vital to the economies of many nations.

And critics worried about the increasing role of politics as the 171-nation CITES met to review its lists of tens of thousands of threatened species, with the first ministerial-level meeting at a CITES conference.

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South American and Asian countries with powerful timber industries helped defeat proposals to regulate trade in Spanish cedar and rosewood species, which conservationists say are being stripped from rain forests.

But big-money fisheries and timber were put on notice, and those species that failed to win protection were certain to come up again in future meetings.

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The Star-Ledger

The Star-Ledger
Newark, New Jersey
Sunday, June 10, 2007

Around the Globe

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - The United States is leading a push to protect a type of red coral that grows deep in the world's oceans and seas.

Under the U.S. proposal up for debate at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meeting in the Hague, trade in several species of red coral, or corallium, would be regulated for the first time to ensure harvesting and global sales do not threaten their survival.

The proposal is expected to come up for a vote this week.

The U.S. is the world's biggest market for corallium products, importing more than 26 million pieces from 2001 to 2006.

The value of corallium is boosted by the fact it is difficult to gather because it grows as deep as 3,280 feet.

Raw coral can sell for about \$400 per pound at auction, and artworks or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$20,000, depending on the size and quality.

In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed - a practice that devastates the coral and threatens other marine wildlife that use coral colonies as a place to feed, mate and escape predators.

European Report

No. 3330

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Biodiversity: Action Plan Outlines Measures to Protect Endangered Species

The European Commission adopted, on 13 June, a recommendation, a real action plan' aimed at plugging some of the gaps identified in the application of EU law with regard to trade in wild species (COM(2007)2551). The move came in the context of the implementation at EU level of decisions made by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which took place in The Hague, Netherlands, from 3 to 15 June.

Based on a study that underlines the need to identify priority areas for coordinated action, the Commission recommends that member states draw up national action plans with objectives and a timetable for the coordination of the implementation of the legislation; to ensure that the competent authorities have adequate human and financial resources and to make sure that the penalties for breaking the rules do effectively deter illegal trade in wild species. It also recommends that they take measures to train staff carrying out controls, keep the public informed and step up cooperation between the inspection services of member states as well as support programmes building management and inspection capacities in non-EU countries.

FISH

The CITES conference decided on restrictions on the international trade in sawfish, which is threatened with being overfished. Proposals for controls on trade in two types of shark were rejected as were those for protecting pink and red coral (Mediterranean). CITES also extended its protection to the European eel on the same day that the EU's Fisheries Council decided on a plan to protect the species (see Europolitics 3323-3324).

IVORY

The conference agreed on a nine-year moratorium on ivory sales whilst Kenya and Mali had put forward a joint proposal to ban the trade in ivory for 20 years. The agreement allows Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa to sell an additional quantity of ivory under strict CITES supervision. International trade in ivory was banned by CITES in 1989 as a reaction to the fall in the elephant population, who were being hunted for their tusks. A sale of 50 tonnes of ivory had been authorised in 1997 and a second one of 60 tonnes heading to Japan was decided on in early June.

TROPICAL TREES

The parties were able to agree on an action plan for the sustainable exploitation of mahogany and on stepping up cooperation between CITES and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). But the EU had to give up on asking for protection measures for a Latin American tropical tree, the Cedrela, due to opposition from countries that exploit the tree.

Cash row at wildlife trade forum

By Richard Black, Environment correspondent, BBC News website, The Hague

A budget row dominated the final day of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) forum.

Member states approved a cut in real terms in CITES' budget, which could compromise attempts to control the illegal wildlife trade.

In a blow to whaling countries, delegates upheld an earlier ruling that CITES would not assess whale stocks.

An earlier proposal to prevent corals being used in jewellery was overturned, to the dismay of conservation groups.

And a renewed bid by the European Union to restrict trade in the spiny dogfish - sold in British fish and chip shops as huss, or rock salmon - was defeated.

The final day of the meeting was marked by acrimonious rhetoric, political wrangling and farcical scenes as the electronic voting system malfunctioned, delegates delayed proceedings by raising point after point of order, and a number of countries' seats emptied as people left for early flights home, missing the crucial late votes.

Over capacity

The biggest single issue had been resolved on Thursday, when delegates voted to allow southern African countries a one-off sale of stockpiled ivory, the third such sale since the ivory trade was banned in 1989.

But there is deep concern about the documented rise in illegal trading in ivory and rhinoceros horn, which is partly down to the low capacity of some central and west African nations to control poaching and domestic markets.

"Ultimately, CITES is about the ability of countries to implement it," said Sue Mainka of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).



Delegates sought to improve protection for animals and plants

"That runs from customs authorities being able to recognise a specimen that's under CITES control, to being able to handle anything that's confiscated, to general public awareness campaigns about why all this is important.

"It's national-level capacity that will make CITES a success."

By implication, lack of national capacity will make CITES a relative failure; and the funding increase of just 6% voted through by delegates is in real terms a sharp decline, which may reduce the ability of the CITES organisation to improve that situation.

CITES secretary-general Willem Wijnstekers said the organisation needed a funding increase of 20% just to stand still. It receives funds in US dollars, but disburses money in Swiss francs, and the recent dollar devaluation has hurt its finances.

The US and Japan, the two biggest funders, said they had no mandate from their governments to approve any funding increase.

Sea change

The major disappointments for conservation groups concerned the marine environment.

The European Union re-opened a proposal to have the spiny dogfish, a shark species, listed on CITES Appendix 2, which allows international trade under permits.

It believed fresh data might persuade delegates who had voted the motion down earlier in the meeting to approve it this time around; but in a secret ballot, it fell again.

"In general, the progress on conservation of marine species is being outpaced by the depletion of marine species," noted Sonja Fordham of the Shark Alliance.

"We've been fighting a serious bloc of countries that have been opposed to listing on CITES of any sharks; now we're dealing with commercially valuable shark species, and it's even more of an uphill battle."

Another secret ballot overturned the earlier Appendix 2 listing of *Corallium*, a group of red and pink corals.

Some conservation scientists believe that by the time of the next CITES meeting, *Corallium* will be so depleted that it will have to go on Appendix 1, which bans international trade.

The leader of the EU delegation, Germany's Jochen Flasbarth, believes that CITES' inclusion in recent years of commercially valuable species such as hardwoods, fish, whales and coral in its remit may have stimulated the politicking.

CITES EXPLAINED

Threatened organisms listed on three appendices depending on level of risk
Appendix 1 - all international trade banned

Appendix 2 - international trade monitored and regulated

Appendix 3 - trade bans by individual governments, others asked to assist
"Uplisting" - moving organism to a

more protective appendix,
"downlisting" - the reverse

Conferences of the Parties (COPs) held every three years

CITES administered by UN

Environment Programme (Unep)

"If you look for the real problems of biological diversity around the world, it's clear that they lie in the forests and the marine environment," he said.

"And as soon as you interfere in these areas you are confronted with huge economic interests."

Victory no fluke

Whaling had threatened to prove almost as controversial as ivory during this meeting, which followed hard on the heels of the International Whaling Convention's (IWC) annual gathering in Alaska, where pro-whaling Japan and its allies suffered a number of defeats.

Proposals here asked CITES to review whale stocks.

An assessment that stocks are healthy could potentially lead to approval of the whale meat trade, and hence of commercial whaling itself.

Not only were these proposals defeated, but an Australian amendment, that CITES should never review whale stocks while the 21-year IWC moratorium remained in force, was approved.

Attempts by Japan's traditional allies to re-open this issue on the meeting's final day failed.

"It's another huge defeat for the whalers," commented Nicolas Entrup of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

"They lost at the International Whaling Commission meeting, they lost again here, and on top of that CITES has agreed not to consider whales again while the IWC moratorium remains in force."

The next CITES summit is scheduled for three years' time, and is likely to be held in Qatar.

With 150 species being lost each day according to the UN, and with international trade partly responsible, it is likely to see many more protection requests from conservation groups, but equally implacable opposition from countries that feel their commercial interests being threatened.

Richard.Black-INTERNET@bbc.co.uk



IOL – Independent Online
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Cedar trees fail to win protection

By Anna Mudeva

A bid to curb logging of South and Central American cedar trees, the source of some of the world's most valuable timber, failed on Thursday at a United Nations wildlife meeting.

Germany, acting on behalf of the European Union, withdrew a proposal requesting the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) regulate trade in cedar, after strong opposition from central and south American countries.

The EU and conservationists have argued the cedar, used in the building trade and to make furniture and musical instruments, needs protection due to a significant depletion in numbers resulting from too much logging, some of it illegal.

But Mexico and south American countries, where cedar is a lucrative business, said there was not enough evidence to suggest the trees were in danger and more data was needed.

"In this situation after getting this clear message from the range states, the EU feels that there is no point to put the proposal to vote," said the delegate, representing Germany at the CITES June 3-15 meeting in The Hague.

The Spanish cedar or cedrela, which has been harvested for at least 250 years, is esteemed for its aromatic and pink-tinged timber which is resistant to insects and rots.

The EU had sought to have cedar listed on CITES Appendix II that regulates international trade in animal and plant species.

Despite domestic efforts to create protected areas for cedar and regulate use, illegal logging is reported in Peru, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Bolivia, Mexico, Guatemala and Venezuela, the Species Survival Network said.

Peru and Bolivia are the world's biggest exporters of cedar timber, while Mexico and the United State are the largest buyers.

"The species is not in danger in Mexico," said Ramon Carrillo Arelano of the Mexican delegation at CITES.

"We need to collect data and make a research first. If it proves that the trees are in danger, then we would support a listing," he said.

CITES, whose restrictions were once aimed at exotic species like leopards and parrots, is now focusing on more commercially important animals and plants.

Other valuable tree species like rosewood and marine species like the spiny dogfish and the porbeagle shark, the European eel and pink coral - all threatened - feature high on the agenda of The Hague meeting. - Reuters



Reuters
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Cedar trees fail to win protection at U.N. talks

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Scientific American
Thursday, June 7, 2007

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IOL - Independent Online
Monday, June 11, 2007

CITES agree on sawfish trade ban

By Mike Corder

The Hague - An international conference on endangered species banned almost all trade on Monday in sawfish - large shark-like rays whose long snouts bristling with teeth are in high demand among collectors.

The conference also regulated trade in the European eel, which experts fear is being driven toward extinction by overfishing.

All seven species of sawfish are listed as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union due mainly to overfishing.

'Overfishing is the single most important factor contributing to the population decline' They are highly valued for their fins, meat and snouts, known as rostra, which can measure up to two meters. They also are caught and traded as live animals for aquaria and parts of their bodies are used in traditional Asian medicines.

Local Kenyan fishermen "could retire after catching one sawfish due to the high value of sawfish fins - \$443 (about R3 200) per kilogramme for export - and rostra up to \$1 450," Dorothy Nyingi of Kenya told the triennial meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES.

Delegates at a committee meeting in The Hague supported a proposal to ban all commercial trade in six of the species and to allow sales of one sawfish species found in Australian waters. The decision is expected to be formally accepted by the full conference before it ends on Friday.

Compounding the problem of hunting and trade, sawfish are slow to mature and produce few young. They also often are caught in nets intended for other fish, conservationists say.

"We are relieved that international trade pressure will be lifted for these critically endangered species," said Steven Broad, director of TRAFFIC, a group monitoring the trade in wildlife. "Trade, along with fishing pressure, was pushing them towards extinction."

CITES lists more than 7 000 animals and 32 000 plants whose trade is regulated, including about 800 highly threatened species that are banned from commercial trade without special licenses.

Another species suffering from overfishing and a slow reproductive cycle, the European eel, also was given CITES protection on Monday. The meeting agreed to a European Union proposal to regulate, but not ban, trade in the eel.

"The success of the EU proposal will help ensure that use and trade of this species are well-managed and legal, which is essential to its survival," said Stephane Ringuet, of TRAFFIC.

Conservation group Species Survival Network warns the eel, which is harvested by 25 000 fishermen in Europe, could be pushed to the brink of extinction within 10 years if current declines continue.

"Overfishing is the single most important factor contributing to the population decline," said Stellan Hamrin of Sweden's environment ministry.

The eel is a popular food throughout much of Europe and in Japan and young eels are caught and sold live to eel farms in Asia. There are also fears that changes in ocean currents blamed on global warming could be reducing numbers by interfering with the eels' migration routes.

Separately, European Union fisheries ministers meeting in Luxembourg on Monday agreed to a recovery plan for the eels aimed at ensuring 40 percent of all adult eels reaching European waters are allowed to remain in the wild to spawn.

The CITES conference also was to consider regulating trade in red coral, a slow-growing deep-sea coral that is prized for use in jewelry. - Sapa-AP



VOA News
Saturday, June 16, 2007

CITES Approves Strict Trade Limits on Ivory, Timber, Fish

Delegates from 171 nations have wrapped up a conference on endangered species by putting trade restrictions on ivory, several commercial timber species and some fish.

The meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, known as CITES, ended in The Hague Friday. At the 12-day talks, the delegates also approved trade limits on red and pink coral used in jewelry, saying over-harvesting in the Mediterranean and Pacific threatens to wipe it out.

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ALL AMERICAN PATRIOTS

Dispatches from the Depths of U.S. Government

All American Patriots
Monday, June 18, 2007

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WebWire
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

CITES backs red, pink and other corals

The Hague, The Netherlands – Red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium* will be better protected from over-exploitation after delegates attending a meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) adopted a US proposal to list the genus in Appendix II of the convention.

Appendix II allows trade in a species under strict conditions.

Red and pink corals and other lesser known species of *Corallium* are used mainly for the manufacture of jewellery and art. They are found throughout the world's tropical and temperate seas and are harvested in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific.

“This is the best possible decision to start getting the trade in these corals under some form of international control,” said Ernie Cooper, a coral trade expert from TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

“Until now most species of *Corallium* have been over-harvested as a result of a free-for-all situation.”

There are no international trade controls in place, nor any consistent management plan, TRAFFIC and WWF say. And the life histories of most *Corallium* species, such as late maturation, slow growth and low fecundity make them particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation, according to both organizations.

Corallium populations off parts of the Italian, French and Spanish coasts are no longer commercially viable, while in the Western Pacific they have been depleted within five years of their discovery and harvest is shifting to newly discovered populations.

Corallium products reach high prices on the market and are traded worldwide. It is also very difficult to identify which species of coral is used in the finish products.

“CITES listed all the hard corals in Appendix II more than a decade ago, and we are pleased to see the Convention protect these precious corals as well,” said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF's Global Species Programme.

“Now, consumers of these beautiful items will be part of the solution, and not part of the problem.”



WWF International
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Red Coral
© SeaWeb

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FISHupdate.com

Fish Update
Thursday, June 14, 2007

CITES backs red, pink and other corals



Photo courtesy of Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Centre for Marine Studies, University of Queensland

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Earth Negotiations Bulletin
Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
Vol. 21 No. 57
Tuesday, June 12, 2007

CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS MONDAY, 11 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to CITES convened in regional meetings in the morning, and in two committees throughout the rest of the day. Several drafting and working groups also met. Committee I, inter alia, approved the listing of sawfish in Appendix I and eel in Appendix II, and considered listing pink and red corals in Appendix II. Committee II, inter alia, adopted decisions on management of annual export quotas and on the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use.

COMMITTEE I

Committee I Chair Leach announced that the elephant proposals discussion was postponed to allow the African Elephant Range States Dialogue further time to agree on a consensus document.

LISTING PROPOSALS: BRAZIL withdrew its proposed Appendix-II listing of the Brazilian populations of *Panulirus argus* (Caribbean spiny lobster) and *Panulirus laevicauda* (smoothtail spiny lobster) (CoP14 Prop.20).

The proposed Appendix-II listing of *Caesalpinia echinata* (Brazil wood) (CoP14 Prop.30) was adopted by consensus with a revised annotation. The Committee also approved by consensus the revised draft decisions on *Euphorbia* spp. and on the amendment of annotations #1, #4 and #8, following the withdrawal of two earlier proposals by Switzerland (CoP14 Prop.26 and 29).

Sawfish: Delegates considered a proposal for listing *Pristidae* (sawfish) on Appendix I (CoP14 Prop.17 by Kenya and the US). KENYA introduced the proposal, underscoring sawfish species' vulnerability to exploitation due to low reproduction rates. The US highlighted: lack of bycatch management; trade in rostral saws, saw teeth and fins; and demand from the aquarium trade.

AUSTRALIA proposed an amendment to list one species, *Pristis microdon* (freshwater sawfish), on Appendix II with an annotation allowing international trade in live animals to

aquaria for primarily conservation purposes. Many parties supported Australia's amendment, with the EU noting that although *Pristis microdon* deserves an Appendix-I listing, the Australian population is well-managed. GRULAC supported the original proposal, with MEXICO requesting additional information from Australia. NORWAY, supported by THAILAND, favored an Appendix-I listing with Australia applying for annual quotas. FAO said that the original proposal was supported by its Expert Panel, but did not comment on Australia's amendment. CHINA and SPECIES MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS opposed the proposal. GREENPEACE, on behalf of several NGOs, supported listing all sawfish species on Appendix I.

The proposal as amended by Australia was approved with 67 votes in favor and 30 against.

Eel: The EU proposed the Appendix-II listing of *Anguilla anguilla* (eel) (CoP14 Prop.18). Noting that this economically-valuable species is near collapse, SWEDEN added that EU range states have now committed to eel management measures, including a 50% fishing effort reduction. Although many parties supported the proposal, several emphasized that strict EU fisheries management measures would also be essential to conserve the species, and CANADA and NORWAY noted potential look-alike issues. Opposing the listing, CHINA and QATAR said the listing would create an enforcement burden with little conservation benefit. The proposal was adopted by 93 votes to nine.

Banggai cardinalfish: The US introduced its proposal (CoP14 Prop.19) to list Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) on Appendix II, noting that it is a major importer of this endemic Indonesian species. He highlighted recent data showing further population decline and unsustainability of current harvest levels (CoP14 Inf.37).

Opposing the proposal, INDONESIA underscored: high productivity of the species both in the wild and in captivity; ongoing conservation efforts; and implications of the proposed listing for local livelihoods. Supported by IRAN, he also expressed concern over the legality of recent research. Many others also opposed, with AUSTRALIA stressing national management measures for endemic species, JAPAN saying an Appendix-III listing would be more appropriate, and THAILAND citing the FAO Expert Panel's opposition to the listing. Following these comments, the US withdrew its proposal.

Corals: The US introduced its proposal to list all species in the genus *Corallium* (pink and red corals) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.21), noting large volumes of trade in these slow-growing corals, lamenting destructive harvest techniques, and adding that few range states have coral populations large enough to support commercial harvest. He also proposed: an annotation that would delay the listing's entry into effect by 18 months; and draft decisions permitting an exemption for personal and household effects of up to seven pieces weighing no more than two kilograms, and allowing identification by genus only. The EU, MEXICO, ISRAEL, QATAR and SEAWEB supported the listing, with the EU highlighting the recent dramatic decrease in coral output and productivity.

JAPAN and ASSOCORAL opposed the listing, with ASSOCORAL asserting that harvesting is sustainable and that coral populations have not acutely declined. FAO said that its Expert Panel did not support the listing. SEAWEB stated that FAO's analysis was flawed as it considered the remaining number of coral colonies but not their size.

Following further discussion, a drafting group was established.

SHARKS: Chair Leach proposed to forward the draft decisions on porbeagle shark and spiny dogfish (CoP14 Doc.59.3, by the EU) to plenary on the condition that they would only be activated if the relevant listing proposals were adopted by the CoP. The decisions as amended by Chair Leach were rejected, failing by two votes to achieve the required two-thirds majority, with 58 votes in favor and 30 against.

COMMITTEE II

DISPOSAL OF CONFISCATED SPECIMENS: INDONESIA introduced a draft decision (CoP14 Doc.27) on, inter alia, repatriation of benefits accruing from the auction or sale of confiscated specimens. Many countries opposed, and following a vote that deleted two paragraphs in the decision, INDONESIA withdrew its proposal.

TRADE IN APPENDIX-I SPECIES: The Secretariat introduced the agenda item (CoP14 Doc.34). ISRAEL said that the review identified cases of concern, demonstrating the need for further monitoring of commercial trade in Appendix-I species, and proposed two draft decisions (CoP14 Inf.7). Following a vote, delegates rejected the proposals.

ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES: GERMANY, as Chair of the drafting group on the Addis Ababa Principles, noted that the group had been unable to reach consensus and suggested reintroducing the Secretariat's original proposal (CoP14 Doc.13). The US suggested, as an alternative, an amendment to Res. Conf.13.2 (Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines), proposing to attach the recommendations of AC/PC as an annex to that resolution. The US proposal was agreed by 52 to 13 votes, following which the original proposal was withdrawn.

ELECTRONIC PERMITTING: The Secretariat and ITALY, as Chair of the SC Working Group on Use of Information Technology and Electronic Systems, introduced the draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.40.1 (Rev.1) and CoP14 Doc.40.2), and suggested that electronic and paper-based systems be used in parallel. Several parties proposed amendments, and Brazil suggested allowing the use of electronic signatures. Many voiced concerns with the draft decision and Brazil's proposal, stressing implementation problems for developing countries associated with the electronic system. The Secretariat agreed to prepare a revised draft.

MANAGEMENT OF ANNUAL EXPORT QUOTAS: CAMEROON introduced the three draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.36), and explained that the Export Quota Working Group did not agree on: the Secretariat's role in clarify export quota information; or whether including information about quotas in export permits should be voluntary.

The EU urged strengthening the Secretariat's role in reviewing quotas before they are published, lamenting confusion caused by a recently published quota from Gabon for five gorilla heads and hands, which appeared to be in violation of Res. Conf. 13.4 (Great apes). He proposed an amendment stating that, where a concern cannot be resolved through consultation, the Secretariat should publish the quota with an annotation indicating its concern and stating that the issue will be taken up through a CITES procedure. ARGENTINA, BRAZIL and ECUADOR said the Secretariat should not address substantive issues on export quotas. Delegates voted and approved the EU's amendment.

On inclusion of quota information on export permits, the EU, JAMAICA and TRAFFIC supported a mandatory requirement, whereas ARGENTINA, BRAZIL and IWMC opposed. Delegates voted and agreed that such information should be mandatory. The EU also proposed an amendment for an annual review of NDFs for newly established or revised quotas, which was approved. Delegates approved the proposals with these three revisions, by 63 votes to 19.

INSPECTION OF TIMBER SHIPMENTS: Italy, on behalf of the EU, presented the draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.42), aimed at providing authorities with clear guidelines on identification and measurements of timber products. Several parties supported the proposal, with BRAZIL and AUSTRALIA proposing additional amendments. The ITTO offered its assistance in developing guidelines for timber shipment inspections. A drafting group chaired by Italy was established.

CROCODILIAN TAGGING SYSTEM: The US introduced a draft decision (CoP14 Doc.43), which requests an effectiveness review of the tagging system. The EU and TRAFFIC supported the proposal provided that external funding is secured, while ARGENTINA, supported by the PHILIPPINES, suggested that a working group conduct the review. Delegates agreed to prepare a revised draft.

IDENTIFICATION MANUAL: Committee II noted the Secretariat's progress report (CoP14 Doc.44).

TRADE IN SOME CROCODILIAN SPECIMENS: Germany and France, on behalf of the EU, supported by SWITZERLAND, proposed to establish a process within the SC to streamline procedures to reduce transaction costs of issuing CITES permits for trade in some crocodilian specimens. They noted that such trade has minimum impact on conservation and that specimens generally derive from ranching (CoP14 Doc.64). COLOMBIA, MEXICO, INDIA, PERU and JAPAN expressed reservations, and a drafting group was established.

EX SITU PRODUCTION AND IN SITU CONSERVATION: IRELAND introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.48 (Rev.1)), recommending an independent study. The EU supported the proposal, while BRAZIL, PERU and COLOMBIA opposed. INDIA proposed a case-specific approach. A group of NGOs stressed the increased risk that ex situ production poses for wild tigers. The proposal was rejected with 48 votes in favor and 31 against.

RESERVATIONS REGARDING SPECIES TRANSFERRED BETWEEN APPENDICES: The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.49). Delegates approved the proposal by consensus with minor amendments by Norway and the US.

WORKING GROUPS

STRATEGIC VISION: The group's discussions resulted in a revised text to be presented to Committee II, including a preliminary agreement on the new vision statement. Participants achieved consensus on goals and objectives, and agreed that the related indicators would be referred to the SC following input from parties.

BUDGET: The group evaluated a document prepared by the Secretariat, including a line-by-line analysis of the costed work programme. Discussions focused on which activities or their components should remain within the core budget.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Despite jumbo efforts by elephant dialogue participants to arrive at a “package deal,” negotiations remained deadlocked and highly charged. While some delegates caught a glimpse of an emerging consensus around the proposed stockpile sales by all four southern African range states and a decade-long moratorium, other participants did not regard this as light at the end of the tunnel, saying negotiations were taking “one step forward and two steps back,” with both camps reportedly refusing to withdraw their existing proposals. Negotiations continued into the night in a race to make a deal before ministers start arriving on Tuesday.



Earth Negotiations Bulletin
Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
Vol. 21 No. 59
Thursday, June 14, 2007

**CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS:
WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE 2007**

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to CITES convened in two committees throughout the day. A high-level Ministerial Roundtable was held in parallel to the meeting, and informal ministerial consultations on African elephants took place throughout the day and into the evening. Committee I, inter alia, approved the listing of pink and red coral on Appendix II and adopted decisions on tortoises and freshwater turtles. Committee II, inter alia, adopted a partial resolution on budget and several decisions on tigers.

COMMITTEE I

LISTING PROPOSALS: Yew: The US withdrew its proposal to amend the listing of *Taxus cuspidata* (Japanese yew) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.36), replacing it with a draft decision to discuss issues of hybrids and cultivars in the PC, which was supported by consensus.

Switzerland, as Depository Government, introduced a proposal to delete an annotation on yew species *Taxus chinensis*, *T. fuana* and *T. sumatrana* from Appendix II, and amend the annotation to *T. cuspidata* (CoP14 Prop.37). He explained that SC discussions had deemed that the earlier annotations contravened CITES, which does not allow the exclusion of any live or dead plant of a listed species, and that this proposal would solve the problem while retaining the original intent. Supporting the proposal, CANADA said the amendment would help develop *Taxus* plantations and reduce threats to wild species. THAILAND noted that all artificially propagated hybrids and cultivars should be exempted from CITES. JAPAN opposed the proposal, suggesting the PC discuss the issue. CHINA introduced an amendment referring to live plants. The proposal, as amended by China, was adopted by consensus.

TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES: The EU presented two draft decisions finalized in the drafting group (CoP14 Com.I.12). The US, supported by CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL and IUCN, introduced two further decisions to contract the IUCN Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Specialist Group to conduct a study on the implementation of Res.Conf.11.9 (Rev. CoP13) (Tortoises and freshwater turtles),

subject to external funding, and instruct the AC to review the study and make recommendations for CoP15. All four decisions were approved by consensus.

CORALS: On its proposal to list all species in the genus *Corallium* (pink and red corals) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.21), the US further proposed: an annotation delaying the listing's entry into effect by 18 months to permit implementation measures to be put in place; and an amendment allowing an exemption for personal and household effects of up to seven pieces per person weighing no more than one kilogram in total, including any ancillary mountings. The US also proposed a draft decision for two implementation workshops for parties involved in harvesting and trade of *Corallium* (CoP14 Com.I.15).

The EU supported the proposed listing and decision, adding a further amendment to exempt fossil corals. MEXICO supported the listing but opposed the weight and fossil coral exemptions. Many NGOs supported the listing, with SWAN INTERNATIONAL saying that the listing would encourage governments to take immediate action to regulate coral trade, and EARTHTRUST pointing out that *Corallium* harvesting in the Pacific is not currently monitored by regional fisheries management bodies or the FAO.

JAPAN opposed the listing and, with SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, suggested holding the workshops first and considering the listing proposals later. Also opposing the listing, NORWAY emphasized that the FAO Expert Panel did not support the listing, MOROCCO said that Mediterranean coral is already protected, and IWMC and ASSOCORAL urged consideration of Italian craftsmen's livelihoods.

The proposal, with the annotation and the amendment on fossil corals, was adopted by 62 votes to 28. The Committee then adopted by consensus the amendment to the annotation on *Corallium* spp. contained in the draft resolution on personal and household effects referred from Committee II. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to issue a notification reflecting the recent change in taxonomy of *Corallium* and *Paracorallium* spp. to facilitate the implementation of the listing. IWMC argued that the listing proposal did not include *Paracorallium* spp., but the US clarified that their proposal listed all species falling under *Corallium* and *Paracorallium* spp. and is therefore not broadened by the taxonomic change.

ELEPHANTS: In the afternoon, Francis Nhema, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Zimbabwe, updated Committee I on the status of negotiations on elephant proposals, expressing confidence that an agreement may emerge during the evening informal ministerial consultations. Chair Leach then adjourned the session.

COMMITTEE II

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT: The UK introduced the revised draft decision and resolution (CoP14 Com.II.23), which were both accepted by consensus.

INSPECTION OF TIMBER SHIPMENTS: Italy, on behalf of the EU, introduced revised draft decisions (CoP14 Com.II.18), which were adopted by consensus.

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS: CHINA introduced a revised draft resolution and decision (CoP14 Com.II.16). The US proposed amendments to the draft resolution regarding quantitative limitations for coral species which were contingent on approval of a coral listing in Committee I. Chair Cheung referred the matter to Committee I. The EU proposed: amending the draft resolution regarding quantitative limitations for caviar; and

adding two paragraphs to the draft decision requesting the SC to evaluate if specific items require different treatment, and implementation effectiveness of Conf. Res.13.7 (Personal and household effects). The revised draft resolution and decision were adopted by consensus with the EU's proposed amendments.

ASIAN BIG CATS: INDIA introduced the document prepared jointly with Nepal, China and the Russian Federation (CoP14 Inf.50), highlighting seven draft decisions on measures to address trade in Asian big cats, their parts and derivatives (CoP14 Com.II.19), including: actions by all parties, such as strengthening efforts to implement Res.Conf.12.5 (Tigers) and reporting on progress at SC57; and actions by range states, such as participating in a tiger trade enforcement meeting.

CHINA stressed that its national tiger trade ban policy review is in line with the Secretariat's recommendation to assess a new approach for addressing illicit trade in Asian big cats (CoP14 Doc.52). He referenced 2005 research demonstrating that captive breeding reduces the illegal market for tiger bone and provides a fundraising tool for conservation of wild populations. NEPAL, as Chair of the Global Tiger Forum, emphasized that tiger population numbers in captive breeding should not endanger wild populations.

Many delegates noted the alarming decline of wild tiger populations. Tiger range states reported on continued efforts in addressing tiger conservation and illicit trade. The EU urged parties to strengthen enforcement of Res. Conf.12.5. The US, supported by many, proposed a new decision whereby parties take into consideration Res. Conf.12.5 when, inter alia, evaluating domestic tiger trade control policies. He expressed concern about pressure within China to reopen the commercial trade in tiger parts and derivatives. Referring to his country's review of its tiger trade ban, CHINA emphasized that changes to the policy will only occur if a positive effect on wild tiger populations can be demonstrated. US traditional Chinese medicine institutions, supported by INDIA, said that traditional Chinese medicine has embraced the development of viable alternatives to tiger bone.

On captive breeding, the US proposed amending the draft decision limiting it to "intensive" captive breeding operations and specifying that tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives. Emphasizing state sovereignty, CHINA proposed that the decision should apply only to "international" trade. The EU proposed addressing the decision to "range states" instead of "parties," opposed by the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, INDIA, NEPAL and THAILAND, who stated that captive breeding outside range states would not be addressed. The Committee approved the US-proposed amendments on captive breeding, but dismissed those proposed by the EU and China following a vote.

Agreeing on amendments to consider Res. Conf.12.5, and others by BHUTAN, to strengthen the decisions, and the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, to ensure consultation with tiger range states on monitoring illegal trade in Asian big cats, delegates approved the decisions by consensus.

BUDGET: Budget working group Chair O'Criodain presented a draft budget for the triennium 2009-2011 (CoP14 Com.II.31), noting that agreement had not been possible in the working group regarding a budget increase compared to the past triennium. He presented a document with options for a 0% or a 21.56% nominal increase in the budget, explaining that the latter option would entail the suppression of two staff posts, and reducing office maintenance and CoP15 costs, but would increase funding for

activity-based work. The 0% option would entail maintaining the CITES website in English only, suppressing five staff posts, reducing CoP15 costs, and allocating minimal funds for activity-based work, such as scientific support, capacity building and enforcement.

Several Caribbean countries, ZIMBABWE, the EU, SWITZERLAND and SOUTH AFRICA supported the budget increase. TRAFFIC, IUCN and WWF urged greater emphasis on looking for additional funds for the new strategic vision goals.

CHINA and the EU urged parties to agree by consensus, while CITES Secretary-General Wijnstekers noted that there has never been consensus on the budget, and clarified that a three-quarters majority is needed in this case.

Chair Cheung proposed a 10% increase as a compromise, opposed by JAPAN and the US. Secretary-General Wijnstekers, supported by NIGERIA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, SENEGAL and BELGIUM, suggested a 15% increase, which he said could be achieved by suppressing three staff posts.

Delegates voted on the 15% increase but did not arrive at the required 75% majority, with 47 votes in favor and 28 against. They then voted on a 10% increase, which did not achieve the required majority, with 50 votes in favor and 30 against. Finally, they voted on a 3% increase, which did not achieve the required majority either, with 35 votes in favor and 49 against. Delegates then decided to defer the decision on the budget increase to plenary, and went on to address the proposed resolution on budget and terms of reference for the Trust Fund (CoP14 Com.II.31 Annex 8). The Committee adopted amendments strengthening SC oversight of budgetary matters and proposals with budgetary implications. A clause on arrears amended by BRAZIL and ARGENTINA was also adopted by consensus. The resolution was then agreed by consensus, with the exception of the paragraph stating the specific amount of increase in budget, which was referred to plenary.

IN THE CORRIDORS

As CoP14 headed into the final lap, many delegates reported heightened anxiety about the outcome of the protracted negotiations on both budget and elephant proposals. The elusive agreement among African range states on the latter continued to dominate discussions in the corridors, as negotiators tested yet another format – an informal ministerial consultation facilitated by Zimbabwe's Environment Minister — that continued past midnight.

Meanwhile, the Ministerial Roundtable provoked a lively discussion on CITES' role with respect to enforcement, sustainable use and livelihoods, with participants debating the stage at which the Convention should become involved in these issues. The idea of a Ministerial Declaration did not garner enough support, with one high-level participant commenting that it contained good ideas but was too much of a *fait accompli* for his government to accept. Many others, however, stressed that the ministerial-level meeting was an important first step, with Dutch Environment Minister Verburg expressing hope that another will be held at CoP15, which rumors suggest may be held in sunny Qatar.



Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Vol. 21 No. 60

Friday, June 15, 2007

**CITES CoP14 HIGHLIGHTS:
THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 2007**

Delegates to CITES CoP14 convened in two committees in the morning, and in plenary in the afternoon. Committee I, inter alia, approved a one-off sale of ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and a nine-year “resting period” for ivory trade. Committee II, inter alia, adopted the CITES Strategic Vision, and decisions on sturgeons and paddlefish. Plenary heard the report of the high-level Ministerial Roundtable, addressed budgetary matters, and adopted decisions and recommendations presented by the committees.

COMMITTEE I

SHARKS: NEW ZEALAND outlined the sharks working group report (CoP14 Com.I.16), including draft decisions on: implementation and effectiveness; commodity codes; species-specific reviews and recommendations; South American freshwater stingrays (Potamotrygonidae); capacity building; the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks); and illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. CANADA supported the decisions.

JAPAN, CHINA, GUINEA and SURINAME suggested deleting the section on IUU fishing, which JAPAN described as overly ambitious, noting the difficulty of identifying IUU vessels and their shark catch. CHINA, opposed by AUSTRALIA, noted that addressing IUU fishing is beyond CITES’ scope and expertise, and should be left to FAO. ARGENTINA, supported by the EU and AUSTRALIA, sought to retain references to IUU fishing, instead suggesting an amendment to include consultation with FAO on the topic.

The CMS stressed the importance of interagency cooperation on species of common interest, highlighting a workshop on migratory sharks to be held in Mahé, Seychelles, in December 2007. The FAO said that implementation of IPOA-Sharks was improving, and stressed FAO's willingness to collaborate with CITES.

Japan's proposed deletion of text on IUU fishing was rejected, with 39 votes in favor and 48 against. The decisions were then adopted by consensus including Argentina's amendment.

ELEPHANTS: Chad and Zambia, on behalf of the African countries, presented the compromise proposal to amend Proposals 4, 5 and 6 on African elephant annotations (CoP14 Inf.61). The new annotation authorizes a one-off sale of raw ivory originating from government stocks registered by 31 January 2007, from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, in addition to quantities agreed at CoP12, subject to verification of trading partners. It also states that: no further ivory trade proposals shall be submitted to the CoP for nine years after the one-off sale; and the SC may decide to stop trade in case of non-compliance or proven detrimental impacts on other elephant populations. The proposal also contains decisions for, inter alia: the SC to propose a decision-making mechanism for ivory trade by CoP16, and to review the status of elephants; range states to develop an African elephant action plan; and the Secretariat to establish an African elephant fund administered by the SC.

Many commended the compromise reached by the Africa region. JAPAN proposed an amendment aiming to separate the shipment of the one-off sale of ivory agreed at CoP12 from the new shipment authorized by CoP14, but withdrew his amendment following objections from the EU, KENYA and CHINA. The US expressed concern about including Zimbabwe in the ivory sale, and duplicating IUCN's activities on African elephant action plans. He also encouraged innovative funding sources for the African elephant fund. KENYA stressed monitoring the impacts of the one-off ivory sale. NAMIBIA underscored the need for a proper decision-making mechanism for future ivory trade.

The proposal was adopted by consensus and acclamation. The EU, BOTSWANA, SOUTH AFRICA and KENYA then withdrew their respective proposals.

Trade in elephant specimens: The Secretariat introduced CoP.14 Doc.53.1, including the proposed action plan for the control of trade in African elephant ivory, which many parties supported. KENYA, opposed by NAMIBIA, outlined an alternative action plan (Cop14 Inf.56) and proposed harmonizing the two plans. Chair Leach disagreed, noting time constraints. The Committee adopted the Secretariat's action plan.

COMMITTEE II

Delegates adopted by consensus draft decisions presented by the US, as chair of the working groups on: ranching codes (CoP14 Com.II.24); and purpose-of-transaction codes (CoP14 Com.II.29), with a minor amendment by the EU. They also adopted by consensus a draft resolution and decisions on review of the scientific committees (CoP14 Com.II.30).

CITES AND LIVELIHOODS: The UK introduced a revised draft decision (CoP14 Com.II.12), which, inter alia, instructs the SC to develop tools for rapid assessment of the impacts of implementing CITES on livelihoods, and draft guidelines for addressing these impacts. The EU, supported by the US, proposed deleting a requirement to consider the RST as part of the process. BRAZIL, with ARGENTINA and PERU, proposed amendments limiting the scope of the draft guidelines to developing countries, which was opposed by the US. The draft decisions were accepted by consensus with

the EU amendment, while BRAZIL's proposed amendment was rejected by a vote of 25 for and 48 against.

COMPLIANCE: NORWAY, as Chair of the Compliance Working Group, introduced the draft resolution and its annexed guide to CITES compliance procedures (CoP14 Com.II.21), underscoring its non-binding nature, and highlighting, for example, that a recommendation to suspend trade is always based on the Convention and applicable resolutions and decisions. He proposed an amendment whereby the CoP "takes note of" rather than "adopts" the guide, and delegates adopted the resolution by consensus with this amendment.

STURGEONS AND PADDLEFISH: GERMANY, as Chair of the sturgeon working group, introduced draft decisions and a draft amendment to Res. Conf.12.7 (sturgeons and paddlefish) (CoP14 Com.II.25), noting, inter alia, a ceiling for 2008 quotas, and an amendment requesting the Secretariat to seek external funding. The EU supported the document. ROMANIA shared national experience with managing stocks. The RUSSIAN FEDERATION, CANADA, US and IWMC endorsed the document with minor amendments. SEAWEB, with SSN, noted serious concerns about the lack of protection for sturgeon in the Caspian Sea, but supported the quota ceiling for 2008. FAO noted that its Technical Cooperation Programme is due to expire and encouraged parties to submit formal requests for extension. The Secretariat noted concern about its reduced oversight role regarding establishment of export quotas. The draft resolution and decisions were adopted by consensus including all proposed amendments.

STRATEGIC VISION: CANADA, as Chair of the SVWG, introduced the revised draft strategic vision (CoP14 Com.II.20). She highlighted draft decisions requesting SC57 to address an annexed set of indicators, and proposed editorial amendments.

Many delegates supported the draft resolution, with JAPAN calling it a well-balanced reflection of SVWG participants' conflicting views on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. While supporting the document, BRAZIL regretted the "lack of a clear message" in the vision statement on the link between sustainable management and conservation, and DOMINICA expressed concern about whether it addresses the needs of developing countries and small island developing states.

The Committee adopted the document by consensus.

PLENARY

In the afternoon, CoP14 President Verburg presented the report of the Ministerial Roundtable (CoP14 Inf.62). Welcoming the success of this inaugural ministerial meeting, she highlighted that ministers, inter alia: acknowledged CITES' contribution to the broader biodiversity and sustainable development agenda, urging increased cooperation between CITES and other international processes; committed to strengthening national measures and increased collaboration on enforcement; and recognized CITES' complementary role in natural resource management to organizations such as FAO, ITTO and regional fisheries management organizations.

Participants then elected new SC members, namely, DRC, Iran, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Iceland, UK, Bulgaria, Canada and Australia. Members of the scientific committees were also elected.

BUDGET: Committee II Chair Cheung reported on financial and budgetary matters, and delegates adopted by consensus financial reports (CoP14 Doc.7.1 (Rev.1)) and estimated expenditures for 2007 (CoP14 Doc.7.2 (Rev.1)). Secretary-General Wijnstekers then presented the costed programme of work (CoP14 Com.II.31 and CoP14 Com.II.32) noting that Committee II adopted the resolution except for the clause on the percentage of budget increase.

The NETHERLANDS supported a 21% budget increase, saying it was necessary to ensure the sustainability and legality of wildlife trade and with SWITZERLAND, UK, DENMARK, GERMANY, SWEDEN and ZIMBABWE proposed a vote on a 15% increase.

MEXICO and PERU opposed, saying that some countries cannot spare additional resources and advocating “minimal growth” with a better allocation of resources. JAPAN regretted lack of timely submission of budget-related information to parties, as finance ministries need to approve any budget increase. The US said it could support a 3% increase and urged greater transparency in the presentation of information. A Friends of the Chair group was established.

CAPACITY BUILDING: Following a request from URUGUAY, supported by SURINAME and KENYA, to reopen discussions on capacity-building related provisions in the AC/PC joint report (CoP14 Doc.8.4), delegates deferred discussion on capacity building (CoP14 Com.II.15) to Friday.

REGISTRATION OF CAPTIVE BREEDING OPERATIONS: BOLIVIA sought successfully to reopen debate on the Philippines’ proposal to register a captive breeding operation for eight Appendix-I bird species (CoP14 Doc.47), which had been adopted by Committee I. In a vote, delegates overturned Committee I’s decision and the Philippines’ proposal was rejected, falling one vote short of a two-thirds majority, with 63 in favor and 32 against.

OTHER DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS: Delegates confirmed the committees’ rejection of proposals on: trade in Appendix-I species (CoP14 Doc.34); the relationship between ex situ production and in situ conservation (CoP14 Doc.48 (Rev.1)); and cetaceans (CoP14 Doc.51). They also noted the withdrawal of proposals on confiscated specimens by Indonesia (CoP14 Doc.27) and on the annotations to Euphorbia spp. and Orchidaceae species by Switzerland (CoP14 Doc.31). Delegates adopted by consensus all other decisions from the committees relating to agenda items 8-63, with the exception of item 53 (elephants) and 59.3 (trade measures regarding the porbeagle shark and the spiny dogfish), which will be considered on Friday.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Collective cheers and sighs of relief were heard throughout the conference center’s hallways on Thursday as tense delegates finally witnessed agreement on proposals on the African elephant in Committee I. The Hague’s reputation as a place to resolve the toughest of disputes was upheld, and some observers commented that Zimbabwe not only steered the informal ministerial consultations to a successful outcome, but has also now joined the exclusive club of ivory-trading nations. Overall most delegates voiced respect for an “African solution” on elephants although some were “not necessarily happy about the contents of the deal.”

When delegates moved to plenary, Palau's hint about revisiting the periodic review of whales prompted many delegates to speculate on the potential reopening of other marine items, with many tipping a rematch on spiny dogfish and possibly porbeagle shark and corals. Most also suspected that the budget may add the final note of suspense to an eventful closing day.

ENB SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: The Earth Negotiations Bulletin summary and analysis of CITES CoP14 will be available on Monday, 18 June 2007, online at: <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/cop14/>

New Scientist
Friday, June 15, 2007

CITES deal wins reprieve for elephants

Debora MacKenzie

Update 15 June: The decision to restrict the trade of red and pink corals has been reversed. The decision was initially passed on 13 June, but Algeria and Morocco pushed for discussions to be reopened during the last plenary session on 15 June. As a result of the plenary vote, trade in red and pink corals will not be restricted.

Original article:

Southern African countries have been permitted to sell off their stocks of ivory in return for a nine-year moratorium on further sales.

The deal was hailed as a boon for the continent's beleaguered elephants, despite reports that such legal trade agreements make little difference to elephant survival.

The deal was hammered out by African environment ministers in a late-night bargaining session at a meeting of 169 member countries of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) at The Hague, Netherlands.

The meeting also agreed to protect other species, including restricting trade in red and pink corals, which are prized as jewellery.

CITES members voted to delay regulating export of corals for 18 months, partly because of worries by southern European producers that they would need time to adapt to new trade rules. Individuals will be able to carry a personal allowance of up to seven pieces of finished jewellery.

African divide

International trade in elephant ivory was banned in 1990, due to plummeting elephant stocks. But in 1997, CITES allowed South Africa, Botswana and Namibia – where elephant numbers were growing – to sell stocks of ivory taken from poachers or dead elephants. That sale took place in 1999.

Last week, the three countries asked for another sale and, with Zimbabwe, also asked for the resumption of regular, controlled exports.

In an unusual African split, they were opposed by other African countries, including Kenya and Mali, that consider elephants a valuable tourist attraction. They called for a 20-year ban on ivory sales, arguing, with conservationists, that trade encourages poaching and makes it harder to protect elephants.

A compromise was reached early on 14 June. The southern states will sell their stocks – thought to amount to 60 tonnes of ivory – to Japan. Then all sales must stop for nine years while a continent-wide elephant conservation plan is agreed.

"This is a clear win for elephants," said Peter Pueschel of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, although the organisation fears the legal sale will encourage poaching.

However, the CITES ruling may have limited impact on the illegal ivory trade. A report by the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) found that the corruption index of the country concerned was the only factor linked to elephant killings.

Environmental News Service
Friday, June 15, 2007

CITES Decisions Map the Future of Wildlife Trade

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands, June 15, 2007 (ENS) - Environmental officials from 171 countries are leaving The Hague today after adopting more than 100 formal decisions that update the regulations governing international wildlife trade.

Whales

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, CITES, closed its triennial meeting by once more turning back attempts by Japan, Iceland and their pro-whaling allies to lift restrictions on international commercial trade in whale products.

After a heated debate that threatened to bring the meeting to a standstill, the CITES delegates adopted an Australian resolution that no reviews of whale species should take place as long as the International Whaling Commission's ban on commercial whaling continues. This means that no whales will be subject to the CITES periodic review process.



A humpback whale breaches off the coast of Australia near Sydney. (Photo courtesy Bass and Flinders Cruises)

The pro-whaling countries had hoped that following such a review, CITES would recommend that the protection currently extended to some whale species should be relaxed.

Niki Entrup of the nonprofit Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society said, "Pro-whaling countries have tried every trick in the book to try to get this strong decision by CITES overturned, but they have failed resoundingly. The message from the international community in favor of the protection of whales couldn't be more clear."

New issues on the conference agenda included the need to protect the livelihoods of poor communities dependent on wildlife trade and the growth in wildlife trade over the Internet.

Marine Species

At the CITES conference, extensive discussions on marine species led to the inclusion in CITES of the European eel, a popular food in many countries. The eel joins a growing list of high-value fish and other marine species whose trade is managed through the CITES permit system to ensure that stocks are not depleted.

This trend reflects growing concern about the accelerating decline of the world's oceans and fisheries, said CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers.

Trade restrictions were also approved for sawfish – large rays related to sharks, with long toothed snouts that resemble saws. CITES delegates protected six of the world's seven sawfish species by listing them in Appendix I of the Convention, which bans all international commercial trade.

Sawfish are traded for their fins, meat, and their snouts, and as live animals for exhibition.

But two globally threatened shark species were left behind. By a narrow margin CITES delegates declined to adopt protections for the spiny dogfish and the porbeagle shark.



Spiny dogfish are caught for the fish and chips trade. (Photo by J. Stafford-Deutsch courtesy Shark Info)

Spiny dogfish sharks are Critically Endangered in the northeast Atlantic, and porbeagles are Critically Endangered in the northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean.

The porbeagle, one of the most commercially valuable of all shark species, is traded for meat, byproducts, and fins. Spiny dogfish is traded for its meat which is used in European fish and chips

dishes. Its fins, oil, leather and other products are also in demand.

The decision on these two sharks, made on World Ocean Day June 8, dismayed conservationists.

"Shark species worldwide are in a tailspin due to overfishing and poor management, and often no management at all," said Carroll Muffett, deputy campaigns director of Greenpeace USA, a member organization of the Species Survival Network. "CITES is one of the few tools available to bring the global trade in sharks under appropriate control, and stop the rapid slide toward extinction we're seeing today."

Red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium* will not be better protected from over-exploitation after a proposal from the United States to list *Corallium* in Appendix II that was adopted in committee was overturned in the plenary session on Friday.



Red coral growing in Italian waters (Photo courtesy Rairo)

WWF and TRAFFIC say these corals, which are used mainly for the manufacture of jewellery, have been over-harvested as a result of lack of international trade controls and consistent management plan.

"These corals will continue to suffer from this free-for-all situation," said Steven Broad, executive director of TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade

monitoring network. "Today's decision was a question of expediency rather than a fully examination of the facts. Commercial lobbying won through."

Pink and red corals are used to create jewellery and art. They are found throughout the world's tropical and temperate seas and are harvested in the Mediterranean and western Pacific.

Corallium populations off parts of the Italian, French and Spanish coasts are no longer commercially viable, while in the Western Pacific they have been depleted within five years of their discovery and harvest is shifting to newly discovered populations.

There are no international trade controls in place, nor any consistent management plan, TRAFFIC and WWF say. And the life histories of most *Corallium* species, such as late maturation, slow growth and low fecundity make them particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation, according to both organizations.

Elephants

Negotiators are hailing as a triumph the agreement by African elephant range states at the CITES conference to allow some trade in elephant ivory before a nine-year ban is imposed.

CITES banned the international commercial ivory trade worldwide in 1989. But four southern African countries want to sell at least 60 tons of legally acquired ivory from healthy and well managed herds, saying they need the proceeds for conservation.

Other African range states and most environmentalists say that even a legal ivory trade will encourage elephant poachers.

Under the compromise by African range states Wednesday, each of four southern African countries will be permitted to make a single sale of ivory in addition to the total sale of 60 tons that was agreed in principle in 2002 and approved by the CITES Standing Committee on June 2.

After these shipments have been completed, no new proposals for further sales from these four countries will be considered by CITES during a "resting period" of nine years. Online auction site eBay said Tuesday it will ban all international trading of elephant ivory in an announcement timed to coordinate with the CITES conference. The auctioneer said it would start the ban by the end of June.



The largest tusk in the South Africa's Kruger National Park (Photo courtesy SANParks)

The International Fund for Animal Welfare, IFAW, said eBay's action is the first online international trading ban of elephant ivory.

"IFAW believes that this is an important step forward but that a total ban is ultimately needed, and we will continue to work with eBay and others to implement this," said Peter Pueschel, head of the IFAW's global program against wildlife trading.

IFAW said a survey it conducted in February found that 94 percent of elephant ivory traded on eBay was potentially illegal. The survey found that eBay's policies differed by country and were not enforced.

Tigers

Raising captive tigers for international trade in tiger parts was rejected by CITES member countries Wednesday. China was urged to phase out its commercial tiger farms, a decision conservationists are calling a victory for wild tiger conservation.

Investors in captive tiger breeding centers in China have been pressuring the Chinese government to lift its 14 year old ban on trade in tiger parts so they can legally sell products like tiger bone wine and tiger meat.

These facilities have acknowledged stockpiling tiger carcasses in the hopes that the trade ban will be lifted.



A farmed tiger cut in half by smugglers that were caught by Thai highway police. May 2004. (Photo courtesy Save the Tiger Fund)

Three countries with wild tigers – India, Nepal and Bhutan – were joined by the United States in urging China to phase out these facilities that house nearly 5,000 big cats.

With leadership from these countries, the 171 member countries of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) adopted a strong tiger trade decision by consensus.

"India spoke out strongly and courageously for their wild tigers, along with Bhutan and Nepal," said Dr. Susan Lieberman, director of WWF's Global Species Programme.

"China has said that it will not lift its ban without listening to scientific opinion from around the world. The world spoke today and urged China not to reopen any trade in tiger parts and to increase protection for tigers in the wild," she said.

Other Land Animals

Delegates approved Cambodia's proposal to forbid trade of the slow loris, a small nocturnal primate native to South and Southeast Asia.

Algeria's proposals to include the Barbary red deer and Cuvier's gazelle in Appendix I were rejected. The European Union, United Arab Emirates and Japan noted the lack of evidence of international trade in these species, while range states and others



The bobcat will remain protected, it can be traded under the CITES permit system. (Photo by Bill Bouton)

stressed the difficulty in obtaining data on illegal trade.

Algeria withdrew its proposal to list the Dorcas gazelle in Appendix I, which forbids international trade. Delegates agreed by consensus to include the slender-horned gazelle in Appendix I.

The United States' proposal to delete the bobcat from Appendix II was rejected. The U.S. delegates argued that the species is thriving and that look-alike issues are no longer a concern due to improved identification techniques. Range state Mexico opposed the proposal and, with Humane Society International, noted a lack of up-to-date information on bobcat populations, problems differentiating bobcat parts from those of more endangered lynx species, and noted that the CITES Animals Committee is reviewing all cat species.

The Guatemalan beaded lizard was uplisted from Appendix II to I, so that all international trade is forbidden. Endemic to the Motagua Valley, it belongs to a unique family of lizards with venom glands. There are fewer than 250 of these lizards remaining due to land use change, illegal traffic for collectors, and extermination by local people based on long-held but false beliefs about the nature of their venom.

By contrast, the success of strong CITES protection over many years for the black caiman of Brazil has allowed the population to recover to an estimated 16 million. The conference decided that carefully managed international trade could resume as a way of providing benefits to the local people who live with these dangerous animals, so they have been placed on Appendix II.

"Humanity's appetite for wild plants and animals and for wildlife products will clearly expand over the coming decades. We need to think creatively about how to manage the wildlife trade if we are to meet human needs while conserving vulnerable species, said CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers.

"Finding the right balance will require a healthy respect for science, market dynamics and the needs of people who rely on wildlife for their livelihoods," he said.

Trees

A new timber species was added to the list of CITES protected species. The trade in brazilwood will now require CITES permits, although exports of bows for musical instruments are exempted.



One of the Cedrela species, *Cedrela odorata*, growing in Costa Rica (Photo courtesy C. Navarro)

But the European Union withdrew its proposal to include Cedrela in CITES Appendix II, which allows trade in a species under strict permit conditions.

Cedrela, also called Spanish cedar, includes seven species in the mahogany family found in Central and South America that are in demand for furniture and finish carpentry.

WWF and TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, criticized the CITES' failure to support Cedrela conservation.

"It is a shame how this opportunity was missed," said Ximena Barrera from WWF Colombia. "We lost a decade of conservation action for another tropical tree, big-leaf mahogany, because it took 10 years to include it on CITES Appendix II. As a result, this species is now on the verge of commercial extinction. The same is likely to happen with Cedrela if the current exploitation levels continue."

Today Australia offered US\$200,000 to fund two posts in the CITES Secretariat to address illegal timber trade, and announced a high-level meeting on this issue to be held in late July.

The Future

After lengthy budget negotiations and three votes which failed to achieve the required 75 percent majority, delegates took a short break and returned to approve a proposal by Ireland for a six percent increase in the budget.

Qatar offered to host the next Conference of the Parties and presented a video of his country, and delegates adopted by acclamation the time and venue for next COP to take place in Doha, Qatar, in 2010.

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RTT News
Saturday, June 16, 2007

CITES Meet Concludes: Votes To Protect Elephants, Coral, Eels

The 171-nation UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) at The Hague wound up on Friday after adopting more than 100 formal decisions that update the regulations governing international wildlife trade. The delegates also agreed to a 6 percent hike in the \$4.6 million budget.

"We have listed new species that have been outside the scope of the Convention for economic reasoning rather than scientific," said CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers. "I think that should continue."

The meeting blocked attempt by Japan, Iceland and their pro-whaling allies efforts to lift the ban on international commercial trade in whale products.

After prolonged discussion on marine species, the conference decided to include the European eel in its list of marine species whose trade is managed through CITES permit system.

Red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium* were included in Appendix II, protecting them from over-exploitation.

Under a compromise a single sale of ivory by four southern African countries will be permitted in addition to the total sale of 60 tons that was agreed in principle in 2002 and approved by the CITES Standing Committee.

Raising captive tigers for international trade in tiger parts was rejected by CITES member countries, though China was keen on lifting the ban. A new timber species was added to the list of CITES protected species. The trade in brazilwood now requires CITES permits.

CITES can ban international wildlife commerce, but is powerless to impose rules on commerce within a given country. The next Conference is to take place in Doha, Qatar, in 2010.



tahrcountry

Wildlife & Environment News from around the world

Tahrcountry Blog
Thursday, June 14, 2007

CITES Support For Coral

Tahrman Alembath

In an effort to augment conservation initiatives for Red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium*, delegates attending a meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) at The Hague have adopted a US proposal to list the genus in Appendix II of the convention. Appendix II allows trade in a species under strict conditions. Red and pink corals are found throughout the world's tropical and temperate seas and are used mainly for the manufacture of jewellery. *Corallium* populations off parts of the Italian, French and Spanish coasts are no longer commercially viable, while in the Western Pacific they have been depleted alarmingly.



EITB
Sunday, June 3, 2007

CITES, regulator of trade in wild animals

Following are a few facts and figures about CITES, formally known as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

A U.N. wildlife forum began a two-week meeting on Sunday to regulate global trade in endangered species of animals and plants. Following are a few facts and figures about CITES, formally known as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora:

CITES is an agreement among 171 governments to ensure international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival and imposes controls on international trade in species. CITES regulations apply to live plants and animals as well as body parts, such as ivory from elephant tusks or the fur of a fox or seal.

Species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices:

- Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. It bans trade in about 530 animal species, including tigers and great apes, and a little more than 300 plant species, such as some orchids and cacti. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in very special circumstances.

- Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled. It includes more than 4,460 animal species and 28,000 plant species, including all primates, cats, parrots, crocodiles and orchids not covered by Appendix I.

- Appendix III contains more than 290 species that are protected in at least one country.

CITES members reach their decisions by consensus but if they fail to do so it goes to a two-thirds vote for major issues and appendix listings. Countries can also ask for a secret ballot.

At The Hague meeting, countries will be asked to consider proposals including:

FISH

SPINY DOGFISH - Germany on behalf of the European Union wants to place this shark species on Appendix II. The dogfish is over-exploited for its meat.

PORBEAGLE SHARK - Germany on behalf of the EU wants to add the shark, commercially valued for its meat and fins, to Appendix II because of population decline due to overfishing.

EUROPEAN EEL - Germany on behalf of the EU wants to place the fish, which spawns in the eastern Atlantic and migrates to coastal and freshwater ecosystems throughout Europe and the Mediterranean, on Appendix II. A popular food, eel stocks have declined dramatically due partly to overfishing.

PINK OR RED CORALS - The United States wants to list the most valuable of all precious corals on Appendix II because of over-harvesting and the destruction of entire colonies by bottom trawls and dredges. Pink coral is used for jewellery and other decorative items.

SAWFISH - Kenya, Nicaragua and the United States want to place the sawfish on Appendix I due to over-fishing. Their rostral saws, teeth and fins bring high prices and are used in traditional medicine and as curios, while live fish are sought for aquaria.

BANGGAI CARDINELFISH - The United States has called for managing this species, which has been popular in the aquarium trade since 1995, through the CITES permit system.

SPINY LOBSTER - Brazil wants to add the Caribbean and the smoothtail spiny lobster, which have been over-fished for export to international food markets, to Appendix II.

PLANTS AND TREES

ROSEWOOD - Germany on behalf of the EU wants to place three species of rosewood, sought after for musical instruments, on Appendix II. The trees grow only in parts of Belize, Guatemala and Mexico and are threatened by increasing deforestation.

CEDAR - Germany on behalf of the EU wants the cedar of Central and South America placed on Appendix II due to extensive deforestation. Its timber is valued locally for its resistance to rotting and insects and internationally as precious wood.

MAMMALS

ELEPHANTS - Botswana and Namibia want to maintain the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe in Appendix II while easing the conditions for permitting future sales of ivory. Botswana requests authorisation for a one-off sale of 40 tonnes of existing ivory stocks followed by an annual export quota of up to eight tonnes of ivory per year. Kenya and Mali want a 20-year trade ban in raw or worked ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The two say that allowing any trade in ivory will increase the poaching of elephants.

BOBCAT - The United States wants to take the bobcat or lynx out of CITES protection as the species are no longer threatened.

GAZELLE - Algeria wants to add three gazelle species, threatened with extinction, to Appendix I.

LEOPARD - Uganda wants to transfer its population of leopards from Appendix I to Appendix II to allow limited trade in sports trophies and skins for personal use.

SLOW LORIS - Cambodia want to transfer two species of the small, nocturnal primate native to South and Southeast Asia from Appendix II to Appendix I. The species are threatened by growing demand for traditional medicines and pets.

BLACK CAIMAN - Brazil wants to move its population of this species of crocodile, hunted illegally for its meat, from Appendix I to Appendix II.



Earth Times
Friday, June, 15 2007

CITES: Commercially Traded Species Big Losers: WWF and TRAFFIC

World Wildlife Fund; TRAFFIC

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, June 15 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The 14th CITES Conference ended today with TRAFFIC and WWF applauding some sound conservation decisions, but ruing other missed opportunities.

"In some respects, the conference has been a success, with some key decisions taken on eels, sawfishes, elephants and tigers, but it's a serious concern that countries missed the opportunity to assist with conservation of several commercially traded species," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF Global Species Programme.

"TRAFFIC and WWF are pleased with some decisions taken at this CITES meeting," said Steven Broad. "But getting species listed is just the start. Underpinning the success of all decisions taken here is the need for strong political will and sound law enforcement."

The unveiling of the European Union's Enforcement Action Plan to combat illegal wildlife trade and support countries that export wildlife, was a positive step in the right direction, TRAFFIC and WWF added. However, the two organizations also warned that enforcement globally needs money and were disappointed that Parties failed to come up with sufficient extra funding to implement the Convention and assist countries with enforcement and capacity building.

Compromise on African elephants

As usual, African elephants dominated many of the conference discussions. Just prior to the CITES meeting, a limited sale of ivory from three southern African countries was given formal approval, whilst on the penultimate day of CITES, following some tense negotiations, Zambia and Chad presented a compromise document on behalf of all African elephant range States.

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and illegal domestic ivory markets in Africa and Asia remain unanswered," said Lieberman.

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"The failure to list Spiny dogfish and porbeagle sharks was especially disappointing," said Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. "This meeting could go down in history as a critical missed opportunity to halt the decline of these important fisheries."

Most timber proposals withdrawn

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"It took ten years to include another tropical tree, big-leaf mahogany, on CITES Appendix II and, as a result, this species is now on the verge of commercial extinction," said Cliona O'Brien, Senior Policy Analyst, WWF's Global Species Programme. "The same is likely to happen with Cedrela if the current exploitation levels continue."

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European eels have declined throughout most of the species' distribution area and are now threatened due to over-exploitation and pollution. The listing of the European eel on Appendix II means that this negative trend could be halted, WWF and TRAFFIC believe.

"The success of the EU proposal on European eels will help ensure trade in this species is well-managed and legal, which is essential to its survival. It is a conservation achievement," said Stephane Ringuet, from TRAFFIC-France.

Trade in pink, red and other corals remain unprotected

The listing on Appendix II of red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium*, was overturned in the plenary. WWF and TRAFFIC say these corals, which are used mainly for the manufacture of jewellery, have been over-harvested as a result of lack of international trade controls and consistent management plan.

"These corals will continue to suffer from this free-for-all situation," said Steven Broad. "Today's decision was a question of expediency rather than a fully examination of the facts. Commercial lobbying won through."

Strategic vision

The Conference of the Parties also adopted an ambitious new Strategic Vision that attempts to link CITES to the broader conservation and development agenda.

"CITES member countries now need to step up their efforts to secure the resources needed to meet the goals they have set for themselves, especially the support needed by developing countries to manage wildlife trade at sustainable levels," said Broad.

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For more information in The Hague:

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PR Newswire

United Business Media

PR Newswire US
Friday, June 15, 2007

CITES: Commercially Traded Species Big Losers: WWF and TRAFFIC

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, June 15 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The 14th CITES Conference ended today with TRAFFIC and WWF applauding some sound conservation decisions, but ruing other missed opportunities.

"In some respects, the conference has been a success, with some key decisions taken on eels, sawfishes, elephants and tigers, but it's a serious concern that countries missed the opportunity to assist with conservation of several commercially traded species," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF Global Species Programme.

"TRAFFIC and WWF are pleased with some decisions taken at this CITES meeting," said Steven Broad. "But getting species listed is just the start. Underpinning the success of all decisions taken here is the need for strong political will and sound law enforcement."

The unveiling of the European Union's Enforcement Action Plan to combat illegal wildlife trade and support countries that export wildlife, was a positive step in the right direction, TRAFFIC and WWF added. However, the two organizations also warned that enforcement globally needs money and were disappointed that Parties failed to come up with sufficient extra funding to implement the Convention and assist countries with enforcement and capacity building.

Compromise on African elephants

As usual, African elephants dominated many of the conference discussions. Just prior to the CITES meeting, a limited sale of ivory from three southern African countries was given formal approval, whilst on the penultimate day of CITES, following some tense negotiations, Zambia and Chad presented a compromise document on behalf of all African elephant range States.

The document, which was adopted by consensus, allows an increase in the one-off sale of ivory to include ivory from stockpiles from Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, which have accumulated since 2002. After the sale, there will be a nine-year suspension of further sales of raw ivory.

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SOURCE World Wildlife Fund; TRAFFIC
URL: <http://www.prnewswire.com>



CommonDreams.org
Wednesday, June 27, 2007

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Agence France Presse
Friday, June 15, 2007

CITES: key decisions on protecting wildlife from trade

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES, wrapped up a two-week meeting Friday after reviewing proposals for trade restrictions on dozens of plants and animals. Here are the key decisions:

AFRICAN ELEPHANTS: The 171-nation UN body approved a landmark nine-year ban on cross-border ivory trade in a bid to halt a sharp increase in poaching over the last decade. Four southern African nations originally opposed to a moratorium -- Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa -- will be allowed to complete a once-off sale of government-held ivory stocks to Japan before the ban begins. China has said it will request to be authorized, along with Japan, as a buyer.

TIGERS: China was dealt a stinging rebuke in the form of a resolution criticizing large-scale tiger farming, and stating that "tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives." While not singled out by name, China is the only country in the world to breed the big cats on a commercial scale, with some 5000 tigers on large farms in the northeast and southwest. There are only half as many in the wild around the globe. Beijing voluntarily imposed a domestic ban on sale of tiger parts, but said coming into the convention that it was evaluating petitions from domestic businesses to allow the in-country sale of tiger-bone tonics.

SHARKS: Two commercially-fished shark species -- Spiny dogfish and Porbeagle -- prized for their fins and their meat were left on the hook, failing to gain the two-thirds majority necessary for entry into CITES Appendix II, which imposes limits on international trade. All but one species of the critically endangered sawfish, however, were ushered into Appendix I, which bans all commercial trade.

TIMBER: Good and bad news for those seeking to protect dwindling forests of hardwood trees in Latin America. Facing stiff opposition from range-state nations, the European Union withdrew its proposal to include Cendela -- a species of Cedar -- in Appendix II. All the other proposals to list tropical timber species were also withdrawn, with one exception: Brazil wood was listed with an amendment to exclude certain items made from it, especially musical bows.

EELS: One of the commercially significant species protected by CITES this week was the European eels, which has been eaten to the edge of extinction by consumers in Europe and East Asia. A biological marvel that spends its life in fresh water rivers and then swims across the Atlantic to reproduce in the Sargossa Sea, the eel has declined by about 90 percent over the last 20 years. But trade protection may not be enough,

experts say: pollution and dams are also a major threat.

CORAL: Unregulated harvesting of pink and red coral -- driven by a market that commands 20,000 dollars for a single necklace -- has made these species commercially extinct off Mediterranean coasts, and has depleted stocks in much of the world. Twenty-six species in the *Corallium* genus were initially granted protection in a tight vote Wednesday, but hours before the conference closed the issue was reopened and the first decision was reversed.

WHALES: Japan lost a bid to force CITES to review the status of whales, a step that conservationists decried as a ploy for resuming commercial whaling. All 13 species of large whales are listed in Appendix I, but CITES has deferred to the International Whaling Commission as the scientific authority on cetaceans since the IWC imposed a ban on commercial whale hunting in 1986.



Marketplace
Monday, June 11, 2007

Transcript text:
CITES: Species, business in the balance

A commission is meeting in The Hague to hammer out trade laws to help save species in peril. But the panel's actions can have some unforeseen consequences on niche industries. Ashley Milne-Tyte reports.

MARK AUSTIN THOMAS: Sharks, tigers, cacti, various types of wood.... What do these all have in common? They are the focus of discussion at a conference in The Hague by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES.

This organization decides which species are at risk of dying out because of trade, and tries to regulate their sale. And the decisions CITES makes affects not just fisherman and farmers but those who rely on these species to stay in business. Ashley Milne-Tyte reports.

ASHLEY MILNE-TYTE: Mahogany is one of the woods on the agenda at the CITES conference. Certain species are getting scarce. Christian Martin is CEO of the Martin Guitar Company, which has been in his family for 174 years. He says he's been raising his prices lately, because his mahogany suppliers always tell him the same thing:

CHRISTIAN MARTIN: "The price is going up and we can't give you your entire order." So we're looking at alternatives, but all of us who build guitars have done a wonderful job of convincing our customers that rosewood, mahogany, ebony and spruce are the best woods, and so the customers continue to demand those woods.

They're using other woods like cherry, he says, but they don't have the same cachet. As for why some species are running out, Roddy Gabel of CITES says consumerism may have something to do with it.

RODDY GABEL: There are things that sort of become fads and all of a sudden something that was little used... there's a big demand for it.

Take precious coral, he says. The U.S. would like to see trade in coral regulated. Elliot Norse is with the Marine Conservation Biology Institute. He says coral, which sells for around \$75 to \$450 a pound, used to be much harder to collect.

ELLIOT NORSE: Now we have trawlers and sonar that allows us to pinpoint them and rip them off the sea floor and turn them into jewelry — and as a result, they're disappearing.

One big name is trying to stop that. Tiffany no longer sells precious coral. But Tiffany doesn't rely on coral to stay in business. The Martin Guitar Company's Christian Martin

says companies like his have to ensure that certain tree species survive. He has a 2-year-old daughter who, he says, might want to run the family firm one day.

MARTIN: I don't want to have to say to her, "Gee Claire, I'm really sorry, but we cut down the last tree and we have to close the business."

In New York, I'm Ashley Milne-Tyte for Marketplace.

Convention protects corals; not dogfish

Nicola Jones

News@nature.com rounds up key decisions from this week's conference on international trade in endangered species.

This year's meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) drew to a close today after more than a week of tough negotiations. Representatives from 171 member states haggled over some 40 proposed changes to regulations governing the international trade of plants and animals, resulting in changes to the treatment of many (see slideshow).

Akron Beacon Journal
Sunday, June 10, 2007

Coral controversy

The United States is leading a push to protect a type of red coral that grows deep in the world's oceans and seas, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen who have harvested the species for generations to make artwork and jewelry. Under the U.S. proposal up for debate at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meeting at The Hague, trade in several species of red coral, or corallium, would be regulated for the first time to ensure that harvesting and global sales do not threaten their survival.

Compiled from wire reports.



Winston-Salem Journal
Sunday, June 10, 2007

Coral harvesting endangers species, U.S. tells panel It wants world regulation of practices

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE HAGUE, Netherlands --

The U.S. is leading a push to protect a type of red coral that grows deep in the world's oceans and seas, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen who have harvested the species for generations to make artwork and jewelry.

Under the U.S. proposal up for debate at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meeting in The Hague, trade in several species of red coral, or corallium, would be regulated for the first time to ensure that harvesting and sales do not threaten their survival.

The proposal is expected to come up for a vote this week, worrying the fishermen and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, who harvest the coral for their livelihood in the town in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

"We started 800 years ago and we want to continue," said Ciro Conditto of Assocoral, a lobbying group representing the craftsmen in the Mediterranean town. "We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life."

The U.S. is the world's biggest market for corallium products, importing more than 26 million pieces from 2001 to 2006, according to the environmental group SeaWeb, based in Washington.

The value of corallium is boosted by the fact it is difficult to gather because it grows as deep as 3,280 feet.

It is also rare because it grows so slowly — in some cases, just 0.06 inches or less a year — and takes up to seven years to reach maturity, with low reproduction rates.

Raw coral can sell for about \$400 a pound at auction, and artworks or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$20,000, depending on the size and quality.

One place corallium jewelry is no longer sold is Tiffany and Co.

"Until we are convinced that coral harvesting is sustainable and does not threaten marine ecosystems, we believe this cautionary principle should continue to apply," the company says on its Web site.

In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed — a practice that devastates the coral and threatens other marine wildlife that use coral colonies as a place to feed, mate and escape predators.

“It is like clear-cutting a forest — it pulls everything up, there’s a lot of loss and you remove the large colonies, the small colonies and cause a lot of damage to the habitat,” said Andy Bruckner of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the Mediterranean, trawl fishing has been replaced by scuba-diving harvesters and some countries have imposed quotas and minimum size limits. But the coral is still struggling.

“We’re afraid that if things continue the way they are, it could lead to species being depleted from large areas,” said Bruckner.



Dive News

Dive News
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Corallium Red Coral... Too Precious to Wear!

Seaweb

Delegates from 171 countries will debate over the next 10 days whether to include key marine species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). At the triennial meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP), red coral, the most valuable of all coral species, will be considered for a listing that would establish trade monitoring to ensure global demand does not threaten the species' survival.

A finished red coral necklace retails for up to \$20,000 and is among the world's most valuable wildlife commodities. But global red coral catches have plummeted by 90 percent in the past two decades...

Fished for more than 5,000 years, primarily as a material for jewelry and decorative objects, red coral has been marked by boom and bust cycles of discovery and overfishing. These cycles flood the global marketplace, depress prices, and lead to rapid exhaustion of the resource. Red coral today is mostly fished in the Mediterranean and western Pacific Ocean, for a total harvest of 50 metric tons, down 89 percent from the fisheries' peak of 445 metric tons in 1984.

"It is a case in point of how the overwhelming popularity of luxury products from the sea can cause marine life populations to crash, sometimes to irreversible levels," said Dawn M. Martin, president of SeaWeb, an international NGO. "The CITES Conference of the Parties provides the only global venue to protect these vulnerable species from trade pressure. The international community has a chance to help put red coral on the road to recovery."

The value of the trade is significant, with raw red coral selling for \$100 to \$900 per kilogram at auction. In 1999 alone, the Italian town of Torre del Greco reported red coral profits of \$174 million.

Support for Red Coral Protection

“Because of its value, global range, trade volume, and importance in the ecosystem, Corallium are among the important marine species being considered for a listing this year,” said Dr. Elliot Norse, a scientist and director of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute. The United States, the world’s largest documented consumer of red coral products with more than 26 million pieces imported from 2001 to 2006, proposed red coral for a CITES Appendix II listing after being petitioned by SeaWeb. Norse added, “For decades now, we’ve been loving red and pink coral to death. We must not let this happen.”

The red coral listing is supported by the CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC, WWF, the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, the Species Survival Network, and numerous scientists. “Deep-sea corals such as Corallium are an important part of the ocean ecosystem,” said Dr. Steve Cairns, research scientist and curator at the Smithsonian Institution. “Ocean life depends on them for protection from predators and as gathering places for mating. Other coral species, black and blue for example, are already listed on the CITES Appendix II. If any coral species deserves to be protected, it is Corallium, which is traded more heavily and is extremely vulnerable to overfishing pressure.”

Concerns about overfishing are growing in the jewelry industry, prompting some, such as Tiffany & Co., to remove precious corals from their product lines.

Fernanda Kellogg, senior vice president of Tiffany & Co. and president of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, said, “Tiffany & Co. is committed to obtaining precious materials in ways that are socially and environmentally responsible. With regard to coral, we believe that coral harvesting as currently practiced is not sustainable and threatens marine ecosystems. We will not use this precious material in our jewelry until harvesting methods have been adopted that ensure the sustainability of coral reefs. Tiffany urges international officials to support stronger protection for red corals so we can be assured of the survival of these precious gems from the sea.”

Threat of Overfishing

The United States’ proposal cites scientific evidence that commercial fishing has decreased the genetic diversity within and among populations, reduced colony densities, and shifted size and age structure to small, immature colonies that are worthless to the red coral trade and unproductive in the ecosystem.

In the Pacific Ocean, the destructive fishing method of bottom trawling for red coral is the marine equivalent of clear cutting old-growth forests. There is evidence that coral populations never fully recover after being bottom-trawled, and entire beds of red coral have been depleted within five years of discovery.

Potential Result of Red Coral Listing While some range states have taken steps to better manage their red coral fisheries, much of the fishing is conducted in international waters and there are no consistent global regulations or binding agreements between nations.

There are more than 20 species of Corallium but only seven are currently traded and would be affected by an Appendix II listing. If the listing is approved at the CoP, red coral producing and consuming nations would be required to maintain sustainable trade through an export-import permit system. This system would enable better monitoring of the trade by international officials and would encourage the development of fisheries’ management plans at a domestic level.

It is also possible that individuals could face a limit on how much red coral they could take out of a country. Otherwise, the listing would not directly result in trade restrictions or fishing limits, but would establish a venue through which future conservation measures could be adopted.

For more information, visit: [Too Precious to Wear](#)



The Dominion Post
(Wellington, New Zealand)
Saturday, June 16, 2007

Corals to join protected list

The global body regulating the wildlife trade has voted to protect the red and pink corals used in jewellery. Corals of the genus *Corallium* are to be listed on Appendix 2 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Over-harvesting in the Mediterranean and western Pacific has caused declines in recent years. A spectacular *Corallium* necklace can fetch up to US\$30,000 (NZ\$40,000) in US boutiques.

BLOGFISH

fish, oceans, and conservation

Blogfish
The Ocean Conservancy
Friday, June 15, 2007

Corals, sharks fail to win international protection

Mark Powell

Down to the wire, an international conservation effort failed for spiny dogfish sharks. Even worse, previous action to conserve precious corals was overturned.



The international intrigue of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) convention yielded some conservation progress in limiting trade of sawfish, but sharks and corals will have to wait for another time.

Early announcements of coral protections turned out to be premature, as conservation opponents "re-opened" and overturned the Committee decision to limit trade in endangered precious corals. More later as details are available, including who led the anti-conservation charge (usually Japan).

The trend is in our direction, and this is merely a speedbump in the race to conserve.



The Coral Reef Alliance
Friday, June 15, 2007

Decision to Protect Red Coral Reversed

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS - Scientists, conservationists and many government officials expressed outrage when a proposal to protect precious red corals from international trade was reversed today. Delegates voted by secret ballot to overturn their initial decision to list these overfished species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), following a massive lobbying effort by the coral industry and some exporting countries. The proposal initially passed on Wednesday, with 62 countries voting in support of the listing.

Scientists have long called for trade protection for red corals (scientific name: *Corallium* / AKA: pink corals), with over 2,000 other coral species listed under CITES. Red corals are among the world's most valuable wildlife commodities, with a finished necklace retailing for up to \$20,000. But destructive fishing methods and over-harvesting means global red coral catches have plummeted by 90 percent in the past two decades. The move to reopen the red coral debate on Friday in a plenary session was instigated by Tunisia and seconded by Algeria and Morocco, all coral exporting countries. A secret ballot was requested and despite the proposal receiving support from the majority of delegates present, it fell short of the required two-thirds majority needed for a CITES listing.

Dr. Andy Bruckner, a NOAA scientist and the author of the U.S. proposal to list *Corallium*, said the outcome was shocking: "Over the past twenty years, overfishing of red coral has put these animals at great risk. A CITES listing would have helped safeguard the species as well as the coral industry. Effective conservation for red coral now requires cooperation by range states to implement appropriate domestic measures, to ensure the survival of these species."

The U.S. responded to the reopening of the debate, saying they had held extensive conversations with red coral-producing nations to construct a proposal that would advance the conservation of the species.

LEARN MORE:

Impact of mining and harvesting on coral reef ecosystems:
<http://www.coral.org/issuebrief/mining>
A new program of SeaWeb to create a demand for coral conservation:
<http://www.tooprecioustowear.org>



(funded by Tiffany & Co.)

The unusual reversal, which took place after the conference was scheduled to have ended, means the trade in red corals will be allowed to continue unchecked, threatening the species' survival. There was significant support for the listing from the United States (the largest red coral importer in the world), the European Union (a major exporter), Mexico, the CITES Secretariat, as well as numerous NGOs, including SeaWeb, TRAFFIC, WWF and the Pew Institute for Ocean Science.

Opponents to the red coral proposal, such as Japan, a major red coral trading nation, and industry group ASSOCORAL, referred to an FAO assessment that did not support the listing. SeaWeb stated to delegates at the conference that FAO's analysis was flawed because it only took into account the remaining number of coral colonies but not their size, which is a more accurate measure of population health.

Dawn M. Martin, president of SeaWeb, the international NGO that originally petitioned the United States to propose the listing, said, "Never before have our oceans been in such peril, and this reversal by CITES delegates, which leaves red corals unprotected, is deplorable. Red corals are threatened by trade and fully meet the criteria for CITES protection. It is now up to consumers and the industry to ensure that we do not love red coral to death. Conscientious jewelers like Tiffany & Co. have already removed precious corals from their product lines, and we urge others to do the same."

The value of the red coral trade is significant. In 1999 alone, the Italian town of Torre del Greco reported red coral profits of \$174 million. The United States, the world's largest documented importer of red corals, and conservationists said the protection afforded by a CITES listing would have safeguarded the industry for future generations by ensuring trade is non-detrimental to the survival of the species.

Science shows that commercial fishing has decreased the genetic diversity within and among populations, reduced colony densities, and shifted size and age structure to small, immature colonies that are worthless to the red coral trade and unproductive in the ecosystem. In the Pacific Ocean, the destructive fishing method of bottom trawling for red coral is the marine equivalent of clear cutting old-growth forests. There is evidence that coral populations never fully recover after being bottom-trawled, and entire beds of red coral have been depleted within five years of discovery.

Fernanda Kellogg, senior vice president of Tiffany & Co. and president of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, said, "With regard to coral, we believe that coral harvesting as currently practiced is not sustainable and threatens marine ecosystems. We will not use this precious material in our jewelry until harvesting methods have been adopted that ensure the sustainability of coral reefs."

Martin added, "We will continue to work tirelessly to get these threatened animals the protection they deserve. It is unconscionable when politics and profit stand in the way of science and conservation. SeaWeb's Too Precious To Wear campaign will continue to advance coral conservation and we will urge the international community to protect these species before it is too late."

For interviews with scientists and spokespeople, please contact Julia Roberson (in The Hague at the CITES conference) at +44-77-04-54-83-92 and jroberson@seaweb.org or Shannon Crownover (in the United States) at +1-808-391-0281 and shannon@seaweb.org.



The Coral Reef Alliance
Friday, June 15, 2007

Decision to Protect Red Coral Reversed

COUNTRIES REVERSE DECISION TO PROTECT PRECIOUS RED CORALS

Conservationists decry move as politically motivated; urge industry and range states to act

(June 15, 2007 - The Hague, The Netherlands) Scientists, conservationists and many government officials expressed outrage when a proposal to protect precious red corals from international trade was reversed today. Delegates voted by secret ballot to overturn their initial decision to list these overfished species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), following a massive lobbying effort by the coral industry and some exporting countries. The proposal initially passed on Wednesday, with 62 countries voting in support of the listing.



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For more information, visit www.tooprecioustowear.org. Too Precious to Wear is a program of SeaWeb to create a demand for coral conservation.

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The logo for Sunday Tasmanian features the word "SUNDAY" in a grey, serif font above the word "Tasmanian" in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. A small red silhouette of the state of Tasmania is positioned to the left of the "S" in "SUNDAY".

SUNDAY Tasmanian

Sunday Tasmanian (Australia)
SECTION: WORLD; Pg. 20
Sunday, June 17, 2007

Elephants hope

ELEPHANTS have emerged safer and tigers won a vote of support, but sharks and corals failed to win protection at a two-week wildlife trade conference.

The conference in Holland also saw a shift in conservation politics with ministers throwing their weight behind negotiations.

China emerged for the first time as a major player at the triennial meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, surprising delegates with its activism. The CITES treaty was adopted in 1975 to rescue rare plants and animals threatened with extinction.

St. Petersburg Times

St. Petersburg Times
Saturday, June 16, 2007

Elephants, tigers are conference winners

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - Elephants emerged safer and tigers won a vote of support, but sharks and corals failed to win protection at a two-week wildlife trade conference that ended Friday.

Delegates at the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species were credited with breaking an 18-year deadlock over the sale of ivory by southern African countries, which were allowed a one-time sale of accumulated tusks to Japan, the only authorized buyer. In exchange, the elephant and ivory issues would be taken off the CITES agenda for nine years.

Delegates also passed a resolution to maintain a 1993 ban on the sale of tiger parts for traditional medicine.

An earlier committee decision that would have regulated the trade in pink and red coral used for jewelry was overturned by the full plenary. Proposals to control the trade in spiny dogfish sharks, widely fished for fast food, also failed.



Vail Daily
Friday, June 15, 2007

Elephants, tigers gain; sharks, coral lose

Arthur Max, Associated Press, Vail, CO Colorado

Winners & losers

A list of the winners and losers at the two-week meeting of the 171-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in The Hague.

WINNERS:

African elephants: Four southern African countries' can sell their ivory stockpiles. No more ivory sales allowed for nine years.

Asian tigers: CITES pressed China not to reopen domestic tiger bone trade and said tigers should not be bred in captivity for their body parts.

Sawfish: Trade regulated in the shark-like ray with its distinctive tooth-studded snout, which is coveted by collectors.

Brazilwood tree: Trade regulated in timber from the tree that provides wood for high-end stringed instrument bows.

European eels: Trade regulated in this European delicacy.

Sturgeon: More transparency and scientific scrutiny in the process of granting export quotas for caviar.

Rhinos: Better protection of wild rhinos and improved enforcement on the illegal trade in rhino horn.

LOSERS:

Sharks: The spiny dogfish and porbeagle, fished for fast food and gourmet shark fin soup, rejected for protection.

Red coral: Decision to regulate trade in the coral prized by jewelry makers is adopted but later overturned.

Spanish cedar: South American countries defeat regulations on their hardwood.

Rosewood: Proposals to regulate two species from South America were withdrawn.

— The Associated Press

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The conference also saw a shift in conservation politics, with ministers throwing their weight behind negotiations.

China emerged for the first time as a major player at the triennial meeting of the Convention on Trade in Endangered species, or CITES, surprising delegates with its activism.

The signatories of the CITES treaty, adopted in 1975 to rescue rare plants and animals threatened with extinction, turned their attention as never before to common timber and fish vital to the economies of many nations.

And critics worried about the increasing role of politics as the 171-nation CITES met to review its lists of tens of thousands of threatened species, with the first ministerial-level meeting at a CITES conference.

“The ministerial forum has added a strong political dimension,” said Will Travers, head of the Species Survival Network, a coalition of about 80 nongovernment agencies. “It’s too early to say whether this is good or bad, but I am concerned,” he said.

The ministers were credited with breaking an 18-year deadlock over the sale of ivory by southern African countries, which were allowed a one-time sale of accumulated tusks to Japan, the only authorized buyer. In exchange, the elephant and ivory issues would be taken off the CITES agenda for nine years.

The conference ended in disappointment for environmentalists. An earlier committee decision that would have regulated the trade in pink and red coral used for jewelry was overturned by the full plenary. Proposals to control the trade in spiny dogfish sharks, widely fished for fast food, also fell.

South American and Asian countries with powerful timber industries helped defeat proposals to regulate trade in Spanish cedar and rosewood species, which conservationists say are being stripped from rain forests.

But big-money fisheries and timber were put on notice, and those species that failed to win protection were certain to come up again in future meetings.

Not all commercial varieties lost. Among newly regulated species were the European eel, considered a delicacy in much of the continent, and the brazilwood tree, the source of top-quality bows for stringed musical instruments.

The conference also increased scrutiny in the caviar trade — long plagued by a booming black market — to help save the Caspian Sea sturgeon.

“We have listed new species that have been outside the scope of the Convention for economic reasoning rather than scientific,” said CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers. “I think that should continue.”

Conservationists said trade considerations overwhelmed scientific criteria in many instances, with countries still voting in favor of short-term economic growth. “It’s sad to see, because this is one of the more progressive conventions we have,” said Peter Pueschel of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Delegates spent the final day snared in a budget fight, spending more than four hours debating whether to raise the \$4.6 million budget of the CITES secretariat by 7.5 percent, or \$340,000. The United States, which pays 22 percent of the budget, objected. In the end, a 6 percent increase was approved.

“There are so many things they want CITES to do, but nobody is willing to pay for it. It’s pitiful,” said Susan Lieberman, of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature. CITES veterans said they noted a shift of power among the parties.

China, an importer of tropical timber and a major investor in Africa, was at the center of several contentious issues, but its record was mixed. In one of the more significant showdowns, it failed to block a resolution urging it to maintain a 1993 ban on the sale of tiger parts for traditional medicine and warning it to rein in its program of breeding tigers.

In other power shifts, the European Union swung many issues and aroused some anger for voting as a 27-member bloc. Japan was less aggressive than it had been in previous meetings. And the United States “was not the powerhouse it was 15 years ago,” said Travers, of the pro-wildlife coalition.

Minneapolis Star Tribune
Friday, June 15, 2007

Elephants, tigers win support as wildlife trade conference ends

Sharks and corals weren't so lucky, but those species that failed to win protection will come up in future meetings.

By Arthur Max, Associated Press Writer

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Trees lose protection

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Big-money fisheries and timber were put on notice, and those species that failed to win protection were certain to come up again in future meetings.

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"It's sad to see, because this is one of the more progressive conventions we have," said Peter Pueschel of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.



ABC News – Philadelphia, PA
Sunday, June 10, 2007

Endangered Coral

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - June 10, 2007 - The U.S. is leading a push to protect a type of red coral that grows deep in the world's oceans and seas, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen who have harvested the species for generations to make artwork and jewelry.

Under the U.S. proposal up for debate at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meeting in The Hague, trade in several species of red coral, or corallium, would be regulated for the first time to ensure harvesting and global sales do not threaten their survival.

The proposal is expected to come up for a vote next week, worrying the fishermen and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, who harvest the coral for their livelihood in the town in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

"We started 800 years ago and we want to continue," said Ciro Condito of Assocoral, a lobbying group representing the craftsmen in the Mediterranean town. "We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life."

The U.S. is the world's biggest market for corallium products, importing more than 26 million pieces from 2001 to 2006, according to the Washington-based environmental group SeaWeb.

The value of corallium is boosted by the fact it is difficult to gather because it grows as deep as 3,280 feet. It is also rare because it grows so slowly - in some cases, just 0.06 inches or less per year - and takes up to seven years to reach maturity, with low reproduction rates.

Raw coral can sell for about \$400 per pound at auction, and artworks or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$20,000, depending on the size and quality.

One place corallium jewelry is no longer sold is Tiffany and Co.

"Until we are convinced that coral harvesting is sustainable and does not threaten marine ecosystems, we believe this cautionary principle should continue to apply," the company says on its Web site.

In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed - a practice that devastates the coral and threatens other marine wildlife that use coral colonies as a place to feed, mate and escape predators.

"It is like clear-cutting a forest - it pulls everything up, there's a lot of loss and you remove the large colonies, the small colonies and cause a lot of damage to the habitat," said Andy Bruckner of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the Mediterranean, trawl fishing has been replaced by scuba-diving harvesters and some countries have imposed quotas and minimum size limits. But the coral is still struggling.

"We're afraid that if things continue the way they are it could lead to species being depleted from large areas," said Bruckner.



Associated Press
Worldstream
Monday, June 11, 2007

Endangered species conference agrees to ban almost all trade in sawfish

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press Writer

THE HAGUE Netherlands --

An international conference on endangered species banned almost all trade Monday in sawfish large shark-like rays whose long snouts bristling with teeth are in high demand among collectors.

The conference also regulated trade in the European eel, which experts fear is being driven toward extinction by overfishing.

All seven species of sawfish are listed as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union due mainly to overfishing.

They are highly valued for their fins, meat and snouts, known as rostra, which can measure up to 2 meters (6.5 feet). They also are caught and traded as live animals for aquaria and parts of their bodies are used in traditional Asian medicines.

Local Kenyan fishermen "could retire after catching one sawfish due to the high value of sawfish fins US\$443 (euro332) per kilogram (2.2 pounds) for export and rostra up to US\$1,450 (euro1,086)," Dorothy Nyingi of Kenya told the triennial meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES.

Delegates at a committee meeting in The Hague supported a proposal to ban all commercial trade in six of the species and to allow sales of one sawfish species found in Australian waters. The decision is expected to be formally accepted by the full conference before it ends Friday.

"Sawfish populations around the world have been decimated by overharvest, habitat loss and by-catch," said Todd Willens, head of the U.S. delegation that sponsored the proposal with Kenya.

"We are pleased that CITES voted to approve our proposal to protect the species from international trade in sawfish fins and rostra. This will give the world's seven species of sawfish a chance to recover," Willens said.

Compounding the problem of hunting and trade, sawfish are slow to mature and produce few young. They also often are caught in nets intended for other fish, conservationists say.

"We are relieved that international trade pressure will be lifted for these critically endangered species," said Steven Broad, director of TRAFFIC, a group monitoring the trade in wildlife. "Trade, along with fishing pressure, was pushing them towards extinction."

CITES lists more than 7,000 animals and 32,000 plants whose trade is regulated, including about 800 highly threatened species that are banned from commercial trade without special licenses.

Another species suffering from overfishing and a slow reproductive cycle, the European eel, also was given CITES protection Monday. The meeting agreed to a European Union proposal to regulate, but not ban, trade in the eel.

"The success of the EU proposal will help ensure that use and trade of this species are well-managed and legal, which is essential to its survival," said Stephane Ringuet, of TRAFFIC.

Conservation group Species Survival Network warns the eel, which is harvested by 25,000 fishermen in Europe, could be pushed to the brink of extinction within 10 years if current declines continue.

"Overfishing is the single most important factor contributing to the population decline," said Stellan Hamrin of Sweden's environment ministry.

The eel is a popular food throughout much of Europe and in Japan and young eels are caught and sold live to eel farms in Asia. There are also fears that changes in ocean currents blamed on global warming could be reducing numbers by interfering with the eels' migration routes.

Separately, European Union fisheries ministers meeting in Luxembourg Monday agreed to a recovery plan for the eels aimed at ensuring 40 percent of all adult eels reaching European waters are allowed to remain in the wild to spawn.

The CITES conference also was to consider regulating trade in red coral, a slow-growing deep-sea coral that is prized for use in jewelry.

INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

International Herald Tribune
Monday, June 11, 2007

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The Associated Press

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PR Inside
Monday, June 11, 2007

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CITES lists more than 7,000 animals and 32,000 plants whose trade is regulated, including about 800 highly threatened species that are banned from commercial trade without special licenses.

Later Monday, delegates were expected to vote on proposals to protect the European eel _ a popular food throughout Europe which is suffering from overfishing, destruction of its habitat and pollution.

European Union fisheries ministers meeting in Luxembourg Monday agreed to a recovery plan for the eels aimed at ensuring 40 percent of adult eels caught by

fishermen are released. Member states agreed to draw up specific plans by the end of 2008.

The CITES conference also was to consider regulating trade in red coral, a slow-growing deep-sea coral that is prized for use in jewelry and in Brazilian populations of spiny lobsters.

The Star-Ledger

The Star-Ledger
Newark, New Jersey
Saturday, June 16, 2007

Endangered species find friends and foes at trade conference

ARTHUR MAX, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elephants emerged safer and tigers won a vote of support, but sharks and corals failed to win protection at a two-week wildlife trade conference that ended yesterday.

The conference also saw a shift in conservation politics, with ministers throwing their weight behind negotiations.

China emerged for the first time as a major player at the triennial meeting of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, surprising delegates with its activism.

The signatories of the CITES treaty, adopted in 1975 to rescue rare plants and animals threatened with extinction, turned their attention as never before to common timber and fish vital to the economies of many nations.

And critics worried about the increasing role of politics as the 171-nation CITES met to review its lists of tens of thousands of threatened species, with the first ministerial-level meeting at a CITES conference.

"The ministerial forum has added a strong political dimension," said Will Travers, head of the Species Survival Network, a coalition of about 80 nongovernment agencies. "It's too early to say whether this is good or bad, but I am concerned," he said.

The ministers were credited with breaking an 18-year deadlock over the sale of ivory by southern African countries, which were allowed a one-time sale of accumulated tusks to Japan, the only authorized buyer. In exchange, the elephant and ivory issues would be taken off the CITES agenda for nine years.

The conference ended in disappointment for environmentalists. An earlier committee decision that would have regulated the trade in pink and red coral used for jewelry was overturned by the full plenary. Proposals to control the trade in spiny dogfish sharks, widely fished for fast food, also fell.

South American and Asian countries with powerful timber industries helped defeat proposals to regulate trade in Spanish cedar and rosewood species, which conservationists say are being stripped from rain forests.

But big-money fisheries and timber were put on notice, and those species that failed to win protection were certain to come up again in future meetings.

Not all commercial varieties lost. Among newly regulated species were the European

eel, considered a delicacy in much of the continent, and the brazilwood tree, the source of top-quality bows for stringed musical instruments.

The conference also increased scrutiny in the caviar trade - long plagued by a booming black market - to help save the Caspian Sea sturgeon.

"We have listed new species that have been outside the scope of the convention for economic reasoning rather than scientific," said CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers. "I think that should continue."

Conservationists said trade considerations overwhelmed scientific criteria in many instances, with countries still voting in favor of short-term economic growth.

"It's sad to see, because this is one of the more progressive conventions we have," said Peter Pueschel of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Delegates spent the final day snared in a budget fight, spending more than four hours debating whether to raise the \$4.6 million budget of the CITES secretariat by 7.5 percent, or \$340,000. The United States, which pays 22 percent of the budget, objected. In the end, a 6 percent increase was approved.

"There are so many things they want CITES to do, but nobody is willing to pay for it. It's pitiful," said Susan Lieberman, of the World Wildlife Fund.

CITES veterans said they noted a shift of power among the parties.

China, an importer of tropical timber and a major investor in Africa, was at the center of several contentious issues, but its record was mixed. In one of the more significant showdowns, it failed to block a resolution urging it to maintain a 1993 ban on the sale of tiger parts for traditional medicine and warning it to rein in its program of breeding tigers.



Merco Press
Sunday, June 17, 2007

Endangered species forum dominated by budget row

A budget row dominated the final day of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) forum held in The Hague, reports the BBC. Member states approved a cut in real terms in CITES' budget, which could compromise attempts to control the illegal wildlife trade.

In a blow to whaling countries, delegates upheld an earlier ruling that CITES would not assess whale stocks. But an earlier proposal to prevent corals being used in jewelry was overturned, to the dismay of conservation groups.

And a renewed bid by the European Union to restrict trade in the spiny dogfish - sold in British fish and chip shops as huss, or rock salmon - was defeated.

The final day of the meeting was marked by acrimonious rhetoric, political wrangling and farcical scenes as the electronic voting system malfunctioned, delegates delayed proceedings by raising point after point of order, and a number of countries' seats emptied as people left for early flights home, missing the crucial late votes.

The biggest single issue had been resolved on Thursday, when delegates voted to allow southern African countries a one-off sale of stockpiled ivory, the third such sale since the ivory trade was banned in 1989.

But there is deep concern about the documented rise in illegal trading in ivory and rhinoceros horn, which is partly down to the low capacity of some central and west African nations to control poaching and domestic markets.
"Ultimately, CITES is about the ability of countries to implement it," said Sue Mainka of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

But the lack of national capacity could make CITES a relative failure and the funding increase of just 6% voted through by delegates is in real terms a sharp decline, which may reduce the ability of the CITES organization to improve that situation.

CITES secretary-general Willem Wijnstekers said the organization needed a funding increase of 20% just to stand still. It receives funds in US dollars, but disburses money in Swiss francs, and the recent dollar devaluation has hurt its finances. Besides United States and Japan, the two biggest financial supporters said they had no mandate from their governments to approve any funding increase.

Major disappointments for conservation groups concerned the marine environment. The European Union re-opened a proposal to have the spiny dogfish, a shark species, listed on CITES Appendix 2, which allows international trade under permits.

It believed fresh data might persuade delegates who had voted the motion down earlier in the meeting to approve it this time around; but in a secret ballot, it fell again.

"In general, the progress on conservation of marine species is being outpaced by the depletion of marine species," noted Sonja Fordham of the Shark Alliance.

"We've been fighting a serious bloc of countries that have been opposed to listing on CITES of any sharks; now we're dealing with commercially valuable shark species, and it's even more of an uphill battle."

Another secret ballot overturned the earlier Appendix 2 listing of Corallium, a group of red and pink corals.

Some conservation scientists believe that by the time of the next CITES meeting, Corallium will be so depleted that it will have to go on Appendix 1, which bans international trade.

The leader of the EU delegation, Germany's Jochen Flasbarth, believes that CITES' inclusion in recent years of commercially valuable species such as hardwoods, fish, whales and coral in its remit may have stimulated the politicking.

"If you look for the real problems of biological diversity around the world, it's clear that they lie in the forests and the marine environment," he said and "as soon as you interfere in these areas you are confronted with huge economic interests."

Whaling had threatened to prove almost as controversial as ivory during this meeting, which followed hard on the heels of the International Whaling Convention's (IWC) annual gathering in Alaska, where pro-whaling Japan and its allies suffered a number of defeats.

Proposals were put forward asking CITES to review whale stocks. An assessment that stocks are healthy could potentially lead to approval of the whale meat trade, and hence of commercial whaling itself.

Not only were these proposals defeated, but an Australian amendment, that CITES should never review whale stocks while the 21-year IWC moratorium remained in force, was approved.

Attempts by Japan's traditional allies to re-open this issue on the meeting's final day failed.

"It's another huge defeat for the whalers," commented Nicolas Entrup of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

"They lost at the International Whaling Commission meeting, they lost again here, and on top of that CITES has agreed not to consider whales again while the IWC moratorium remains in force."

The next CITES summit is scheduled for three years' time, and is likely to be held in Qatar.



Science Magazine
Friday, June 22, 2007

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Corals: Suffering From Whiplash

Virginia Morell

What a difference 48 hours makes: On 13 June, delegates to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species voted to list all species in the genus *Corallium* (pink and red corals) in Appendix II, which limits trade. But on 15 June, after the conference was scheduled to end, they voted by secret ballot to reverse that decision, leaving the jewel-like colonies to the mercy of the coral hunters who scrape the sea floor with heavy trawlers for their prey.

Red corals are one of the most valuable wildlife commodities, with a finished necklace costing \$20,000 or more. Over the past 2 decades, red coral harvests have dropped by 90% because of overcollecting, a problem the Appendix II listing was intended to correct. "These animals are sitting ducks on the sea floor," fumes Elliott Norse, president of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute in Bellevue, Washington, one of many outraged scientists. Norse compares the trawling method of harvesting corals to "clear-cutting a forest as a way to get a couple of ginseng plants." Studies indicate that coral populations never fully recover from the trawling.

After several delegates had left for home, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco--all coral-exporting countries--moved to reopen the debate and called for the secret ballot. This time, the resolution to protect the *Corallium* failed to gain the necessary two-thirds majority. "Obviously, there's something wrong with an organization that makes a decision and then unmakes it--after the meeting is over," says Norse.



Science Magazine
Friday, June 22, 2007

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Elephants Take Center Ring at CITES

Virginia Morell

Africa's elephants won a 9-year reprieve at the recent meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Delegates from 171 nations at the 2-week conference in The Hague, the Netherlands, dealt with trade issues affecting a host of species, including corals (see sidebar), rhinoceroses, tigers, and leopards. But nothing was as contentious as the debate over elephants and their ivory, which began the first day and was settled the day before the meeting's close—and then only after several cabinet-level ministers from the key African countries took over the reins from their delegates. It's the first time at a CITES meeting that such political muscle has been used to hammer out an agreement.

Although CITES banned the ivory trade in 1989, it has since agreed to list elephant populations in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe on Appendix II, permitting controlled sales of tusks collected from elephants that died of natural causes or in culling operations and from poaching seizures. In exchange for the pause in this trade, which Kenya and Mali insisted on, the deal permits the four southern African states to sell raw ivory from stockpiles registered with their respective governments as of 31 January 2007. The exact tonnage has not yet been determined, although estimates are between 100 and 200 metric tons. This ivory will be added to an additional 60 metric tons from South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia that CITES previously approved for a one-off sale. Japan is the sole CITES-approved country for the ivory trade, based on its import controls, although China is lobbying hard to be similarly recognized. All proceeds from the sales must be used for elephant and community-based conservation.



Illegal loot. High prices for elephant ivory have fueled a new surge in poaching. These tusks were seized in Singapore.

CREDIT: IFAW/D. WILLETTS

"Some call this a win-win," says Will Travers, president of the Species Survival Network in Washington, D.C. "But the true test will come with what happens to elephants on the ground." Adds Michael Wamithi, a wildlife biologist from the International Fund for Animal Welfare in Nairobi, Kenya, and former director of the Kenya Wildlife Service: "These two sales will put a huge amount of ivory into the Japanese market, igniting a high demand for ivory, which the legal market will be unable to sustain. That means more poaching."

Indeed, poaching and illegal ivory trade are already on the rise, say several researchers, basing their claim on what they see on the ground and the increasing tonnage of confiscated illegal ivory. "Any legal trade in ivory stimulates a parallel illegal trade," asserts Iain Douglas-Hamilton, an elephant researcher in Kenya with Save the Elephants. Following the 1989 ban on trading ivory, poaching "stopped overnight." It quickly resumed, he and others say, when CITES agreed in 1997 to permit Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe to sell 50 metric tons.

But Tom Milliken, director of Traffic, the World Conservation Union's (IUCN's) wildlife monitoring network, disputes the idea that the legal trade leads to poaching. "From 1999 to 2004, there was a downward trend in illegal ivory seizures," he says, drawing on the data from IUCN's Elephant Trade Information System. But the trend shot upward. Twenty-five thousand kilograms of ivory were seized beginning in August 2005. That's more ivory than was seized in the previous 3 years combined, triggered, researchers say, by a surge in the price, which is now roughly \$850 per kilo; soaring demand for ivory in China and Japan; lack of law enforcement; and the involvement of organized crime.

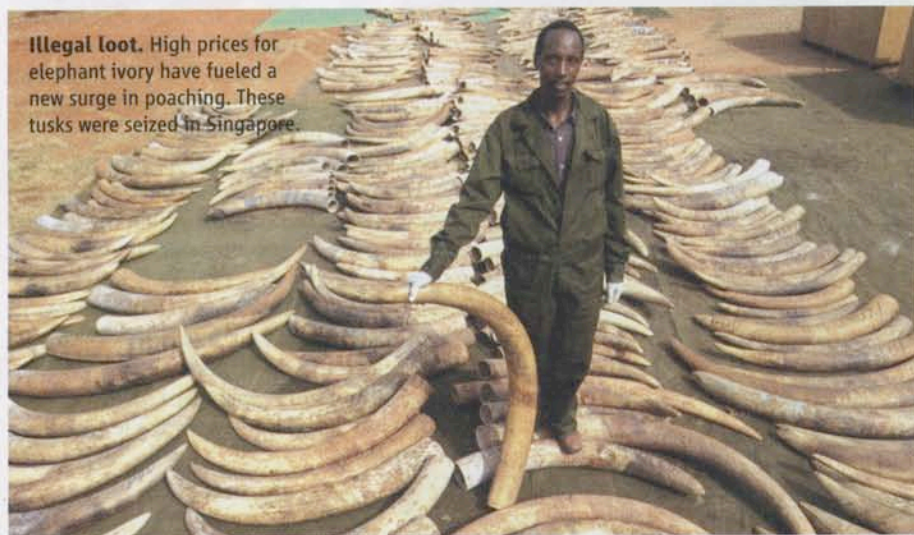
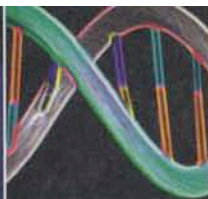
Legal sales provide cover for the illicit trade, argue Douglas-Hamilton and Samuel Wasser, a conservation geneticist at the University of Washington, Seattle, because after the ivory leaves Africa there are no controls to prevent it from being sold as "legal" ivory. It was also almost impossible to pinpoint where it came from. "It was like a black box, but we've finally pried it open," says Wasser, referring to the DNA fingerprinting technique he's developed to trace illegal ivory back to its country of origin.

Last year, Wasser used this tool to track 531 tusks seized in Singapore, and representing about 1000 elephants, to Zambia. Zambia has not been authorized by CITES to trade ivory. "This is just the tip of the iceberg," says Wasser, noting that law enforcement officials estimate that only 10% of illegal ivory shipments are intercepted. Based on his calculations, ivory from 37,700 elephants is now entering the market illegally each year. "The poaching is worse than in the late 1970s," he says, when there were roughly 1.3 million elephants in Africa. Poaching reduced that number to 600,000 by 1989 when the full ivory ban was enacted. "Today, there are 470,000--and we're losing 8% a year. That's not sustainable."

Wasser's technique, presented in a paper at CITES, may help reduce poaching, says Douglas-Hamilton, "since it eliminates any speculation about where the ivory came from" and can be used to help track the criminals involved. He and other scientists agree that the main source of today's illegal ivory is the Congo Basin, where the forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) are in sharp decline.

Whether the 9-year "resting period," as CITES has labeled the ivory-trade pause, will help African elephants overall is unclear. Because elephants don't reach sexual maturity until they're 12 years old, "it would have made sense scientifically if it had been a 24- or 36-year ban," says Rudi van Aarde, a conservation ecologist at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. "So this was a political decision."

Conservation scientists did celebrate when China voted with the rest of the 170 nations to stop raising captive tigers except for conservation purposes and to phase out its commercial farms, which raised the cats in hope of a domestic trade in tiger parts. For the tiger, which experts say is on a "catastrophic" path to extinction, that was an undisputed win-win.



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ENDANGERED SPECIES

Elephants Take Center Ring at CITES

Africa's elephants won a 9-year reprieve at the recent meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Delegates from 171 nations at the 2-week conference in The Hague, the Netherlands, dealt with trade issues affecting a host of species, including corals (see sidebar, below), rhinoceroses, tigers, and leopards. But nothing was as contentious as the debate over elephants and their ivory, which began the first day and was settled the day before the meeting's close—and then only after several cabinet-level ministers from the key African countries took over the reins from their delegates. It's the first time at a CITES meeting that such political muscle has been used to hammer out an agreement.

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CORALS: SUFFERING FROM WHIPLASH

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Greenwire

THE LEADER IN ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY NEWS

Greenwire
Natural Resources Vol. 10 No. 9
Tuesday, June 12, 2007

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Talks halt as African nations seek ivory trade agreement

Nathanial Gronewold, special to Greenwire

UNITED NATIONS -- Formal discussions over possible revisions to the 1989 ivory trade ban were postponed for another day to give African nations more time to reach a consensus on the issue.

The 10th day of negotiations on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) being held in The Hague, Netherlands, centered on controversies over the future of the international ivory trade ban and a U.S. proposal to introduce regulations for trade in slow-growing red coral used for jewelry manufacturing.

Kenya and Mali had pushed for extending the moratorium on international ivory sales for another 20 years, but those nations later revised their proposal to ban trade in raw ivory "for a period of 12 years."

Botswana and Namibia are pushing for a relaxed regime wherein nations would be issued permits to sell off a portion of their growing ivory stockpiles to certified buyers. Presently, only one-time sales are permitted only under strict conditions and careful review.

Delegations are also attempting to reach a compromise over a U.S. proposal to enact trade restrictions for slow-growing species of red coral. The species are only found at extreme depths and are usually difficult to collect, but new technologies have led to expanded harvesting. Japan and Mediterranean states that harvest the coral for use in jewelry are opposed to stricter trade controls.

Greenwire
Natural Resources Vol. 10 No. 9
Thursday, June 14, 2007

ENDANGERED SPECIES: U.N. panel approves 'milestone' ivory-trade agreement

Nathanial Gronewold, special to Greenwire

UNITED NATIONS -- African ministers reached agreement on a one-time sale of government ivory stockpiles, probably to Japan, in return for a nine-year increase to the moratorium on further sales, resolving a dispute over the ivory issue that had divided the continent.

The 171 members of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), approved the African compromise at their conference in The Hague, Netherlands, thereby ending a deadlock that had delayed final agreement by a couple of days.

Southern African nations, including Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, had sought new rules that would have relaxed the 1989 ban on ivory trading, arguing that their elephant populations had rebounded and were well managed. Kenya, Mali and several West African states were pushing for another 20-year ban, explaining to delegates that their elephant populations were still in danger and that any further ivory sales would lead to more poaching.

The agreement reached allows the four southern African countries to sell off ivory stockpiles registered by the CITES secretariat as of Jan. 31, 2007. The ivory is accumulated from poachers and elephants either dead of natural causes or "problem" elephants killed to protect local communities. Proceeds from the sale are to be used to fund conservation initiatives and to assist communities affected by elephant herds.

After the actual transfer of ivory occurs, from then no further sales will be permitted for a period of nine years. Eventually CITES will meet again to review the status of African elephants and debate the way forward.

A CITES standing committee will convene sometime in 2008 to iron out the details of the ivory sale. The final green light for the transaction could take anywhere from a few months to a couple of years, depending on the committee's workload. A similar 2002 compromise was only given the go-ahead last Saturday.

The agreement establishes a maximum ivory sales quota of 20 tons for Botswana, 30 tons for South Africa, and 10 tons for Namibia.

The United States largely accepts the African compromise but is weary of Zimbabwe's inclusion. Hugh Vickery, a U.S. delegate at CITES from the Interior Department, said the

United States believes Zimbabwe's government is complicit in elephant poaching and ivory smuggling and that the government cannot be trusted to run a sound conservation regime.

Due to United States and other nations' concerns, Zimbabwe's stockpiles will have to first be inspected and certified by the standing committee's investigators before any sales quota will be granted. Mixed reactions

Conservationists are cautiously optimistic. In a statement, Susan Lieberman of the World Wildlife Fund called it "a milestone in elephant history" but also noted that "unfortunately, time ran out at the conference to effectively deal with the critical threat to elephants in the wild -- poaching and illegal domestic ivory markets."

Other groups were more skeptical. "This is not the ideal situation," Michael Wamithi of the International Fund for Animal Welfare said in a press release. "We believe that any amount of ivory in the market serves as a trigger mechanism for increased poaching," he said. IFAW had initially supported Kenya and Mali's push for a 20-year ban.

The ivory will most likely be sold to Japan. China has an opportunity in 2008 to join the sale if approved by the CITES standing committee. Currently Japan is the country listed by CITES as a certified buyer.

All CITES decisions will be formally adopted in a final plenary meeting tomorrow. Some nations may try to reverse a committee decision made yesterday to impose trade restrictions on red and pink coral, brought about by a U.S. initiative to protect the slow-growing species.



E&E News PM
THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES Vol. 10 No. 9
Friday, June 15, 2007

ENDANGERED SPECIES: U.N. panel decides against trade curbs for corals

Nathanial Gronewold, special to E&ENews PM

UNITED NATIONS -- Red and pink coral species will not be listed for trade restrictions, as United Nations delegates today reversed an earlier committee decision in favor of pro-conservation regulations.

The decision came at the close of a U.N.-sponsored meeting in The Netherlands, putting an end to two weeks of negotiations on global protections for endangered plants and animals.

A U.S. proposal to add protections for the coral species -- used for jewelry and is considered vulnerable to overexploitation -- was overturned when Algeria and Morocco pushed for a vote to suspend the committee decision and reopen discussions. The vote means that no trade protections will be implemented, at least not until the next meeting when the United States can again push for the measure.

"These corals will continue to suffer from this free-for-all situation," lamented Steven Broad, executive director of the advocacy group, TRAFFIC, in a statement. "Today's decision was a question of expediency rather than a full examination of the facts." Key decisions by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species African elephants: Approved nine-year ban on ivory trade. Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa will be allowed to complete sales of government-held ivory stocks to Japan before the moratorium. China has also expressed interest in being an authorized buyer.

Coral: Reversed today a decision made earlier in this week to extend protection to 26 species in the Corallium genus.

Eels: Approved protection for European eels, whose populations have plunged 90 percent over 20 years.

Sharks: Failed to approved protection for the spiny dogfish and porbeagle, but banned trade on all but one species of the sawfish.

Tigers: Passed a resolution criticizing large-scale tiger farming. China is the only country to breed tigers on a commercial scale. And while Beijing has banned the domestic ban on sale of tiger parts, it said it was considering allowing the domestic sale of tiger-bone tonics.

Timber: Limited trade on Brazil wood, with exceptions being made for some items made

from it, such as bows for string instruments.

Whales: Refused Japan's request for a review of the status of large whales. The International Whaling Commission banned commercial whale hunting 21 years ago.

Source: United Nations, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Despite that reversal, the 14th meeting of parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in The Hague ended on an upbeat note, even though it saw "not a whole lot of changes made" to the listings of protected species, according to Michael Williams of the CITES secretariat.

The landmark agreement among African states on the ivory trade was "the big jewel in the crown," says Williams, adding that it marked the first time African ministers participated in CITES discussions and the first time a broad consensus was reached among all countries where the African elephant ranges.

The agreement allows for a one-time sale of ivory stockpiles to Japan and possibly China, pending CITES certification of national stores, to be followed by a further nine-year extension of the moratorium on ivory trading.

"This is much bigger than we think in that this is the first time we are seeing a strong, pro-conservation African block," said Peter Pueschel of the International Fund for Animal Welfare in a press release. Marine species, timber, tigers

The CITES conference also banned all commercial activity in several critically endangered species. Traders will no longer be permitted to buy or sell sawfish, a shark-like species with a long tooth-lined snout; slow loris, a small nocturnal primate; the Guatemalan beaded lizard; and two species of North African gazelle.

Efforts were made to expand protections for marine and timber species, but with mixed results. An attempt by Europe to list the spiny dogfish shark for protection twice failed, but a similar proposal on the European eel passed. Brazil succeeded in winning protections for its namesake, Brazilwood, but the conference rejected proposals to restrict trading in tropical cedar and rosewood.

Following an earlier failed move to expand commercial whaling at the International Whaling Commission's recent meeting in Anchorage, Japan and Iceland attempted to move the matter forward at CITES by requesting a review of the status of all cetaceans listed for protections. Their motion was rejected.

Proponents of strict safeguards for big cat species largely came out on top. CITES rebuked China for its tiger farms, adopting text emphasizing that "tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts or derivatives." Next month China will host a meeting to explore how tiger farms could enhance protections for wild tigers but insists that it has no plans to reverse its 1993 ban on domestic sales of tiger parts. Nevertheless, some worry that the planned meeting, which includes tours of tiger farms, is a disguised lobbying attempt to win support for reopening the market sometime in the future.

CITES also rejected a move by the United States and Canada to remove protections for the North American bobcat. However, Mozambique was allowed to increase its annual export quota for leopard skins and other hunting trophies from 60 to 120.

CITES was established in 1975 in an effort to stem what executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity Ahmed Djoghlaif calls "the greatest wave of extinctions since the disappearance of the dinosaurs." The United Nations estimates that up to 150 species a day are rendered extinct by human activities.

"Humanity's appetite for wild plants and animals and for wildlife products will clearly expand over the coming decades. We need to think creatively about how to manage the wildlife trade if we are to meet human needs while conserving vulnerable species," said CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers in a statement at the closing of the conference.

The next CITES conference will be held in Qatar in 2010.

Greenwire
Natural Resources Vol. 10 No. 9
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

ENDANGERED SPECIES: U.N. trade conference deadlocked on ending ivory ban

Nathanial Gronewold, special to Greenwire

UNITED NATIONS -- Negotiations by a United Nations panel reviewing the trade of endangered species remain deadlocked over whether to strengthen or relax the 1989 international ban on ivory trading.

The 14th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) in The Hague, Netherlands, closes Friday. African ministers plan to work throughout the night in the hopes of achieving a compromise on the ivory issue by tomorrow.

West African nations, led by Kenya and Mali, came to the CITES meeting demanding a further 20-year moratorium on ivory trading. They worry that any expansion of legal ivory sales will encourage poaching of their dwindling herds.

But southern African nations, where elephant populations are growing, are asking for regular annual quotas to sell off their ivory stockpiles, usually gathered from elephants that have died of natural causes or seized from poachers.

The European Commission had earlier tried to orchestrate a settlement, but those talks collapsed later in the day. Many delegates believe that an eventual compromise will likely include some form of one-off sale.

Ivory is the last major item on the agenda for the conference to work out. Earlier today the United States narrowly won adoption of its proposal to introduce restrictions on trading in red coral, popularly used to fashion jewelry but vulnerable to depletion due to its slow growth and reproductive cycle. Chinese tiger farms

In a separate matter, concerns have come up in side consultations over whether China is inching toward ending its domestic ban on the sale of tiger parts, despite reassurances from Chinese officials that they intend to keep it in place.

China announced that in July it will host an international meeting to discuss captive tiger farms and their potential role in promoting the conservation of wild tigers. Many governments and conservationists are worried that the trip may be a disguised lobbying effort. About three-quarters of the planned program is devoted to touring tiger farms.

"When you ask them ... how do tiger farms relate to conservation in the wild, they said they don't know, but they don't want to leave anything behind and that if tiger farms can be a way to benefit tigers in the wild then they should be having that discussion," U.S. Deputy Interior Secretary Todd Willens said. "That is of concern to the United States and to a number of the leading conservation groups."

Willens, head of the U.S. delegation at CITES, said in an interview that in spite of the planned July meeting's itinerary, Chinese government representatives have repeatedly told him that they have no plans to lift the current ban, which has been in place since 1993.

China is estimated to have bred about 5,000 tigers in captivity, and tiger farm operators are pressuring the government to reopen the market. Opponents insist that such a move would lead to a rapid increase in poaching, since it is much cheaper to kill tigers in the wild and transport them to markets than it is to breed the large cats in captivity.

Most tiger species have been placed on the World Conservation Union's "Red List of Threatened Species." Over the past week Russia announced the establishment of the new "Udege Legend" and "Roar of the Tiger" national parks, set up exclusively for the preservation of critically endangered Siberian and Amur tigers.

Centre Daily Times
Saturday, June 16, 2007

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Columbus Ledger Enquirer
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Contra Costa Times
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Guardian Unlimited
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Houston Chronicle

chron.com

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Monterey County
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THE TRIBUNE

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Everything New Orleans

The Times-Picayune

NewsFlash
UP-TO-THE-MINUTE AP NEWS REPORTS

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-- A list of the winners and losers at the two-week meeting of the 171-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in The Hague.

African elephants: Four southern African countries' can sell their ivory stockpiles. No more ivory sales allowed for nine years.

Asian tigers: CITES pressed China not to reopen domestic tiger bone trade and said tigers should not be bred in captivity for their body parts.

Sawfish: Trade regulated in the shark-like ray with its distinctive tooth-studded snout, which is coveted by collectors.

Brazilwood tree: Trade regulated in timber from the tree that provides wood for high-end stringed instrument bows.

European eels: Trade regulated in this European delicacy.

Sturgeon: More transparency and scientific scrutiny in the process of granting export quotas for caviar.

Rhinos: Better protection of wild rhinos and improved enforcement on the illegal trade in rhino horn.

LOSERS:

Sharks: The spiny dogfish and porbeagle, fished for fast food and gourmet shark fin soup, rejected for protection.

Red coral: Decision to regulate trade in the coral prized by jewelry makers is adopted but later overturned.

Spanish cedar: South American countries defeat regulations on their hardwood.

Rosewood: Proposals to regulate two species from South America were withdrawn.

CITES: Delegates argued for hours Friday over the CITES budget and approved only a 6 percent budget increase.



Reuters
Sunday, June 3, 2007

FACTBOX-CITES, regulator of trade in wild animals

AMSTERDAM, June 3 (Reuters) - A U.N. wildlife forum began a two-week meeting on Sunday to regulate global trade in endangered species of animals and plants.

Following are a few facts and figures about CITES, formally known as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora:

CITES is an agreement among 171 governments to ensure international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival and imposes controls on international trade in species.

CITES regulations apply to live plants and animals as well as body parts, such as ivory from elephant tusks or the fur of a fox or seal.

Species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices:

- Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. It bans trade in about 530 animal species, including tigers and great apes, and a little more than 300 plant species, such as some orchids and cacti. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in very special circumstances.

- Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled. It includes more than 4,460 animal species and 28,000 plant species, including all primates, cats, parrots, crocodiles and orchids not covered by Appendix I. - Appendix III contains more than 290 species that are protected in at least one country.

CITES members reach their decisions by consensus but if they fail to do so it goes to a two-thirds vote for major issues and appendix listings. Countries can also ask for a secret ballot.

At The Hague meeting, countries will be asked to consider proposals including:

FISH

SPINY DOGFISH - Germany on behalf of the European Union wants to place this shark species on Appendix II. The dogfish is over-exploited for its meat.

PORBEAGLE SHARK - Germany on behalf of the EU wants to add the shark, commercially valued for its meat and fins, to Appendix II because of population decline due to overfishing.

EUROPEAN EEL - Germany on behalf of the EU wants to place the fish, which spawns in the eastern Atlantic and migrates to coastal and freshwater ecosystems throughout

Europe and the Mediterranean, on Appendix II. A popular food, eel stocks have declined dramatically due partly to overfishing.

PINK OR RED CORALS - The United States wants to list the most valuable of all precious corals on Appendix II because of over-harvesting and the destruction of entire colonies by bottom trawls and dredges. Pink coral is used for jewellery and other decorative items.

SAWFISH - Kenya, Nicaragua and the United States want to place the sawfish on Appendix I due to over-fishing. Their rostral saws, teeth and fins bring high prices and are used in traditional medicine and as curios, while live fish are sought for aquaria.

BANGGAI CARDINELFISH - The United States has called for managing this species, which has been popular in the aquarium trade since 1995, through the CITES permit system.

SPINY LOBSTER - Brazil wants to add the Caribbean and the smoothtail spiny lobster, which have been over-fished for export to international food markets, to Appendix II.

PLANTS AND TREES

ROSEWOOD - Germany on behalf of the EU wants to place three species of rosewood, sought after for musical instruments, on Appendix II. The trees grow only in parts of Belize, Guatemala and Mexico and are threatened by increasing deforestation.

CEDAR - Germany on behalf of the EU wants the cedar of Central and South America placed on Appendix II due to extensive deforestation. Its timber is valued locally for its resistance to rotting and insects and internationally as precious wood.

MAMMALS ELEPHANTS - Botswana and Namibia want to maintain the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe in Appendix II while easing the conditions for permitting future sales of ivory.

- Botswana requests authorisation for a one-off sale of 40 tonnes of existing ivory stocks followed by an annual export quota of up to eight tonnes of ivory per year.

- Kenya and Mali want a 20-year trade ban in raw or worked ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The two say that allowing any trade in ivory will increase the poaching of elephants.

BOBCAT - The United States wants to take the bobcat or lynx out of CITES protection as the species are no longer threatened.

GAZELLE - Algeria wants to add three gazelle species, threatened with extinction, to Appendix I.

LEOPARD - Uganda wants to transfer its population of leopards from Appendix I to Appendix II to allow limited trade in sports trophies and skins for personal use.

SLOW LORIS - Cambodia want to transfer two species of the small, nocturnal primate native to South and Southeast Asia from Appendix II to Appendix I. The species are threatened by growing demand for traditional medicines and pets.

BLACK CAIMAN - Brazil wants to move its population of this species of crocodile, hunted illegally for its meat, from Appendix I to Appendix II.



Reuters
Friday, June 15, 2007

FACTBOX-U.N. curbs trade in species from eels to elephants

A U.N. wildlife conference in The Hague ending on Friday decided measures to curb international trade in species including elephants, corals, eels and timber.

Following is a summary of the main decisions at the 171-nation meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) from June 3-15.

ELEPHANTS - A 1989 ban on elephant ivory exports will be extended for nine years, after a sale from stockpiles by Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The deal was a compromise between nations wanting a 20-year ban and the four southern African nations who say their elephant numbers are rising.

TIGERS - The conference rebuked China for breeding about 5,000 tigers in farms, roughly the total left in the wild worldwide. China has said it is considering whether to overthrow a 1993 ban on domestic trade in tiger parts, using farmed tigers. The conference said: "Tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts or derivatives."

TIMBER - Brazilwood, used to produce violin bows, won tighter protection after Brazil sought trade curbs on the species. The European Union withdrew bids to curb logging of South and Central American cedar and rosewood trees, the source of some of the world's most valuable timber used in furniture and musical instruments. Latin American nations were opposed.

EUROPEAN EELS - Delegates agreed to regulate trade in European eels, worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year, because of overfishing and loss of habitats. Baby eels sold to Japan can sometimes cost, for the same weight, more than caviar and stocks have tumbled by 95 percent in a few decades.

CORALS - Trade in red and pink corals prized as jewelry for 5,000 years will be regulated for a first time to help the species recover after drastic over-exploitation. Corals are now harvested mainly in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific in a million dollar business. Necklaces of the corals, collectively known as Corallium, can cost up to \$20,000.

SAWFISH - The conference voted to outlaw trade in sawfish, a type of ray related to sharks which brandish a toothed snout that can grow up to almost two metres. Sawfish stocks are down 90 percent after decades of overfishing. Australia got an exemption to allow exports of live fish to aquariums abroad.

SHARKS - The forum rejected a European Union and U.S. bid for controls on a multi-million dollar trade in two types of sharks, prized for their meat and fins. The spiny dogfish, also known as rock salmon, and the porbeagle shark failed to get protection.
Dog

fish is widely used in the British dish fish and chips.

WHALES - The conference rebuffed a Japanese bid to review protection for whales.

URL: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L15390945.htm>



Scoop
Friday, June 1, 2007

FAO Panel Backs Trade Controls To Save Sawfish, Eels

Akanimo Sampson
Bureau Chief, Port Harcourt

A panel of experts convened by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) says they are in support of proposals submitted to the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to add sawfish and the European eel to a list of animal species subject to trade restrictions in order to protect stocks in the wild.

The FAO panel was convened as part of a process established by FAO and CITES to provide the Convention with expert advice from fisheries scientists on aquatic species being considered for trade restrictions.

Once a species is listed by CITES, its trade can be banned completely in extreme cases or, in other situations, permitted only if exporters can certify that the species was legally harvested and that trading it will not be detrimental to its survival in the wild. The Convention was established to conserve species whose status is being directly impacted by trade. It is not designed to protect species that are endangered for other reasons.

CITES members will be ruling on proposals to list a number of species when they gather in The Hague next week for the Convention's annual conference of parties (June 3-15). This year, seven aquatic animals have been proposed by member countries: Banggai cardinalfish, Brazilian lobsters, the European eel, porbeagle shark, red and pink coral, sawfish and spiny dogfish.

FAO's panel however, evaluated the proposals on the basis of biological and trade criteria outlined by CITES. These include a small population size and population declines significantly below historical levels as well as the importance of international trade as driving factor behind the over-harvesting causing the decline. The panel also considered the effectiveness of current management of the species.

Only two of the seven species show clear evidence to support listing: sawfish and the European eel. The panel found that populations of both have declined significantly from historical highs, that international trade is a key driver in their overexploitation, and that management of these species in the past has typically been poor. The panel also concluded that difficulties in enforcement and possible negative effects of listing these species would be limited, and that the listings would likely contribute to species conservation.

The panel found that the other proposed species did not meet the criteria for listing by CITES. It also deemed that for most of these species there are situation-specific limitations that would make enforcement of CITES restrictions difficult, which could

impose added administrative burdens on local authorities while having little potential positive impact for conservation.

The panel did note that while only two species qualify for CITES listing, for the other five species there are also serious management failures that give cause for concern, and called for these failures to be urgently remedied through better fisheries management in order to prevent rates of exploitation from exceeding acceptable levels.



IOL – Independent Online
Monday, May 28, 2007

Fish and timber industries in the spotlight

By Anna Mudeva, Reuters

Amsterdam - Fish and chips, coral jewellery and wooden musical instruments will take centre stage at a UN wildlife forum next week which seeks to curb the billion-dollar trade in endangered marine and tree species.

Commercially valuable species like the spiny dogfish and the porbeagle shark, the European eel, pink coral and rosewood and cedar trees - all threatened by over-use - feature high on the agenda of the June 3-15 meeting in The Hague.

The talks will also help shape the future of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), whose restrictions were once aimed at exotic species like leopards and parrots but are now focusing on more commercial species.

"In the past, we have hardly been allowed to get close to commercial fish and timber ... There was quite heavy opposition from producing countries," CITES Secretary General Willem Wijnstekers told Reuters.

"The debate over the inclusion of additional high-value fishery and timber species will be an important indicator of the direction CITES is likely to take over the coming years."

Many of the 37 proposals to be discussed at the 171-nation forum reflect growing concern about rapid depletion of marine and forest resources through overfishing and excessive logging.

Germany, on behalf of the European Union, wants to limit the trade in two sharks due to overuse: the spiny dogfish, featured in British fish and chips, and the porbeagle shark. It also seeks tighter protection for the European eel, a popular food.

"The sharks are particularly important because these are the first high value, high volume commercially exploited marine species to be proposed with a good chance of winning," said Carroll Muffett of Greenpeace.

The United States wants trade limits for the pink or red coral because overharvesting and sea bottom trawls and dredges threaten the tiny marine animal used for jewellery. And deforestation has prompted proposals to limit trade in rosewood, used as tonewood for musical instruments, and cedar from Central and South America, a decay-resistant scented wood.

RICH AND POOR AFFECTED

Environmentalists say this year's proposals showed that governments had begun to take CITES more seriously.

"We are really starting to understand that CITES does have implications for all of our lives whether we are living in a rich country or in a poor country," said Sue Mainka, senior programme coordinator at the World Conservation Union.

Charismatic animals like elephants, leopards and whales will still be on the agenda of CITES, which bans trade in 530 animal and more than 300 plant species. It also limits trade in 4,460 animal species and 28,000 plant species.

Elephants are expected to be a controversial issue.

CITES is credited for stemming the slaughter of the African elephant with its ban on international ivory trade in 1989.

But scientists say the killing of elephants for their tusks, mainly in central Africa, has now reached levels not seen since the ban, as Asian-run organised crime syndicates push the illegal ivory trade to unprecedented levels.

Now elephants are back on the agenda. Botswana and Namibia want looser conditions on ivory sales from southern African countries, while Kenya and Mali seek a 20-year moratorium from those states to reduce poaching.

FOURTEENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CITES: 3-15 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (COP-14) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) opened in The Hague, the Netherlands, on Sunday, 3 June 2007, and will continue until 15 June 2007. Delegates to COP-14 will consider 70 agenda items and 37 proposals to amend the CITES appendices. Discussions will take place in plenary and two committees, as well as in a Ministerial Roundtable on 13 June.

The agenda covers a wide range of topics, including: reports and recommendations from the Animals and Plants Committees; administrative matters, including the budget for 2009-2011; strategic matters, including the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013; implementation of the Convention, including compliance and enforcement issues; trade control and marking issues, including the management of annual export quotas; exemptions and special trade provisions, including the relationship between *in situ* conservation and *ex situ* captive breeding; and species trade and conservation issues, including trade in elephants, cetaceans, Asian big cats, sharks and sturgeons. The proposed amendments to the CITES appendices include proposals to list marine species such as the porbeagle shark and red and pink corals, as well as timber species such as cedar and rosewood.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CITES

CITES was established as a response to growing concerns that over-exploitation of wildlife through international trade was contributing to the rapid decline of many species of plants and animals around the world. The Convention was signed by representatives from 80 countries in Washington, DC, United States, on 3 March 1973, and entered into force on 1 July 1975. There are currently 171 parties to the Convention.

The aim of CITES is to ensure that international trade of wild animal and plant species does not threaten their survival. CITES parties regulate wildlife trade through controls and regulations on species listed in three appendices. Appendix I lists species endangered due to international trade. Trade in such species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Appendix-II

species are those that may become endangered if their trade is not regulated, thus they require controls aimed at preventing unsustainable use, maintaining ecosystems and preventing species from entering Appendix I. Appendix-III species are those subject to domestic regulation by a party requesting the cooperation of other parties to control international trade in that species.

In order to list a species in Appendix I or II, a party needs to submit a proposal for approval by the COP, supported by scientific and biological data on population and trade trends. The proposal must be adopted by a two-thirds majority of parties present and voting. As the trade impact on a species increases or decreases, the COP decides whether or not the species should be transferred or removed from the appendices.

There are approximately 5,000 fauna species and 28,000 flora species protected under the three CITES appendices. Parties regulate international trade of CITES species through a system of permits and certificates that are required before specimens listed in its appendices are imported, exported or introduced from the sea. Each party is required to adopt national legislation and to designate two national authorities, namely, a Management Authority responsible for issuing these permits and certificates based on the advice of the second national body, the Scientific Authority. These two national authorities also assist with CITES enforcement through cooperation with customs, police and other appropriate agencies. Parties maintain trade records that are forwarded annually to CITES, thus enabling the compilation of statistical information on the global volume of international trade in appendix-listed species.

The operational bodies of CITES include the Standing Committee (SC) and three scientific committees: the Plants Committee (PC), the Animals Committee (AC) and the Nomenclature Committee.

CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES: The first COP was held in Bern, Switzerland, in November 1976, and subsequent COPs have been held every two to three years. The COP meets to, *inter alia*: review progress in the conservation of species included in the appendices; discuss and adopt proposals to amend the lists of species in Appendices I and II; consider recommendations and proposals from parties, the Secretariat, the SC and the scientific committees; and recommend measures to

improve the effectiveness of the Convention and related to the functioning of the Secretariat. The COP also periodically reviews the list of resolutions and decisions, as well as the species listed in its appendices. A list of all resolutions in effect can be found at <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/index.shtml>

CITES COP-13: COP-13 met in Bangkok, Thailand, from 2-14 October 2004. Delegates addressed a range of topics, including 50 proposals to amend the CITES appendices. COP-13 approved the listing of ramin, agarwood, the great white shark and the humphead wrasse in Appendix II, as well as the uplisting of the irrawaddy dolphin from Appendix II to I. Regarding the African elephant, Namibia saw its request for an annual ivory quota rejected, but was allowed to proceed with a strictly controlled sale of traditional ivory carvings. Delegates also agreed on an action plan to crack down on unregulated domestic ivory markets. Namibia and South Africa were allowed an annual quota of five black rhinos each for trophy hunting, and Swaziland was also allowed to open up strictly controlled hunting of white rhinos. Other decisions focused on synergies with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), while enforcement issues received considerable attention.

INTERSESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

AC-21/PC-15: AC-21 and PC-15 convened from 17-25 May 2005, in Geneva, Switzerland. A joint session of the scientific committees was held on 20-21 May 2005, to discuss issues of common interest to both the AC and PC. The main task completed by AC-21 was a new review of significant trade (RST) process for a large number of species. PC-15 referred the issue of bigleaf mahogany to an intersessional working group, which was charged with presenting its findings at PC-16 for further consideration at COP-14.

SC-53: Held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 27 June-1 July 2005, SC-53 discussed issues including: the rules of procedure; the Strategic Vision; agreement in principle on a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the SC; the RST; financial matters; and budgetary matters. Other decisions focused on: synergies between CITES and CBD; cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); cooperation with FAO; conservation of and trade in great apes, tigers, and African and Asian rhinoceroses; and control of trade in African elephant ivory.

AC-22/PC-16: AC-22 and PC-16 convened from 3-13 July 2006, in Lima, Peru. A joint session of the scientific committees was held on 7-8 July. Among other items, PC-16 agreed not to subject bigleaf mahogany to an RST, established an intersessional working group on *Prunus africana*, and discussed a proposal on timber export quotas to be presented at COP-14. AC-22 adopted six recommendations on: RST in Appendix-II species; production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species; transport of live specimens; trade in sea cucumbers; conservation and management of sharks; and the periodic review of animal species included in the Convention's appendices.

SC-54: SC-54 was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2-6 October 2006. Over 20 decisions and recommendations were adopted and the Memorandum of Understanding between CITES and FAO was signed. The SC also agreed, *inter alia*, to: defer

consideration of trade in tigers to COP-14; review timber trade in Peru and Malaysia at future SC meetings; and designate Japan as a trading partner for the one-off sale of ivory stockpiles from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, but not to proceed with the sale at this point.

SC-55: Held in The Hague on 2 June 2007, SC-55 addressed substantive and organizational matters for COP-14. The SC, *inter alia*, approved the baseline information on elephant poaching and population levels and confirmed Japan's status as trading partner, thereby allowing the one-off sale of 60 tonnes of ivory from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, agreed at COP-12, to proceed.

OPENING OF COP-14

Welcoming delegates to The Hague, Gerda Verburg, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Netherlands, and COP-14 Chair, underscored that CITES has a contribution to make to the global target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010 and the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving poverty by 2015. She highlighted the inaugural Ministerial Roundtable at COP-14 as an opportunity to strengthen the authority of CITES and its support base through political leadership and new alliances, and to discuss CITES' role with regard to economically valuable resources such as fisheries and timber.

Rabin Baldewsingh, Deputy Mayor of The Hague, noted the history of the city, and highlighted its importance as an international center of peace, justice and security.

Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP, linked species conservation to sustainable development, and added that only robust species populations will be able to adapt to a changing climate. Underlining UNEP's continuing commitment to support CITES, he called on governments and the private sector to give CITES the full backing and resources needed to make its mission and new Strategic Vision a success.

Amb. Cristian Maquieira, SC Chair (Chile), highlighted the new Strategic Vision, noting the need to place the Convention within the wider framework of global environmental developments, and to contribute to ongoing UN discussions on international environmental governance. He also emphasized the need to address key issues such as the definition of "introduction from the sea" to determine which State is in charge of issuing permits related to certain marine species. In addition, he voiced grave concern for the situation of tigers, expressing hope that an agreement would be reached at COP-14 on a concrete plan to prevent this species' extinction.

Willem Wijnstekers, CITES Secretary General, stressed the adaptability of CITES, noting that the Convention has learned to balance conservation and sustainable use. Emphasizing linkages between conservation and poverty reduction, he referred to the recent WWF report entitled "Species and People: Linked Futures." He further highlighted proposals to list commercially-traded timber and marine species, saying that COP-14's Ministerial Roundtable should consider how CITES can be used at an earlier stage in conserving such species. In closing, he stressed that these developments and CITES' expansion into new policy areas requires adequate financing.

Following live vocal and musical performances, and sound and light shows, the meeting was declared open.

CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS: MONDAY, 4 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) convened in plenary on Monday morning, 4 June 2007, and addressed: organizational matters; reports by the Animals Committee (AC), Plants Committee (PC), Standing Committee (SC) and Nomenclature Committee (NC), as well as a joint report of the AC and PC; and cooperation with other organizations. In the afternoon, delegates met in closed sessions with their regional groups.

PLENARY

SC Chair Cristian Maquieira opened the meeting and invited delegates to consider the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure for CoP14 (CoP14 Doc.1 (Rev.1)), presented by the Secretariat. He noted proposed amendments recommended by the SC relating to, *inter alia*, electronic voting and the appointment of an alternate President. The Rules of Procedure were then adopted with the proposed amendments.

Delegates were then invited to nominate the officers for CoP14. Gerda Verburg, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Netherlands, was elected President of CoP14 and André van der Zande, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Netherlands, as alternate President. Vice-Presidents, proposed by each region and elected by CoP14, are: Marshall Jones (US); Marcel Calvar (Uruguay); Greg Leach (Australia, Chair of Committee I); and C.S. Cheung (Hong Kong SAR, China, Chair of Committee II).

CoP14 President Verburg highlighted the human aspects of CITES, noting that species conservation must go hand-in-hand with the improvement of livelihoods in order to achieve the goals of halting biodiversity loss and eradicating poverty.

Youth representatives addressed the Conference, voicing their concern about the illegal poaching of elephants and urging CoP14 to implement a ban on ivory trade. Youth representatives also reported on the first student CITES CoP held in The Hague in May 2007. They said that during this simulation exercise participants considered issues on the CoP14 agenda, and called on other multilateral environmental agreements to follow suit in organizing student CoPs.

Delegates adopted CoP14's agenda and working programme (CoP14 Doc.3 (Rev.1) and CoP14 Doc.4) with an amendment by Uganda to address the issue of the African leopard under Committee I discussions on Appendix-I species subject to export quotas. Responding to a request by the US, SC Chair Maquieira noted that agenda items not covered by SC55 would be taken up at SC56 immediately following CoP14 on 15 June 2007.

Delegates elected the Credentials Committee with Sonja Meintjes (South Africa) as Chair and Cameroon, China, Germany and US as members.

The Secretariat introduced, and delegates adopted, the list of observers (CoP14 Doc.6), which includes 18 intergovernmental organizations and 147 non-governmental organizations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Animals Committee: AC Chair Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) presented the report (CoP14 Doc.8.2), highlighting in particular: draft decisions for consideration by CoP14 on the review of significant trade (RST) in specimens of Appendix-II species; progress on the first country-based RST in Madagascar; selection of new species to be subject to an RST; CITES-listed animal species selected for periodic review; completion of implementation of CoP decisions 13.96 and 13.97 relating to fossil corals; submission of an information document on sturgeons to SC54; and two recommendations to CoP14 on the periodic review of *Felidae* and the budget of the AC.

ARGENTINA stated that AC22's consideration of a proposed periodic review on fin whales had not allowed time for regional discussion, and that the vote of the Central and South America and the Caribbean representative did not accurately reflect country positions within the region. Supported by Germany on behalf of the EU, she said that a review of whale stocks should not take place under CITES as whale stocks are being examined by the International Whaling Commission. CoP14 President Verburg referred the matter to Committee I.

Standing Committee: SC Chair Maquieira presented an oral report. He lauded the work of the Strategic Plan Working Group chaired by Ghana, noting the sometimes controversial discussions on balancing conservation, sustainable development and MDGs. He said that the Working Group had succeeded in drafting the new strategic plan and that the Secretariat had also prepared a costed work programme, indicating the financial implications of the various proposals. On the definition of

“introduction from the sea,” he noted that discussions had hinged on defining maritime areas beyond national jurisdiction, and on the role of regional fisheries organizations, and suggested that these issues should be further addressed during CoP14.

SC Chair Maquieira welcomed improvements in institutional cooperation, including discussions on admitting CITES as an observer at the WTO. On species-specific issues, he noted, *inter alia*: the urgency of addressing the future of tigers and other Asian big cats; the outcome of lengthy discussions on elephants; and progress in addressing trade in bigleaf mahogany. He also noted: work on financial issues, emphasizing timely payment of financial contributions; and the Secretariat’s work on enforcement and implementation, including requesting a report from Egypt on trade in primates and ivory.

Plants Committee: PC Chair Margarita Clemente (Spain) presented the report (CoP14 Doc.8.3 (Rev.1)). She highlighted work undertaken on: the periodic review of CITES-listed plant taxa (CoP14 Inf.11); selection of species for an RST; and collaboration with CBD on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (CoP14 Inf.10). She expressed the PC’s concern about the effective implementation of CITES relating to medicinal plants in the Himalayan region, and the lack of identification materials for plant species in general, and noted the PC’s proposal on updating annotations for medicinal plants.

Regarding timber species, PC Chair Clemente outlined intersessional activities on, *inter alia*, bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp), and *Prunus africana*, noting that the PC focused on the issue of non-detriment findings. She also expressed hope that new timber species listings proposed by the PC will be approved by CoP14.

Joint Report of the AC and PC: AC Chair Althaus and PC Chair Clemente reported on the joint work of their Committees (CoP14 Doc.8.4). AC Chair Althaus said that both joint sessions were useful but presented some logistical challenges for host countries, and recommended that arrangements for future meetings be considered by the CoP. On the issue of review of the scientific committees, he noted that a summary of the self-evaluation was forwarded to the External Evaluation Working Group and suggested that the CoP take into account the joint AC and PC working group’s recommendations on the issue. He also noted the need for field-testing of the manual for regional representatives, and that both AC and PC Chairs were *ex officio* members of the Export Quota Working Group and were kept abreast of the group’s work and report (CoP14 Doc.36). On the RST, he congratulated Madagascar on its progress in implementing its CITES Action Plan.

PC Chair Clemente completed the joint report, noting the results of discussions on the transport of live animals and the draft decision on the Master’s course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade, and stating that the potential for CITES to contribute to the alien invasive species issue is limited.

Nomenclature Committee: NC Co-Chairs Noel McGough (UK) and Ute Grimm (Germany) presented the report (CoP14 Doc.8.5). On the review of the scientific committees, NC Co-Chair McGough highlighted the NC’s recommendation that in the future, the NC could best function as a working group of the AC and PC, but that independence of decision making on nomenclature issues and consistency of approach should be maintained. On flora nomenclature, he outlined proposals for adoption of checklists on: *Hoodia*; *Guaiacum*; orchid genera

Aerides, *Coelogyne*, *Comparettia* and *Masdevallia*; *Aloe* and *Pachypodium*; and *Bulbophyllum* and allied taxa (Orchidaceae). On the proposed flora workplan, he highlighted a revision of the cacti checklist and an update and expansion of the orchids checklist.

On fauna nomenclature, NC Co-Chair Grimm highlighted proposals for adoption of checklists on, *inter alia*; birds; mammals; turtles and tortoises; *Cordylus* spp; amphibians; and Iguanidae genera *Amblyrhynchus*, *Brachylophus*, *Conolophus*, *Cyclura*, *Iguana*, and *Sauromalus*. On the proposed fauna workplan, she emphasized that the development of a checklist for corals is a priority.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: The GLOBAL TIGER FORUM stressed the importance of tiger conservation and called on CITES and others to support capacity building for enforcement. The INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION (ITTO) noted that ongoing cooperation with the CITES Secretariat will be further strengthened by a capacity-building project, and that the proposal on cooperation with CITES was received favorably at the 42nd session of the International Tropical Timber Council. The RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS stressed the importance of the Biodiversity Liaison Group that works to enhance cooperation between five biodiversity-related Conventions.

The UN OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME noted its recent resolution on combating illegal trafficking of forest products and highlighted the role that the UN Conventions Against Corruption and Against Transnational Organized Crime can play in combating illegal wildlife trade.

IN THE CORRIDORS

On Sunday the hustle and bustle generated by besuited and tie-wearing CITES CoP14 delegates at The Hague’s World Forum Conference Center starkly contrasted with the relaxed locals strolling and biking through the lush parks nearby. The weekend activities included the 55th meeting of the Standing Committee, characterized by one participant as “full of suspense and bold moves.” Some delegates commented that the “sustainable trade team” has taken the lead in the elephant debate, with the “green light” given to the one-off sale of ivory from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa to Japan. Tension was reported to be very high during the tied vote on whether to designate China as a second trading partner for this sale. One observer wondered if the issue may be reopened at CoP14, while others, caught unawares by the decision, pondered how this would play off *vis-à-vis* the proposed 20-year moratorium on ivory trade by the “conservation team.” Meanwhile, the African elephant range states dialogue, which is a major locus of this debate, has not yet resulted in an agreed communiqué. The “sustainable trade team” also considered it had made a head start following the dismissal of moves to ban trade in bigleaf mahogany, arguing that this may become a leading case for CITES’ regulation of timber trade.

Returning to the topic of large charismatic mammals, Japan’s “bold move” to request the review of cetaceans in the CITES appendices is expected to generate whale-sized ripples during the week. But as SC Chair Maquieira observed, the international community always comes to The Hague, a renowned center of international justice, in the hope of resolving the most contentious of matters.

CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS:

TUESDAY, 5 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) convened in two committees throughout the day. Committee I, chaired by Greg Leach (Australia), considered, *inter alia*, production systems, trade in alien invasive species, species trade and conservation issues, and export quotas for African leopard and black rhinoceros. Committee II, chaired by Chi Sun Cheung (Hong Kong, SAR-China), addressed, *inter alia*, the budget, the strategic vision, and CITES and livelihoods. Working groups were established on the strategic vision, the budget, the review of scientific committees, sea cucumbers, and hawksbill turtle.

COMMITTEE I

INTERNATIONAL EXPERT WORKSHOP ON NDF:

MEXICO introduced its proposal for an expert workshop on non-detriment findings (NDFs) (CoP14 Doc.35), which was approved by the Committee.

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES: AC Chair Althaus reported a lack of consensus in the joint AC and PC intersessional working group on the issue (CoP14 Doc.38), proposing to extend the group's mandate beyond CoP14. AUSTRALIA requested including other production systems such as aquaculture in the mandate, and the proposal was approved.

TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS: AC Chair Althaus introduced the agenda item (CoP14 Doc.41), including draft decisions on transport of live animals by road, rail and sea, and on data collection for mortality of live specimens during transportation. Committee I approved the draft decisions with a minor amendment by the Secretariat.

RST IN SPECIMENS OF APPENDIX-II SPECIES: AC Chair Althaus introduced draft decisions related to *Psittacus erithacus* (African grey parrot) and *Tridacnidae* (giant clams) (CoP14 Doc.14.2), which were approved by the Committee with minor amendments.

TRADE IN ALIEN INVASIVE SPECIES: Committee I approved the joint AC and PC recommendation to delete the section contained in Resolution Conf.13.10 (alien invasive species) that instructs the Secretariat and the scientific committees to undertake activities on the issue.

NOMENCLATURE ISSUES: Committee I approved the list of standard references proposed by the Nomenclature Committee. On harmonizing CITES' taxonomy and

nomenclature with other MEAs, the EU and MEXICO cautioned against continual changes, which can require legislative adjustments at the national level.

SPECIES TRADE AND CONSERVATION ISSUES:

Saiga antelope: The Secretariat introduced three draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.56), and highlighted the need to manage stockpiles of Saiga parts and derivatives in trading and consuming countries. MONGOLIA urged importing countries to consider alternatives to Saiga horn in traditional medicines. The RUSSIAN FEDERATION announced its intention to sign the range state Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS). SINGAPORE questioned references to illegal export from Malaysia and Singapore, and proposed instead referring to "Saiga-trading countries." Delegates adopted the draft decisions as amended by Singapore.

SPECIES TRADE AND CONSERVATION ISSUES:

Hawksbill turtle: The Secretariat introduced the agenda item (CoP14 Doc.58), and recommended no further action on the issue, noting: the limited response from range states; the lack of a regional strategy despite a number of national and bilateral initiatives; and the inability to hold a regional workshop, agreed to at CoP13, due to insufficient funding.

CUBA announced its voluntary moratorium on marine turtle harvesting starting in 2008 and, supported by DOMINICA and COSTA RICA, called for continued CITES involvement in the issue. The US, supported by SAINT LUCIA, drew attention to regional initiatives, notably the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, and opposed further CITES action on the issue. MEXICO and VENEZUELA urged synergies with regional processes. WWF and TRAFFIC said the regional workshop should not be held under the auspices of CITES. Chair Leach referred the matter to a working group to be chaired by Mexico.

Sea cucumbers: AC Chair Althaus introduced the agenda item (CoP14 Doc.62), including four draft decisions concerning sea cucumbers in the families *Holothuriidae* and *Stichopodidae*. Following a number of proposed amendments from parties, Chair Leach established a working group, to be chaired by the EU.

APPENDIX-I SPECIES SUBJECT TO EXPORT

QUOTAS: Leopard export quotas for Mozambique: MOZAMBIQUE requested approval to increase its annual export quota for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use from 60 to 120 (CoP14 Doc.37.1). Many parties and NGOs supported the proposal, with several stating that the increase was

conservative and would be sustainable. ISRAEL and HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL cautioned that the increase was based on out-of-date data and was not scientifically rigorous. The proposal was approved by consensus, with ISRAEL formally registering its concern.

Leopard export quotas for Uganda: UGANDA presented its revised proposal to reduce the annual quota from 50 to 28 specimens. The proposal was approved by the Committee, noting ISRAEL's reservation, and with the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO expressing concern over the threat of increased poaching of its leopard populations.

Black rhinoceros export quotas for Namibia and South Africa: KENYA introduced its proposal for repealing Namibia and South Africa's annual quotas of five black rhinoceroses (*Diceros bicornis*) (CoP14 Doc.37.2), citing concerns about sustainability of quota levels and increased poaching. Supported by DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO and RWANDA, he suggested that other African countries could pay Namibia and South Africa for the costs of translocating any unwanted animals. NAMIBIA and SOUTH AFRICA stressed the conservation and livelihood benefits of trophy hunting and refuted claims of unsustainable quota levels and poaching increases. The issue was put to a vote, resulting in Kenya's proposal being rejected.

COMMITTEE II

FINANCING AND BUDGET: Delegates considered and adopted the 2004-2006 financial reports (CoP14 Doc.7.1 (Rev.1)) and estimated expenditures for 2007 (CoP14 Doc.7.2 (Rev.1)).

Following discussions on the strategic vision, Secretary-General Wijnstekers introduced the budget for the next triennium in its new format as a costed work programme (CoP14 Doc.7.3 (Rev.1)). He clarified that the document presents all activities as fully funded through the core trust fund, stressing that parties may decide to prioritize activities by making some activities, or elements of them, conditional upon voluntary or external sources of funding.

The EU supported the new costed work programme and stated that most activities should be funded from the core trust fund. COLOMBIA noted the need to closely link the work of the strategic vision and budget working groups and, supported by BRAZIL and MALAYSIA, said that developing country priorities must not be left unfunded.

ARGENTINA, supported by the UK, JAPAN and FRANCE, requested a table equivalent to the past triennium's budget presentation and Secretary-General Wijnstekers said such information will be provided on the understanding that ultimately the budget will be assessed in the new format. Delegates discussed, voted, and decided to establish an open-ended budget working group chaired by Colman O'Criodain (Ireland).

STRATEGIC VISION: CANADA, Vice-Chair of the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG), presented the document (CoP14 Doc.11), noting, *inter alia*, that the SPWG had not drafted a prescriptive action plan, preferring that the strategic vision be a framework document.

The EU and others noted the difficulty of combining the improvement of CITES' implementation with the broader global biodiversity agenda. NORWAY, ICELAND and FLORA AND FAUNA INTERNATIONAL supported the Secretariat's comment that the present draft does not exceed CITES' mandate.

Secretary-General Wijnstekers emphasized that the strategic vision does not necessarily require increased contributions. AUSTRALIA underscored that CITES should not be subordinate to other processes, and SWITZERLAND stressed it should complement other MEAs.

BRAZIL, on behalf of GRULAC, supported by ZIMBABWE, KENYA and MALAYSIA, called for technical support and capacity building for developing countries, and CHINA stressed that the strategic vision should focus on individual species rather than the broad categories of marine and timber, citing the Convention's limited financial resources.

Noting the importance of domestic measures and capacity building, JAPAN emphasized formalizing a facilitation process for the implementation of the strategic vision. ISRAEL, supported by KENYA, said the right to apply stricter domestic measures is enshrined in the Convention and opposed restricting this right within the strategic vision. MALAYSIA said that requiring a risk assessment within NDF would impose excessive financial burden on parties. The INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE lamented the emphasis on trade at the expense of conservation. Delegates agreed to establish a working group chaired by Lynda Maltby (Canada) and to submit written comments on the issue.

REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES: AUSTRALIA introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.12), which includes a suggestion from the Secretariat to merge the CITES scientific committees. The EU, NEW ZEALAND, ARGENTINA, INDONESIA, CHINA, MEXICO and INDIA opposed the Secretariat's suggestion. Many, however, expressed support for the external evaluation working group's proposal to make the Nomenclature Committee a working group of the AC and PC. The EU, supported by the AC and PC Chairs, expressed concern about proposed deletions of portions of the AC and PC mandates. INDONESIA supported, while CHINA and the EU opposed, the need for independent committee chairs, with CHINA citing concerns about the disruption of regional balance. A working group, chaired by Germany, was established on the issue.

ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES: AC Chair Althaus introduced the document on the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (AAPGs) (CoP14 Doc.13). INDIA said he could only support application of those principles that are in line with CITES. The EU, supported by SWITZERLAND and ARGENTINA, proposed using the AAPGs in non-detriment findings "where appropriate" to reflect the AC/PC's recommendation. MALAYSIA, the US and BOTSWANA said that the EU proposal did not go far enough, with the US favoring the AC/PC's exact language stating that the AAPGs be used as a "voluntary" tool in the making of NDFs. AUSTRALIA opposed the AC/PC recommendations and the EU proposal. The matter was referred to informal consultations between the EU, the US and others.

CITES AND LIVELIHOODS: ARGENTINA introduced the proposal on CITES and livelihoods (CoP14 Doc.14), which was supported by MEXICO, CHINA and the EU. MEXICO, however, said activities under this item should be funded by external sources, and the EU emphasized that decisions on species listings should be based solely on biological and trade criteria. The UK noted that the current text could be construed to place livelihoods above biodiversity and delegates agreed to establish a drafting group to revise the text to alleviate NGO concerns in this regard.

IN THE CORRIDORS

As Tuesday unfolded delegates began tackling some of the substantive issues on the agenda, bringing to light those likely to challenge CoP14's consensual mettle.

In the convention center's spacious corridors participants were heard commenting on Monday afternoon's regional meetings. Several welcomed GRULAC's emerging unified position on many key issues, but one cautioned that the region's new found "one voice" may be drowned in the cacophony of national interests in timber and fisheries trade.

Others noted that while the African regional meeting focused on procedural issues, division appears likely to continue in the African Elephant Range States Dialogue, with one delegate lamenting that all three scenarios laid out in a working text presented to the group involve ivory sales. Some observers also commented that Committee I's acrimonious debate on black rhino trophy hunting quotas does not bode well for those laboring to achieve a region-wide consensus on elephant proposals.

CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS: WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) convened in two committees throughout the day. Several drafting and working groups also met. Committee I, *inter alia*, voted not to subject great whales to a periodic review as long as a moratorium in the International Whaling Commission (IWC) remains in place, and established a working group on sharks. Committee II, *inter alia*, adopted decisions on international cooperation and established working groups on CITES and livelihoods, sturgeons, compliance, and personal and household effects.

COMMITTEE I

Committee I approved: the Philippines' proposal to register a captive breeding operation for eight Appendix-I bird species (CoP14 Doc.47), by 50 to 22 votes; and the US' proposal clarifying that plant species without annotations include all parts and derivatives (CoP14 Doc.67), by consensus. The Committee also approved plant listing proposals on: removing *Agave arizonica* from Appendix I (CoP14 Prop.22), submitted by the US; transferring *Nolina interrata* from Appendix I to Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.23), submitted by the US; deleting *Pereskia* spp. and *Quiabentia* spp. from Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.24), submitted by Argentina; and deleting *Pereskiaopsis* spp. from Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.25), submitted by Mexico.

SPECIES TRADE AND CONSERVATION ISSUES:

Rhinoceroses: The Secretariat's recommendations on conservation and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses (CoP14 Doc.54) were accepted by consensus following a minor amendment from the EU. Supporting the proposals, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA and SWAZILAND cautioned that information on stockpiles is sensitive and must be treated confidentially. TRAFFIC urged countries to combat poaching by strengthening cross-border law enforcement and the prosecution of smugglers. KENYA called for destroying rhino-horn stockpiles and consulting range states when preparing reports.

Cetaceans: JAPAN proposed a periodic review of all listed cetaceans (CoP14 Doc.51), which it said seeks to ensure that the Convention operates on the basis of current scientific information, and would not affect the IWC moratorium. Supporting the resolution, NORWAY and SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS cautioned against basing CITES decisions on criteria other than science, and CHINA welcomed additional information that would result from the review.

Opposing the proposal: AUSTRALIA emphasized current IWC findings on the state of whale stocks and said that the IWC is the agreed competent authority; ARGENTINA, on behalf of several GRULAC countries, said a review would duplicate the IWC Scientific Commission process; and the EU reminded parties of the recent IWC resolution on interaction between CITES and IWC (CoP14 Inf.44) which states that the commercial whaling moratorium is still in place. BRAZIL encouraged non-lethal use of whales. The WHALE AND DOLPHIN CONSERVATION SOCIETY, on behalf of SSN, noted that IWC Scientific Commission reviews are based on sound scientific data.

The proposal was then rejected, by 26 to 54 votes.

Fin whales: ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL and the US opposed the AC proposal to include the central stock of the North Atlantic fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) in the periodic review (CoP14 Doc.8.2). AUSTRALIA's proposal that no periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the IWC moratorium is in place, was approved by 59 to 21 votes.

Sharks: AC Chair Althaus and AC Shark Working Group Chair Rod Hay (New Zealand) introduced several AC recommendations on sharks, including three listing proposals (CoP14 Doc.59.1). AUSTRALIA introduced further recommendations (CoP14 Doc.59.2) and said CITES must continue work on sharks because of threats such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and inadequate fisheries management. The US and the EU supported the proposed listings. CHINA, NAMIBIA and JAPAN warned against duplicating FAO work and urged CITES to concentrate on listed species, with NAMIBIA opposing the proposed shark listings. Committee I established a working group, chaired by New Zealand, to consolidate and simplify the two proposals.

PC PROPOSALS: PC Chair Clemente presented the PC proposals (CoP14 Doc.8.3 (Rev.1)). Delegates adopted with minor amendments proposals and recommendations on:

- preventing illegal trade in Asian plant species (*Cistanche deserticola*, *Dioscorea deltoidea*, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Picrorhiza kurroa*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Rauvolfia serpentina*, and *Taxus wallichiana*) and promoting regional coordination;
- cooperation with the CBD on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;
- developing criteria and indicators for implementing NDFs for taxa of high priority timber species, and *Prunus africana* and other medicinal plants;
- amending the appendices in relation to tree species using the new CITES-listing criteria and the results of regional

workshops on sustainable management of timber species, with the US noting concern over proposals to list certain groups of species rather than individual species;

- developing identification materials and amending annotations for agarwood-producing taxa, and providing a definition of non-timber forest products for CoP15's consideration; and
- amending Resolution Conf.10.13 (Rev. CoP13) on timber species, including a new definition of "artificially propagated," and the addition of voluntary annual national export quotas.

LISTING PROPOSALS: SWITZERLAND introduced its proposal to merge and amend annotations on *Cactaceae* spp. (#4) and *Orchidaceae* spp. (#8) in Appendix II, and all taxa annotated with #1 (CoP14 Prop.26). The US opposed the proposal, and TRAFFIC highlighted several inconsistencies, urging parties to refer the proposal to the PC for review. Discussions will continue on Thursday.

COMMITTEE II

CITES AND LIVELIHOODS: Delegates continued consideration of this issue, with many developing countries and NGOs supporting the proposed decisions (CoP14 Doc.14). CANADA noted that guidelines should be voluntary and subject to external funding and, with AUSTRALIA, the US and FIJI, cautioned that livelihood considerations should not affect the scientific decision-making process, but rather relate to CITES implementation. FFI and IWMC noted that the proposed guidelines would clarify this. BORN FREE FOUNDATION and IFAW cautioned against shifting emphasis from CITES' core biodiversity conservation tasks. A drafting group, chaired by John Donaldson (South Africa), was established.

WILDLIFE TRADE POLICY REVIEWS: The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.15), noting that reviews provide a voluntary way for countries to improve their existing wildlife trade policies. LIBERIA and MAURITIUS requested assistance to carry out reviews. VIET NAM, MADAGASCAR and UGANDA shared their experiences from the pilot phase of the project. The US noted the need to improve the framework and, supported by ARGENTINA and CHINA, emphasized that funding should come from external sources. The US, ARGENTINA and BRAZIL also expressed concern about the proposed expansion of the Secretariat's work, and SSN noted that some proposed additional tasks exceed CITES' mandate. SWITZERLAND, UNEP, TRAFFIC, and FFI voiced their continued support for the process. The Secretariat agreed to revise the text in consultation with interested parties.

SPECIES TRADE AND CONSERVATION ISSUES:
Sturgeons and paddlefish: The Secretariat presented the report (CoP14 Doc.60.1), and urged sturgeon range states to contribute information to the recently created UNEP-WCMC database. CHINA noted that the lack of data from range states is due to zero export quotas in 2006. The EU noted that the database should be limited to caviar trade information provided by all caviar-trading countries. TRAFFIC and WWF called for an independent and transparent process for quota setting, and advocated limiting the timeframe for exports to the catch year.

IRAN presented the proposal of the SC54 Working Group on Sturgeons (CoP14 Doc.60.2.1), noting lack of consensus on several issues, which, together with the RUSSIAN FEDERATION's proposal (CoP14 Doc.60.2.2), was referred to a working group to be chaired by the EU.

COMPLIANCE: NORWAY reported on progress in developing guidelines for compliance with the Convention (CoP14 Doc.23). ARGENTINA, BRAZIL and JAPAN underscored that the guidelines should focus on facilitative measures. Committee II Chair Cheung established a working group to be chaired by Norway.

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS: CHINA presented the report of the Working Group on Personal and Household Effects (CoP14 Doc.45). Following comments by the EU, ARGENTINA and INDONESIA, a working group, to be chaired by China, was established.

CAPACITY BUILDING: The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.16). CHINA, MEXICO, ARGENTINA and the US emphasized that the proposed activities should be funded by external sources. On the CITES Virtual College, the EU, supported by CHILE, MEXICO, and the US, requested that the Secretariat investigate distance learning initiatives, while others emphasized existing Master's courses. PC Chair Clemente noted decisions on support for Master's courses in the joint AC/PC report (CoP14 Doc.8.4). CHINA, CHILE, KUWAIT, and SAUDI ARABIA urged provision of capacity-building tools in all UN languages. FIJI and AUSTRALIA called for an intersessional Oceania regional capacity-building workshop on enforcement. The Secretariat agreed to incorporate comments into the draft decision.

JOINT REPORT OF THE AC AND PC CHAIRS: AC Chair Althaus introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.8.4). Parties adopted the AC/PC Chairs' suggestions on the length of meetings, and on rules of procedure for the AC and PC meetings, including three amendments proposed by the Secretariat. On the manual for regional representatives, delegates approved a decision based on the AC/PC draft, the Secretariat's suggestions on testing the manual, and MEXICO's proposal that the Secretariat begin seeking funding for publication prior to completion of the test phase.

COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTIES: The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.17). On stricter domestic measures, the EU, *inter alia*, asserted that import permits are justified by the need to ensure wild species' survival, and disputed that negotiators of Article XIV (Effect on Domestic Legislation and International Conventions) envisioned that "stricter domestic measures would be adopted primarily by exporting and not importing countries." He supported the draft decisions but proposed several amendments, including: that the review should determine whether measures effectively achieve CITES' objectives; and that the consultant's report should assess whether there is a need to clarify, revise or repeal CoP resolutions.

The US, supported by KENYA and SSN, suggested retiring the draft decisions, saying that they could restrict sovereignty. AUSTRALIA supported the review "as and when appropriate" but said such measures must be consistent with WTO and must have a justified, positive environmental outcome. He also proposed amendments including: subjecting the review to the availability of external funds; and, opposed by NORWAY, deleting the assessment of whether parties have coherent positions on environment and wildlife trade in international fora.

Delegates approved the draft decisions, with Australia's proposed deletion accepted following a vote, and all other amendments accepted by consensus.

IN THE CORRIDORS

On Wednesday, CoP14 discussions on marine and timber species challenged delegates to navigate the turbulent waters of big business and politics that underlie biodiversity conservation. Commenting on Committee I's rejection of a Japanese proposal to subject all listed cetacean species to periodic review, one delegate expressed relief that CITES was "out of danger" on this contentious issue, while another admitted to "understanding the whaling nations' frustration." On timber, some delegates pointed to the thorny listing proposals for cedar and rosewood, currently subject to a political tug-of-war across the Atlantic Ocean.

CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS: THURSDAY, 7 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to CITES convened in two committees throughout the day. Several drafting, and working groups also met. Committee I addressed, *inter alia*, the selection of species for periodic review, and listing proposals for timber species, with the EU withdrawing its proposals on cedar and rosewood. Committee II addressed, *inter alia*, CITES cooperation with ITTO and FAO, rejecting the establishment of a fishery working group.

COMMITTEE I

PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE APPENDICES: AC Chair Althaus presented the proposal (CoP14 Doc.66). MEXICO proposed specifying selection criteria in the draft resolution, CANADA stressed that selection of species for periodic review should be based on a scientific decision-making process under CITES, and AUSTRALIA advocated a simplified and transparent process. The EU advocated the SC's close involvement in the selection process, while the US said that existing confusion regarding the SC's role causes significant delays. A working group was established to be chaired by the US.

LISTING PROPOSALS: Committee I accepted the US proposal on removing *Shortia galacifolia* (Oconee bells) from Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.28). SWITZERLAND withdrew its proposals on merging and amending annotations (CoP14 Prop.26), and on annotations for *Euphorbia* spp. included in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.29), instead proposing draft decisions that refer these matters to the PC. Small drafting groups were established for each. A proposal to amend annotations for various taxa (CoP14 Prop.27), submitted by Switzerland as Depository Government, was approved by consensus with an amendment removing references to Appendix-III species.

Timber species: Hans Hoogeveen, Chair of the seventh session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF7) reported on the outcomes of UNFF7, held in April 2007 in New York, and called for continued CITES and UNFF cooperation towards achieving sustainable forest management.

Cedar: The EU introduced a proposal to list *Cedrela odorata* (cedar) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.33) with additional amendments: providing for an 18-month delay in implementation; restricting the listing to neo-tropical populations; and limiting application to annotation #5 (logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets). Describing cedar as site-sensitive, difficult to propagate, widespread but not common, and vulnerable to overexploitation, he said that the EU is

prepared to provide support and capacity building to assist range states with implementation of the listing. NORWAY supported the proposal.

Opposing the proposal: GUYANA said that in his country, cedar exports are minimal and forests are sustainably managed; CUBA said cedar is widely-grown and not endangered; and PERU said the proposal was not based on sound science and did not include social considerations. BRAZIL and COLOMBIA highlighted information gaps and recommended that range states consider an Appendix-III listing. MEXICO, KENYA and CHINA said the proposal lacks range state support, with KENYA adding that cedar is an invasive species in Africa. CANADA stressed that the unique biology of the species should be the guiding criteria for the listing. ECUADOR and INDONESIA highlighted difficulties faced by range states in implementing CITES listings of timber species.

An EU motion to adjourn discussions on the proposal was defeated. The EU then withdrew its listing proposal, and delegates agreed that a working group would develop a draft decision mandating the PC to advance the issue before CoP15. MEXICO suggested that the working group also consider rosewood. ITTO urged parties to consult its experts when developing timber listing proposals.

Rosewood: The EU withdrew its proposals for listing rosewood (*Dalbergia retusa* and *Dalbergia granadillo* (CoP14 Prop.31) and *Dalbergia stevensonii* (CoP14 Prop.32)), on the condition that these species be considered by the working group addressing cedar. The Committee agreed.

Brazil wood: BRAZIL introduced its proposal to list *Caesalpinia echinata* (Brazil wood) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.30), with a new annotation that seeks to exempt finished products such as bows for stringed musical instruments. Several delegates supported the proposal, while the US said the annotation needs to conform to harmonized customs codes. A drafting group will finalize the proposal.

Japanese Yew: Delegates agreed to refer the US proposal to amend annotations for *Taxus cuspidata* (Japanese yew) (CoP14 Prop.36) to a drafting group.

Orchids: Switzerland's proposal to amend the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II for the genera *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium* (CoP14 Prop.34) was rejected, failing to achieve a two-thirds majority, with 45 votes in favor and 40 against. The Committee subsequently accepted by consensus two draft decisions on annotation for Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, contained in the PC report (CoP14 Doc.8.3 (Rev.1)), reflecting the rejection of Switzerland's listing proposal.

A proposal by Switzerland as Depository Government to amend the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II for hybrids of the genera *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda* (CoP14 Prop.35) was adopted by consensus.

Slow lorises: CAMBODIA introduced a proposal to transfer the genus *Nycticebus* (slow lorises) from Appendix II to I (CoP14 Prop.1), saying that Appendix-I listing would significantly reduce illegal trade in this endangered species. Slow loris range states INDIA and INDONESIA supported the proposal. Discussion will continue on Friday.

COMMITTEE II

COOPERATION BETWEEN CITES AND THE ITTO REGARDING TRADE IN TROPICAL TIMBER: The US introduced a draft decision (CoP14 Doc.18.2), highlighting ITTO funds available for capacity building for implementation of CITES listings of timber species. Many parties supported the draft decision, and GREENPEACE, on behalf of SSN and HSI, noted that cooperation should not be a substitute for addressing core issues within CITES itself. Several opposed the Secretariat's recommendation to consolidate existing cooperation resolutions, and the US, JAPAN and MEXICO opposed the Secretariat's recommendation for a memorandum of understanding with ITTO. Following informal consultations, the US presented a revised draft decision incorporating minor amendments, which will be considered on Friday.

COOPERATION WITH FAO: The Secretariat introduced the draft decision (CoP14 Doc.18.1), stressing the long history of successful cooperation with FAO, but highlighting a recent disagreement over the findings of the FAO *Ad hoc* Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II regarding proposed listings of commercially-exploited aquatic species. FAO asserted that the CITES Secretariat had "bypassed" CITES criteria (Conf.9.24 (Rev. CoP13)) when evaluating species listing proposals.

CHINA, CHILE, JAPAN, ICELAND, ARGENTINA, the US, NORWAY, DOMINICA, BRAZIL and CANADA opposed the establishment of a fishery working group, with CHILE, supported by BRAZIL, saying that regional fisheries management organizations should address fisheries administration issues. The EU, JAMAICA and NEW ZEALAND supported the group's establishment. The proposal to establish a fishery working group was rejected, failing to achieve a two-thirds majority, with 46 votes in favor and 34 against.

The US proposed an amendment deleting the reference to "formalizing" cooperation with FAO on forestry and non-timber forest products. CHINA opposed instructing the Secretariat to initiate discussions with FAO, saying that this is a matter for the CoP and SC. Following votes in which parties rejected China's proposed amendments, the Committee approved the decision, with the US amendment, by 60 votes to 12.

Parties approved by consensus the draft decision instructing the Secretariat to report to CoP15 on progress.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR DIALOGUE

MEETINGS: The Secretariat introduced this document as presented by the SC (CoP14 Doc.19.1). Delegates discussed the procedure for allowing the participation of observers, and then adopted the rules of procedure for dialogue meetings with several amendments including: approving participation of observers by consensus; having a quorum of two-thirds of range states present at the dialogue; and presenting conclusions to range states for agreement.

REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS:

Resolutions relating to Appendix-I species: The Secretariat introduced the proposal to consolidate existing resolutions and decisions relating to Appendix-I species (CoP14 Doc.20.1). Many opposed the proposed consolidation. The EU noted the sensitivity of resolutions relating to Appendix-I species. Parties agreed by consensus to reject the proposed consolidation.

General review of Resolutions: The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.20.2), and invited delegates to also consider transferring the remaining sections of Res. Conf.11.6 (Rev. CoP13 on vicuña) to Res. Conf.12.3 (Rev. CoP13 on permits and certificates). All proposals were adopted, some with minor amendments, including a draft decision directing the SC to review any Secretariat proposals to correct non-substantive errors in resolutions, and decide if they should be forwarded to the CoP.

Review of Decisions: The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.22). The EU proposed and delegates agreed by consensus, to retain Decision 10.2 (Rev. CoP11 on: conditions for elephant ivory stocks). Parties also rejected proposals to delete Decisions 12.90 to 12.93 (Capacity building for Appendix-II voluntary national export quotas), and Decisions 13.14 to 13.17 (Improving regional communication and representation). All other suggestions in the document were agreed.

RANCHING: AC Chair Althaus introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.21) and highlighted the AC's recommendations to simplify reporting requirements for parties ranching species that have been transferred from Appendix I to II. The EU, with ARGENTINA, supported the proposal and the Secretariat's suggestions with regard to further streamlining and clarifying the provisions of the resolution. The EU and the US voiced concern about the proposed change to the definition of ranching. The US objected to the AC's proposal to make certain reporting requirements subject to the Secretariat's request, noting that some of this information is needed on an annual basis to determine if parties are meeting their obligations. VENEZUELA stressed that the proposal should only apply to local populations, called for a more consistent approach to reporting and, supported by SSN, urged caution in broadening the proposal to other ranching species as it only reflects experience with crocodiles. A working group was established on the issue, to be chaired by the US.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT: National laws for CITES implementation: The Secretariat reported on parties' progress in implementing national legislation on CITES (CoP14 Doc.24). Delegates will present their comments on Friday.

WORKING GROUPS

Strategic Vision Working Group: Chair Maltby (Canada) reported on progress, noting that a document incorporating parties' comments is currently being considered.

Budget: Chair O'Criodain (Ireland) reported that presentations by the Secretariat on activities and costs were being considered and that the definition of relative priorities *vis-à-vis* the costed work programme would depend on further work on the strategic vision.

IN THE CORRIDORS

On Thursday, the smoky corridors were abuzz with delegates grappling with the practical challenges of balancing biodiversity conservation and livelihoods when implementing CITES, a debate that one delegate identified as central to CoP14's biggest issues - the CITES strategic vision, the budget, and some key species listing proposals. One participant from the strategic vision working group was feeling the pressure, pointing out that the budget talks could not get seriously underway until strategic priorities were decided, saying "this places a lot on *our* shoulders, doesn't it?"

Meanwhile, discussions on the proposed cedar and rosewood listings took a dramatic turn in Committee I, and clearly demonstrated the sensitivities of touching upon resources that are valuable for communities' subsistence. The proposed red coral listing also prompted reflections on livelihoods, with one delegate saying that the proposal is provoking the ire of a group of Armani-clad families steeped in a long tradition of artisanal jewelry.

CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY, 8 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to CITES convened in two committees throughout the day, and met in plenary in the afternoon. Several drafting and working groups also met. Committee I, *inter alia*, approved the uplisting of slow lorises and the listing of slender-horned gazelle in Appendix I, and narrowly rejected the listing of two shark species. Committee II addressed, *inter alia*, transaction codes and compliance, and adopted decisions on capacity building, national legislation for CITES implementation, national reports, Internet trade, enforcement, and incentives.

PLENARY

The plenary met briefly on Friday afternoon. Committee I Chair Leach and Committee II Chair Cheung reported on progress in their respective committees.

COMMITTEE I

LISTING PROPOSALS: Delegates agreed by consensus to uplist genus *Nycticebus* (slow lorises) (CoP14 Prop.1 by Cambodia), and the subspecies *Heloderma horridum charlesbogerti* (Guatemalan beaded lizard) (CoP14 Prop.14 by Guatemala) from Appendix II to I.

They also agreed by consensus to: downlist Brazil's population of *Melanosuchus niger* (black caiman) from Appendix I to II (CoP14 Prop.13 (Rev.1) by Brazil); and amend the annotation for Bolivia's population of vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) (CoP14 Prop. 8 by Bolivia), to allow international trade in wool sheared from live animals.

Felidae: The US proposed deleting *Lynx rufus* (bobcat) from Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.2), stating that the species is thriving and that look-alike issues are no longer a concern due to improved identification techniques. CANADA and QATAR supported the proposal. Range state MEXICO opposed the proposal and, with HSI, highlighted a lack of up-to-date information on bobcat populations and problems differentiating bobcat parts from those of more endangered lynx species, and noted that the AC periodic review of Felidae is still ongoing. The EU, SERBIA, NORWAY and INDIA also opposed the proposal, highlighting look-alike issues. The proposal was rejected, with 28 votes in favor and 63 against.

AC Chair Althaus stated that the periodic review of Felidae is not yet complete, and delegates approved a draft decision to extend the review deadline (CoP14 Doc 8.2).

Red deer and gazelles: Algeria's proposals to include *Cervus elaphus barbarus* (Barbary red deer) (CoP14 Prop.9) and *Gazella cuvieri* (Cuvier's gazelle) (CoP14 Prop.10) in Appendix I were rejected following a vote. The EU, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES and JAPAN drew attention to the lack of evidence of international trade in these species, while range states and others stressed the difficulty in obtaining data on illegal trade. ALGERIA withdrew its proposal to list *Gazella dorcas* (Dorcas gazelle) in Appendix I (CoP14 Prop.11). Delegates agreed by consensus to include *Gazella leptoceros* (slender-horned gazelle) in Appendix I (CoP14 Prop.12 by Algeria).

Porbeagle shark: The EU introduced its proposal to list porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.15), stressing its disagreement with the FAO *Ad hoc* Expert Advisory Panel's conclusion that the species does not meet CITES listing criteria, and emphasizing CITES' role in complementing national and international activities to ensure conservation and sustainable use of the species. ISRAEL supported the proposal. WWF and TRAFFIC said some porbeagle shark populations merit an Appendix-I listing.

Ecuador speaking for GRULAC, with ICELAND, CANADA, QATAR and NORWAY, opposed the proposal, emphasizing: the competence of the FAO Expert Panel; the need to prioritize national and regional measures; and the role of regional fisheries management bodies. JAPAN stressed that the proposed Appendix-II listing would not control trade within the EU. The FAO asserted that its Expert Panel had correctly applied CITES listing criteria.

Voicing concern over the global decline of sharks, GREENPEACE, on behalf of several NGOs, said that the FAO Expert Panel's assessment demonstrates continued resistance from some FAO members to CITES' involvement in fisheries. The SHARK FIN AND MARINE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION and SPECIES MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS opposed the proposal, arguing that the listing would create perverse incentives and distort international markets.

The proposal was put to a vote. Iceland's motion to conduct a secret ballot did not garner the necessary support. The listing proposal failed to achieve a two thirds majority, and was rejected with 54 votes in favor and 39 against.

Spiny dogfish: The EU proposed Appendix-II listing of *Squalus acanthias* (spiny dogfish) (CoP14 Prop.16), highlighting evidence of intense international trade in the species and noting biological data demonstrating its vulnerability. Many delegations supported the listing, with the US and NGOs voicing concern about the ongoing serial depletion of shark stocks around the globe, and MEXICO saying that the species satisfies the trade and biological listing criteria.

Among several delegations opposing the proposal: CANADA preferred national and regional fisheries management measures to CITES listing; NEW ZEALAND said spiny dogfish is abundant globally; and CHINA, NORWAY and the FAO noted that the FAO Expert Panel did not support the listing.

The proposal was rejected after narrowly failing to achieve a two-thirds majority, with 57 votes in favor and 36 against.

COMMITTEE II

Delegates approved revised decisions on: cooperation with the ITTO as amended by the US (CoP14 Comm.II.5); and capacity building (CoP14 Comm.II.4).

NATIONAL LAWS FOR CITES IMPLEMENTATION:

The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.24). PALAU, VENEZUELA, FIJI, ERITREA, TANZANIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, INDIA, MAURITIUS, BAHAMAS, MADAGASCAR, LIBERIA, ECUADOR, NEPAL and SURINAME reported on their progress in implementing national legislation.

Delegates approved proposed decisions with amendments to consolidate deadlines for submitting information on national legislation to SC58, and assist implementing agencies.

ARGENTINA and other developing countries proposed deleting references in the draft decisions to the suspension of commercial trade as a possible measure to promote improved CITES legislation at the national level, but the US and other developed countries opposed and, following a vote, the original text was retained.

ENFORCEMENT MATTERS: The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.25) on, *inter alia*, convening a meeting of the CITES Enforcement Experts Group. The US, EU, CAMEROON, ISRAEL, ZIMBABWE, and NIGERIA supported the draft decisions, with INDONESIA and BRAZIL suggesting minor amendments. INDIA and NIGERIA noted their recent progress in improving compliance with the Convention. TRAFFIC noted that emerging partnerships between producing and consumer regions can be effective in combating wildlife trade. The draft decisions were approved by consensus.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT: Delegates discussed the EU's proposal (CoP14 Doc.26) to amend Res. Conf.11.3 (Rev. CoP13), which suggests measures to improve enforcement of CITES at the national level. Chair Cheung then referred the matter to informal consultations.

TRANSACTION CODES: The US proposed a revision of Res.Conf.12.3 (Rev.CoP13) (permits and certificates), stressing the need for more specific transaction code definitions in CITES permits, particularly with respect to differentiating between commercial and non-commercial transactions (CoP14 Doc.39). ARGENTINA, supported by ECUADOR, said the issue should be discussed further in the SC. The EU supported the Secretariat's suggestion for consideration of the circumstances under which purpose-of-transaction codes should be used, and underlined that the purpose of export may be different from that of import. CANADA noted that requirements are particularly unclear for export permits. A working group was established.

INTERNET TRADE: The EU introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.28), highlighting a proposed workshop on Internet trade in CITES-listed species. MADAGASCAR, the US, SEAWEB and IFAW supported the proposals, with IFAW informing delegates of eBay's decision to ban ivory trade on its website worldwide. Parties approved by consensus the draft decisions with the UK's amendment instructing the Secretariat to hire an expert consultant to review Internet trade.

NATIONAL REPORTS: The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.29) and invited feedback from parties on the new biennial report format. The EU and the US welcomed the draft decisions, noting improved reporting and welcoming any suggestions towards relieving the reporting burden. The US expressed concern about electronic permitting, underscoring the financial and capacity constraints of developing countries. The document was approved without amendment.

REPORTING ON TRADE IN ARTIFICIALLY PROPAGATED PLANTS: SWITZERLAND introduced the draft decision (CoP14 Doc.30), stressing the burden that these requirements impose on parties and the need to review their usefulness. The US and MEXICO opposed the draft decision, with the US supporting the Secretariat's suggestion that it report to the SC on ways to summarize submission data. A working group was established.

INCENTIVES: The Secretariat introduced the document on incentives for implementation of the Convention (CoP14 Doc.32) proposing decisions, *inter alia*, to continue cooperation with UNCTAD's Biotrade initiative. The EU, UGANDA and SWITZERLAND supported the proposal, while ARGENTINA, the US, BRAZIL, AUSTRALIA and VENEZUELA opposed all proposed decisions, stating that the issue should not be considered further as it is not directly relevant to CITES. The proposed decisions were approved by 51 to 22 votes.

WORKING GROUPS

STRATEGIC VISION: The strategic vision working group (SVWG) continued deliberations throughout the day. Although there was agreement on replacing references to timber and aquatic species in the introductory text, disagreement remained on whether to refer to "commercially-traded species." In the afternoon, progress was made as participants moved to the substantive provisions of the document, including how to ensure indicators on implementation are measurable while allowing new signatories time to implement the Convention.

IN THE CORRIDORS

On Friday, SVWG participants labored over timber and aquatic species references in the draft strategic vision text, and Committee I continued rejecting proposals for timber and aquatic species listings. While some lamented a "turning tide" since CoP13, others felt outcomes were predictable, commenting that timber discussions were reminiscent of those advanced by the opponents of CITES regulation of bigleaf mahogany more than a decade ago. Another noted that, based on past experience, "we haven't heard the last on sharks at this CoP."

Some hoped that Wednesday's upcoming Ministerial Roundtable will bring some political muscle to bear on timber and aquatic species, while others pointed out that high-level attendance may suffer due to the concurrent informal ministerial Midnight Sun Dialogue on Climate Change in Stockholm.

Finally, the African Elephant Range States Dialogue over the weekend served as a dress rehearsal for the "big elephant show" on Monday morning.

CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY, 11 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to CITES convened in regional meetings in the morning, and in two committees throughout the rest of the day. Several drafting and working groups also met. Committee I, *inter alia*, approved the listing of sawfish in Appendix I and eel in Appendix II, and considered listing pink and red corals in Appendix II. Committee II, *inter alia*, adopted decisions on management of annual export quotas and on the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use.

COMMITTEE I

Committee I Chair Leach announced that the elephant proposals discussion was postponed to allow the African Elephant Range States Dialogue further time to agree on a consensus document.

LISTING PROPOSALS: BRAZIL withdrew its proposed Appendix-II listing of the Brazilian populations of *Panulirus argus* (Caribbean spiny lobster) and *Panulirus laeviscauda* (smoothtail spiny lobster) (CoP14 Prop.20).

The proposed Appendix-II listing of *Caesalpinia echinata* (Brazil wood) (CoP14 Prop.30) was adopted by consensus with a revised annotation. The Committee also approved by consensus the revised draft decisions on *Euphorbia* spp. and on the amendment of annotations #1, #4 and #8, following the withdrawal of two earlier proposals by Switzerland (CoP14 Prop.26 and 29).

Sawfish: Delegates considered a proposal for listing *Pristidae* (sawfish) on Appendix I (CoP14 Prop.17 by Kenya and the US). KENYA introduced the proposal, underscoring sawfish species' vulnerability to exploitation due to low reproduction rates. The US highlighted: lack of bycatch management; trade in rostral saws, saw teeth and fins; and demand from the aquarium trade.

AUSTRALIA proposed an amendment to list one species, *Pristis microdon* (freshwater sawfish), on Appendix II with an annotation allowing international trade in live animals to aquaria for primarily conservation purposes. Many parties supported Australia's amendment, with the EU noting that although *Pristis microdon* deserves an Appendix-I listing, the Australian population is well-managed. GRULAC supported the original proposal, with MEXICO requesting additional information from Australia. NORWAY, supported by THAILAND, favored an Appendix-I listing with Australia applying for annual quotas. FAO said that the original proposal was supported by its Expert Panel, but did not comment on Australia's amendment. CHINA

and SPECIES MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS opposed the proposal. GREENPEACE, on behalf of several NGOs, supported listing all sawfish species on Appendix I.

The proposal as amended by Australia was approved with 67 votes in favor and 30 against.

Eel: The EU proposed the Appendix-II listing of *Anguilla anguilla* (eel) (CoP14 Prop.18). Noting that this economically-valuable species is near collapse, SWEDEN added that EU range states have now committed to eel management measures, including a 50% fishing effort reduction. Although many parties supported the proposal, several emphasized that strict EU fisheries management measures would also be essential to conserve the species, and CANADA and NORWAY noted potential look-alike issues. Opposing the listing, CHINA and QATAR said the listing would create an enforcement burden with little conservation benefit. The proposal was adopted by 93 votes to nine.

Banggai cardinalfish: The US introduced its proposal (CoP14 Prop.19) to list Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) on Appendix II, noting that it is a major importer of this endemic Indonesian species. He highlighted recent data showing further population decline and unsustainability of current harvest levels (CoP14 Inf.37).

Opposing the proposal, INDONESIA underscored: high productivity of the species both in the wild and in captivity; ongoing conservation efforts; and implications of the proposed listing for local livelihoods. Supported by IRAN, he also expressed concern over the legality of recent research. Many others also opposed, with AUSTRALIA stressing national management measures for endemic species, JAPAN saying an Appendix-III listing would be more appropriate, and THAILAND citing the FAO Expert Panel's opposition to the listing. Following these comments, the US withdrew its proposal.

Corals: The US introduced its proposal to list all species in the genus *Corallium* (pink and red corals) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.21), noting large volumes of trade in these slow-growing corals, lamenting destructive harvest techniques, and adding that few range states have coral populations large enough to support commercial harvest. He also proposed: an annotation that would delay the listing's entry into effect by 18 months; and draft decisions permitting an exemption for personal and household effects of up to seven pieces weighing no more than two kilograms, and allowing identification by genus only. The EU, MEXICO, ISRAEL, QATAR and SEAWEB supported the listing, with the EU highlighting the recent dramatic decrease in coral output and productivity.

JAPAN and ASSOCORAL opposed the listing, with ASSOCORAL asserting that harvesting is sustainable and that coral populations have not acutely declined. FAO said that its Expert Panel did not support the listing. SEAWEB stated that FAO's analysis was flawed as it considered the remaining number of coral colonies but not their size.

Following further discussion, a drafting group was established.

SHARKS: Chair Leach proposed to forward the draft decisions on porbeagle shark and spiny dogfish (CoP14 Doc.59.3, by the EU) to plenary on the condition that they would only be activated if the relevant listing proposals were adopted by the CoP. The decisions as amended by Chair Leach were rejected, failing by two votes to achieve the required two-thirds majority, with 58 votes in favor and 30 against.

COMMITTEE II

DISPOSAL OF CONFISCATED SPECIMENS:

INDONESIA introduced a draft decision (CoP14 Doc.27) on, *inter alia*, repatriation of benefits accruing from the auction or sale of confiscated specimens. Many countries opposed, and following a vote that deleted two paragraphs in the decision, INDONESIA withdrew its proposal.

TRADE IN APPENDIX-I SPECIES: The Secretariat introduced the agenda item (CoP14 Doc.34). ISRAEL said that the review identified cases of concern, demonstrating the need for further monitoring of commercial trade in Appendix-I species, and proposed two draft decisions (CoP14 Inf.7). Following a vote, delegates rejected the proposals.

ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES:

GERMANY, as Chair of the drafting group on the Addis Ababa Principles, noted that the group had been unable to reach consensus and suggested reintroducing the Secretariat's original proposal (CoP14 Doc.13). The US suggested, as an alternative, an amendment to Res. Conf.13.2 (Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines), proposing to attach the recommendations of AC/PC as an annex to that resolution. The US proposal was agreed by 52 to 13 votes, following which the original proposal was withdrawn.

ELECTRONIC PERMITTING: The Secretariat and ITALY, as Chair of the SC Working Group on Use of Information Technology and Electronic Systems, introduced the draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.40.1 (Rev.1) and CoP14 Doc.40.2), and suggested that electronic and paper-based systems be used in parallel. Several parties proposed amendments, and Brazil suggested allowing the use of electronic signatures. Many voiced concerns with the draft decision and Brazil's proposal, stressing implementation problems for developing countries associated with the electronic system. The Secretariat agreed to prepare a revised draft.

MANAGEMENT OF ANNUAL EXPORT QUOTAS:

CAMEROON introduced the three draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.36), and explained that the Export Quota Working Group did not agree on: the Secretariat's role in clarify export quota information; or whether including information about quotas in export permits should be voluntary.

The EU urged strengthening the Secretariat's role in reviewing quotas before they are published, lamenting confusion caused by a recently published quota from Gabon for five gorilla heads and hands, which appeared to be in violation of Res. Conf. 13.4 (Great apes). He proposed an amendment stating that, where a concern cannot be resolved through consultation, the Secretariat should publish the quota with an annotation indicating its concern and stating that the issue will be taken up through a CITES procedure. ARGENTINA, BRAZIL and ECUADOR said the Secretariat should not address substantive issues on export quotas. Delegates voted and approved the EU's amendment.

On inclusion of quota information on export permits, the EU, JAMAICA and TRAFFIC supported a mandatory requirement, whereas ARGENTINA, BRAZIL and IWMC opposed. Delegates

voted and agreed that such information should be mandatory. The EU also proposed an amendment for an annual review of NDFs for newly established or revised quotas, which was approved. Delegates approved the proposals with these three revisions, by 63 votes to 19.

INSPECTION OF TIMBER SHIPMENTS: Italy, on behalf of the EU, presented the draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.42), aimed at providing authorities with clear guidelines on identification and measurements of timber products. Several parties supported the proposal, with BRAZIL and AUSTRALIA proposing additional amendments. The ITTO offered its assistance in developing guidelines for timber shipment inspections. A drafting group chaired by Italy was established.

CROCODILIAN TAGGING SYSTEM: The US introduced a draft decision (CoP14 Doc.43), which requests an effectiveness review of the tagging system. The EU and TRAFFIC supported the proposal provided that external funding is secured, while ARGENTINA, supported by the PHILIPPINES, suggested that a working group conduct the review. Delegates agreed to prepare a revised draft.

IDENTIFICATION MANUAL: Committee II noted the Secretariat's progress report (CoP14 Doc.44).

TRADE IN SOME CROCODILIAN SPECIMENS:

Germany and France, on behalf of the EU, supported by SWITZERLAND, proposed to establish a process within the SC to streamline procedures to reduce transaction costs of issuing CITES permits for trade in some crocodilian specimens. They noted that such trade has minimum impact on conservation and that specimens generally derive from ranching (CoP14 Doc.64). COLOMBIA, MEXICO, INDIA, PERU and JAPAN expressed reservations, and a drafting group was established.

EX SITU PRODUCTION AND IN SITU

CONSERVATION: IRELAND introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.48 (Rev.1)), recommending an independent study. The EU supported the proposal, while BRAZIL, PERU and COLOMBIA opposed. INDIA proposed a case-specific approach. A group of NGOs stressed the increased risk that *ex situ* production poses for wild tigers. The proposal was rejected with 48 votes in favor and 31 against.

RESERVATIONS REGARDING SPECIES

TRANSFERRED BETWEEN APPENDICES: The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.49). Delegates approved the proposal by consensus with minor amendments by Norway and the US.

WORKING GROUPS

STRATEGIC VISION: The group's discussions resulted in a revised text to be presented to Committee II, including a preliminary agreement on the new vision statement. Participants achieved consensus on goals and objectives, and agreed that the related indicators would be referred to the SC following input from parties.

BUDGET: The group evaluated a document prepared by the Secretariat, including a line-by-line analysis of the costed work programme. Discussions focused on which activities or their components should remain within the core budget.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Despite jumbo efforts by elephant dialogue participants to arrive at a "package deal," negotiations remained deadlocked and highly charged. While some delegates caught a glimpse of an emerging consensus around the proposed stockpile sales by all four southern African range states and a decade-long moratorium, other participants did not regard this as light at the end of the tunnel, saying negotiations were taking "one step forward and two steps back," with both camps reportedly refusing to withdraw their existing proposals. Negotiations continued into the night in a race to make a deal before ministers start arriving on Tuesday.

CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to CITES convened in two committees throughout the day. Several drafting and working groups also met. Committee I, *inter alia*, addressed ivory trade, mahogany and freshwater turtles. It adjourned in the afternoon, and discussions continued in a Friends of the Chair group on elephant proposals. Committee II, *inter alia*, adopted decisions on introduction from the sea and great apes.

COMMITTEE I

Delegates adopted by consensus revised decisions on hawksbill turtle (CoP14 Com.I.11), and on cedar and rosewood (CoP14 Com.I.10).

BIGLEAF MAHOGANY: PC Chair Clemente and MEXICO, as Chair of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (BMWG), presented the report (CoP14 Doc.64 (Rev.1)) and introduced draft decisions on: NDFs for tree species; annotations for tree species on Appendices II and III; and an action plan for the control of international trade in bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*). HONDURAS and PERU welcomed the BMWG's progress and suggested minor amendments, which were finalized in a small drafting group. The Committee adopted the decision by consensus.

TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES: The Secretariat proposed streamlining reporting requirements (CoP14 Doc.57) and the EU and TRAFFIC voiced concerns about illegal trade in these species in Asia. MALAYSIA supported the proposal and MADAGASCAR called for further cooperation to stop illegal trade. The decisions were adopted by consensus.

CENTRAL AFRICA BUSHMEAT WORKING GROUP: The Secretariat introduced the working group's report (CoP14 Doc.65 (Rev.1)). The EU noted concerns over persistent illegal bushmeat trade. Supported by TRAFFIC and WWF, the EU, proposed, and delegates agreed, to encourage the working group to collaborate with the CBD liaison group on non-timber forest resources.

SEA CUCUMBERS: The NETHERLANDS presented revised decisions (CoP14 Com.I.1), noting they include components on livelihood issues and cooperation with FAO. ECUADOR, on behalf of several GRULAC countries, supported the proposal, while NORWAY opposed, cautioning that it would expand CITES' scope to species management. The proposal was adopted with 77 votes in favor and four against.

ELEPHANTS: MIKE report: The Secretariat reported on the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme (CoP14 Doc.53.3).

The US expressed its continued support for the MIKE programme and stressed the need to ensure regular communication with range states and donors. KENYA urged making MIKE baseline information more easily understood by range states. The EU called for ensuring MIKE's viability and announced France's contribution of US\$50,000 to its South Asia sub-regional unit. BOTSWANA, supported by SOUTH AFRICA, urged range states to include MIKE activities in their national budgets. ZIMBABWE and ZAMBIA emphasized political will, law enforcement and strengthened management to combat elephant poaching.

ETIS report: TRAFFIC, as Chair of the MIKE-ETIS Working Group, presented the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) report (CoP14 Doc.53.2), noting that the ETIS database contains 12,378 seizure records from 82 countries and territories since 1989, totaling 322 tonnes of ivory. He said the analysis shows a decline in illicit ivory trade from 1999-2004, followed by a sharp increase since 2005, and identified the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Thailand, Nigeria, Cameroon and China as countries of major concern. He also underscored that ETIS data does not support a correlation between changes to the listing of elephant populations in CITES appendices or the resumption of legal ivory trade, and an increase in poaching and illegal trade. Instead, he identified unregulated domestic ivory markets, organized crime, and poor governance as key drivers of illegal trade.

CHINA stated that information in the ETIS report relating to its national legislation and trade controls is misleading and does not concur with the Secretariat's assessment following its mission to China. He expressed concern that not designating China as a trade partner in the one-off ivory sale would lead to a reemergence of illegal trade. NIGERIA and DRC reported on improvements in national legislation and enforcement to address illegal wildlife trade. ZAMBIA and BOTSWANA supported the ETIS findings.

Listing proposals: Chair Leach noted that, as the African Elephant Range States Dialogue did not achieve consensus, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, listing proposals would be considered starting with those least restrictive for trade.

SOUTH AFRICA presented an amended proposal (CoP14 Inf.53) combining the original proposals by Namibia and Botswana (CoP14 Prop.4), Botswana (CoP14 Prop.5), and Kenya and Mali (CoP14 Prop.6). She highlighted common ground reached during negotiations on: conservation of elephants and their role in economic development; the need to address illegal trade and ivory stockpiles; and monitoring illegal trade through MIKE and ETIS. She outlined a proposed amendment to the listing annotation, which includes:

- trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes, hide and hair;
- trade in registered raw ivory whole tusks and pieces subject to, *inter alia*, verification of trading partners, registered government-owned stocks, proceeds being used exclusively for conservation and community development;
- a one-off ivory sale of a maximum of 70 tonnes for Botswana, 50 tonnes for Namibia, 40 tonnes for South Africa and 15 tonnes for Zimbabwe, in addition to the quantities agreed at CoP12; and
- a provision that no further trade can take place before CoP16, with the SC mandated to take a further decision on export quotas and continuity of trade.

NAMIBIA highlighted the livelihood and conservation benefits of ivory trade, calling on parties to support the proposal. He stressed that: southern African elephant populations are robust and should be treated under CITES provisions for trade in Appendix-II species; the proposed no-trade period of six years should enable parties to establish appropriate monitoring measures; and a future decision-making mechanism is urgently needed at the SC level for managing trade in these elephant populations.

The EU highlighted elephants' global charismatic appeal, but reiterated that while other countries may help by facilitating discussions, the core issues should be resolved by African countries. Suggesting that consensus could be near, he noted the EU proposal (CoP14 Inf.54), stating that it reflects potential common ground, and proposed further negotiations.

KENYA agreed that finding common ground would be preferable to applying different solutions in different parts of Africa, and sought an adjournment to continue negotiations towards combining various proposals, including its revised joint proposal with Mali (CoP14 Inf.55). The adjournment was approved by consensus.

COMMITTEE II

Committee II addressed and approved by consensus: a draft decision on reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants, with a minor amendment (CoP14 Com.II.14); a draft decision on electronic permitting (CoP14 Com.II.13); and draft decisions on the crocodilian tagging system presented orally by the EU, with minor amendments.

INTRODUCTION FROM THE SEA: SC Chair Maquieira summarized the report of the SC54 working group (CoP14 Doc.33), highlighting progress on definitions but noting persistent divisions on key aspects of "introduction from the sea." He outlined a draft decision to extend the working group's mandate.

On defining "the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State," delegates supported the "alternative" definition proposed by a majority of the working group, with many stating that CITES' work on marine jurisdictional issues must conform to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Delegates adopted by consensus the "alternative" definition and the draft decision, including a timeframe proposed by the EU.

GREAT APES: The Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.50) and recommended a CITES verification mission to Egypt to assist in addressing reported illegal trade.

INDONESIA agreed to report to the SC, THAILAND noted ongoing efforts to combat illegal trade and CAMBODIA welcomed assistance on CITES implementation. EGYPT welcomed the CITES verification mission and said illegally-traded great apes would be repatriated. As UNEP/GRASP Chair, CAMEROON noted the potential negative effect on neighboring countries of Gabon's export quota of gorilla heads and hands. Several delegates called for CITES technical missions to African great ape range states. TRAFFIC and BORN FREE

FOUNDATION, on behalf of SSN, encouraged Central African range states to focus on addressing domestic and transborder bushmeat and live-animal trade.

Delegates noted the report and endorsed the proposed CITES/GRASP mission to Egypt.

ASIAN BIG CATS: The Secretariat noted the need for improved enforcement in some range states, but highlighted the success of the Inspection Tiger Brigades in the Russian Federation (CoP14 Doc.52). Reporting on a recent mission to western China, he said that illicit trade in big-cat skins appears to have declined but noted room for improvement regarding enforcement. A draft decision will be discussed on Wednesday (CoP14 Inf.50).

TIBETAN ANTELOPE: The Secretariat summarized the SC's work on the Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) (CoP14 Doc.55 (Rev.1)), highlighting that population increases mark a success for CITES protection of Appendix-I species. SWITZERLAND, THAILAND and INDIA shared experiences with national enforcement. The Committee noted the report.

REPORT OF CCAMLR ON TOOTHFISH: The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) reported on legal and illicit trade in *Dissostichus* spp. (toothfish) (CoP14 Doc.61). The EU and AUSTRALIA called on parties to implement Res. Conf.12.4 (cooperation between CITES and CCAMLR), while SINGAPORE and NORWAY noted that toothfish are not CITES-listed species. The Committee noted the report.

TRADE IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINES: AUSTRALIA, supported by NEW ZEALAND, introduced a proposal to address trade in traditional medicines containing CITES-listed species (CoP14 Doc.63).

The PHILIPPINES opposed the proposal, as did CHINA, who underscored the Secretariat's lack of support for the proposal. The EU welcomed the proposal but proposed amendments deleting references to the development and use of alternative ingredients in preference to captive breeding. ECUADOR, INDONESIA, INDIA, WWF and others supported the proposal. TRAFFIC highlighted recent research indicating that trade in traditional medicines containing endangered species derivatives could affect wild populations.

Delegates voted and agreed with the EU's amendments, and approved the decision by consensus.

WORKING GROUPS

BUDGET: The group addressed, *inter alia*, the costed work programme, the resolution on budget, and the terms of reference for the CITES Trust Fund. Participants did not reach agreement on a budget increase, with parties divided between working on the basis of a 0% or a 21% nominal increase. Countries opposing a significant increase noted that it may lead to arrears or delays in payments, cautioning this could affect the CITES Secretariat's work.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Wednesday's much-awaited Ministerial Roundtable has attracted 46 high-level representatives, around half of whom are ministers, coming predominantly from African, Asian and Eastern European countries. Strategically, the meeting aims to mainstream and boost political awareness about CITES. However, some observed that real success depends on addressing key questions on CITES' role regarding commercially-important timber and marine species, and effective enforcement measures given the Convention's limited resources. Rumor has it elephants may also lumber onto the agenda following a last-ditch attempt to come up with an "African solution" to the issue in an evening Friends of the Chair group which evolved into a constructive tête-à-tête between two key African ministers.

CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to CITES convened in two committees throughout the day. A high-level Ministerial Roundtable was held in parallel to the meeting, and informal ministerial consultations on African elephants took place throughout the day and into the evening. Committee I, *inter alia*, approved the listing of pink and red coral on Appendix II and adopted decisions on tortoises and freshwater turtles. Committee II, *inter alia*, adopted a partial resolution on budget and several decisions on tigers.

COMMITTEE I

LISTING PROPOSALS: Yew: The US withdrew its proposal to amend the listing of *Taxus cuspidata* (Japanese yew) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.36), replacing it with a draft decision to discuss issues of hybrids and cultivars in the PC, which was supported by consensus.

SWITZERLAND, as Depository Government, introduced a proposal to delete an annotation on yew species *Taxus chinensis*, *T. fuana* and *T. sumatrana* from Appendix II, and amend the annotation to *T. cuspidata* (CoP14 Prop.37). He explained that SC discussions had deemed that the earlier annotations contravened CITES, which does not allow the exclusion of any live or dead plant of a listed species, and that this proposal would solve the problem while retaining the original intent. Supporting the proposal, CANADA said the amendment would help develop *Taxus* plantations and reduce threats to wild species. THAILAND noted that all artificially propagated hybrids and cultivars should be exempted from CITES. JAPAN opposed the proposal, suggesting the PC discuss the issue. CHINA introduced an amendment referring to live plants. The proposal, as amended by China, was adopted by consensus.

TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES: The EU presented two draft decisions finalized in the drafting group (CoP14 Com.I.12). The US, supported by CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL and IUCN, introduced two further decisions to contract the IUCN Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Specialist Group to conduct a study on the implementation of Res. Conf.11.9 (Rev. CoP13) (Tortoises and freshwater turtles), subject to external funding, and instruct the AC to review the study and make recommendations for CoP15. All four decisions were approved by consensus.

CORALS: On its proposal to list all species in the genus *Corallium* (pink and red corals) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.21), the US further proposed: an annotation delaying the listing's

entry into effect by 18 months to permit implementation measures to be put in place; and an amendment allowing an exemption for personal and household effects of up to seven pieces per person weighing no more than one kilogram in total, including any ancillary mountings. The US also proposed a draft decision for two implementation workshops for parties involved in harvesting and trade of *Corallium* (CoP14 Com.I.15).

The EU supported the proposed listing and decision, adding a further amendment to exempt fossil corals. MEXICO supported the listing but opposed the weight and fossil coral exemptions. Many NGOs supported the listing, with SWAN INTERNATIONAL saying that the listing would encourage governments to take immediate action to regulate coral trade, and EARTHTRUST pointing out that *Corallium* harvesting in the Pacific is not currently monitored by regional fisheries management bodies or the FAO.

JAPAN opposed the listing and, with SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, suggested holding the workshops first and considering the listing proposals later. Also opposing the listing, NORWAY emphasized that the FAO Expert Panel did not support the listing. MOROCCO said that Mediterranean coral is already protected, and IWMC and ASSOCORAL urged consideration of Italian craftsmen's livelihoods.

The proposal, with the annotation and the amendment on fossil corals, was adopted by 62 votes to 28. The Committee then adopted by consensus the amendment to the annotation on *Corallium* spp. contained in the draft resolution on personal and household effects referred from Committee II. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to issue a notification reflecting the recent change in taxonomy of *Corallium* and *Paracorallium* spp. to facilitate the implementation of the listing. IWMC argued that the listing proposal did not include *Paracorallium* spp., but the US clarified that their proposal listed all species falling under *Corallium* and *Paracorallium* spp. and is therefore not broadened by the taxonomic change.

ELEPHANTS: In the afternoon, Francis Nheme, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Zimbabwe, updated Committee I on the status of negotiations on elephant proposals, expressing confidence that an agreement may emerge during the evening informal ministerial consultations. Chair Leach then adjourned the session.

COMMITTEE II

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT: The UK introduced the revised draft decision and resolution (CoP14 Com.II.23), which were both accepted by consensus.

INSPECTION OF TIMBER SHIPMENTS: Italy, on behalf of the EU, introduced revised draft decisions (CoP14 Com.II.18), which were adopted by consensus.

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS: CHINA introduced a revised draft resolution and decision (CoP14 Com.II.16). The US proposed amendments to the draft resolution regarding quantitative limitations for coral species which were contingent on approval of a coral listing in Committee I. Chair Cheung referred the matter to Committee I. The EU proposed: amending the draft resolution regarding quantitative limitations for caviar; and adding two paragraphs to the draft decision requesting the SC to evaluate if specific items require different treatment, and implementation effectiveness of Conf. Res.13.7 (Personal and household effects). The revised draft resolution and decision were adopted by consensus with the EU's proposed amendments.

ASIAN BIG CATS: INDIA introduced the document prepared jointly with Nepal, China and the Russian Federation (CoP14 Inf.50), highlighting seven draft decisions on measures to address trade in Asian big cats, their parts and derivatives (CoP14 Com.II.19), including: actions by all parties, such as strengthening efforts to implement Res.Conf.12.5 (Tigers) and reporting on progress at SC57; and actions by range states, such as participating in a tiger trade enforcement meeting.

CHINA stressed that its national tiger trade ban policy review is in line with the Secretariat's recommendation to assess a new approach for addressing illicit trade in Asian big cats (CoP14 Doc.52). He referenced 2005 research demonstrating that captive breeding reduces the illegal market for tiger bone and provides a fundraising tool for conservation of wild populations. NEPAL, as Chair of the Global Tiger Forum, emphasized that tiger population numbers in captive breeding should not endanger wild populations.

Many delegates noted the alarming decline of wild tiger populations. Tiger range states reported on continued efforts in addressing tiger conservation and illicit trade. The EU urged parties to strengthen enforcement of Res. Conf.12.5. The US, supported by many, proposed a new decision whereby parties take into consideration Res. Conf.12.5 when, *inter alia*, evaluating domestic tiger trade control policies. He expressed concern about pressure within China to reopen the commercial trade in tiger parts and derivatives. Referring to his country's review of its tiger trade ban, CHINA emphasized that changes to the policy will only occur if a positive effect on wild tiger populations can be demonstrated. US traditional Chinese medicine institutions, supported by INDIA, said that traditional Chinese medicine has embraced the development of viable alternatives to tiger bone.

On captive breeding, the US proposed amending the draft decision limiting it to "intensive" captive breeding operations and specifying that tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives. Emphasizing state sovereignty, CHINA proposed that the decision should apply only to "international" trade. The EU proposed addressing the decision to "range states" instead of "parties," opposed by the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, INDIA, NEPAL and THAILAND, who stated that captive breeding outside range states would not be addressed. The Committee approved the US-proposed amendments on captive breeding, but dismissed those proposed by the EU and China following a vote.

Agreeing on amendments to consider Res. Conf.12.5, and others by BHUTAN, to strengthen the decisions, and the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, to ensure consultation with tiger range states on monitoring illegal trade in Asian big cats, delegates approved the decisions by consensus.

BUDGET: Budget working group Chair O'Criodain presented a draft budget for the triennium 2009-2011 (CoP14 Com.II.31), noting that agreement had not been possible in the working group regarding a budget increase compared to the past triennium. He presented a document with options for a 0% or a 21.56% nominal increase in the budget, explaining that the latter option would entail the suppression of two staff posts, and reducing office maintenance and CoP15 costs, but would increase funding for activity-based work. The 0% option would entail maintaining the CITES website in English only, suppressing five staff posts, reducing CoP15 costs, and allocating minimal funds for activity-based work, such as scientific support, capacity building and enforcement.

Several Caribbean countries, ZIMBABWE, the EU, SWITZERLAND and SOUTH AFRICA supported the budget increase. TRAFFIC, IUCN and WWF urged greater emphasis on looking for additional funds for the new strategic vision goals.

CHINA and the EU urged parties to agree by consensus, while CITES Secretary-General Wijnstekers noted that there has never been consensus on the budget, and clarified that a three-quarters majority is needed in this case.

Chair Cheung proposed a 10% increase as a compromise, opposed by JAPAN and the US. Secretary-General Wijnstekers, supported by NIGERIA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, SENEGAL and BELGIUM, suggested a 15% increase, which he said could be achieved by suppressing three staff posts.

Delegates voted on the 15% increase but did not arrive at the required 75% majority, with 47 votes in favor and 28 against. They then voted on a 10% increase, which did not achieve the required majority, with 50 votes in favor and 30 against. Finally, they voted on a 3% increase, which did not achieve the required majority either, with 35 votes in favor and 49 against. Delegates then decided to defer the decision on the budget increase to plenary, and went on to address the proposed resolution on budget and terms of reference for the Trust Fund (CoP14 Com.II.31 Annex 8). The Committee adopted amendments strengthening SC oversight of budgetary matters and proposals with budgetary implications. A clause on arrears amended by BRAZIL and ARGENTINA was also adopted by consensus. The resolution was then agreed by consensus, with the exception of the paragraph stating the specific amount of increase in budget, which was referred to plenary.

IN THE CORRIDORS

As CoP14 headed into the final lap, many delegates reported heightened anxiety about the outcome of the protracted negotiations on both budget and elephant proposals. The elusive agreement among African range states on the latter continued to dominate discussions in the corridors, as negotiators tested yet another format – an informal ministerial consultation facilitated by Zimbabwe's Environment Minister – that continued past midnight.

Meanwhile, the Ministerial Roundtable provoked a lively discussion on CITES' role with respect to enforcement, sustainable use and livelihoods, with participants debating the stage at which the Convention should become involved in these issues. The idea of a Ministerial Declaration did not garner enough support, with one high-level participant commenting that it contained good ideas but was too much of a *fait accompli* for his government to accept. Many others, however, stressed that the ministerial-level meeting was an important first step, with Dutch Environment Minister Verburg expressing hope that another will be held at CoP15, which rumors suggest may be held in sunny Qatar.

CITES COP14 HIGHLIGHTS: THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 2007

Delegates to CITES CoP14 convened in two committees in the morning, and in plenary in the afternoon. Committee I, *inter alia*, approved a one-off sale of ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and a nine-year "resting period" for ivory trade. Committee II, *inter alia*, adopted the CITES Strategic Vision, and decisions on sturgeons and paddlefish. Plenary heard the report of the high-level Ministerial Roundtable, addressed budgetary matters, and adopted decisions and recommendations presented by the committees.

COMMITTEE I

SHARKS: NEW ZEALAND outlined the sharks working group report (CoP14 Com.I.16), including draft decisions on: implementation and effectiveness; commodity codes; species-specific reviews and recommendations; South American freshwater stingrays (*Potamotrygonidae*); capacity building; the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks); and illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. CANADA supported the decisions.

JAPAN, CHINA, GUINEA and SURINAME suggested deleting the section on IUU fishing, which JAPAN described as overly ambitious, noting the difficulty of identifying IUU vessels and their shark catch. CHINA, opposed by AUSTRALIA, noted that addressing IUU fishing is beyond CITES' scope and expertise, and should be left to FAO. ARGENTINA, supported by the EU and AUSTRALIA, sought to retain references to IUU fishing, instead suggesting an amendment to include consultation with FAO on the topic.

The CMS stressed the importance of interagency cooperation on species of common interest, highlighting a workshop on migratory sharks to be held in Mahé, Seychelles, in December 2007. The FAO said that implementation of IPOA-Sharks was improving, and stressed FAO's willingness to collaborate with CITES.

Japan's proposed deletion of text on IUU fishing was rejected, with 39 votes in favor and 48 against. The decisions were then adopted by consensus including Argentina's amendment.

ELEPHANTS: CHAD and ZAMBIA, on behalf of the African countries, presented the compromise proposal to amend Proposals 4, 5 and 6 on African elephant annotations (CoP14 Inf.61). The new annotation authorizes a one-off sale of raw ivory originating from government stocks registered by 31 January 2007, from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, in addition to quantities agreed at CoP12, subject

to verification of trading partners. It also states that: no further ivory trade proposals shall be submitted to the CoP for nine years after the one-off sale; and the SC may decide to stop trade in case of non-compliance or proven detrimental impacts on other elephant populations. The proposal also contains decisions for, *inter alia*: the SC to propose a decision-making mechanism for ivory trade by CoP16, and to review the status of elephants; range states to develop an African elephant action plan; and the Secretariat to establish an African elephant fund administered by the SC.

Many commended the compromise reached by the Africa region. JAPAN proposed an amendment aiming to separate the shipment of the one-off sale of ivory agreed at CoP12 from the new shipment authorized by CoP14, but withdrew his amendment following objections from the EU, KENYA and CHINA. The US expressed concern about including Zimbabwe in the ivory sale, and duplicating IUCN's activities on African elephant action plans. He also encouraged innovative funding sources for the African elephant fund. KENYA stressed monitoring the impacts of the one-off ivory sale. NAMIBIA underscored the need for a proper decision-making mechanism for future ivory trade.

The proposal was adopted by consensus and acclamation. The EU, BOTSWANA, SOUTH AFRICA and KENYA then withdrew their respective proposals.

Trade in elephant specimens: The Secretariat introduced CoP.14 Doc.53.1, including the proposed action plan for the control of trade in African elephant ivory, which many parties supported. KENYA, opposed by NAMIBIA, outlined an alternative action plan (CoP14 Inf.56) and proposed harmonizing the two plans. Chair Leach disagreed, noting time constraints. The Committee adopted the Secretariat's action plan.

COMMITTEE II

Delegates adopted by consensus draft decisions presented by the US, as chair of the working groups on: ranching codes (CoP14 Com.II.24); and purpose-of-transaction codes (CoP14 Com.II.29), with a minor amendment by the EU. They also adopted by consensus a draft resolution and decisions on review of the scientific committees (CoP14 Com.II.30).

CITES AND LIVELIHOODS: The UK introduced a revised draft decision (CoP14 Com.II.12), which, *inter alia*, instructs the SC to develop tools for rapid assessment of the impacts of implementing CITES on livelihoods, and draft guidelines for addressing these impacts. The EU, supported by the US, proposed deleting a requirement to consider the RST as part of the process. BRAZIL, with ARGENTINA and PERU, proposed

amendments limiting the scope of the draft guidelines to developing countries, which was opposed by the US. The draft decisions were accepted by consensus with the EU amendment, while BRAZIL's proposed amendment was rejected by a vote of 25 for and 48 against.

COMPLIANCE: NORWAY, as Chair of the Compliance Working Group, introduced the draft resolution and its annexed guide to CITES compliance procedures (CoP14 Com.II.21), underscoring its non-binding nature, and highlighting, for example, that a recommendation to suspend trade is always based on the Convention and applicable resolutions and decisions. He proposed an amendment whereby the CoP "takes note of" rather than "adopts" the guide, and delegates adopted the resolution by consensus with this amendment.

STURGEONS AND PADDLEFISH: GERMANY, as Chair of the sturgeon working group, introduced draft decisions and a draft amendment to Res. Conf.12.7 (sturgeons and paddlefish) (CoP14 Com.II.25), noting, *inter alia*, a ceiling for 2008 quotas, and an amendment requesting the Secretariat to seek external funding. The EU supported the document. ROMANIA shared national experience with managing stocks. The RUSSIAN FEDERATION, CANADA, US and IWMC endorsed the document with minor amendments. SEAWEB, with SSN, noted serious concerns about the lack of protection for sturgeon in the Caspian Sea, but supported the quota ceiling for 2008. FAO noted that its Technical Cooperation Programme is due to expire and encouraged parties to submit formal requests for extension. The Secretariat noted concern about its reduced oversight role regarding establishment of export quotas. The draft resolution and decisions were adopted by consensus including all proposed amendments.

STRATEGIC VISION: CANADA, as Chair of the SVWG, introduced the revised draft strategic vision (CoP14 Com.II.20). She highlighted draft decisions requesting SC57 to address an annexed set of indicators, and proposed editorial amendments.

Many delegates supported the draft resolution, with JAPAN calling it a well-balanced reflection of SVWG participants' conflicting views on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. While supporting the document, BRAZIL regretted the "lack of a clear message" in the vision statement on the link between sustainable management and conservation, and DOMINICA expressed concern about whether it addresses the needs of developing countries and small island developing states. The Committee adopted the document by consensus.

PLENARY

In the afternoon, CoP14 President Verburg presented the report of the Ministerial Roundtable (CoP14 Inf.62). Welcoming the success of this inaugural ministerial meeting, she highlighted that ministers, *inter alia*: acknowledged CITES' contribution to the broader biodiversity and sustainable development agenda, urging increased cooperation between CITES and other international processes; committed to strengthening national measures and increased collaboration on enforcement; and recognized CITES' complementary role in natural resource management to organizations such as FAO, ITTO and regional fisheries management organizations.

Participants then elected new SC members, namely, DRC, Iran, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Iceland, UK, Bulgaria, Canada and Australia. Members of the scientific committees were also elected.

BUDGET: Committee II Chair Cheung reported on financial and budgetary matters, and delegates adopted by consensus financial reports (CoP14 Doc.7.1 (Rev.1)) and estimated expenditures for 2007 (CoP14 Doc.7.2 (Rev.1)). Secretary-General Wijnstekers then presented the costed programme of

work (CoP14 Com.II.31 and CoP14 Com.II.32) noting that Committee II adopted the resolution except for the clause on the percentage of budget increase.

The NETHERLANDS supported a 21% budget increase, saying it was necessary to ensure the sustainability and legality of wildlife trade and with SWITZERLAND, UK, DENMARK, GERMANY, SWEDEN and ZIMBABWE proposed a vote on a 15% increase.

MEXICO and PERU opposed, saying that some countries cannot spare additional resources and advocating "minimal growth" with a better allocation of resources. JAPAN regretted lack of timely submission of budget-related information to parties, as finance ministries need to approve any budget increase. The US said it could support a 3% increase and urged greater transparency in the presentation of information. A Friends of the Chair group was established.

CAPACITY BUILDING: Following a request from URUGUAY, supported by SURINAME and KENYA, to reopen discussions on capacity-building related provisions in the AC/PC joint report (CoP14 Doc.8.4), delegates deferred discussion on capacity building (CoP14 Com.II.15) to Friday.

REGISTRATION OF CAPTIVE BREEDING OPERATIONS:

BOLIVIA sought successfully to reopen debate on the Philippines' proposal to register a captive breeding operation for eight Appendix-I bird species (CoP14 Doc.47), which had been adopted by Committee I. In a vote, delegates overturned Committee I's decision and the Philippines' proposal was rejected, falling one vote short of a two-thirds majority, with 63 in favor and 32 against.

OTHER DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS: Delegates confirmed the committees' rejection of proposals on: trade in Appendix-I species (CoP14 Doc.34); the relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation (CoP14 Doc.48 (Rev.1)); and cetaceans (CoP14 Doc.51). They also noted the withdrawal of proposals on confiscated specimens by Indonesia (CoP14 Doc.27) and on the annotations to *Euphorbia* spp. and Orchidaceae species by Switzerland (CoP14 Doc.31). Delegates adopted by consensus all other decisions from the committees relating to agenda items 8-63, with the exception of item 53 (elephants) and 59.3 (trade measures regarding the porbeagle shark and the spiny dogfish), which will be considered on Friday.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Collective cheers and sighs of relief were heard throughout the conference center's hallways on Thursday as tense delegates finally witnessed agreement on proposals on the African elephant in Committee I. The Hague's reputation as a place to resolve the toughest of disputes was upheld, and some observers commented that Zimbabwe not only steered the informal ministerial consultations to a successful outcome, but has also now joined the exclusive club of ivory-trading nations. Overall most delegates voiced respect for an "African solution" on elephants although some were "not necessarily happy about the contents of the deal."

When delegates moved to plenary, Palau's hint about revisiting the periodic review of whales prompted many delegates to speculate on the potential reopening of other marine items, with many tipping a rematch on spiny dogfish and possibly porbeagle shark and corals. Most also suspected that the budget may add the final note of suspense to an eventful closing day.

ENB SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: The *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* summary and analysis of CITES CoP14 will be available on Monday, 18 June 2007, online at: <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/cop14/>

THE HINDU

The Hindu
Sunday, June 17, 2007

Gains, losses as CITES meet ends

Some wildlife species get better protection

- Disappointment for environmentalists
- Big-money fisheries, timber put on notice

Associated Press

THE HAGUE: Elephants emerged safer and tigers won a vote of support, but sharks and corals failed to win protection at a two-week wildlife trade conference that ended on Friday.

The conference also saw a shift in conservation politics with Ministers throwing their weight behind negotiations. China emerged for the first time as a major player at the triennial meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species, or CITES, surprising delegates with its activism.

The signatories of the CITES treaty, adopted in 1975 to rescue rare plants and animals threatened with extinction, turned their attention as never before to common timber and fish vital to the economies of many nations.

And critics worried about the increasing role of politics as the 171-nation CITES met to review its lists of tens of thousands of threatened species, with the first ministerial-level meeting at a CITES conference.

Political dimension

"The ministerial forum has added a strong political dimension," said Will Travers, head of the Species Survival Network, a coalition of about 80 nongovernmental agencies. "It's too early to say whether this is good or bad, but I am concerned."

The Ministers were credited with breaking an 18-year deadlock over the sale of ivory by southern African countries, which were allowed a one-time sale of accumulated tusks to Japan, the only authorised buyer. In exchange, the nettlesome elephant and ivory issues would be taken off the CITES agenda for nine years.

The conference ended in disappointment for environmentalists. An earlier committee decision was overturned by the full plenary, which would have regulated the trade in pink and red coral used for jewellery.

Renewed proposals to control the trade in spiny dogfish sharks, widely fished for fast food, also fell.

South American and Asian countries with powerful timber industries helped defeat proposals to regulate trade in Spanish cedar and rosewood species, which conservationists say are being stripped from rain forests.

But big-money fisheries and timber were put on notice, and those species that failed to win protection were certain to come up again in future meetings.

Not all commercial varieties lost. Among newly regulated species were the European eel, considered a delicacy in much of the continent, and the pau brasil tree of Brazil, the source of top quality bows for stringed musical instruments.

The conference also increased scrutiny in the caviar trade — long plagued by a booming black market — to help save the Caspian Sea sturgeon.

"We have listed new species that have been outside the scope of the convention for economic reasoning rather than scientific," said CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers. "I think that should continue."

Trade considerations

Conservationists said trade considerations overwhelmed scientific criteria in many instances, with countries still voting in favour of short-term economic growth. "It's sad to see, because this is one of the more progressive conventions we have," said Peter Pueschel, of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Delegates spent the final day snared in a budget fight, spending more than four hours debating whether to raise the \$4.6 million budget of the CITES secretariat by 7.5 per cent, or \$340,000. The U.S., which pays 22 per cent of the budget, objected. In the end, a 6-per cent increase was approved.

"There are so many things they want CITES to do, but nobody is willing to pay for it. It's pitiful," said Susan Lieberman, of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

CITES veterans said they noted a shift of power among the parties.



Agence France Presse -- English
Friday, June 15, 2007

Ivory ban in the bag, UN wildlife body ends session

Marlowe Hood

The UN body regulating trade in threatened species ratified decisions Friday protecting elephants, coral, eels, and at least one species of shark, even as it sought to expand its role in global wildlife management.

Wrapping up business before reconvening in 2010, the 171-nation Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species laid out a "strategic vision" that it hopes will give it greater clout in regulating the multi-billion dollar exploitation of timber and marine life.

It also locked down a landmark nine-year ban on international trade in ivory which seeks to stem a surge in poaching that has killed up to 20,000 elephants per year.

The ban will go into effect after the one-off sale to Japan, and -- pending CITES approval -- China, of elephant tusks held by four southern African nations.

The agreement after weeks of sometimes fierce debate among African nations breaks an 18-year deadlock and was hailed by CITES secretary general Willem Wijnstekers as "a great step forward for wildlife conservation."

The UN body, set up in 1973 to ensure that global trade does not threaten species survival, also sent a strong message to China on tigers.

A resolution originally drafted by Beijing but amended during debate turned into a rebuke against the practice of large-scale tiger farming -- unique to China -- and a warning against lifting a 14-year ban on domestic trade in tiger parts.

China came into the conference saying it was evaluating petitions from domestic businesses to allow in-country sale of tiger-bone tonics.

CITES can ban international wildlife commerce, but is powerless to impose rules on commerce within a given country.

"Tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives," said the final resolution, which was adopted by consensus after China failed in an attempt to change the wording.

There are twice as many of the big cats on Chinese farms -- some 5,000 -- as in the wild worldwide, experts say.

In all, more than 40 measures were adopted protected fauna and flora ranging from sea cucumbers to coral.

CITES placed Asia's slow loris, prized in Japan as a pet, on its Appendix I, which outlaws all cross-border trade of a species or its parts. There are more than 800 species of plant and animal under its protection, including big Asian cats, whales, elephants and sea turtles.

It also voted down a US bid to lift protection of bobcats, and what conservationists decried as a back-door manoeuvre by Japan to reopen commercial whaling.

But the results of CITES efforts to expand its turf into species subjected to large-scale commercial exploitation were mixed.

Historically, CITES has focused almost exclusively on animals and plants -- especially "big charismatic animals," in the words of its legal officer Juan Carlos Vasquez -- that are teetering on the edge of extinction.

The 200-million-euro business in European eels will have to adjust to sharp restrictions on the species, eaten to the edge of extinction in Europe and East Asia.

Similar proposals to protect two species of shark, however, did not pass the two-thirds muster required. The porbeagle shark and the spiny dogfish -- prized for their fins by Chinese gourmets, and their meat by fish-and-chip lovers -- remained on the hook after tight votes.

A measure to protect South American cedar, proposed by the United States, was taken off the table under pressure from producer nations before the conference even opened.



Agence France Presse -- English
Friday, June 15, 2007

Ivory ban in the bag, UN wildlife body charts its future

Marlowe Hood

The UN body regulating trade in threatened species ratified decisions Friday protecting elephants, eels, and at least one species of shark, as it sought to expand its role in global wildlife management.

In a last-minute about-turn, however, it reversed a decision made two days earlier and removed restrictions on the international trade in coral species severely depleted by commercial exploitation.

"The science was clear on this issue and not debated. This is a political decision," said Elizabeth Meely of Sea Web, a marine conservation group.

Wrapping up business before reconvening in 2010, the 171-nation Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species laid out a "strategic vision" that it hopes will give it greater clout in regulating the multi-billion dollar exploitation of valuable woods and marine life.

"We have always been kept away from commercial marine and timber species, but that is disappearing," said CITES secretary general Willem Wijnstekers.

CITES also locked in a landmark nine-year ban on international trade in ivory which seeks to stem a surge in poaching that has killed up to 20,000 elephants per year.

The ban will go into effect after the one-off sale to Japan, and -- pending CITES approval -- China, of elephant tusks held by four southern African nations.

The agreement, reached after weeks of sometimes fierce debate among African nations, breaks an 18-year deadlock and was hailed by Wijnstekers as "a great step forward for wildlife conservation."

The UN body, set up in 1973 to ensure that global trade does not threaten species survival, also sent a strong message to China on tigers.

A resolution originally drafted by Beijing but amended during debate turned into a rebuke against the practice of large-scale tiger farming -- unique to China -- and a warning against lifting a 14-year ban on domestic trade in tiger parts.

China came into the conference saying it was evaluating petitions from domestic businesses to allow in-country sale of tiger-bone tonics.

CITES can ban international wildlife commerce, but is powerless to impose rules on commerce within a given country.

"Tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives," said the final resolution, which was adopted by consensus after China failed in an attempt to change the wording.

There are twice as many of the big cats on Chinese farms -- some 5,000 -- as in the wild worldwide, experts say.

In all, dozens of measures were adopted protected fauna and flora ranging from sea cucumbers to cacti to coral.

CITES placed Asia's slow loris, prized in Japan as a pet, on its Appendix I, which already outlaws cross-border trade for some 500 animals, including big Asian cats, elephants, sea turtles.

It also voted down a US bid to lift protection of bobcats, and blocked what conservationists decried as a back-door manoeuvre by Japan to reopen commercial whaling.

But the results of CITES efforts to expand its turf into species subjected to large-scale commercial exploitation were mixed.

"The real problems for biological diversity around the world are in the forests and in the oceans," said German delegate Jochen Flasbarth. "But as soon as you interfere in these regions you are confronted with huge economic interests."

Historically, CITES has focused mostly on fauna and flora -- especially "big charismatic animals," in the words of its legal officer Juan Carlos Vasquez -- that are not the object of commercial harvesting.

The 200-million-euro business in European eels will now have to adjust to sharp restrictions on trade in the species, eaten to the edge of extinction in Europe and East Asia.

Proposals to protect two species of shark, however, did not pass the two-thirds muster required. The porbeagle shark and the spiny dogfish -- prized for their fins by Chinese gourmets, and their meat by fish-and-chip lovers -- remained on the hook after tight votes.

A measure to protect of South American cedar, proposed by the European Union, was taken off the table under pressure from producer nations before the conference even opened.

Attempts to shield rosewood and a cedar species from unregulated harvesting also failed.



Agence France Presse
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Pink and Red corals used to make jewelry, all became listed species.

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TIMES ONLINE

Times Online
Friday, June 15, 2007

Ivory deal sparks illegal market fears

Rob Crilly in Nairobi

African states have agreed a one-off sale of ivory followed by a nine-year freeze on exports as part of a compromise to avert bitter deadlock on the trade.

The deal was reached yesterday at a meeting of the 171-member Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites), which ends today in The Hague.

Agreements to protect corals, tigers and marine turtles were overshadowed by a bad-tempered debate over the future of ivory, pitting southern Africa against eastern and central countries.

The deal received a mixed reception from conservation-ists. Susan Lieberman, director of WWF's global species programme, said: "This consensus is a milestone in elephant history." Others cautioned that any sales would stimulate illicit markets.

Michael Wamithi, a Kenyan delegate of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, said: "It will excite a demand that can never be supplied by legal sources. It will encourage the illegal market, and that's what kills elephants."

The international trade was banned in 1989. Since then populations of elephants have rebounded in southern African states but poachers are still estimated to be killing about 23,000 each year, mostly in central and East Africa.

Kenya entered the talks pushing for a 20-year moratorium on even discussing resumption of the trade. Meanwhile, southern African states wanted an annual export quota, to allow them to manage their growing herds.

The Cites compromise allows South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe to sell their stockpiles of legally acquired tusks – which conservationists estimate at more than 60 tonnes – as long as profits are ploughed back into conservation.

At present Japan is the only country certified by Cites to receive shipments although China, where ivory chopsticks and traditional name seals are popular, is pressing to be included.

Ian Craig, who is involved in projects to protect some 6,500 elephants in Kenya, said that he feared East Africa had lost out to southern interests. "This is not like the well-managed states of southern Africa," he said.

“Our worry is that with so many guns in this part of the world – from Somalia and so on – any increase in ivory prices will bring back poachers with a very high level of aggression.”

The deal on ivory was reached shortly before 3am yesterday after hours of negotiations. Willem Wijnstekers, the Cites secretary-general, hailed the deal: “This African solution to an African problem marks a great step forward for wildlife conservation.”

Delegates this week added several types of red and pink coral to the protected list. The trade in European eels and endangered sawfish has also been outlawed.



Agence France Presse
Friday, June 15, 2007

Last-minute reversal on protecting coral at UN wildlife body

The UN wildlife trade organisation back-tracked Friday and removed restrictions it had imposed days earlier on the global trade in coral species severely depleted by commercial exploitation.

"The reversal by the delegates by a secret ballot is deplorable," said Elizabeth Meely of Sea Web, a marine conservation group.

"The science was clear on this issue and not debated -- this is a political decision," she said.

On Wednesday the 171-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) had placed 26 species in the *Corallium* genus on its Appendix II, protecting them from the unregulated trade which has decimated coral stocks around the world.

A finished necklace of red coral retails for up to 20,000 dollars (15,000 euros), making the sea animal one of the world's most expensive wildlife commodities.

Destructive fishing methods and over-harvesting have reduced worldwide catches by 90 percent in the past two decades, scientists say.

Jewelry Supply.com: The Blog
Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Let's talk about those coral beads

Apparently, the US is now pushing to protect red coral species. This environmental step forward can really be commended. There are many places that devastate the bottoms of oceans in search for high quality coral, but the group mentioned in this article here, it is more of a bad omen.

So what will happen to jewelry makers if this goes through? The amount of coral that could be imported would be regulated.

As it turns out, one of Swarovski's newest colors is actually called dark red coral.



Each bead has a variagated tone, so though there may be similiar in color, each one won't be exact to the other. This gives designers the chance to use high quality crystal for the use as faux natural stone beads.



Scientific American
Monday, May 28, 2007

Lucrative fish and timber face U.N. trade limits

Anna Mudeva, Reuters

AMSTERDAM - Fish and chips, coral jewelry and wooden musical instruments will take centre stage at a U.N. wildlife forum next week which seeks to curb the billion-dollar trade in endangered marine and tree species.

Commercially valuable species like the spiny dogfish and the porbeagle shark, the European eel, pink coral and rosewood and cedar trees -- all threatened by over-use -- feature high on the agenda of the June 3-15 meeting in The Hague.

The talks will also help shape the future of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), whose restrictions were once aimed at exotic species like leopards and parrots but are now focusing on more commercial species.

"In the past, we have hardly been allowed to get close to commercial fish and timber ... There was quite heavy opposition from producing countries," CITES Secretary General Willem Wijnstekers told Reuters.

"The debate over the inclusion of additional high-value fishery and timber species will be an important indicator of the direction CITES is likely to take over the coming years."



Lucrative fish and timber face U.N. trade limits A fisherman slices the fin off a shark at a beach in Manta, Ecuador, January 6, 2007. Fish and chips, coral jewelry and wooden musical instruments will take centre stage at a U.N. wildlife forum next week which seeks to curb the billion-dollar trade in endangered marine and tree species. REUTERS/Guillermo Granja

Many of the 37 proposals to be discussed at the 171-nation forum reflect growing concern about rapid depletion of marine and forest resources through overfishing and excessive logging.

Germany, on behalf of the European Union, wants to limit the trade in two sharks due to overuse: the spiny dogfish, featured in British fish and chips, and the porbeagle shark. It also seeks tighter protection for the European eel, a popular food.

"The sharks are particularly important because these are the first high value, high volume commercially exploited marine species to be proposed with a good chance of winning," said Carroll Muffett of Greenpeace.

The United States wants trade limits for the pink or red coral because overharvesting and sea bottom trawls and dredges threaten the tiny marine animal used for jewelry.

And deforestation has prompted proposals to limit trade in rosewood, used as tonewood for musical instruments, and cedar from Central and South America, a decay-resistant scented wood.

RICH AND POOR AFFECTED

Environmentalists say this year's proposals showed that governments had begun to take CITES more seriously.

"We are really starting to understand that CITES does have implications for all of our lives whether we are living in a rich country or in a poor country," said Sue Mainka, senior program coordinator at the World Conservation Union.

Charismatic animals like elephants, leopards and whales will still be on the agenda of CITES, which bans trade in 530 animal and more than 300 plant species. It also limits trade in 4,460 animal species and 28,000 plant species.

Elephants are expected to be a controversial issue.

CITES is credited for stemming the slaughter of the African elephant with its ban on international ivory trade in 1989.

But scientists say the killing of elephants for their tusks, mainly in central Africa, has now reached levels not seen since the ban, as Asian-run organized crime syndicates push the illegal ivory trade to unprecedented levels.

Now elephants are back on the agenda. Botswana and Namibia want looser conditions on ivory sales from southern African countries, while Kenya and Mali seek a 20-year moratorium from those states to reduce poaching.

Daily Times

Your right to know A new voice for a new Pakistan

Daily Times
Tuesday, May 29, 2007

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Reuters
Monday, May 28 2007

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WebWire
Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mixed results: International wildlife trade convention draws to an end

The Hague, The Netherlands – The 14th conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, ended today with some sound conservation decisions, but also missed opportunities.

“In some respects, the conference has been a success, with some key decisions taken on eels, sawfishes, elephants and tigers, but it’s a serious concern that countries missed the opportunity to assist with conservation of several commercially traded species,” said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF Global Species Programme.

Missed opportunities

In particular, the EU withdrew its proposal to list *Cedrela* — a group of tropical tree species found in Latin America — on CITES Appendix II following strong pressure from Latin American and Caribbean countries. WWF and TRAFFIC are disappointed that an opportunity was missed to use a CITES listing to ensure better management and measures to control trade of this threatened species.

Species listed on Appendix I of the international wildlife convention cannot be traded internationally. Species listed on Appendix II can be traded internationally but with strict regulations.

“It took ten years to include another tropical tree, big-leaf mahogany, on CITES Appendix II and, as a result, this species is now on the verge of commercial extinction,” said Cliona O’Brien, Senior Policy Analyst, WWF’s Global Species Programme. “The same is likely to happen with *Cedrela* if the current exploitation levels continue.”

All the other proposals to list tropical timber species on Appendix II were withdrawn, with one exception — Brazil wood was listed with an amendment to exclude certain items made from it, such as musical bows.

Another disappointment was the overturning of a decision to list red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium* on Appendix II. According to WWF and TRAFFIC, these corals, which are used mainly for the manufacture of jewellery, have been over-harvested as a result of lack of international trade controls and consistent management plan.

“These corals will continue to suffer from this free-for-all situation,” said TRAFFIC Executive Director Steven Broad. “Today’s decision was a question of expediency rather than a full examination of the facts. Commercial lobbying won through.”

Mixed marine results

WWF and TRAFFIC regret that delegates did not list two shark species — spiny dogfish and porbeagle — on Appendix II.

“The failure to list spiny dogfish and porbeagle sharks was especially disappointing,” added Broad.

“This meeting could go down in history as a critical missed opportunity to halt the decline of these important fisheries.”

However, the listing of seven species of sawfish (ray-like sharks) on Appendix I was greatly welcomed. One sawfish species found in Australia was included in Appendix II, but only to allow trade in live animals to public aquaria for conservation purposes only.

Successes

As in past CITES meetings, issues related to African elephants dominated many discussions. African elephant range countries at the meeting agreed to a nine-year suspension of ivory trading. There was also agreement to allow four southern African countries — Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe — to sell stocks of their ivory in a one-off sale. Proceeds will go to local conservation efforts. After the sale, the suspension will take effect.

“For the first time in almost 20 years, opposing factions were speaking with one voice to move the ivory debate forward, but the key issues of how to tackle elephant poaching and illegal domestic ivory markets in Africa and Asia remain unanswered,” said Dr Lieberman.

In a major victory for big cat conservation, raising captive tigers for trade in their parts was rejected by CITES members, and called on China to phase out its large-scale commercial tiger farms. In a surprise announcement, the CITES Secretariat said it had asked the Chinese government to investigate a tiger farm implicated in illegally selling tiger meat.

“A legal market in China for products made from farmed tigers would increase demand and allow criminals to ‘launder’ products made from tigers poached from the wild,” said Steve Broad of TRAFFIC. “Tiger numbers in the wild are so precarious that we cannot risk any actions that could jeopardize them further.”

Vision for the future

In an attempt to link CITES to the broader conservation and development agenda, delegates adopted an ambitious new strategic vision for the coming years.

“CITES member countries now need to step up their efforts to secure the resources needed to meet the goals they have set for themselves, especially the support needed by developing countries to manage wildlife trade at sustainable levels,” Broad said.

“Getting species listed on the convention is just the start. Underpinning the success of all decisions taken here is the need for strong political will and sound law enforcement.”

Nations meet to protect wildlife

Richard Black, Environment correspondent, BBC News website

Elephants and the ivory trade come under the spotlight as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) summit opens.

Just prior to the opening, a committee voted that a limited sale of stockpiled ivory from southern Africa to Japan could go ahead.

Some African countries want a 20-year ban on trading ivory.

The two-week meeting in The Hague will also seek protection for the sawfish, cedar, and some corals.

Conservation groups are targeting China's tiger farming business.



Countries are looking to improve protection for animals and plants

The three-yearly CITES meetings set restrictions on trade in species regarded as endangered or threatened.

This year's summit on the 32-year old treaty brings 175 national delegations to The Hague, along with other UN agencies, and conservation and animal welfare organisations.

Opposing visions

Two starkly different approaches to the largely banned ivory trade will be up for discussion.

Kenya and Mali are seeking a total 20-year moratorium, while Botswana and Namibia are seeking increased exports.

CITES has twice before granted southern African countries the right to export ivory from stockpiles to Asia.

Concerns over mechanisms for monitoring the trade had prevented the second sale, approved in 2002, from taking place.

But on the eve of the meeting, a technical committee decided that mechanisms to monitor poaching in Africa were sufficiently effective, and that Japan had established

proper safeguards to ensure only the designated ivory was imported. South Africa, Botswana and Namibia will sell 60 tonnes to the Asian nation.

Conservationists believe any extension in legal exports will fuel the already substantial illegal trade.

"Every time CITES even talks about relaxing the ivory ban, poaching goes up," said Peter Pueschel of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw).

A recent report from the wildlife trade monitoring organisation Traffic said there were now 92 seizures of illegal ivory seizures each month.

All at sea

Fresh from a string of defeats at the International Whaling Commission in Alaska, Japan is trying another route to an expansion of whaling by asking CITES to review restrictions on trading whale meat.

Conservation and animal welfare organisations are also alarmed by China's bid for a relaxation of rules on trading products from tiger farms which have sprung up in recent decades.

"If you open up a legal trade in tiger parts, it opens up a huge demand which can obviously cause problems for the wild populations," observed Dave Eastham, head of wildlife at the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

The list of life-forms for which governments are seeking extra protection is dominated by marine organisms.

The sawfish, hunted for its spectacular rostrum (snout), the porbeagle shark, and the spiny dogfish (whose meat is sold in British fish and chip shops under the name rock salmon) are all being depleted fast.

Red and pink corals, extracted principally in Asia and the Mediterranean and exported mainly to the US for use in necklaces, are also on the target list of conservation-minded governments.

However, there is opposition to listing some of these species, notably from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which feels effective fisheries management would be a better and less bureaucratic option.

On land, protection is being sought for some rosewood and cedar trees. Pau Brazil, whose wood is used in top-of-the-range violin bows, may also gain protection.

One long-term issue likely to divide delegates is a proposal that development and poverty concerns should be taken into account when deciding CITES restrictions.

Richard.Black-INTERNET@bbc.co.uk

CITES EXPLAINED

Threatened organisms listed on three appendices depending on level of risk
Appendix 1 - all international trade banned
Appendix 2 - international trade monitored and regulated
Appendix 3 - trade bans by individual governments, others asked to assist
"Uplisting" - moving organism to a more protective appendix, "downlisting" - the reverse
Conferences of the Parties (COPs) held every three years
CITES administered by UN Environment Programme (Unep)

BBC News Website
Thursday, June 14, 2007

Necklace noose loosened for coral

By Richard Black, Environment correspondent, BBC News website, The Hague

The global body regulating the wildlife trade has voted to protect the red and pink corals widely used in jewellery.

Corals of the genus *Corallium* are to be listed on Appendix 2 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Over-harvesting in the Mediterranean and western Pacific has caused major declines in recent years.

It is said a spectacular *Corallium* necklace can fetch up to \$20,000 (£10,000) in US boutiques.

Campaigners professed they were delighted with the outcome.

"Red coral is the most valuable and widely traded out of all the coral species, and CITES protection will help ensure the future of the species and the red coral industry," said Andy Bruckner of SeaWeb.

"We are pleased that the international community has recognised the threats *Corallium* faces, and is taking the necessary steps to safeguard these species."

Treasured goods

An Appendix 2 listing does not prevent international trade, but permits will only be issued on deals that do not compromise the health of wild populations.

Resistance came from organisations representing Italian coral harvesters.

The trade has been worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually to the village of Torre del Greco - in Italy's Campania region - alone.

"The proposal will not have any effect on the real conservation needs of this species," read a statement from the trade body Assocoral.



Red coral is valuable and widely traded



Corals are also damaged by some intensive fishing methods

"It will create only bureaucracy and problems which will jeopardise the conservation efforts that many countries are engaged in."

Assocoral also pointed out that no *Corallium* species was currently on the internationally recognised Red List of Threatened Species.

This situation led to fraught negotiations between European Union delegations, which always vote as a bloc in CITES matters.

The difficulties were smoothed over with a little help from the US, which found language to ameliorate Italian concerns.

Implementation will be delayed for 18 months, and individuals will be able to carry a personal allowance of up to seven pieces of finished jewellery.

Support for the resolution came from a number of fashion houses which manufacture and sell coral jewellery.

"We believe that coral harvesting as currently practised is not sustainable and threatens marine ecosystems," said Fernanda Kellogg from Tiffany and company.

"We will not use this precious material in our jewellery until harvesting methods have been adopted that ensure the sustainability of coral reefs."

Following this resolution, coral jewellers, and those who like their wares, are in principle assured of a supply of this beautiful material which comes with sustainability guaranteed.

Richard.Black-INTERNET@bbc.co.uk

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/sci/tech/6750433.stm>



Coral necklaces fetch high prices in US boutiques

TULSA WORLD

Tulsa World
Sunday, June 10, 2007

Netherlands: U.S. pushes to regulate coral crop

by: MIKE CORDER Associated Press

The red coral's value is boosted because it grows slowly and in such deep waters.



SeaWeb 2007 / Marine Photobank / AP
Jewelry made of red coral.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands -- The U.S. is leading a push to protect a type of red coral that grows deep in the world's oceans and seas, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen who have harvested the species for generations to make artwork and jewelry.

Under the U.S. proposal up for debate at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meeting in The Hague, trade in several species of red coral, or corallium, would be regulated for the first time to ensure harvesting and global

sales do not threaten their survival.

The proposal is expected to come up for a vote this week, worrying the fishermen and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, who harvest the coral for their livelihood in the town in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

"We started 800 years ago and we want to continue," said Ciro Conditto of Assocoral, a lobbying group representing the craftsmen in the Mediterranean town. "We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life."

The U.S. is the world's biggest market for corallium products, importing more than 26 million pieces from 2001 to 2006, according to the Washington-based environmental group SeaWeb.

The value of corallium is boosted by the fact it is difficult to gather because it grows as deep as 3,280 feet. It is also rare because it grows so slowly -- in some cases, just 0.06 inches or less per year -- and takes up to seven years to reach maturity, with low reproduction rates.

Raw coral can sell for about \$400 per pound at auction, and artworks or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$20,000, depending on the size and quality.

One place corallium jewelry is no longer sold is Tiffany and Co.

"Until we are convinced that coral harvesting is sustainable and does not threaten marine ecosystems, we believe this cautionary principle should continue to apply," the company says on its Web site.

In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed -- a practice that devastates the coral and threatens other marine wildlife that use coral colonies as a place to feed, mate and escape predators.

"It is like clear-cutting a forest -- it pulls everything up, there's a lot of loss and you remove the large colonies, the small colonies and cause a lot of damage to the habitat," said Andy Bruckner of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the Mediterranean, trawl fishing has been replaced by scuba-diving harvesters and some countries have imposed quotas and minimum size limits. But the coral is still struggling.

"We're afraid that if things continue the way they are it could lead to species being depleted from large areas," said Bruckner.

Seaweb coral protection campaign: www.tooprecioustowear.com

Ciro Condito of Assocoral: www.assocoral.it



HORIZON Solutions Site
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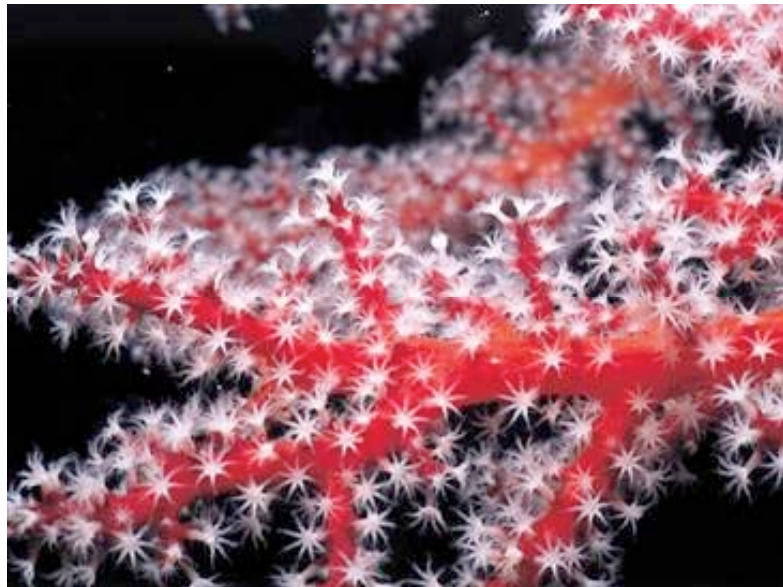
HORIZON Solutions Site
Tuesday, June 19, 2007

New Security for Coral Reefs: Red and Pink Corals Get United Nations Trade Protection

Alister Doyle, Environment Correspondent, Reuters

Countries at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) voted 62 to 28 to start regulating export of corals, now harvested mainly in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific in a business worth millions of dollars.

"Regulation of trade is necessary to ensure they do not become threatened with extinction," said Andrew Bruckner, a US official who authored the proposal at the June 3-15 talks. He said that current harvesting was depleting stocks.



Corallium Photo Sea Web

Trade in red and pink corals prized as jewelry for 5,000 years will be restricted to try to help the species recover after drastic over-exploitation, a United Nations wildlife conference, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), agreed on June 15, 2007.

Necklaces made of the red and pink corals, collectively known as Corallium, can cost up to US\$20,000. Many other species of coral are already protected by CITES.

"Corallium, the most valuable of the precious corals, has been fished for over 5,000 years," the US proposal said, adding that millions of items and thousands of kilos (pounds) a year were traded internationally.

The decision, imposing restrictions on international trade, will take effect in 18 months' time partly because of worries by southern European producers that they would need time to adapt to new trade rules.



Corallium Jewelry Photo SeaWeb

Over-harvesting and other threats including pollution, trawling of the seabed by fishing vessels and global warming are among threats to the corals, found from the tropics to temperate waters.

Conservationists hailed the decision. "This is the best possible decision to start getting the trade in these corals under some form of international control," said Ernie Cooper, a coral trade expert from TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

Seaweb, a conservation group, also applauded the decision and said that raw red coral sold for US\$100 to \$900 per kg at auction. It said the Italian town of Torre del Greco, a centre of the trade, made coral profits of US\$174 million in 1999 alone.

CITES is one part of a global drive to help protect species, and is increasingly looking at commercial types such as corals, fish and timber alongside efforts to safeguard iconic animals such as tigers and elephants.



Akron Farm Report
Friday, June 15, 2007

New trends at wildlife trade conference

By ARTHUR MAX, Associated Press Writer

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showdowns, it failed to block a resolution urging it to maintain a 1993 ban on the sale of tiger parts for traditional medicine and warning it to rein in its program of breeding tigers.

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The Benton Crier
Friday, June 15, 2007

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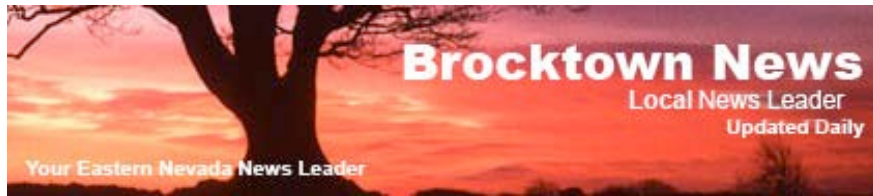
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Brocktown News
Friday, June 15, 2007

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The Sentinel

The Carlisle Sentinel
Friday, June 15, 2007

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CASPER Star Tribune

Wyoming's News Source

Casper Star Tribune
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Centre Daily Times
Friday, June 15, 2007

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The Chandler News-Dispatch
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The Chippewa Herald
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Columbus Ledger-Enquirer
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Contra Costa Times
News Fuze
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Dunton Springs Evening Post
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Ely Times & County
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Forbes Magazine
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Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
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The News~Sentinel

Fort Wayne News Sentinel
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Fort Worth Star Telegram
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Herald News Daily
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The Hinesberg Journal
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Houston Chronicle

chron.com

The Houston Chronicle
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Howell Times and Transcript

Northern Utah's Rural News Service

Howell Times and Transcript
Friday, June 15, 2007

New trends at wildlife trade conference

By ARTHUR MAX, Associated Press Writer

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Jackson News-Tribune
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Jordan Falls News
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Kansas City Star
Friday, June 15, 2007

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The Kindred Times
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Leading the Charge
Friday, June 15, 2007

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The Macon Telegraph
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Meadow Free Press
Friday, June 15, 2007

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The Miami Herald

Miami Herald
Friday, June 15, 2007

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MLive.com
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Monterey County The Herald

Monterey County Herald
Friday, June 15, 2007

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MSN Money
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Associated Press

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The New Hope Courier
Friday, June 15, 2007

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News and Observer
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The Olympian online
Friday, June 15, 2007

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OregonLive.com
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The Ottawa Recorder
Friday, June 15, 2007

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PennLive.com
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Philadelphia Daily News
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Pioneer Times-Journal
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Prescott Herald
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Newspaper of the Central Coast

THE TRIBUNE

San Luis Obispo Tribune
Friday, June 15, 2007

New trends at wildlife trade conference

By *ARTHUR MAX - Associated Press Writer*

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Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Seattle Post Intelligencer
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Sky Valley Journal
Friday, June 15, 2007

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The Sun Herald
Friday, June 15, 2007

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The Times-Picayune

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Town Hall
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Westfall Weekly News
Friday, June 15, 2007

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White Rock Reviewer
Friday, June 15, 2007

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WRAL.com
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Guardian Unlimited
Saturday June 16, 2007

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The conference also increased scrutiny in the caviar trade - long plagued by a booming black market - to help save the Caspian Sea sturgeon.

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In other power shifts, the European Union swung many issues and aroused some anger for voting as a 27-member bloc. Japan was less aggressive than it had been in previous meetings. And the United States “was not the powerhouse it was 15 years ago,” said Travers, of the pro-wildlife coalition.



Central Florida News
Saturday, June 16, 2007

New Trends at Wildlife Trade Conference

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

Elephants emerged safer and tigers won a vote of support, but sharks and corals failed to win protection at a two-week wildlife trade conference that ended Friday.

The conference also saw a shift in conservation politics, with ministers throwing their weight behind negotiations.

China emerged for the first time as a major player at the triennial meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species, or CITES, surprising delegates with its activism.

The signatories of the CITES treaty, adopted in 1975 to rescue rare plants and animals threatened with extinction, turned their attention as never before to common timber and fish vital to the economies of many nations.

And critics worried about the increasing role of politics as the 171-nation CITES met to review its lists of tens of thousands of threatened species, with the first ministerial-level meeting at a CITES conference.

"The ministerial forum has added a strong political dimension," said Will Travers, head of the Species Survival Network, a coalition of about 80 nongovernment agencies. "It's too early to say whether this is good or bad, but I am concerned," he said.

The ministers were credited with breaking an 18-year deadlock over the sale of ivory by southern African countries, which were allowed a one-time sale of accumulated tusks to Japan, the only authorized buyer. In exchange, the elephant and ivory issues would be taken off the CITES agenda for nine years.

The conference ended in disappointment for environmentalists. An earlier committee decision that would have regulated the trade in pink and red coral used for jewelry was overturned by the full plenary. Proposals to control the trade in spiny dogfish sharks, widely fished for fast food, also fell.

South American and Asian countries with powerful timber industries helped defeat proposals to regulate trade in Spanish cedar and rosewood species, which conservationists say are being stripped from rain forests.

But big-money fisheries and timber were put on notice, and those species that failed to win protection were certain to come up again in future meetings.

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Malaria, Bedbugs, Sea Lice, and Sunsets

Part travelogue, equal parts science, opinion, and political observations, but mostly dedicated to capturing the often irksome and sometimes wonderful moments that are all part of field-based ocean conservation

Malaria, Bedbugs, Sea Lice, and Sunsets
Friday, June 15, 2007

Now I'm Really Seeing Red: An Update

Rick MacPherson



Friday, 15 June, 2007 UPDATE

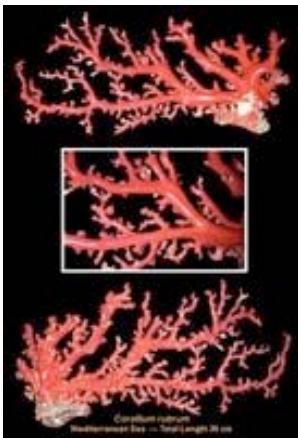
So cheers may have turned to tears. I was celebrating on Wednesday the news that red and pink coral received international protection by CITES. Seems that some last minute lobbying has resulted in no Appendix II listing for these threatened species of coral. Read on for the original post below and then join me in a collective smack to our foreheads over the lack of vision of the assembly (and I suspect the greed of special interest groups.)

Wednesday, 13 June, 2007 ORIGINAL POST

There's some reason to celebrate today. This week, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES (pronounced sight-eeze), is meeting in The Hague. CITES is an international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The reason I'm feeling celebratory is that red and pink corals (genus *Corallium*) received international trade protection today after 62 countries voted to list these over-harvested species under the CITES Appendix II listing.

CITES can confer listing of species as either Appendix I, II, or III. Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances (usually having something to do with research and conservation). So if you were hoping to receive a Spiny Echidna, Honey Badger, or Binturong for your birthday, forget it... they are all Appendix I listed. Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid depletion of the species or elevation to Appendix I status. Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade.

The U.S. government had originally proposed that CITES list red and pink coral species on Appendix II of CITES. This newly approved designation will require that any government that exports or imports items made of red and pink coral demonstrate that trade in these species does not adversely impact its future survival.



Consumer items made from red and pink coral are very popular right now in the form of jewelry and decorative items. With a finished necklace retailing for up to \$20,000 US, precious red corals are among the world's most valuable wildlife commodities. Since 2005 there has been a worldwide resurgence in coral popularity, and it is in high demand for jewelry, art and curios, particularly in Europe and Asia. An Appendix II listing will be a strong step to improve the monitoring and tracking of red coral trade. There are also interactions between this potential ruling and bottom trawling regulations.

To help spread the word and build public awareness of this issue, SeaWeb has launched a fantastic new campaign, Too Precious To Wear. The beautiful logo (pictured at the top of this post) is specifically designed to capture the eye and attention of consumers. Beyond just designing a pretty logo, SeaWeb has secured the support and commitment of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation. Tiffany & Co. (begin humming Moon River here) is arguably the world's preeminent retailer of exquisitely designed, high-value jewelry. Recognizing the growing demand for jewelry materials sourced sustainably and ethically (think Blood Diamond) from the land and ocean (diamonds, pearls, coral, shell, etc.) the company established an environmental policy. Their environmental statement reads that,



It is from nature that Tiffany & Co. draws the raw materials and inspiration that have shaped the company's design heritage. The mission of the foundation's Environment Program is to support organizations dedicated to the conservation of natural resources in the areas of responsible mining, coral reef conservation, and land protection.

Way to go SeaWeb, and Tiffany & Co. Foundation! It's important to see big corporations like Tiffany not take the path of greenwashing. They're partnering with marine conservation organizations and investing to help preserve an ecosystem on which their company depends. When so much of the ocean environmental news is grim, the occasional good news like this is incredibly welcome.



ABC Radio Australia
Thursday, June 14, 2007

Pacific, Mediterranean coral trade to be restricted

Trade in some coral will be severely restricted in the future to try to stop the species becoming extinct in the Mediterranean and Pacific oceans.

The ruling came at a United Nations wildlife conference in the Netherlands this week

Countries at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species voted 62 to 28 to start regulating the export of red and pink corals, harvested mainly in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific.

US delegate Andrew Bruckner says coral has been harvested for some 5,000 years but restrictions are vital to ensure some species are not wiped out, with the current harvesting levels seriously depleting stocks.

The part ban will take effect in 18 months' time because of concerns by southern European producers, who say they need time to adapt to new trade rules.

Other threats to coral species include pollution, trawling of the seabed by fishing vessels and global warming.

Daily Herald

Big Picture . Local Focus

Chicago Daily Herald
Saturday, June 16, 2007

Politicking not endangered at conservation convention

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Elephants emerged safer and tigers won a vote of support, but sharks and corals failed to win protection at a two-week wildlife trade conference that ended Friday.

The conference also saw a shift in conservation politics, with ministers throwing their weight behind negotiations.

China emerged for the first time as a major player at the triennial meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species, or CITES, surprising delegates with its activism.

The signatories of the CITES treaty, adopted in 1975 to rescue rare plants and animals threatened with extinction, turned their attention as never before to common timber and fish vital to the economies of many nations.

And critics worried about the increasing role of politics as the 171-nation CITES met to review its lists of tens of thousands of threatened species, with the first ministerial-level meeting at a CITES conference.

“The ministerial forum has added a strong political dimension,” said Will Travers, head of the Species Survival Network, a coalition of about 80 nongovernment agencies. “It’s too early to say whether this is good or bad, but I am concerned,” he said.

The ministers were credited with breaking an 18-year deadlock over the sale of ivory by southern African countries, which were allowed a one-time sale of accumulated tusks to Japan, the only authorized buyer. In exchange, the elephant and ivory issues would be taken off the CITES agenda for nine years.

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Knoxville News Sentinel
Saturday, June 16, 2007

Politics of wildlife shifts at conference

By ARTHUR MAX, Associated Press

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Proposal to limit harvest of red coral

By Mike Corder
ASSOCIATED PRESS

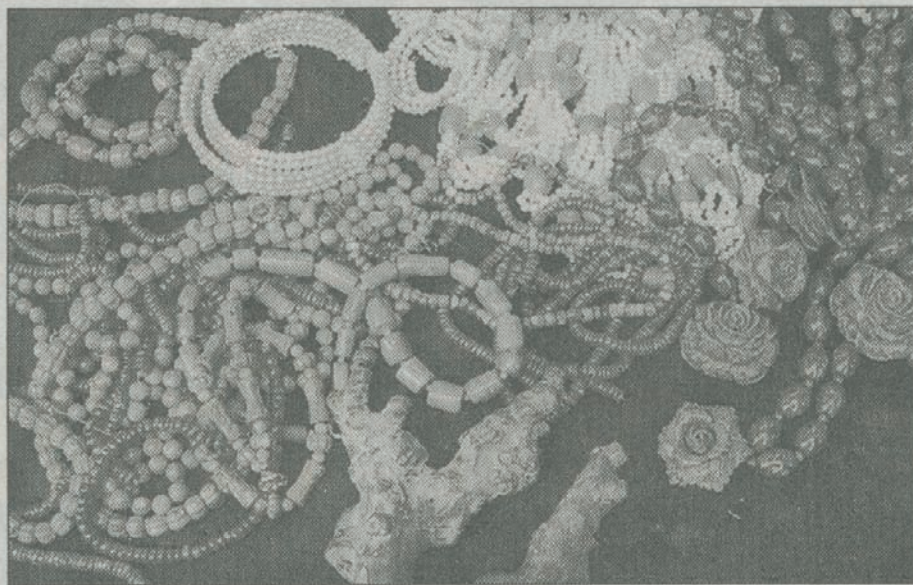
THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The United States is leading a push to protect a type of red coral that grows deep in the world's oceans and seas, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen who have harvested the species for generations to make artwork and jewelry.

Under the U.S. proposal up for debate at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meeting in The Hague, trade in several species of red coral, or corallium, would be regulated for the first time to ensure harvesting and global sales do not threaten their survival.

The proposal is expected to come up for a vote this week, worrying the fishermen and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, who harvest the coral for their livelihood in the town in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

"We started 800 years ago, and we want to continue," said Ciro Conditto of Assocoral, a lobbying group representing the craftsmen in the Mediterranean town. "We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life."

The United States is the world's



SeaWeb 2007/Marine Photobank

Red coral, now considered endangered, is turned into jewelry.

biggest market for corallium products, importing more than 26 million pieces from 2001 to 2006, according to the Washington-based environmental group SeaWeb.

The value of corallium is boosted by the fact it is difficult to gather because it grows as deep as 3,280 feet. It is also rare because it grows so slowly — in some cases, just 0.06 inches or less per year — and takes up to seven years to reach maturity, with low reproduction rates.

Raw coral can sell for about \$400 per pound at auction, and artworks or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$20,000, depending on the size and quality.

Tiffany and Co. is one place where corallium jewelry is no longer sold.

"Until we are convinced that coral harvesting is sustainable and does not threaten marine ecosystems, we believe this cautionary principle should continue to ap-

ply," the company says on its Web site.

In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed — a practice that devastates the coral and threatens other marine wildlife that use coral colonies as a place to feed, mate and escape predators.

"It is like clear-cutting a forest — it pulls everything up, there's a lot of loss and you remove the large colonies, the small colonies and cause a lot of damage to the habitat," said Andy Bruckner of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the Mediterranean, trawl fishing has been replaced by scuba-diving harvesters, and some countries have imposed quotas and minimum size limits. But the coral is still struggling.

"We're afraid that if things continue the way they are, it could lead to species being depleted from large areas," Bruckner said.

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Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Saipan Tribune
Environment
Thursday, June 21, 2007

Proposal to protect rare corals OK'd

THE HAGUE, Netherlands-The 171 nations of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora passed last week a proposal offered by the United States to put in place international trade restrictions to protect a group of increasingly rare corals from over-harvest.

As a result of the vote, pink and red corals will be listed in Appendix II of the convention, which means that any international shipment must be accompanied by an export permit affirming that it was legally harvested in a way that is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

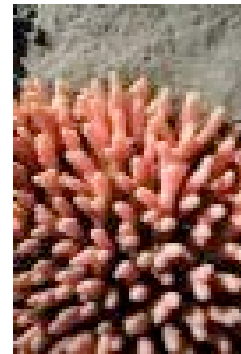
"Over-harvest of red and pink corals for commercial trade threatens their survival in the wild," said Todd Willens, head of the U.S. delegation to CITES' 14th Conference of the Parties meeting in The Hague through June 15th. "With this listing, we can be sure that any harvest of these corals will be managed to ensure that it is sustainable and does not threaten the continued existence of the species."

Red and pink corals are the most valuable precious coral, widely traded as jewelry and souvenirs. They are extremely slow-growing and long-lived, and occur primarily in deep water. Most known populations have been significantly degraded by harvest to meet the demands of international markets.

"The destruction we've witnessed is the equivalent of old-growth forests being reduced to grass plains, eliminating the vital role red and pink corals play in providing habitat for a variety of species," said Andy Bruckner, an expert on corals who is part the U.S. delegation.

A CITES-regulated species may be included in one of three appendices to the convention:

*Appendix I includes species for which it is determined that any commercial trade is detrimental to the survival of the species. Therefore, no commercial trade is allowed in Appendix-I species. Non-commercial trade in such species is allowed if it does not jeopardize the species' survival in the wild. Permits are required for the exportation and importation of Appendix-I species.



A sample of a pink coral. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora passed last week a proposal to put in place trade restrictions to protect pink and red corals.

*Appendix II includes species for which it has been determined that commercial trade may be detrimental to the survival of the species if that trade is not strictly controlled. Trade in these species is regulated through the use of export permits.

*Appendix III includes species listed by a range country that requires the assistance of other parties to ensure that exports of their native species are legal. Permits are used to control and monitor trade in native species. Any CITES Party may place a native species in Appendix III.

Any listing of a species in either Appendix I or II requires approval by two-thirds of the CITES party countries that vote on the proposal. (DOI)



Qatar News Agency
Saturday, June 16, 2007

Qatar/cites2 The Hague

The Conference Also Decided Measures To Curb International Trade In Species Including Elephants, Corals, Eels And Timber. The Main Decisions At The 171-nation Meeting Of The Convention On International Trade In Endangered Species (cites) Include:

Elephants: A 1989 Ban On Elephant Ivory Exports Will Be Extended For Nine Years, After A Sale From Stockpiles By Botswana, Namibia, South Africa And Zimbabwe. The Deal Was A Compromise Between Nations Wanting A 20-year Ban And The Four Southern African Nations Which Say Their Elephant Numbers Are Rising.

Tigers: The Conference Rebuked China For Breeding About 5,000 Tigers In Farms, Roughly The Total Left In The Wild Worldwide. China Has Said It Is Considering Whether To Overthrow A 1993 Ban On Domestic Trade In Tiger Parts, Using Farmed Tigers. The Conference Said: Tigers Should Not Be Bred For Trade In Their Parts Or Derivatives.

Timber: Brazilwood, Used To Produce Violin Bows, Won Tighter Protection After Brazil Sought Trade Curbs On The Species. The European Union Withdrew Bids To Curb Logging Of South And Central American Cedar And Rosewood Trees, The Source Of Some Of The World's Most Valuable Timber Used In Furniture And Musical Instruments. Latin American Nations Were Opposed.

European Eels: Delegates Agreed To Regulate Trade In European Eels, Worth Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars A Year, Because Of Overfishing And Loss Of Habitats. Baby Eels Sold To Japan Can Sometimes Cost, For The Same Weight, More Than Caviar And Stocks Have Tumbled By 95 Percent In A Few Decades.

Corals: Trade In Red And Pink Corals Prized As Jewelry For 5,000. Years Will Be Regulated For A First Time To Help The Species Recover After Drastic Over-exploitation. Corals Are Now Harvested Mainly In The Mediterranean And Western Pacific In A Million Dollar Business. Necklaces Of The Corals, Collectively Known As Corallium, Can Cost Up To \$20,000.

Sawfish: The Conference Voted To Outlaw Trade In Sawfish, A Type Of Ray Related To Sharks Which Brandish A Toothed Snout That Can Grow Up To Almost Two Metres. Sawfish Stocks Are Down 90 Percent After Decades Of Overfishing. Australia Got An Exemption To Allow Exports Of Live Fish To Aquariums Abroad.

MinneapolisStar Tribune
Saturday, June 9, 2007

Raiding the high seas for high-fashion coral

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stunning red coral jewelry comes at a high price: The deep-ocean reefs where the coral grows can't keep up with the demand. The biggest consumer of the coral, the United States, is proposing regulating several species of red coral, or corallium, to ensure their survival. A vote on the proposed regulations is expected next week at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, meeting in The Hague, Netherlands.

DEEP AND RARE

The value of corallium is boosted by the fact that it is difficult to gather because it grows as deep as 3,280 feet. It grows slowly -- in some cases, just 0.06 inches or less per year -- and takes up to seven years to reach maturity, with low reproduction rates. In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed. "It is like clear-cutting a forest -- it pulls everything up, there's a lot of loss and you remove the large colonies, the small colonies and cause a lot of damage to the habitat," said Andy Bruckner of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

NOT AT TIFFANY

Raw coral can sell for about \$400 per pound at auction, and artworks or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$20,000, depending on the size and quality. The United States imported more than 26 million pieces of corallium from 2001 to 2006, according to the environmental group SeaWeb. At least one famous U.S. jeweler, Tiffany and Co., no longer markets it. "Until we are convinced that coral harvesting is sustainable and does not threaten marine ecosystems, we believe this cautionary principle should continue to apply," the company says on its website.

AN ITALIAN WAY OF LIFE

The proposed regulations have put the United States at odds with Italian fishermen and craftsmen of the town of Torre del Greco, who have harvested the species for generations for their livelihood in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius. "We started 800 years ago and we want to continue," said Ciro Condito of Assocoral, a lobbying group representing the craftsmen in the Mediterranean town. "We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life."

EFFORTS UNDERWAY

In the Mediterranean, coral trawlers have been replaced by scuba-diving harvesters, and some countries have imposed quotas and minimum size limits. But the coral is still struggling.



Scientific American
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Red and pink corals get U.N. trade protection

By Alister Doyle, Reuters Life!, Environment Correspondent

THE HAGUE - Trade in red and pink corals prized as jewelry for 5,000 years will be restricted to try to help the species recover after drastic over-exploitation, a U.N. wildlife conference agreed Wednesday.

Countries at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) voted 62 to 28 to start regulating export of corals, now harvested mainly in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific in a business worth millions of dollars.

"Regulation of trade is necessary to ensure they do not become threatened with extinction," said Andrew Bruckner, a

U.S. official who authored the proposal at the June 3-15 talks. He said that current harvesting was depleting stocks.

Necklaces made of the red and pink corals, collectively known as Corallium, can cost up to \$20,000. Many other species of coral are already protected by CITES.

"Corallium, the most valuable of the precious corals, has been fished for over 5,000 years," the U.S. proposal said, adding that millions of items and thousands of kilos (pounds) a year were traded internationally.

The decision, imposing restrictions on international trade, will take effect in 18 months' time partly because of worries by southern European producers that they would need time to adapt to new trade rules.

Over-harvesting and other threats including pollution, trawling of the seabed by fishing vessels and global warming are among threats to the corals, found from the tropics to temperate waters.

Conservationists hailed the decision.



Red and pink corals get U.N. trade protection An undated photo shows the effect of "bleaching" on coral off Caye Caulker, Belize. Trade in red and pink corals prized as jewellery for 5,000 years will be restricted to try to help the species recover after drastic over-exploitation, a U.N. wildlife conference agreed on Wednesday.
REUTERS/Susannah Saylor

"This is the best possible decision to start getting the trade in these corals under some form of international control," said Ernie Cooper, a coral trade expert from TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

Seaweb, a conservation group, also applauded the decision and said that raw red coral sold for \$100 to \$900 per kg at auction. It said the Italian town of Torre del Greco, a center of the trade, made coral profits of \$174 million in 1999 alone.

CITES is one part of a global drive to help protect species, and is increasingly looking at commercial types such as corals, fish and timber alongside efforts to safeguard iconic animals such as tigers and elephants.

Environmental News Service
Thursday, June 14, 2007

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"Corallium, the most valuable of the precious corals, has been fished for over 5,000 years," the U.S. proposal said, adding that millions of items and thousands of kilos (pounds) a year were traded internationally.

The decision, imposing restrictions on international trade, will take effect in 18 months' time partly because of worries by southern European producers that they would need time to adapt to new trade rules.

Over-harvesting and other threats including pollution, trawling of the seabed by fishing vessels and global warming are among threats to the corals, found from the tropics to temperate waters.

Conservationists hailed the decision.

"This is the best possible decision to start getting the trade in these corals under some form of international control," said Ernie Cooper, a coral trade expert from TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

Seaweb, a conservation group, also applauded the decision and said that raw red coral sold for \$100 to \$900 per kg at auction. It said the Italian town of Torre del Greco, a center of the trade, made coral profits of \$174 million in 1999 alone.

CITES is one part of a global drive to help protect species, and is increasingly looking at commercial types such as corals, fish and timber alongside efforts to safeguard iconic animals such as tigers and elephants.



IOL - Independent Online
Thursday, June 14, 2007

Red and pink corals get UN trade protection

By Alister Doyle, Reuters

The Hague - Trade in red and pink corals prized as jewellery for 5 000 years will be restricted to try to help the species recover after drastic over-exploitation, a United Nations wildlife conference agreed on Wednesday.

Countries at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) voted 62 to 28 to start regulating export of corals, now harvested mainly in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific in a business worth millions of dollars.

"Regulation of trade is necessary to ensure they do not become threatened with extinction," said Andrew Bruckner, a US official who authored the proposal at the June 3-15 talks. He said that current harvesting was depleting stocks.

Necklaces made of the red and pink corals, collectively known as Corallium, can cost up to \$20 000 (about R144 000). Many other species of coral are already protected by CITES.

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Torre del Greco, a centre of the trade, made coral profits of \$174-million (about R1,2-billion) in 1999 alone.

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Media Newswire
Thursday, June 14, 2007

Red and Pink Corals Likely to Gain Protection Under United Nations Treaty

Red and pink corals came one step closer to gaining international protection today at a meeting of the 171 member nations of the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) taking place in The Netherlands from June 3-15.

(Media-Newswire.com) - Red and pink corals came one step closer to gaining international protection today at a meeting of the 171 member nations of the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) taking place in The Netherlands from June 3-15.

The proposal to provide CITES protection to 26 species of red and pink corals (*Corallium* spp.), which are collected from the wild in order to make jewelry, was submitted by the United States. If the decision is not overturned by the end of the meeting, the species will be listed on CITES Appendix II which allows international commercial trade to occur but only if it is determined to not be detrimental to the survival of wild populations.

"We thank the United States for leading CITES to protect red and pink coral from over-exploitation through international trade," said Teresa M. Telecky, director of the wildlife trade program for The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International.

Red and pink corals live throughout the world in temperate, subtropical and tropical deep ocean environments. These animals are particularly susceptible to over-exploitation because they reach late maturity when they are 7-12 years in age and they do not produce many young.

Corallium corals are the most valuable type of precious coral in the jewelry trade. They are collected from many regions of the world and manufactured into jewelry and carvings in China, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and The Philippines. In 2006, more than 1.8 million such items were imported to the U.S. alone. The global trade volume is unknown.

The corals are collected by using dredges, consisting of iron bars that are dragged along the ocean floor, that wipe out not only red and pink coral populations but entire communities of life. The pattern of exploitation has been one of sequential extirpation: as new coral beds are found and soon are wiped out by collectors, who then move on to other coral beds. The species are not protected by any other international measures.

"In addition to providing greater protection to red and pink corals, we hope this CITES decision will highlight to the public the plight of corals," continued Telecky. "We urge people not to buy coral jewelry because of this destructive trade."

Today's decision will need to be approved a second time later in the week before it becomes finalized.

Susan Bluttman, (240) 672-1854

GENETICS

Working the (Gene Count) Numbers: Finally, a Firm Answer?

COLD SPRING HARBOR, NEW YORK—How many genes are in the human genome? Seven years ago, researchers were predicting that our genetic code was anywhere from 28,000 to 150,000 genes strong. Those were the outliers in a betting pool organized by Ewan Birney of the European Bioinformatics Institute in Hinxton, U.K. Birney predicted the answer would be in by 2003, when the human genome was due to be finished (*Science*, 19 May 2000, p. 1146).

He was wrong—and so was everybody who bet.

Today, the gene number is still “a mess,” according to Michele Clamp, a computational biologist at the Broad Institute of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who spoke at the Biology of Genomes meeting here earlier this month. The three databases that track protein-coding genes can’t seem to agree, giving totals of 23,000, 19,000, and 18,000 genes. The real answer is 20,488—well below the lowest guess—with perhaps 100 more yet to be discovered, Clamp reported.

This count may hold up. “I’ve looked at her data very carefully,” says Francis Collins, director of the U.S. National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. “It’s a pretty good number.”

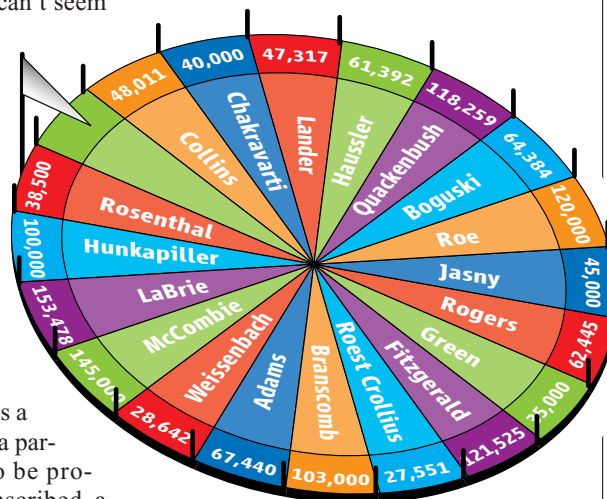
In the classical sense, a gene is a sequence of DNA that codes for a particular protein. For proteins to be produced, a gene must first be transcribed, a process in which the cell makes a matching RNA molecule that carries the gene’s instructions to the centers of protein production. Gene-prediction programs rely heavily on identifying the so-called open reading frames between the three-base codes that start and stop transcription. But there’s been an explosion of discoveries of confusing RNA “genes”: transcribed sequences that have a biological function but don’t produce a protein. And at the meeting, Birney and his colleagues reported finding several thousand other genes that also don’t code for proteins, but researchers have no clues as to what they do.

Thus an open reading frame “is not enough” to identify a gene that codes for a

protein, said Clamp: “It’s time to produce an integrated catalog of protein-coding genes based on the comparative evidence.”

Clamp compared all the human genes in a database called Ensembl with those cataloged for dog and mouse. In all, 19,209 were the real, protein-coding McCoy, 3009 had been erroneously put on the gene list, and 1177 remained ambiguous, she reported.

She rated the “geneness” of these leftovers by comparing them to random stretches of DNA. Almost all made the grade with respect to a genelike proportion of the bases G and C, but not for features such as the distribution of short insertions and deletions in their sequences. Overall, 1167 were “bogus” and lacked any independent evidence that they coded for proteins, she reported. She did a similar analysis with the other gene databases, then



Not even close. For a betting pool set up in 2000, genome experts estimated the number of human genes. Even the winning—and lowest—number, 26,000, was 6000 genes too high.

summed the unique genes of all of them to get her final count.

For Clamp to take a firm stand and call for a reconciliation of differences among the official gene-counters “was kind of brave and a lot of hard work,” says Jim Kent of the University of California, Santa Cruz. Now, says Stephen Richards, a genomicist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, anyone who disagrees with this number “will have to prove her wrong.”

—ELIZABETH PENNISI

Red Coral in the Red

The United States has proposed international controls on the little-known trade of red coral, a deep-water species found in the Pacific and the Mediterranean.

The U.S. wants it listed as threatened at next month’s meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in The Hague, The Netherlands. This would force importers and exporters of 27 species of *Corallium* to seek CITES approval for each transaction, “allowing us to learn more about the trade,” says Lance Morgan of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute in Glen Ellen, California. The listing would also bring more focus on destructive bottom-trawling methods historically used to gather this coral prized by jewelers, he adds. Stephen Cairns, a coral taxonomist at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., says red coral is “more valuable and depleted than any others,” such as the already listed black coral and hard coral.



—CHRISTOPHER PALA

A Northern Vision

Although short on specifics, Canada’s latest S&T strategy suggests where the new Conservative government is headed. Unveiled by Prime Minister Stephen Harper last week, the 110-page road map vows to focus government-funded research in four broad areas: environment, natural resources and energy, health, and information technologies. It emphasizes a move to policies “more conducive to private-sector investment in R&D and commercialization,” although it rules out new tax credits, already among the most generous in the world.

The corporate emphasis disturbs Canadian Association of University Teachers Executive Director James Turk. “That’s not how good research gets done, and that’s not how research which has commercial benefits gets done,” he says. But Michael Julius of the University of Toronto Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center says the report “provides a policy framework, and we’ve not had one.” Julius, a research administrator, will chair a committee established by the advocacy group Research Canada to study the strategy, although the government has not formally asked for input on how to implement the plan.

—WAYNE KONDRO

CREDITS (TOP TO BOTTOM): IMAGE COURTESY OF AMY BACO-TAYLOR/HURL/NOAA; ILLUSTRATION BY C. FABERSMITH/SCIENCE

Downloaded from www.sciencemag.org on May 24, 2007

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Red Coral not protected in CITES

Gregory Dudek

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) will not be adding red and pink coral to the list of protected species this year. The June 2007 CITES meeting just concluded and despite a proposal to limit the trade in red, pink and other corals which seemed destined to pass, the proposal was overturned at the last minute.

There is more bad news for corals. Reefs are already under immense pressure and the bulk of coral reefs that were around when I was a teenager are either destroyed, being severely pressured or under imminent threat.

Red does not, in fact, actually grow on typical familiar reefs. It grows in deep water, and grows very slowly. Because it is rare, there are all kinds of ridiculous stories about how it can be used for everything from medicine to romance, but most is used for ornamental jewelry. Supposed red coral necklaces are offered for sale very widely and in many countries. In case you are tempted to buy it, note that most red coral that is offered for sale is fake and overpriced, not passing it up is both environmentally and economically sound.

Incidentally, a bid to add protection for the Black Rhino also was not successful (see the Zambezi society for a horrible rhino poaching photo and background on the UK Adopt-a-Scout ranger support program where you can help). Some good news: the Japanese and Icelandic governments did not succeed in another sleazy and disgusting attempt to remove whale protections. Thank goodness.

CITES is the biggest international trade agreement, but not the only one. International transport of CITES restricted species, or products of such species, (e.g ivory) is a federal offense in many countries (such as Canada and the USA). Species that are not on the CITES list (such as red coral) may still have restricted trade regulations applied by specific countries.



zizou from Djerba Blog
Friday, July 13, 2007

Sauvons les coraux rouges de Tunisie

Zied



THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS - Scientists, conservationists and many government officials expressed outrage when a proposal to protect precious red corals from international trade was reversed today. Delegates voted by secret ballot to overturn their initial decision to list these overfished species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), following a massive lobbying effort by the coral industry and some exporting countries. The proposal initially passed on Wednesday, with 62 countries voting in support of the listing.

Scientists have long called for trade protection for red corals (scientific name: *Corallium* / AKA: pink corals), with over 2,000 other coral species listed under CITES. Red corals are among the world's most valuable wildlife commodities, with a finished necklace retailing for up to \$20,000. But destructive fishing methods and over-harvesting means global red coral catches have plummeted by 90 percent in the past two decades. The move to reopen the red coral debate on Friday in a plenary session was instigated by Tunisia and seconded by Algeria and Morocco, all coral exporting countries. A secret ballot was requested and despite the proposal receiving support from the majority of delegates present, it fell short of the required two-thirds majority needed for a CITES listing.

Je ne peux pas comprendre la logique purement économique avec laquelle agit mon gouvernement. Une telle action ne peut être l'objet de fierté même si elle réussit à maintenir les emplois de certains de nos pêcheurs. Où sont nos associations de protection de l'environnement? ou est le ministère? ou sont les activistes? ou est le parti des verts? Notre nature et notre environnement est le bien le plus cher et c'est notre

responsabilite de les garder pour les generations futures. Pourquoi est ce que nos chercheurs ne parlent pas? pourquoi est ce que c'est l'occident qui doit defendre notre nature ? Soyons responsables et Denoncons le massacre du corail rouge que connait nos cotes.

Save The Tiger: WWF Campaigns For Ban On Chinese Tiger Trade



Thursday 07th of June 2007 Ahead of the world's major meeting on wildlife trade, WWF released its top ten list of species needing urgent, global, action to reduce threats from trade. These species are: Tigers, Rhinos, Elephants, Porbeagle, Spiny dogfish, Sawfish, Red and pink coral, European Eel, Great apes and Bigleaf Mahogany.

Delegates from 171 countries are expected to attend the Conference of the Convention on International Trade

in Endangered Species (CITES), from 3-15 June in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Some of the species on WWF's top ten priority list are among the most endangered. For example, the tiger, the elephant and the Asian rhino have required constant and urgent action over the past decades, because of ever-present, pervasive threats to their survival, including poaching and illegal trade. Others, particularly marine species, are on the list because their populations have declined massively in recent years, to supply the global market.

"CITES has been addressing the trade threat to some of these species for more than 30 years, with many successes, while others are new on the agenda," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF Global Species Programme. "For some, there are new threats, others are new on the agenda due to changing trade dynamics in the global economy, while for yet others, organized criminal elements continue to ply their trade across the globe."

"Whatever the problem," noted Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India, "nothing will change unless governments take trade and its impacts on conservation and local people's livelihoods seriously."

Speaking on the occasion, Sujoy Banerjee, Director Species Conservation Programme, WWF-India, said, "Out of the insidious threats that exist for the tiger, poaching is one of the main contributors for the decline of populations of tigers. Curbing poaching will remain an arduous task as long as there is a demand market for the skin, bones and other body parts in the international market. Lifting of the domestic ban on trade in tiger and its derivatives by the Chinese government will only serve to fuel the market for tiger parts, which is currently on the decline and this, in turn, will only encourage poaching tigers from the wild. At a time when the tigers are under tremendous threat as it is, if the ban on domestic trade in tiger parts is lifted by China, this will certainly sound the death knell on the tigers in India. "

An international coalition of 35 organizations has expressed deep concern on China's intentions of lifting this domestic ban. In a joint statement issued today the coalition has

expressed hope that the Indian Government will strongly urge the Chinese Government to keep this ban in place to secure a future for India's tigers.

WWF's top ten "to do" list for the world's governments includes the following species:

In India:

Tigers: At a time when the tiger is already facing ever mounting threats of habitat loss, poaching, human-wildlife conflicts and illegal trade, the move of the Chinese government to lift the 1993 ban on domestic trade in tiger and its derivatives will only compound the problem further. At present, China has a captive population of about 4000 tigers in farms, being bred for purely economic reasons. It is estimated that poaching a wild tiger is about 250 times cheaper than the cost of raising it in captivity. As such any lifting of the ban will be an encouragement for poachers to kill tigers from the wild to cater to this new market. The government of India should take a strong stance on this issue in the interest of tiger conservation in India. Additionally, the government must set up the Wildlife Crime Bureau which should be put into full operation through a multi-agency tiger enforcement unit as a matter of priority.

Asian rhinos: Historically hunted for their horn, a prized ingredient in traditional Asian medicines, and devastated by the destruction of their habitat, Asian rhino populations are now confined to a few small populations in India. An upsurge in poaching over the last few years is taking its toll even on populations that were thought to be stable. WWF calls upon the government of India to step up enforcement efforts.

Elephants: The ongoing poaching of elephants and illegal international trade in ivory is stimulated by rampant ivory sales in some countries, particularly in Africa and Asia. Despite previous CITES decisions, and valiant efforts of some countries, these markets persist. The time has come to back serious efforts to close down these illegal and unregulated ivory markets, the true driver of elephant poaching through a very strong and committed political will.

Others:

Porbeagle: Porbeagle shark is a powerful, medium-sized, highly migratory shark. There is international demand for, and trade, in its high-value meat and fins. It is also used as fertilizer. WWF calls upon governments to include the species in CITES Appendix II.

Spiny dogfish: Spiny dogfish is a slender, smaller sized white-spotted shark that grows to about one metre long and travels in schools. It is found in cool, coastal waters worldwide. Known as rock salmon, it is used in fish and chips in the UK and as a smoked meat delicacy in Germany, called Schillerlocken. WWF calls upon governments to include the species in CITES Appendix II.

Sawfish: Populations of the seven species of sawfish have drastically declined. They are traded as live animals for public aquariums, and also for their fins and meat. Their distinctive saw-like snouts are sold as souvenirs and ceremonial weapons, while other body parts are used for traditional medicines. WWF calls upon governments to include these species in CITES Appendix I.

Red and pink coral: A jewel that comes from reefs and atolls, it is the most valuable of all the precious corals. Pink coral has been fished for over 5,000 years and used for jewellery and decoration. Over-harvesting and the destruction of entire colonies by bottom trawls and dredges have led to dramatic population declines. WWF calls on governments to include all species of red and pink coral in CITES Appendix II.

European eel: The European eel comes from coastal and freshwater ecosystems throughout Europe, including Mediterranean countries. Stocks have declined dramatically over the past several decades due to overfishing and poaching. There is significant international demand for this species, both for live juvenile eels (shipped from Europe to Asia) for rearing in aquaculture and for the highly valued meat of adults. WWF calls on governments to include this species in CITES Appendix II.

Great apes: Wild populations of great apes (gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans), continue to decline drastically and are threatened by the combined effects of illegal trade in live animals (usually for pets), poaching for meat, disease and habitat disturbance, fragmentation and destruction. WWF calls on governments and CITES to stop this trade - including by adequately enforcing existing laws and imposing deterrent penalties.

Bigleaf mahogany: This highly valuable South and Central American rainforest tree species was listed in CITES Appendix II in 2002, in response to population declines and high levels of illegal logging and trade. Only one country still exports large commercial quantities, Peru, and after five years, these problems continue, and concerted action is needed.

Daily Breeze
Sunday, June 10, 2007

Sea Change U.S. Call to Protect Rare Coral Stirs the Waters.

By Mike Corder, The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - The U.S. is leading a push to protect a type of red coral that grows deep in the world's oceans and seas, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen who have harvested the species for generations to make artwork and jewelry.

Under the U.S. proposal up for debate at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species meeting in The Hague, trade in several species of red coral, or corallium, would be regulated for the first time to ensure harvesting and global sales do not threaten their survival.

The proposal is expected to come up for a vote this week, worrying the fishermen and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, who harvest the coral for their livelihood in the town in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

"We started 800 years ago and we want to continue," said Ciro Conditto of Assocoral, a lobbying group representing the craftsmen in the Mediterranean town. "We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life."

The U.S. is the world's biggest market for corallium products, importing more than 26 million pieces from 2001 to 2006, according to the Washington-based environmental group SeaWeb.

The value of corallium is boosted by the fact it is difficult to gather because it grows as deep as 3,280 feet. It is also rare because it grows so slowly - in some cases, just 0.06 inches or less per year - and takes up to seven years to reach maturity, with low reproduction rates.

Raw coral can sell for about \$400 per pound at auction, and artworks or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$20,000, depending on the size and quality.

One place corallium jewelry is no longer sold is Tiffany and Co.

"Until we are convinced that coral harvesting is sustainable and does not threaten marine ecosystems, we believe this cautionary principle should continue to apply," the company says on its Web site.

In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed - a practice that devastates the coral and threatens other marine wildlife that use coral colonies as a place to feed, mate and escape predators.

"It is like clear-cutting a forest - it pulls everything up, there's a lot of loss and you remove the large colonies, the small colonies and cause a lot of damage to the habitat," said Andy Bruckner of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the Mediterranean, trawl fishing has been replaced by scuba-diving harvesters and some countries have imposed quotas and minimum size limits. But the coral is still struggling.

"We're afraid that if things continue the way they are it could lead to species being depleted from large areas," said Bruckner.

Malaria, Bedbugs, Sea Lice, and Sunsets

Part travelogue, equal parts science, opinion, and political observations, but mostly dedicated to capturing the often irksome and sometimes wonderful moments that are all part of field-based ocean conservation

Malaria, Bedbugs, Sea Lice, and Sunsets
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Seeing Red

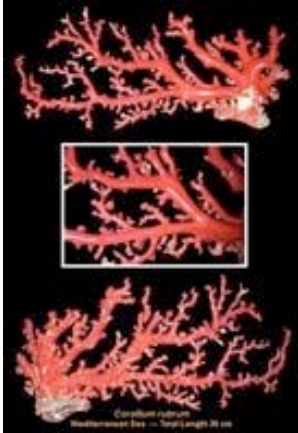
Rick MacPherson



There's some reason to celebrate today. This week, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES (pronounced sight-eeze), is meeting in The Hague. CITES is an international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The reason I'm feeling celebratory is that red and pink corals (genus *Corallium*) received international trade protection today after 62 countries voted to list these over-harvested species under the CITES Appendix II listing.

CITES can confer listing of species as either Appendix I, II, or III. Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances (usually having something to do with research and conservation). So if you were hoping to receive a Spiny Echidna, Honey Badger, or Binturong for your birthday, forget it... they are all Appendix I listed. Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid depletion of the species or elevation to Appendix I status. Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade.

The U.S. government had originally proposed that CITES list red and pink coral species on Appendix II of CITES. This newly approved designation will require that any government that exports or imports items made of red and pink coral demonstrate that trade in these species does not adversely impact its future survival.



Consumer items made from red and pink coral are very popular right now in the form of jewelry and decorative items. With a finished necklace retailing for up to \$20,000 US, precious red corals are among the world's most valuable wildlife commodities. Since 2005 there has been a worldwide resurgence in coral popularity, and it is in high demand for jewelry, art and curios, particularly in Europe and Asia. An Appendix II listing will be a strong step to improve the monitoring and tracking of red coral trade. There are also interactions between this potential ruling and bottom trawling regulations.

To help spread the word and build public awareness of this issue, SeaWeb has launched a fantastic new campaign, Too Precious To Wear. The beautiful logo (pictured at the top of this post) is specifically designed to capture the eye and attention of consumers. Beyond just designing a pretty logo, SeaWeb has secured the support and commitment of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation. Tiffany & Co. (begin humming Moon River here) is arguably the world's preeminent retailer of exquisitely designed, high-value jewelry. Recognizing the growing demand for jewelry materials sourced sustainably and ethically (think Blood Diamond) from the land and ocean (diamonds, pearls, coral, shell, etc.) the company established an environmental policy. Their environmental statement reads that,



It is from nature that Tiffany & Co. draws the raw materials and inspiration that have shaped the company's design heritage. The mission of the foundation's Environment Program is to support organizations dedicated to the conservation of natural resources in the areas of responsible mining, coral reef conservation, and land protection.

Way to go SeaWeb, and Tiffany & Co. Foundation! It's important to see big corporations like Tiffany not take the path of greenwashing. They're partnering with marine conservation organizations and investing to help preserve an ecosystem on which their company depends. When so much of the ocean environmental news is grim, the occasional good news like this is incredibly welcome.



Agence France Presse
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Sharp limits imposed on global trade in coral

The UN wildlife trade organisation imposed strict limits Wednesday on the global trade of pink and red coral, severely depleted by commercial exploitation.

With a finished necklace retailing for up to 20,000 dollars (15,000 euros), red corals are among the world's most expensive wildlife commodities.

But destructive fishing methods and over-harvesting have reduced worldwide catches by 90 percent in the past two decades, scientists say.

"This is the best possible decision to start getting the trade in these corals under some form of international control," said Ernie Cooper, a coral trade expert from TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

"Until now most species of *Corallium* have been over-harvested as a result of a free-for-all situation."

All 26 species in the *Corallium* genus will now be protected by the 171-nation Conference on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which regulates the world trade in wildlife.

But the ones most often exploited to make jewelry and art objects are red and pink coral, found throughout the world's tropical and temperate seas but harvested mainly in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific.

Stocks off the coasts of Spain, Italy and France have already been commercially depleted, experts say.

Several major retailers have supported the new restrictions.

"We believe that coral harvesting as currently practiced is not sustainable and threatens marine ecosystems," said Fernanda Kellogg, senior vice president of Tiffany and Co.

"We will not use this precious material in our jewelry until harvesting methods have been adopted that ensure the sustainability of coral reefs," she told Sea Web, an ocean conservation group that works with the international jeweler.



France24
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A jeweler displays coral jewels in 2003. The UN wildlife trade organisation imposed strict limits Wednesday on the global trade of pink and red coral, severely depleted by commercial exploitation.

© 2007 AFP - Fethi Belaid

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The Raw Story
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Stocks off the coasts of Spain, Italy and France have already been commercially depleted, experts say.

Several major retailers have supported the new restrictions.

"We believe that coral harvesting as currently practiced is not sustainable and threatens marine ecosystems," said Fernanda Kellogg, senior vice president of Tiffany and Co.

"We will not use this precious material in our jewelry until harvesting methods have been adopted that ensure the sustainability of coral reefs," she told Sea Web, an ocean conservation group that works with the international jeweler.



Terra Daily
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Sharp limits imposed on global trade in coral

Agence France Presse

The UN wildlife trade organisation imposed strict limits Wednesday on the global trade of pink and red coral, severely depleted by commercial exploitation.

With a finished necklace retailing for up to 20,000 dollars (15,000 euros), red corals are among the world's most expensive wildlife commodities.

But destructive fishing methods and over-harvesting have reduced worldwide catches by 90 percent in the past two decades, scientists say.

"This is the best possible decision to start getting the trade in these corals under some form of international control," said Ernie Cooper, a coral trade expert from TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

"Until now most species of *Corallium* have been over-harvested as a result of a free-for-all situation."

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we blog?

The Star Online Blog
Tuesday June 26, 2007

Significant decisions

TRAFFIC

OTHER decisions adopted at the 14th Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting:

Tigers – The meeting rejected farming of tigers for trade and urged China to phase out its large-scale commercial tiger farms.

Ivory – The conference extended a 1989 ban on elephant ivory exports for nine years, but only after a sale from stockpiles by Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The deal was a compromise between nations wanting a 20-year ban to try to crack down on poaching, and the four African nations which say that farmers and villagers are suffering from conflicts with rising elephant populations.

Rhinos – Parties adopted recommendations for better law enforcement and protection measures for African rhinos as the volume of illegally traded rhino horns has grown alarmingly since 2000.

Sharks – Delegates did not list two shark species prized for their meat and fins – spiny dogfish and porbeagle – on Appendix II, which allows trade under strict conditions. WWF said unsustainable fishing has led to a 95% decline in the spiny dogfish (or rock salmon) population in the North Atlantic in the last 10 years, while porbeagle population has plunged by 89% in that region in the last 40 years. Although a majority of member countries supported the proposals, they were defeated by a blocking minority. Fishing nations such as Japan, Norway, South Korea, China and some South American countries opposed CITES protection for sharks, saying the convention was not the right place to manage commercial fisheries. They were backed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation which recognised a significant population decline in some regions but said globally the sharks did not meet the biological decline criteria for listing on Appendix II.

Timber trees – The European Union withdrew its proposal to include Cedrela – a group of tropical tree species found in Latin America – in Appendix II after facing hostile pressure from Latin American and Caribbean countries. All Cedrela species are heavily exploited for their timber. All the other proposals to list tropical timber species on Appendix II were withdrawn, with one exception – Brazil wood was listed with an amendment to exclude certain items made from it, such as musical bows.

Sawfish – All seven except one species of sawfish – ray-like sharks – are now listed on Appendix I, which prevents all commercial trade. The single exception was a species found in Australia, listed on Appendix II. Sawfish are traded for their fins, meat, unique toothed rostra (snouts), and as live animals for exhibition. Their distinctive saw-like

snouts are sold as souvenirs, curios, and ceremonial weapons, while other body parts such as skin, liver oil and bile are used in traditional medicines. Trade, along with fishing pressure, is pushing them towards extinction.

European eels – Its listing on Appendix II will help ensure that use and trade of this species are well-managed and legal. European eels have declined throughout most of the species' distribution area due to habitat pollution and over-harvesting. They are consumed mostly in Europe and parts of East Asia. Trade of live young eels from Europe to China and Japan for aquaculture is another concern.

Corals – The listing on Appendix II of red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium*, was overturned after Mediterranean jewellery producers protested. These corals, used mainly for jewellery, have been over-harvested due to uncontrolled international trade and lack of management plans.



WHDH-TV Boston NBC7
Friday, June 15, 2007

Some species get more protection as wildlife politics shifts at international trade conference

Associated Press

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"The ministerial forum has added a strong political dimension," said Will Travers, head of the Species Survival Network, a coalition of about 80 nongovernment agencies. "It's too early to say whether this is good or bad, but I am concerned," he said.

The ministers were credited with breaking an 18-year deadlock over the sale of ivory by southern African countries, which were allowed a one-time sale of accumulated tusks to Japan, the only authorized buyer. In exchange, the elephant and ivory issues would be taken off the CITES agenda for nine years.

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PR Inside
Friday, June 15, 2007

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Associated Press
Worldstream
Saturday, June 16, 2007

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By ARTHUR MAX, Associated Press Writer

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INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune

International Herald Tribune

Friday, June 15, 2007

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Plenty Magazine
Friday, June 15, 2007

Some species win protection at CITES conference

By Arthur Max, Associated Press

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Underwater Times
Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Spiny Dogfish, Porbeagle Shark, Sawfish, European Eel, Red And Pink Coral Make List Of Species Threatened By Trade

By Underwatertimes.com News Service

Gland, Switzerland (2007-05-16 15:01:21 EST) Ahead of the world's major meeting on wildlife trade, WWF releases its top ten list of species needing urgent global action to reduce threats from trade.

Delegates from 171 countries are expected to attend the Conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), from 3-15 June in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Some of the species on WWF's top ten priority list are among the most endangered. For example, the tiger and the Asian rhino have required constant and urgent action over the past decades because of ever-present, pervasive threats to their survival, including poaching and illegal trade. Others, particularly marine species, are on the list because their populations have declined massively in recent years due to global market demand.

"CITES has been addressing the trade threat to some of these species for more than 30 years, with many successes, while others are new on the agenda," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director WWF's Global Species Programme.

"For some, there are new threats, others are new on the agenda due to changing trade dynamics in the global economy, while for yet others, organized criminal elements continue to ply their trade across the globe."

"Whatever the problem," added Dr Lieberman, "nothing will change unless governments take this trade and its impacts on conservation and local people's livelihoods seriously."

WWF's top ten "to do" list for the world's governments includes the following species:

Porbeagle – Porbeagle shark is a powerful, medium-sized, highly migratory shark. There is international demand for, and trade, in its high-value meat and fins. It is also used as fertilizer. WWF calls upon governments to include the species in CITES Appendix II.

Spiny dogfish – Spiny dogfish is a slender, smaller sized white-spotted shark that grows to about one metre long and travels in schools. It is found in cool, coastal waters worldwide. Known as rock salmon, it is used in fish and chips in the UK and as a smoked meat delicacy in Germany, called Schillerlocken. WWF calls upon governments to include the species in CITES Appendix II.

Sawfish – Populations of the seven species of sawfish have drastically declined. They are traded as live animals for public aquariums, and also for their fins and meat. Their distinctive saw-like snouts are sold as souvenirs and ceremonial weapons, while other body parts are used for traditional medicines. WWF calls upon governments to include these species in CITES Appendix I.

Tigers – In addition to continuing threats from habitat loss and forest conversion, an old threat is about to re-emerge in China, which could put the last remaining tigers further at risk – the potential re-opening of trade from tiger ‘farms’. WWF calls upon governments to take concerted action to stop all trade in tigers, particularly in China, and to improve enforcement efforts across Asia (e.g., India).

Asian rhinos – Historically hunted for their horn, a prized ingredient in traditional Asian medicines, and devastated by the destruction of their lowland forest habitat, Asian rhino populations are now distressingly small. An upsurge in poaching over the last few is taking its toll even on populations that were thought to be stable. WWF calls upon governments to step up enforcement efforts, and assist countries such as Nepal to stop the poaching.

Red and pink coral – A jewel that comes from reefs and atolls, it is the most valuable of all the precious corals. Pink coral has been fished for over 5,000 years and used for jewellery and decoration. Over-harvesting and the destruction of entire colonies by bottom trawls and dredges have led to dramatic population declines. WWF calls on governments to include all species of red and pink coral in CITES Appendix II.

European eel – The European eel comes from coastal and freshwater ecosystems throughout Europe, including Mediterranean countries. Stocks have declined dramatically over the past several decades due to overfishing and poaching. There is significant international demand for this species, both for live juvenile eels (shipped from Europe to Asia) for rearing in aquaculture and for the highly valued meat of adults. WWF calls on governments to include this species in CITES Appendix II.

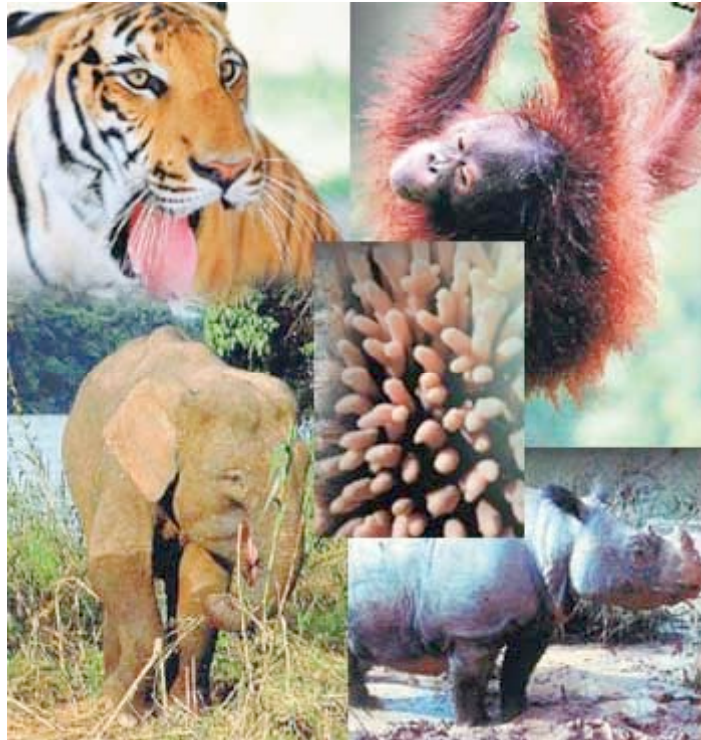
Elephants – The ongoing poaching of elephants and illegal international trade in ivory is stimulated by rampant ivory sales in some countries, particularly in Africa and Asia. Despite previous CITES decisions, and valiant efforts of some countries, these markets persist. The time has come to put political will behind serious efforts to close down these illegal and unregulated ivory markets, the true driver of elephant poaching.

Great apes – Wild populations of great apes (gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans), continue to decline drastically and are threatened by the combined effects of illegal trade in live animals (usually for pets), poaching for meat, disease and habitat disturbance, fragmentation and destruction. WWF calls on governments and CITES to stop this trade – including by adequately enforcing existing laws and imposing deterrent penalties.

Bigleaf mahogany – This highly valuable South and Central American rainforest tree species was listed in CITES Appendix II in 2002, in response to population declines and high levels of illegal logging and trade. Only one country still exports large commercial quantities, Peru, and after five years, these problems continue, and concerted action is needed.

SpotLight: 5 most endangered species in Malaysia

Nisha Sabanayagam



(Anti-clockwise) The Malayan tiger, elephant, orang utan, Asian rhino and red and pink corals (centre).

KUALA LUMPUR: Five of the 10 animals and plants most threatened by the illegal wildlife trade are in Malaysia. The tiger, Asian rhinoceros, elephant and orang utan are included in the top 10 list released by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International, together with a red and pink jewel-like coral species, *Corallium borneense*. All are found in Malaysia.

"Malaysia's global position in providing habitat to some of the most charismatic and endangered flagship mammal species, such as the tiger, Asian elephant and orang utan has to be recognised and emphasised," said WWF-Malaysia's National Programme Director Dr Arun Venkataraman.

The list was released ahead of the annual Conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, to be held from June 3 to June 15 in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Representatives from 171 countries are expected to attend.

The tiger and Asian rhino have been threatened for decades because of poaching and illegal trade.

Others, particularly marine species, are on the list because their populations have declined drastically in recent years.

According to WWF-Malaysia, tigers are at risk because of a loss of habitat and forest conversion. And an old threat has re-emerged which could sound the death knell for the species — the reopening of tiger farms in China.

The population of Asian rhinos has been devastated by the trade of their highly prized horns. An upsurge in poaching has put the last remaining populations at risk, said Venkataraman.

"The Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) is already extinct in Malaysia," he said, adding that WWF-Malaysia was working with government agencies and the corporate sector to protect the near-extinct Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatranus*), the only rhino species remaining in Malaysia, and the one most threatened by poaching.

The poaching of elephants and illegal international trade in ivory is stimulated by rampant ivory sales in some countries, particularly in East Asia.

In Sabah, government agencies are working with WWF-Malaysia to reduce the threat to the Bornean pygmy elephant (*Elephas maximus borneensis*) through AREAS (Asian Rhino Elephant Action Strategy) and the Heart of Borneo programme, which aims to connect fragmented lowland forests using corridors, said Venkataraman.

Wild populations of great apes (gorillas, chimpanzees and orang utan) are declining because of a combination of the illegal trade in live animals (usually for pets), poaching for meat, disease and habitat disturbance, fragmentation and destruction.

This includes Malaysia's only great ape, the Bornean orang utan (*Pongo pygmaeus*).

Red and pink coral (*Corallium* spp.) is the most valuable of all the precious corals. Pink coral has been extracted for over 5,000 years and used for jewellery and decoration. Over-harvesting and the destruction of entire colonies by bottom trawlers and dredges have led to dramatic population decline.

"At least one species, *Corallium borneense*, is found in Malaysian waters. Malaysia also imports coral from Taiwan and Japan, which is made into jewellery and then re-exported to the United States," Venkataraman said.

Other species on the list are the Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*), a powerful, medium-sized shark highly valued for its meat and fins; the Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), a smaller, slender white-spotted shark also known as rock salmon, used in fish and chips in the United Kingdom and eaten smoked as a delicacy called Schillerlocken in Germany.

The saw fish (*Pristidae* spp.), whose distinctive saw-like snouts are sold as souvenirs and ceremonial weapons while other body parts are used for traditional medicines; is

also on the list, as well as the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), for which there is significant international demand, both for adults whose meat is highly valued and live juvenile eels (shipped from Europe to Asia) for rearing in aqua-culture.

The Bigleaf Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), a highly valuable South and Central American rainforest timber species, is also endangered because of illegal logging.

Globe and Mail
Friday, June 15, 2007

Steps taken at CITES talks

Reuters

A summary of the main decisions at the 171-nation meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) from June 3-15.

ELEPHANTS

A 1989 ban on elephant ivory exports will be extended for nine years, after a one-time sale from stockpiles in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The deal was a compromise between nations wanting a 20-year ban and the four southern African nations, which say their elephant numbers are rising.

TIGERS

The conference rebuked China for breeding about 5,000 tigers in farms, roughly the total left in the wild worldwide. China has said it is considering whether to overthrow a 1993 ban on domestic trade in tiger parts, using farmed tigers. The conference said: "Tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts or derivatives."

TIMBER

Brazilwood, used to produce violin bows, won tighter protection after Brazil sought trade curbs on the species. The European Union withdrew bids to curb logging of South and Central American cedar and rosewood trees, the source of some of the world's most valuable timber used in furniture and musical instruments. Latin American nations were opposed.

EUROPEAN EELS

Delegates agreed to regulate trade in European eels, worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year, because of overfishing and loss of habitats. Baby eels sold to Japan can sometimes cost, for the same weight, more than caviar. Stocks have tumbled by 95 per cent in a few decades.

CORALS

Trade in red and pink corals prized as jewellery for 5,000 years will be regulated for a first time to help the species recover after drastic overexploitation. Corals are now harvested mainly in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific in a million dollar business. Necklaces of the corals, collectively known as Corallium, can cost up to \$20,000.

SAWFISH

The conference voted to outlaw trade in sawfish, a type of ray related to sharks that brandish a toothed snout that can grow up to almost two metres. Sawfish stocks are down 90 per cent after decades of overfishing. Australia received an exemption to allow exports of live fish to aquariums abroad.

SHARKS

The forum rejected a European Union and U.S. bid for controls on a multimillion dollar trade in two types of sharks prized for their meat and fins. The spiny dogfish, also known as rock salmon, and the porbeagle shark failed to receive protection. Dogfish is widely used in the British dish fish and chips.

WHALES

The conference rebuffed a Japanese bid to review protection for whales.

SUMMARY OF THE FOURTEENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA: 3-15 JUNE 2007

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) convened from 3-15 June 2007, in The Hague, the Netherlands. Drawing together 1250 participants representing 151 governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (IGOs and NGOs), the meeting considered 70 agenda items and 37 proposals to amend the CITES appendices.

CoP14 adopted resolutions, and decisions directed to parties, the Secretariat and Convention bodies, on a wide range of topics including: the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013; a guide to compliance with the Convention; management of annual export quotas; and species trade and conservation issues, including Asian big cats, sharks and sturgeons. Delegates agreed that no cetacean species should be subject to periodic review while the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium is in place. Regarding species listings, CoP14 decided to list: slender-horned and Cuvier's gazelles and slow loris on Appendix I; Brazil wood, sawfish and eel on Appendix II; and to amend the annotation on African elephants to allow a one-off sale of ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe with a nine-year resting period for further ivory trade.

The inaugural Ministerial Roundtable took place on Wednesday, 13 June, and focused on, *inter alia*, enforcement matters, commercially-exploited timber and marine species, and mainstreaming the Convention into the broader sustainable development agenda.

CITES CoP14 will be remembered as the meeting that chartered the Convention's future by achieving a hard-won consensus on the Strategic Vision setting out three strategic goals on compliance and enforcement, securing financial resources, and CITES' role in the broader international environment agenda. Also of note, CoP14's rejection of eight out of 11 proposals to list timber and fishery species provides a snapshot of what some delegates assessed as an "ebbing of the

tide" from previous CoPs. While important decisions were made for tiger and sturgeon conservation, the media spotlight was no doubt on negotiations on the future of ivory trade and African elephant conservation, with many highlighting the consensus by African range states as a major achievement of this meeting.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CITES

CITES was established as a response to growing concerns that over-exploitation of wildlife through international trade was contributing to the rapid decline of many species of plants and animals around the world. The Convention was signed by representatives from 80 countries in Washington, DC, United States, on 3 March 1973, and entered into force on 1 July 1975. There are currently 172 parties to the Convention.

The aim of CITES is to ensure that international trade of wild animal and plant species does not threaten their survival. CITES parties regulate wildlife trade through controls and regulations on species listed in three appendices. Appendix I lists species endangered due to international trade, permitting such trade only in exceptional circumstances. Appendix-II species are those

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This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org> is written and edited by Soledad Aguilar, Andrew Brooke, Xenya Cherny Scanlon, Leonie Gordon and Sikina Jinnah. The Digital Editor is Anders Gonçalves da Silva, Ph.D. The Editor is Pamela S. Chasek, Ph.D. <pam@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The Sustaining Donors of the *Bulletin* are the United Kingdom (through the Department for International Development – DFID), the Government of the United States of America (through the Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs), the Government of Canada (through CIDA), the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Germany (through the German Federal Ministry of Environment - BMU, and the German Federal Ministry of Development Cooperation - BMZ), the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission (DG-ENV) and the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory General Directorate for Nature Protection. General Support for the *Bulletin* during 2007 is provided by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, the Government of Australia, the Austrian Federal Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry of Environment of Sweden, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, SWAN International, the Japanese Ministry of Environment (through the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies - IGES) and the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (through the Global Industrial and Social Progress Research Institute - GISPRI). Funding for translation of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* into French has been provided by the International Organization of the Francophonie (IOF) and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Funding for the translation of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* into Spanish has been provided by the Ministry of Environment of Spain. The opinions expressed in the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD or other donors. Excerpts from the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 212 East 47th St. #21F, New York, NY 10017, USA.

that may become endangered if their trade is not regulated, thus they require controls aimed at preventing unsustainable use, maintaining ecosystems and preventing species from entering Appendix I. Appendix-III species are those subject to domestic regulation by a party requesting the cooperation of other parties to control international trade in that species.

In order to list a species in Appendix I or II, a party needs to submit a proposal for approval by the CoP, supported by scientific and biological data on population and trade trends. The proposal must be adopted by a two-thirds majority of parties present and voting. As the trade impact on a species increases or decreases, the CoP decides whether or not the species should be transferred or removed from the appendices.

There are approximately 5,000 fauna species and 28,000 flora species protected under the three CITES appendices. Parties regulate international trade of CITES species through a system of permits and certificates that are required before specimens listed in its appendices are imported, exported or introduced from the sea. Each party is required to adopt national legislation and to designate two national authorities, namely, a Management Authority responsible for issuing these permits and certificates based on the advice of the second national body, the Scientific Authority. These two national authorities also assist with CITES enforcement through cooperation with customs, police and other appropriate agencies. Parties maintain trade records that are forwarded annually to the CITES Secretariat, thus enabling the compilation of statistical information on the global volume of international trade in appendix-listed species.

The operational bodies of CITES include the Standing Committee (SC) and two scientific committees: the Plants Committee (PC) and the Animals Committee (AC).

CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES: The first CoP was held in Bern, Switzerland, in November 1976, and subsequent CoPs have been held every two to three years. The CoP meets to, *inter alia*: review progress in the conservation of species included in the appendices; discuss and adopt proposals to amend the lists of species in Appendices I and II; consider recommendations and proposals from parties, the Secretariat, the SC and the scientific committees; and recommend measures to improve the effectiveness of the Convention and related to the functioning of the Secretariat. The CoP also periodically reviews the list of resolutions and decisions, as well as the species listed in its appendices.

CITES CoP13: CoP13 met in Bangkok, Thailand, from 2-14 October 2004. Delegates addressed a range of topics, including 50 proposals to amend the CITES appendices. CoP13 approved the listing of ramin, agarwood, the great white shark and the humphead wrasse in Appendix II, as well as the uplisting of the irrawaddy dolphin from Appendix II to I. Regarding the African elephant, Namibia saw its request for an annual ivory quota rejected, but was allowed to proceed with a strictly-controlled sale of traditional ivory carvings. Delegates also agreed on an action plan to crack down on unregulated domestic ivory markets. Namibia and South Africa were allowed an annual quota of five black rhinos each for trophy hunting, and Swaziland was also allowed to open up strictly controlled

hunting of white rhinos. Other decisions focused on synergies with the FAO and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), while enforcement issues received considerable attention.

COP14 REPORT

On Sunday, 3 June 2007, CITES CoP14 participants were welcomed by Gerda Verburg, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Netherlands, who highlighted the inaugural Ministerial Roundtable as an opportunity to strengthen the authority of CITES and discuss its role with regard to economically-valuable resources such as fisheries and timber. Rabin Baldewsingh, Deputy Mayor of The Hague, highlighted the city's importance as an international center of peace, justice and security.

Opening statements by Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and Amb. Cristian Maquieira, SC Chair (Chile) stressed the need to call on governments and the private sector to give CITES the full backing and resources needed to make its mission and new strategic vision a success, noting that the strategic vision will place the Convention within the wider framework of global environmental developments.

Willem Wijnstekers, CITES Secretary-General, stressed the adaptability of CITES, noting that the Convention has learned to balance conservation and sustainable use and highlighted the need for adequate resources to allow for CITES' expansion into new policy areas.

On Monday morning, 4 June 2007, the opening plenary session convened and delegates adopted the Rules of Procedure for CoP14 including proposed amendments (CoP14 Doc.1 (Rev.1)) relating to, *inter alia*, electronic voting and the appointment of an alternate President.

Delegates were then invited to nominate the officers for CoP14. Minister Verburg was elected President of CoP14 and André van der Zande, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Netherlands, as alternate President. Vice-Presidents, proposed by each region and elected by CoP14, were: Marshall Jones (US); Marcel Calvar (Uruguay); Greg Leach (Australia, Chair of Committee I); and Chi Sun Cheung (Hong Kong SAR, China, Chair of Committee II).

CoP14 President Verburg noted that species conservation must go hand-in-hand with the improvement of livelihoods in order to achieve the goals of halting biodiversity loss and eradicating poverty. Youth representatives then addressed the Conference, voicing their concern about the illegal poaching of elephants and urging CoP14 to implement a ban on ivory trade.

Delegates adopted CoP14's agenda and working programme (CoP14 Doc.3 (Rev.1) and CoP14 Doc.4) as well as the list of observers (CoP14 Doc.6), which included 18 IGOs and 147 NGOs, and noted that agenda items not covered by SC55 would be taken up at SC56 immediately following CoP14 on the evening of 15 June 2007.

New officers for CITES Committees were elected on Thursday and Friday, 14-15 June, in plenary. New members elected for the SC are: for Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with Mali as alternate; for Asia, Iran, with Kuwait as alternate; for Central and South America and the Caribbean, Costa Rica, with Guatemala as alternate; for Europe,

UK and Bulgaria, with Norway, Italy and the Czech Republic as alternates; and for North America, Canada, with Mexico as alternate.

New AC members elected are: for Africa, Khaled Zahzah (Tunisia); for Asia, Mohammed Reza Pourkazemi (Iran), with Nobuo Ishii (Japan) as alternate; for Central and South America and the Caribbean, Marcel Calvar (Uruguay) and Jose Alberto Alvarez (Cuba), with Nereyda Estrada (Honduras) and Alvaro Velazco (Venezuela) as alternates; for Europe, Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) and Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain), with Colman O'Criodain (Ireland) and Radu Suci (Romania) as alternates; and for North America, Rosemary Gnam (US) as alternate.

New PC members elected are: for Asia, Tukirin Partomihardjo (Indonesia), with Mohd Yunus Zaharia (Malaysia) as alternate; for Central and South America and the Caribbean, Mariana Mites (Ecuador), with Adriana Rivera (Colombia) and Melquiades Mejia (Dominican Republic), as alternates; for Europe, Maurizio Sajeve (Italy), with Jonas Lüthy (Switzerland) as alternate; and for Oceania, Greg Leach (Australia), with Osia Gideon (Papua New Guinea) as alternate.

The following report summarizes the issues addressed by CoP14 following the respective agenda items, and including sections on sharks and elephants that compile all decisions related to these species.

STRATEGIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

FINANCING AND BUDGET: Finance and budget issues were considered from Tuesday, 5 June to Wednesday, 13 June, in Committee II, and in a budget working group chaired by Colman O'Criodain (Ireland). Plenary considered the increase in the budget on Thursday and Friday, 14-15 June, establishing a Friends of the Chair group, which met Thursday night. A 6% nominal increase in the budget was finally adopted on Friday, 15 June.

Committee II considered and adopted the 2004-2006 financial reports (CoP14 Doc.7.1 (Rev.1)) and estimated expenditures for 2007 (CoP14 Doc.7.2 (Rev.1)). Secretary-General Wijnstekers introduced the budget for the next triennium in its new format as a costed work programme (CoP14 Doc.7.3 (Rev.1)). He clarified that the document presents all activities as fully funded through the core Trust Fund, stressing that parties may decide to prioritize activities by making some activities, or elements of them, conditional upon voluntary or external sources of funding. The European Union (EU) noted that most activities should be funded from the core Trust Fund. Others highlighted the need to closely link the work of the strategic vision and budget working groups and that developing country priorities must not be left unfunded.

The working group considered: presentations by the Secretariat on its activities; the costed work programme, discussing which activities or their components should remain within the core budget; the resolution on the budget, including measures to improve the collection of arrears; and the terms of reference for the Trust Fund. Participants were divided between working on the basis of a 0% or a 21% nominal increase. Those opposing a significant increase noted that it may lead to arrears in payments, cautioning that this could affect the Secretariat's work.

A document with options for a 0% or a 21.56% nominal increase in the budget was then presented to Committee II, explaining that the latter option would entail the suppression of two staff posts, and reducing office maintenance and CoP15 costs, but would increase funding for activity-based work. The 0% option would entail maintaining the CITES website in English only, suppressing five staff posts, reducing CoP15 costs, and allocating minimal funds for activity-based work, such as scientific support, capacity building and enforcement.

Several Caribbean countries, Zimbabwe, the EU, Switzerland and South Africa supported the budget increase, while several NGOs urged greater emphasis on looking for additional funds for the new strategic vision's goals.

Following discussions, Committee II voted on alternative 15%, 10% and 3% budget increases, without any option reaching the required three-fourths majority. Committee II then went on to address the proposed resolution on budget and terms of reference for the Trust Fund. Committee II adopted, *inter alia*, amendments strengthening the SC's oversight of budgetary matters and proposals with budgetary implications, and a clause on improving the collection of contributions in arrears. The resolution was then agreed by consensus, with the exception of the paragraph stating the specific amount of the budget increase, which was referred to plenary.

In plenary, delegates confirmed the decisions adopted by Committee II and considered the outstanding issue of the percentage of budget increase. The Netherlands supported a 21% budget increase, saying it was necessary to ensure the sustainability and legality of wildlife trade, and with Switzerland, the UK, Denmark, Germany, Sweden and Zimbabwe proposed a vote on a 15% increase. Mexico and Peru opposed, saying that some countries cannot spare additional resources, and advocating "minimal growth" with a better allocation of resources. The US said it could support a 3% increase, and urged greater transparency in the presentation of financial information. A Friends of the Chair group was established, which reported to the final plenary session that no consensus had been achieved. Committee II Chair Cheung then proposed a 7.5% increase. Japan requested a vote on an alternative increase of 7.5% using 4.5% from estimated reserves for 2007. Budget working group Chair O'Criodain and the US opposed this proposal, noting that using reserves would impede covering unforeseen expenses during 2007. Delegates then voted on a 15% increase as proposed by the EU, on a 7.5% increase as proposed by Cheung, and on a 7.5% increase as proposed by Japan, but did not achieve the required three-quarters majority in any of the cases.

Plenary was adjourned for ten minutes to draft a proposal by President Verburg on a 7.5% increase with a revision by the SC. Several countries opposed this option. Budget working group Chair O'Criodain then proposed a 6% increase, which was adopted by 93 votes in favor and 14 against, further to which the entire resolution on budget was adopted by consensus.

Final Outcome: The CoP adopted (CoP14 Doc.7.1 (Rev.1); CoP14 Doc.7.2 (Rev.1); and CoP14 Com.II.32):

- the 2004-2006 financial reports;
- estimated expenditures for 2007;

- a resolution on the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2009-2011, noting that the Secretariat will present an adjusted work programme to the SC based on the percentage of increase in contributions adopted by CoP14 and the new Strategic Vision; and
- the terms of reference for the administration of the CITES Trust Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Standing Committee: On Monday, 4 June, in plenary, SC Chair Maquieira presented an oral report on the SC's activities. He highlighted the draft strategic plan prepared by the Strategic Plan Working Group chaired by Ghana, and the Secretariat's costed work programme indicating the financial implications of the various proposals. He also noted, *inter alia*: improvements in institutional cooperation; the urgency of addressing the future of tigers and other Asian big cats; the outcome of lengthy discussions on elephants; and progress in addressing trade in bigleaf mahogany. The CoP took note of the report.

Animals Committee: On Monday, 4 June, in plenary, AC Chair Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) presented the AC report (CoP14 Doc.8.2), highlighting *inter alia*: draft decisions related to Review of Significant Trade (RST) in *Psittacus erithacus* (African grey parrot) and *Tridacnidae* (giant clams); selection of new species to be subject to an RST; CITES-listed animal species selected for periodic review; completion of implementation of CoP Decisions 13.96 and 13.97 (fossil corals); and submission of an information document on sturgeons to SC54.

Committee I took note of the report and agreed on draft decisions on RST in African grey parrot and giant clams, which were adopted by plenary on Friday, 15 June. Other decisions were considered under the relevant agenda items.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Doc.8.2 Annex) directs the Secretariat to: develop regional management plans for African grey parrot in collaboration with range states and others, including standards for non-detriment findings (NDFs), biologically sustainable export quotas, and implementation workshops; and seek external funding for a workshop on regional cooperation in the sustainable management of giant clams.

Plants Committee: On Monday, 4 June, in plenary, PC Chair Margarita Clemente (Spain) presented the PC report (CoP14 Doc.8.3 (Rev.1)). She highlighted work undertaken on: the periodic review of CITES-listed plant taxa (CoP14 Inf.11); selection of species for RST; and collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (CoP14 Inf.10). On timber species, PC Chair Clemente outlined intersessional activities on, *inter alia*, bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp.), and *Prunus africana*, expressing hope that new timber species listings proposed by the PC will be approved by CoP14.

On Wednesday, 6 June, PC Chair Clemente presented the PC proposals. Committee I agreed to them with minor amendments and they were adopted by plenary on Friday, 15 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP decision (CoP14 Com.I Rep.4) contains measures on, *inter alia*:

- preventing illegal trade in Asian plant species and promoting regional coordination;

- developing criteria and indicators for implementing NDFs for taxa of high priority timber species, and *Prunus africana* and other medicinal plants; and
- amending the appendices in relation to tree species using the new CITES listing criteria and the results of regional workshops on sustainable management of timber species, with the US noting concern over proposals to list certain groups of species rather than individual species.

Joint Animals and Plants Committees: On Monday, 4 June, in plenary, AC Chair Althaus and PC Chair Clemente reported on the joint work of their Committees (CoP14 Doc.8.4). On the review of the scientific committees, they noted that a summary of the Committees' self-evaluation was forwarded to the External Evaluation Working Group and suggested that the CoP take into account the joint AC/PC working group's recommendations.

They further noted the results of discussions on the transport of live animals, urged parties to support the Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade, and stated that the potential for CITES to contribute to the alien invasive species issue is limited.

On Tuesday, 5 June, Committee I approved the joint AC/PC recommendation to delete the section contained in Resolution Conf.13.10 (alien invasive species) that instructs the Secretariat and scientific committees to undertake activities on the issue. On Wednesday, 6 June, Committee II agreed to draft decisions relating to: the length and rules of procedure for the AC and PC meetings including three amendments proposed by the Secretariat; and the manual for regional representatives, following amendments by the Secretariat on testing the manual, and by Mexico on funding for publication. The decisions were adopted in plenary on Friday, 15 June. Uruguay, supported by Chile, Argentina, the Bahamas, Peru, Kuwait, Suriname, Mexico and Costa Rica, requested to record in the CoP14 report that the Secretariat supports the Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade, at the International University of Andalucia, Spain.

Final Outcome: The CoP (Cop14 Com.I Rep.1 and Cop14 Com.II Rep.4), *inter alia*, directs the Secretariat to seek funding for the translation and publication of the manual for regional representatives of the scientific committees in the three working languages, and distribute the manual once testing has occurred and funds are available.

Nomenclature Committee: On Monday, 4 June, in plenary, Nomenclature Committee (NC) Co-Chairs Noel McGough (UK) and Ute Grimm (Germany) presented the NC report (CoP14 Doc.8.5). NC Co-Chair McGough highlighted the recommendation that, in the future, the NC could best function as a working group of the AC and PC, but that independence of decision-making on nomenclature issues and consistency of approach should be maintained. On flora nomenclature, he outlined, *inter alia*, proposals for adoption of checklists on: *Hoodia*; *Guaiacum*; and orchid genera *Aerides*, *Coelogyne*, and allied taxa (Orchidaceae). On the proposed flora workplan, he highlighted a revision of the cacti checklist and an update and expansion of the orchids checklist. On fauna nomenclature, NC Co-Chair Grimm highlighted proposals for adoption of checklists on, *inter alia*, birds, mammals, turtles and tortoises, and

amphibians. On the proposed fauna workplan, she emphasized that the development of a checklist for corals is a priority. Delegates took note of the report.

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING: On Thursday, 14 June, CoP14 President Verburg presented to plenary the report of the Ministerial Roundtable (CoP14 Inf.62), which was held on Wednesday, 13 June. Welcoming the success of this inaugural ministerial meeting, she highlighted that ministers, *inter alia*: acknowledged CITES' contribution to the broader biodiversity and sustainable development agenda, urging increased cooperation between CITES and other international processes; committed to strengthening national measures and increased collaboration on enforcement; and recognized CITES' complementary role in natural resource management to organizations such as FAO, ITTO and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs).

CITES STRATEGIC VISION: 2008-2013: On Tuesday, 5 June, Canada as Vice-Chair of the Strategic Plan Working Group presented the document in Committee II (CoP14 Doc.11), outlining the group's work since its establishment at SC53.

Australia underscored that CITES should not be subordinated to other processes. Developing countries called for technical support and capacity building, and China stressed that the CITES strategic vision should focus on individual species rather than the broad categories of marine and timber, citing the Convention's limited financial resources. Israel, supported by Kenya, said the right to apply stricter domestic measures is enshrined in the Convention and opposed restricting this right within the strategic vision. Malaysia said that requiring a risk assessment within NDFs would impose an excessive financial burden on parties. International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) lamented the emphasis on trade at the expense of conservation. Delegates agreed to establish a working group chaired by Lynda Maltby (Canada).

The working group met from 5-11 June, including over the weekend. Discussions focused on agreeing on text on CITES purpose, vision statement, goals and objectives, with key issues including: references to "commercially-traded species;" divisions over the terms "sustainable trade," "sustainable use," "sustainable management," and "conservation of biodiversity" within the vision statement and elsewhere; and Goal Three on CITES' role within the broader global biodiversity agenda.

On Thursday, 14 June, Canada introduced the revised draft strategic vision, noting that the group had reached consensus on the text but, due to time limitations, proposed requesting SC57 to address an annexed set of indicators. Many delegates supported the draft resolution, with Japan calling it a well-balanced reflection of participants' conflicting views on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. While supporting the document, Brazil said he would have preferred a "clearer message" in the vision statement on the link between sustainable management and conservation, and Dominica expressed concern about whether it addresses the needs of developing countries and small island developing states. Committee II agreed to the strategic vision and related decisions by consensus, and they were adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP adopted (CoP14 Com.II.20) the "CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013," recommending national-level action to ensure achievement of its goals. It also requests the Secretariat to ensure that its 2008-2013 programme of work supports the Strategic Vision's implementation. The CoP also directs the Secretariat to request input from parties on the Strategic Vision's annexed indicators and requests SC57 to review and finalize these indicators.

The Strategic Vision outlines its purpose, Vision Statement and three goals with a number of associated objectives. The new CITES Vision Statement is to "Conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss." The stated goals are to:

- ensure compliance with, and implementation and enforcement of the Convention;
- secure the necessary financial resources and means for the Convention's operation and implementation; and
- contribute to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by ensuring coherence between CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes.

The Strategic Vision also includes a range of objectives under each goal, relating to *inter alia*, transparency, capacity building for implementation, enforcement, and cooperation. For example, the objective on commercially-exploited species, under Goal Three, commits parties and the Secretariat "to cooperate with other relevant IGOs and agreements dealing with natural resources, as appropriate, in order to achieve a coherent and collaborative approach to species which can be endangered by unsustainable trade, including those which are commercially-exploited."

REVIEW OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES: On Tuesday, 5 June, delegates discussed the SC's recommendations for review of the scientific committees based on evaluations done by internal and external working groups (CoP14 Doc.12). Recommendations included: a proposed revision to Res. Conf.12.11 (Rev.CoP13) (Standard nomenclature), including making the NC a working group of the AC and PC; a proposed revision to Res. Conf.11.1 (Rev.CoP13) (Establishment of committees), including appointing nomenclature experts to the AC and PC; and a suggestion from the Secretariat to merge the CITES scientific committees.

Many parties opposed the Secretariat's suggestion to merge the committees but expressed support for the External Evaluation Working Group's proposal to make the NC a working group of the AC and PC. The EU, supported by the AC and PC Chairs, expressed concern about proposed deletion of portions of the AC and PC mandates. Indonesia supported, while China and the EU opposed, the need for independent committee Chairs, with China citing concerns about the disruption of regional balance. A working group was established on the issue and presented a revised draft, which was agreed by consensus and adopted in plenary, including proposed revisions to Res. Conf.12.11 (Rev. CoP13) and Res. Conf.11.1 (Rev. CoP13).

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.30 Annexes 1, 2 and 3), *inter alia*:

- instructs the Secretariat to consult with the AC and PC Chairs when hiring scientific consultants;
- records the AC and PC's roles regarding the RST and periodic review;
- transforms the NC into a working group of the AC and PC; and
- states that the CoP will appoint specialists on zoological and botanical nomenclature to serve on the AC and PC, respectively, as *ex-officio* and non-voting members.

ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES: On Tuesday, 5 June, Committee II discussed the document on the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (AAPGs) (CoP14 Doc.13), noting its relevance to implementation of various CITES provisions. Following discussions on how to use the AAPGs in NDFs, the matter was referred to a drafting group.

By Monday, 11 June, the drafting group was unable to reach consensus. The US suggested an amendment to Res. Conf.13.2 (Sustainable use of biodiversity: AAPGs), proposing some minor textual amendments and to annex the AC/PC's recommendations to that resolution. Committee II agreed to this proposal by a vote, and it was adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.17) updated Res. Conf.13.2 (Rev CoP14) including annexing the AC/PC recommendations concerning the AAPGs to the resolution (CoP14 Com.II.17 Annex 2), which, *inter alia*, notes that the AAPGs: are not always immediately applicable to CITES, particularly with respect to making NDFs; may be considered for possible development for certain taxa-specific NDF guidelines; and are a voluntary additional tool that can be used for making NDFs.

CITES AND LIVELIHOODS: From 5-14 June, Committee II considered draft decisions on CITES and livelihoods (CoP14 Doc.14), which, *inter alia*, instruct the SC to initiate a process to develop tools for rapid assessment of the impact of CITES implementation on livelihoods and draft guidelines for parties to consider these impacts, particularly in developing countries. The EU, Mexico and China supported the draft decisions, with Mexico emphasizing that activities should be funded by external sources. The EU stressed that decisions on species listings should be based solely on biological and trade criteria, with the UK noting that the current text could be construed to place livelihoods above biodiversity. Delegates established a drafting group to revise the text.

Many developing countries and NGOs supported the proposed decisions (CoP14 Doc.14), while Canada noted that guidelines should be voluntary and subject to external funding, and Australia, US and Fiji cautioned that livelihood considerations should not affect the scientific decision-making process, but rather relate to CITES implementation. Some NGOs cautioned against shifting emphasis from CITES core biodiversity conservation tasks.

A revised draft was presented (CoP14 Com.II.12), which, *inter alia*, simplifies the Secretariat's mandate, and instructs the SC to develop tools for rapid assessment of the impacts of implementing CITES on livelihoods, and draft guidelines for addressing these impacts. The EU, supported by the US, proposed deleting a requirement to consider the RST as part

of the process. Brazil, with Argentina and Peru, proposed amendments limiting the scope of the draft guidelines to developing countries only, which was opposed by the US. Committee II agreed on the EU amendment, while Brazil's proposed amendment was rejected by a vote, with 25 in favor and 48 against. Delegates then agreed to the draft decisions by consensus, and adopted them in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.12), *inter alia*, instructs the SC to initiate and supervise a process to develop: tools for voluntary use by parties 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 voluntary draft guidelines for parties to address these impacts, particularly in developing countries.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE TRADE POLICY REVIEWS: On Wednesday, 6 June, in Committee II, the Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.15), which summarizes the progress made in implementing Decisions 13.74 and 13.75 (National wildlife trade policy reviews), and noted that these reviews provide a voluntary way for countries to improve their existing policies.

Liberia and Mauritius requested assistance to carry out reviews, and Viet Nam, Madagascar and Uganda shared their experiences from the pilot phase of the project. Switzerland and some NGOs noted their continued support for the review process, while the US suggested improving the review framework first. The US, Argentina and Brazil expressed concern about the proposed expansion of the Secretariat's work, which was perceived by Species Survival Network (SSN) as exceeding CITES' mandate. Argentina and China emphasized the need to secure funding from external sources. The Secretariat agreed to revise the text in consultation with interested parties. On Thursday, 7 June, four revised draft decisions were agreed by consensus in Committee II and adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.1), *inter alia*:

- invites parties to carry out wildlife trade policy reviews, and, on a voluntary basis, share their results with other parties; and
- requests parties, IGOs and NGOs to provide feedback on the draft wildlife trade policy review framework.

CAPACITY BUILDING: On Wednesday, 6 June, in Committee II, the Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.16), which contains information on the Secretariat's capacity-building activities and tools, including Internet-based training and the proposed CITES Virtual College. Several parties emphasized that the proposed activities should be funded by external sources. On the CITES Virtual College, the EU, supported by Chile, Mexico and the US, requested that the Secretariat investigate distance learning initiatives, while others emphasized existing Master's courses. Several Asian region parties urged provision of capacity-building tools in all UN languages. Fiji and Australia called for an intersessional Oceania regional capacity-building workshop on enforcement. The Secretariat agreed to incorporate comments into the draft decision. Delegates agreed and the decision was then adopted on Thursday, 14 June in plenary.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.4 and Com. II.Rep.15) requests parties to provide financial support to academic institutions offering Master's degree courses on CITES and CITES-related subjects and directs the Secretariat to:

- seek external funding to establish and operate a CITES Virtual College in collaboration with academic institutions and training organizations;
- subject to external funding, produce its capacity-building tools in the six UN languages; and
- seek funding for an Oceania region enforcement-focused capacity-building workshop before SC58.

COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTIES AND PROMOTION OF MULTILATERAL MEASURES: On Wednesday, 6 June, the Secretariat introduced the topic (CoP14 Doc.17), focusing on enhancing multilateral cooperation and coherence in implementation of CITES, before resorting to stricter domestic measures, and encouraged parties to accept the three annexed draft decisions, which, *inter alia*, direct the SC to establish an electronic working group on the issue.

On stricter domestic measures, the EU asserted that import permits are justified by the need to ensure species' survival in the wild, and disputed that negotiators of Article XIV (Effect on Domestic Legislation and International Conventions) envisioned that stricter domestic measures would be adopted primarily by exporting countries. He supported the draft decisions but proposed several amendments, including: that the review should determine whether measures effectively achieve CITES' objectives; and that the consultant's report should assess whether there is a need to clarify, revise or repeal CoP resolutions. Australia supported the suggested review "as and when appropriate," highlighting that measures must be consistent with the World Trade Organization and have a justified, positive environmental outcome and requesting the deletion of assessments on whether parties have coherent positions in international forums. The US, Kenya and SSN cautioned that the draft decisions could restrict sovereignty. Committee II agreed to the draft decisions, with Australia's proposed deletion accepted following a vote, and all other amendments accepted by consensus. The decisions were adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.2), *inter alia*:

- requests parties with stricter domestic measures to review their effectiveness "as and when appropriate";
- instructs the SC to establish an electronic working group to review any consultancy reports; and
- directs the Secretariat to, subject to available funds, to hire a consultant to prepare a report on ways to assess whether, *inter alia*, CoP resolutions have been implemented consistently.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Cooperation with FAO: On Thursday, 7 June, the Secretariat introduced the topic (CoP14 Doc.18.1), stressing the long history of successful cooperation with FAO, but highlighting a recent disagreement over the findings of the FAO *Ad hoc* Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II regarding proposed listings of commercially-exploited aquatic species, and suggesting the establishment of a fishery working group.

Noting the importance of the disagreement, FAO asserted that the CITES Secretariat had "bypassed" CITES criteria (Res. Conf.9.24 (Rev. CoP13)) when evaluating species-listing proposals. The EU, Jamaica and New Zealand supported establishing a fishery working group, while many others opposed, with Chile and Brazil emphasizing that RFMOs should address fisheries administration issues. The proposal to establish an SC fishery working group was rejected, failing to achieve a two-thirds majority, with 46 votes in favor and 34 against.

The US proposed an amendment deleting the reference to "formalizing" cooperation with FAO on forestry and non-timber forest products, and China opposed instructing the Secretariat to initiate discussions with FAO. China's amendment was rejected, and Committee II then agreed on the decision, with the US amendment, by 60 votes to 12. The decision was adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The COP instructs the Secretariat to initiate discussions with FAO on how cooperation between the two organizations related to forestry and non-timber forest products might be enhanced, and to report to CoP15 (CoP14 Com.II.7).

Cooperation between CITES and ITTO: On Thursday, 7 June, the US introduced a draft resolution on cooperation with ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber (CoP14 Doc.18.2), highlighting the increase in CITES-related activities at ITTO, and ITTO funds available for capacity building for implementation of CITES listings of timber species.

While many parties supported the draft resolution, several opposed the Secretariat's recommendations to consolidate existing cooperation resolutions and sign a memorandum of understanding with ITTO. Some NGOs stressed that cooperation should not be a substitute for addressing core issues within CITES itself. Following informal consultations, the US presented a revised draft resolution which Committee II agreed by consensus, and delegates adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The COP (CoP14 Com.II.5), *inter alia*:

- urges parties that are also party to International Tropical Timber Agreement to consult with ITTO as part of the consultation process recommended in Res. Conf.10.13 (Rev. CoP13);
- recommends such parties to bring any concerns regarding the effects of international trade on tropical timber species to the ITTO; and
- urges parties to develop appropriate listing proposals based on best available science to ensure the conservation of timber species.

DIALOGUE MEETINGS: On Thursday, 7 June, Committee II discussed a draft resolution on dialogue meetings (CoP14 Doc.19.1 annex) including the rules of procedure for these meetings. Delegates discussed the procedure for allowing the participation of observers, and then agreed on the rules of procedure for dialogue meetings with several amendments. These were adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The terms of reference and rules of procedure on dialogue meetings (CoP14 Com.II.10), *inter alia*, approve participation of observers by consensus, establish a

quorum of two-thirds of range states present at the dialogue, and request that conclusions be presented to range states for agreement.

INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS: On Thursday, 7 June, Committee II considered a number of documents on review of resolutions.

Resolutions relating to Appendix-I species: Delegates discussed a proposal to consolidate existing resolutions and decisions (CoP14 Doc.20.1). Many opposed the proposed consolidation, with the EU noting the sensitivity of resolutions relating to Appendix-I species. Committee II agreed by consensus to reject the proposal, which was confirmed in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

General review: Committee II also considered a document containing proposed amendments to and consolidation of resolutions (CoP14 Doc.20.2). Committee II accepted all proposals, some with minor amendments, including a draft decision directing the SC to review any Secretariat proposals to correct non-substantive errors in resolutions, and decide if they should be forwarded to the CoP. This decision was confirmed by plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II: On Thursday, 7 June, delegates discussed proposed amendments to Res. Conf.11.16 (Ranching) to simplify reporting requirements for parties operating an approved ranching programme for species that have been transferred from Appendix I to II (CoP14 Doc.21).

Many countries supported the proposal and further streamlining and clarifying the provisions of the resolution. The US objected to the AC's proposal to subject certain reporting requirements to the Secretariat's request, noting that some of this information is needed on an annual basis to determine if parties are meeting their obligations. Venezuela stressed that the proposal should only apply to local populations, called for a more consistent approach to reporting and, supported by SSN, urged caution in broadening the proposal to other ranched species as it only reflects experience with crocodiles. A working group was established.

On Thursday, 14 June, Committee II accepted the working group's revised draft decision to request the Secretariat and the AC to propose revisions to Res. Conf.11.16, which was confirmed by plenary later that day.

Final Outcome: The CoP reviewed resolutions (CoP14 Doc.20.2 Annex and CoP14 Com.II.Rep.6) on, *inter alia*: deletion of species from Appendix II or III in certain circumstances; interpretation and implementation of certain provisions of the Convention; national laws for implementation of the Convention; disposal of illegally-traded, confiscated and accumulated specimens; trade in elephant specimens; specimens of animal species bred in captivity; guidelines for registering Appendix I breeding operations; trade in stony corals; regulation of trade in plants; national reports; and sturgeons and paddlefish.

The CoP also requests the Secretariat, together with the AC, to propose revisions to Res. Conf.11.16, for consideration by CoP15 (CoP14 Com.II.24).

REVIEW OF DECISIONS: On Thursday, 7 June, Committee II reviewed the Secretariat's recommended updates to the list of decisions (CoP14 Doc.22) and discussed decisions on, *inter alia*, elephant ivory stocks, capacity building, RST, and medicinal plants, with a view to updating the list and deleting those decisions that no longer remain in effect. The Secretariat proposed, and delegates agreed to, *inter alia*: delete Decision 13.53 (Medicinal plants); and integrate Decision 9.15 (Diplomatic exemption) into Res. Conf.11.3 (Rev. CoP13). The EU proposed, and delegates agreed to retain Decision 10.2 (Rev. CoP11) (Conditions for elephant ivory stocks). Parties also agreed to retain, *inter alia*, Decisions 12.90 to 12.93 (Capacity building for Appendix-II voluntary national export quotas), and Decisions 13.14 to 13.17 (Improving regional communication and representation).

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Doc.22 Annexes 1 and 2) updated the list of decisions.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Compliance and enforcement issues were considered from 6-14 June in Committee II, in a working group on guidelines for compliance with the Convention, and in informal consultations. All resulting decisions and resolutions were formally adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June, without amendment.

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION: On Wednesday, 6 June, Norway, as Chair of the intersessional Compliance Working Group, reported on progress in developing guidelines for compliance with the Convention (CoP14 Doc.23). Argentina, Brazil and Japan underscored that the guidelines should focus on facilitative measures. A working group chaired by Norway was established, which presented a draft resolution and its annexed guide to CITES compliance procedures, underscoring its non-binding nature and that discussions had resulted in it being renamed a "Guide." Norway proposed an amendment whereby the CoP "takes note of" rather than "adopts" the guide, and delegates approved the resolution by consensus with this amendment.

Final Outcome: The CoP adopted a resolution with an annexed "Guide to CITES Compliance Procedures" (CoP14 Com.II.21 Annex), which reflects CITES practice and contains sections on:

- objectives and scope;
- general principles, such as the non-adversarial approach to compliance, confidentiality of communications between parties and the Secretariat, and an appropriate decision-making mechanism;
- handling of specific compliance matters, from identification to monitoring; and
- measures to achieve compliance, *inter alia*, technical assistance, written warnings and suspension of trade.

NATIONAL LAWS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: On Thursday, 7 June, the Secretariat presented its report and related draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.24). Many parties reported on progress in implementing national legislation on CITES. Delegates approved proposed decisions with amendments to consolidate deadlines for submitting information on national legislation to SC58, and assist implementing agencies. Argentina and other developing countries proposed deleting references to the suspension of commercial trade as a

possible measure to improve CITES legislation at the national level, but the US and other developed countries opposed and, following a vote, the original text was retained.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.8) requests parties of more than five years to submit any newly enacted legislation for implementation of the Convention or adequate justification for its failure to do so. In cases of non-compliance, it directs the SC to consider appropriate compliance measures, including suspension of commercial trade in CITES-listed species.

ENFORCEMENT MATTERS: Introducing the document (CoP14 Doc.25) on Friday, 8 June, the Secretariat noted draft decisions to convene a meeting of the CITES Enforcement Experts Group. Many supported, and the draft decisions were approved by consensus.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.27) directs the Secretariat to convene, subject to external funding, a meeting of the CITES Enforcement Experts Group to identify measures to improve the gathering of data on illicit trade, and discuss ways in which such data could be analyzed to improve understanding of illicit trade in CITES-listed species.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT: On Friday, 8 June, delegates discussed the EU's proposal (CoP14 Doc.26 (Rev.1)) to amend Res. Conf.11.3 (Rev.CoP13) (Compliance and enforcement), which suggests measures to improve CITES enforcement at the national level. The matter was referred to informal consultations. On Wednesday, 13 June, the UK introduced a revised draft decision and resolution amendment, which were both accepted by consensus.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.23) amends Res. Conf.11.3 (Rev. CoP13), including, *inter alia*:

- welcoming the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice's recognition of the organized criminal nature of illicit wildlife trafficking; and
- ensuring that enforcement measures implemented by parties support conservation in producer countries.

DISPOSAL OF ILLEGALLY TRADED AND CONFISCATED SPECIMENS: On Thursday, 14 June, Indonesia introduced a draft decision (CoP14 Doc.27) on the disposal of confiscated specimens of Appendix-II and -III species, seeking, *inter alia*, repatriation of benefits accruing from the auction or sale of confiscated specimens. Many countries opposed, and following a vote that deleted two paragraphs in the decision, Indonesia withdrew its proposal.

INTERNET TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES: On Friday, 8 June, in Committee II, the EU introduced CoP14 Doc.28, noting the problem of Internet trade in CITES-listed species and proposing a workshop on the subject.

Madagascar, the US, SeaWeb and IFAW supported the proposals, with IFAW highlighting eBay's decision to ban ivory trade on its website worldwide. Parties agreed by consensus on the draft decisions with an amendment by the UK instructing the Secretariat to hire an expert consultant to review Internet trade. Delegates adopted the decisions in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.6 Annex and CoP14 Com.II.Rep.8), *inter alia*, instructs the SC, subject to available funds, to convene a workshop on Internet trade.

NATIONAL REPORTS: On Friday, 8 June, the Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.29) and invited feedback from parties on the new biennial report format. The EU and the US welcomed the draft decisions, noting improved reporting and welcoming any suggestions towards relieving the reporting burden. Committee II agreed on the proposed decisions, which were adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Doc.29 Annex 2), *inter alia*, tasks the Secretariat with identifying additional ways to reduce the reporting burden on parties, and report to CoP15.

TRADE IN ARTIFICIALLY PROPAGATED PLANTS: On Friday, 8 June, in Committee II, Switzerland introduced a report on trade in artificially propagated plants including a draft decision (CoP14 Doc.30), stressing the burden that these requirements impose on parties, and the need to review their usefulness. The US and Mexico opposed the draft decision, with the US supporting the Secretariat's suggestion that it report to the SC on ways to summarize submission data. A working group was established, which presented the working group's three revised draft decisions. These decisions were agreed by consensus, with minor amendments, and adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The COP (CoP14 Com.II.14), *inter alia*: directs the Secretariat to, in consultation with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, survey reporting practices on trade in Appendix-II listed artificially propagated plants, identify where they have significantly contributed to detection of illegal trade, and propose streamlining options to PC18.

INCENTIVES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: On Friday, 8 June, the Secretariat introduced the document on incentives for implementation of the Convention (CoP14 Doc.32) proposing decisions to, *inter alia*, continue cooperation with UNCTAD's Biotrade initiative. The EU, Uganda and Switzerland supported the proposal, while Argentina, the US, Brazil, Australia and Venezuela opposed, stating that the issue should not be considered further as it is not directly relevant to CITES. The decisions were put to a vote and approved by 51 to 22 votes.

On Thursday, 14 June, Brazil sought successfully to reopen the debate in plenary, and supported by Argentina, presented amendments to the document, *inter alia*, for the parties, rather than the SC, to consider practical ways to enhance stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the Convention; and deleted references to placing "particular emphasis on the local communities and the private sector," and for the cooperation with UNCTAD to focus on enhancing the livelihoods of poor people. The decisions, including Brazil's amendments, were adopted by consensus.

Final Outcome: The COP (CoP14 Doc.32 Annex, and CoP14 Plen.4): encourages parties to develop incentive measures for the effective implementation of CITES and include relevant details in their biennial reports; and requests the Secretariat to continue cooperating with UNCTAD's Biotrade initiative to ensure the conservation of wild species subject to international trade; and promote private sector compliance with CITES requirements and national legislation.

TRADE CONTROL AND MARKING ISSUES

INTRODUCTION FROM THE SEA: On Tuesday, 12 June, SC Chair Maquieira summarized the report of the SC working group (CoP14 Doc.33) in Committee II, highlighting progress on defining “the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State” but noting persistent divisions on key aspects of defining “introduction from the sea” such as transshipments on the high seas, responsibility for NDFs, and the roles of port and flag states. He outlined a draft decision requesting that the SC working group’s mandate be extended to continue consideration of these matters.

On “the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State,” delegates supported the “alternative” definition of the working group, although Mexico noted it does not conform to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) definitions of the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) warned against attempting to simplify or paraphrase concepts reflected within UNCLOS, adding that “beyond areas of national jurisdiction” is a phrase commonly used without formal definition in other UN processes and is generally understood to refer to the high seas and “the Area” as defined in UNCLOS. Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Chile, Senegal, Brazil, Japan and UNDOALOS stated that UNCLOS is the framework for marine jurisdictional issues and that CITES work on the matter should conform to UNCLOS.

Most parties supported the continuation of the working group, although Iceland voiced skepticism about the group’s prospects of resolving “introduction from the sea.” Several called for RFMO participation in the group. Namibia also advocated African participation. Many parties, as well as UNDOALOS, FAO, IWMC – World Conservation Trust and the International Environmental Law Project expressed willingness to participate in the working group.

Committee II agreed on the draft decision by consensus, including the “alternative” definition and the timeframe for work to be completed by CoP15 proposed by the EU. The decision was adopted by plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The COP (CoP14 Com.II.26):

- defines “the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State” as “those marine areas beyond the areas subject to the sovereignty or sovereign rights of a State consistent with international law, as reflected in UNCLOS”; and
- directs the SC to establish a working group on introduction from the sea to consider, *inter alia*, a definition for “transportation into a State,” clarification of the term “State of introduction” and the process for issuing an introduction from the sea certificate, and to prepare a discussion paper and draft resolution for consideration by the SC and CoP15.

TRADE IN APPENDIX-I SPECIES: The Secretariat introduced the agenda item (CoP14 Doc.34), explaining the SC and Secretariat’s review of the trade in Appendix-I species. Israel said that the review identified cases of concern, demonstrating the need for further monitoring of commercial trade in Appendix-I species, and proposed two draft decisions (CoP14 Inf.7). Following a vote, delegates rejected the proposals.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERT WORKSHOP ON NDF:

On Tuesday, 5 June, Mexico introduced its proposal, supported by Canada, to conduct an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings (NDFs) (CoP14 Doc.35), which was agreed by consensus in Committee I and adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Doc.35) encourages parties to provide financial support for an international expert workshop on NDFs, and for the Secretariat to assist a workshop steering committee, chaired by Mexico, to prepare for the workshop.

MANAGEMENT OF ANNUAL EXPORT QUOTAS: On Monday, 11 June, Cameroon introduced three draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.36) on managing annual export quotas, and explained that the intersessional Export Quota Working Group did not agree on the Secretariat’s role in clarifying export quota information, or whether including information about quotas in export permits should be voluntary.

The EU urged strengthening the Secretariat’s role in reviewing quotas before they are published, lamenting confusion caused by a recently published quota from Gabon for five gorilla heads and hands, which appeared to be in violation of Res. Conf.13.4 (Great apes). He proposed an amendment stating that, where a concern cannot be resolved through consultation, the Secretariat should publish the quota with an annotation indicating its concern and stating that the issue will be taken up through a CITES procedure. Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador opposed the proposal. The EU and others also supported a mandatory requirement of quota information on export permits, whereas Argentina, Brazil and IWMC opposed. The EU also proposed an amendment for an annual review of NDFs for newly established or revised quotas. Delegates agreed on the proposals with the three revisions proposed by the EU, by 63 votes to 19, and they were adopted by plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Doc.36 Annexes 1, 2 and 3; and CoP14 Com.II Rep.10):

- identifies general principles regarding the establishment and management of annual export quotas at the national level; the fundamental principle being that quotas should be scientifically based, and harvests managed in the most appropriate manner; and
- amends Resolution Conf.11.17 (Rev. CoP13) (National reports) to include reporting on annual quotas and Resolution Conf.12.3 (Rev. CoP13) (Permits and Certificates).

APPENDIX-I SPECIES SUBJECT TO EXPORT

QUOTAS: On Tuesday, 5 June, Committee I considered three proposals to amend export quotas for Appendix-I species.

Leopard export quotas for Mozambique: Mozambique requested approval to increase its export quota for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use from 60 to 120 (CoP14 Doc.37.1). Many parties and NGOs supported the proposal, with several stating that the increase would be sustainable and the leopard population in Mozambique had been calculated conservatively. Israel and Humane Society International (HSI) cautioned that the increase was based on out-of-date data and was not scientifically rigorous. The proposal was approved, with Israel’s reservation citing the lack of science and current data on the status of the population.

Final Outcome: The quota of 120 leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use for Mozambique (CoP14 Doc.37.1 and CoP14 Com.I.6) was confirmed in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Leopard export quotas for Uganda: Uganda revised its proposal to downlist its population of leopard (*Panthera pardus*) from Appendix I to II (CoP14 Prop.3), seeking instead an annual export quota of 28 specimens for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use. The revised proposal was approved, with Israel's reservation citing the lack of science and current data on the status of the population, and with the Democratic Republic of Congo expressing concern over the threat of increased poaching of its leopard populations.

Final Outcome: The quota for 28 leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use for Uganda (CoP14 Com.I.6) was confirmed in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Black rhinoceros export quotas for Namibia and South Africa: Kenya introduced its proposal for repealing Namibia and South Africa's annual quotas of five black rhinoceroses (*Diceros bicornis*) (CoP14 Doc.37.2), citing concerns about sustainability of quota levels and increased poaching. Supported by Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, he suggested that other African countries could pay Namibia and South Africa for the costs of translocating any unwanted animals. Namibia and South Africa stressed the conservation and livelihood benefits of trophy hunting and refuted claims of unsustainable quota levels and poaching increases. The issue was put to a vote, resulting in Kenya's proposal being rejected.

Final Outcome: The annual quota for Namibia and South Africa of five black rhinoceroses was confirmed in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES: On Tuesday, 5 June, AC Chair Althaus reported a lack of consensus in the joint AC/PC intersessional working group on production systems (CoP14 Doc.38), proposing to extend the group's mandate beyond CoP14. Australia highlighted the need to consider other production systems such as aquaculture. The CoP approved the proposal by consensus.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Doc.38 and CoP14 Plen.4) extends the mandate of the joint AC/PC intersessional working group on production systems.

PURPOSE-OF-TRANSACTION CODES ON CITES PERMITS: On Friday, 8 June, the US proposed a revision of Res. Conf.12.3 (Rev.CoP13) (Permits and certificates), stressing the need for more specific transaction code definitions in CITES permits, particularly with respect to differentiating between commercial and non-commercial transactions (CoP14 Doc.39).

Argentina, supported by Ecuador, said the issue should be discussed further in the SC. The EU supported the Secretariat's suggestion for consideration of the circumstances under which purpose-of-transaction codes should be used, and underlined that the purpose of export may be different from that of import. Canada noted that requirements are particularly unclear for export permits, and a working group was established on the issue.

The working group was unable to reach consensus and the US proposed a decision requesting the SC to establish an intersessional working group on the issue. Committee II accepted the US proposal with a minor amendment by the EU by consensus and plenary adopted the decision on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.29) instructs the SC to establish and provide terms of reference for an intersessional joint working group to review the use of purpose-of-transaction codes.

ELECTRONIC PERMITTING: On Monday, 11 June, the Secretariat, and Italy, as Chair of the SC Working Group on Information Technology and Electronic Systems, reported on the group's progress regarding the use and issue of electronic permitting, and introduced two related draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.40.1 (Rev.1) Annex and CoP14 Doc.40.2), stressing that, due to differences between countries in implementation capacity, electronic and paper-based systems should be used in parallel.

Delegates discussed the decisions, and Brazil suggested allowing the use of electronic signatures. Many voiced concerns with the draft decision and with Brazil's proposal, echoing the Secretariat's point that many developing countries have implementation constraints. The Secretariat prepared a revised draft taking into account these concerns, and Committee II agreed on the revised decision, which was adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.13), *inter alia*, instructs the SC to extend the mandate of the working group and report to SC58 on the results of its work, and subject to available funds prepare a CD-ROM toolkit on electronic permitting.

TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS: On Tuesday, 5 June, in Committee I, AC Chair Althaus introduced a proposed draft decision on transport of live specimens (CoP14 Doc.41 (Rev.1)) and an accompanying draft decision to amend Res. Conf.10.21 (Transport of live animals) to incorporate references to the transportation of plants.

Israel proposed that new or additional references on capture and preparation of live specimens should also be examined by the AC and PC. AC Chair Althaus replied that the idea had been dismissed by the AC as efforts to examine those aspects had been lengthy and unproductive. China, Japan, Tanzania and Peru agreed, with China stating that examining capture is beyond the Convention's scope. On addressing mortality during transportation, the US and China emphasized that the burden on inspectors and customs officers should be minimized by ensuring that efforts focus on "high mortality" shipments.

Committee I agreed on the draft decisions by consensus, and they were adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Doc.41 (Rev.1)), *inter alia*:

- recommends that parties consider World Organisation for Animal Health guidelines for transport by sea and by land, in instances where International Air Transport Association live transport regulations are inappropriate; and
- directs the AC and PC to regularly examine 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.

PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF TIMBER SHIPMENTS:

On Monday, 11 June, in Committee II, Italy, on behalf of the EU, presented the draft decisions (CoP14 Doc.42) aimed at providing authorities with clear guidelines on identification and measurements of timber products. Several parties supported the proposal. Brazil and Australia made additional suggestions, and the ITTO offered its assistance in developing guidelines for timber shipment inspections. A drafting group was established. A revised decision was agreed by consensus, and adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.18 and CoP14 Com.II.Rep.8), *inter alia*, directs:

- the Secretariat to establish an electronic working group to solicit and compile existing procedures adopted by the parties for identification of timber look-alike species; and
- the SC to examine the outcome of the working group.

CROCODILIANS: On Monday, 11 June, delegates discussed draft decisions on the effectiveness of the universal crocodilian tagging system (CoP14 Doc.43 and CoP14 Com.II.Rep.12) and trade in some crocodilian specimens (CoP14 Doc.46). On the tagging system, the EU and TRAFFIC supported the US proposal to hire a consultant to conduct an effectiveness review of the universal crocodilian tagging system, while Argentina, supported by the Philippines, preferred that a working group conduct the review. On trade in some crocodilian specimens, the EU and Switzerland proposed to establish a process within the SC to streamline procedures to reduce transaction costs of issuing CITES permits for trade in some crocodilian specimens as such trade has a minimum impact on conservation and specimens generally derive from ranching. Colombia, Mexico, India, Peru and Japan expressed reservations, and following work of a drafting group, revised draft decisions, combining proposals on the universal tagging system and trade in some crocodilian specimens, were presented. Committee II agreed on the draft decisions with minor amendments by Argentina, and they were adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.28 and CoP14 Com.II.Rep.12) instructs the SC to, *inter alia*, establish a working group to review the implementation and effectiveness of the universal tagging system and of issuing CITES documents for small crocodilian leather goods.

IDENTIFICATION MANUAL: On Monday, 11 June, the Secretariat presented its progress report (CoP14 Doc. 44), noting completion of the database of all published sheets of the Identification Manual. CoP14 noted the report on Thursday, 14 June.

EXEMPTIONS AND SPECIAL TRADE PROVISIONS**PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS:**

On Wednesday, 6 June, in Committee II, China presented the report of the Working Group on Personal and Household Effects (CoP14 Doc.45). Following comments by the EU, Argentina and Indonesia, a working group was established, which presented a revised draft resolution and decision.

The EU proposed: amending the draft resolution regarding quantitative limitations for caviar; and adding two paragraphs to the draft decision requesting the SC to evaluate if specific items require different treatment, and implementation effectiveness of

Res. Conf.13.7 (Personal and household effects). The revised draft resolution and decision were adopted by consensus with the EU's proposed amendments.

On Thursday, 14 June, Committee I Chair Leach clarified to plenary that the proposals related to corals as personal and household effects had been considered under proposal 21 (*Corallium*). Delegates then adopted the resolution and decision without amendments.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.34):

- amended Res.Conf.13.7 (Control of trade in personal and household effects), *inter alia*, to exempt from CITES permits caviar of sturgeon species up to a maximum of 125 grams per person; and
- extended the operation of the SC working group on personal and household effects to, *inter alia*, assess whether there are specific types of personal and household effects that in view of conservation concerns would require a different treatment under Res. Conf.13.7 (Rev.CoP14).

REGISTRATION OF CAPTIVE BREEDING

OPERATIONS: On Wednesday, 6 June, in Committee I, the Secretariat introduced the Philippines' proposal to register a captive breeding operation for eight Appendix-I listed bird species (CoP14 Doc.47). Range states Mexico and Brazil supported the proposal. In opposition: the US said the proposal relied on insufficient documentation; New Zealand asserted documented links between the applicant and a convicted bird smuggler; range state Bolivia cited lack of consultation and insufficient links to *in situ* conservation; and range state Indonesia highlighted the high mortality of the species in captivity and the likelihood of increasing illegal trade. Following a vote, the Philippines' proposal was approved by Committee I with 50 votes in favor and 22 against.

In plenary on Thursday, 14 June, Bolivia sought successfully to reopen debate on the proposal. Delegates then overturned Committee I's decision in a vote, and the Philippines' proposal was rejected, falling one vote short of a two-thirds majority, with 63 in favor and 32 against.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EX SITU PRODUCTION AND IN SITU CONSERVATION:

On Monday, 11 June, in Committee II, Ireland introduced the SC report on the relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation (CoP14 Doc.48 (Rev.1)), recommending an independent study on the topic. The EU supported the proposal, while Brazil, Peru and Colombia opposed, and India proposed a case-specific approach.

The proposal was rejected with 48 votes in favor and 31 against. The Committee's decision was confirmed in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

RESERVATIONS REGARDING SPECIES**TRANSFERRED FROM ONE APPENDIX TO ANOTHER:**

On Monday, 11 June, in Committee II, the Secretariat introduced the document (CoP14 Doc.49), recommending how to interpret reservations on species transfer between appendices. Delegates agreed on the proposal by consensus with minor amendments by Norway and the US and it was adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Doc.49 and Com.II.Rep.10) recommends: that any party that has entered any Appendix-I species reservation should treat that species as if it were included

in Appendix II for all purposes, including documentation and control; agrees that if a species is transferred between the appendices a party must enter a new reservation; and calls on parties to maintain and communicate statistical records.

SPECIES TRADE AND CONSERVATION ISSUES

GREAT APES: On Tuesday, 11 June, in Committee II, the Secretariat introduced the Secretariat's report on great apes (CoP14 Doc.50) highlighting, *inter alia*: CITES/UNEP Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) technical missions to Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia; a request for Indonesia to report further to the SC; and a recommended verification mission to Egypt to assist in addressing reported illegal trade.

Indonesia agreed to report to the SC, Thailand noted ongoing efforts to combat illegal trade and Cambodia welcomed assistance on CITES implementation. Egypt welcomed the CITES verification mission and said illegally-traded great apes would be repatriated. Several IGOs and NGOs called for CITES technical missions to African great ape range states and others encouraged Central African range states to focus on addressing domestic and transborder bushmeat and live-animal trade. Delegates commended the upcoming CITES/GRASP mission to Egypt. The CoP took note of the report.

CETACEANS: Periodic review of all listed cetaceans:

On Wednesday, 6 June, in Committee I, Japan proposed a periodic review of all listed cetaceans (CoP14 Doc.51), which he said seeks to ensure that the Convention operates on the basis of current scientific information, and would not affect the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium. Supporting the resolution, Norway and Saint Kitts and Nevis cautioned against basing CITES decisions on criteria other than science, and China welcomed the additional information that would result from the review.

Opposing the proposal: Australia emphasized current IWC findings on the state of whale stocks and said that the IWC is the agreed competent authority; Argentina, on behalf of several countries from Central and South America, said a review would duplicate the IWC Scientific Commission process; and the EU reminded parties of the recent IWC resolution on interaction between CITES and IWC (CoP14 Inf.44) which states, *inter alia*, that the commercial whaling moratorium is still in place. Brazil encouraged non-lethal use of whales. The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, on behalf of SSN, noted that IWC Scientific Commission reviews are based on sound scientific data.

The proposal was then rejected, by 26 to 54 votes. This decision was confirmed by plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Fin Whales: On Wednesday, 6 June, in Committee I, Argentina, Australia, Brazil and the US opposed the AC proposal to include the central stock of the North Atlantic fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) in the periodic review (CoP14 Doc.8.2). Australia introduced a draft decision (CoP14 Com.I.7) instructing the AC that no periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the IWC moratorium is in place. Committee I approved Australia's proposal by 59 to 21 votes. In plenary on Friday, 15 June, Palau sought to reopen debate but failed by one vote to achieve the required one-third support, with 35 votes for and 71 against. Plenary therefore adopted Committee I's decision.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.I.7) instructs the AC that no periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the IWC moratorium is in place.

ASIAN BIG CATS: On Tuesday, 12 June, in Committee II, Secretary-General Wijnstekers reported on intersessional work since SC53 on assessing measures to address the illicit trade in tigers (CoP14 Doc.52). He noted the need for improved enforcement in some range states, but highlighted the success of the Inspection Tiger Brigades in the Russian Federation. Reporting on a recent mission to western China, he said that illicit trade in big-cat skins appears to have declined but enforcement can still be improved.

On Wednesday, 13 June, India introduced a document prepared jointly with Nepal, China and the Russian Federation (CoP14 Inf.50), highlighting seven draft decisions on measures to address trade in Asian big cats and their parts and derivatives, including strengthening efforts to implement Res. Conf.12.5 (Tigers) and reporting on progress at SC57; and actions by range states, such as participating in a tiger trade enforcement meeting.

Many delegates noted the alarming decline of wild tiger populations. Several tiger range states reported on continued efforts in addressing tiger conservation and illicit trade. The US and others expressed concern about pressure within China to reopen the commercial trade in tiger parts and derivatives. China stressed that its current domestic tiger trade ban policy review is in line with the Secretariat's recommendation to assess a new approach, and that the policy will only be changed if a positive effect on wild tiger populations can be demonstrated. US traditional Chinese medicine institutions, supported by India, said that traditional Chinese medicine has embraced the development of viable alternatives to tiger bone.

On captive breeding, the US proposed amending the draft decision limiting it to "intensive" captive breeding operations and specifying that tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives. Emphasizing state sovereignty, China proposed that the decision should apply only to "international" trade. The Committee approved the US-proposed amendments on captive breeding, but dismissed those proposed by China, with 19 votes in favor and 47 against.

Delegates also agreed on considering Res. Conf.12.5 when, *inter alia*, evaluating domestic tiger trade control policies, and further amendments by Bhutan, to strengthen the decisions, and the Russian Federation, to ensure consultation with tiger range states on monitoring illegal trade in Asian big cats. The Committee then agreed on the decisions by consensus, and they were adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.33) decides that, *inter alia*:

- tiger range states shall report their progress on strengthening implementation of Res. Conf.12.5 to SC57 onwards and to CoP15;
- parties shall develop or improve implementation of regional enforcement networks;
- those with intensive commercial tiger breeding operations shall implement measures to restrict the captive population numbers to that supportive to conserving wild tigers;

- the Secretariat shall convene a tiger trade enforcement meeting and cooperate in the IUCN/Global Tiger Forum conservation strategy workshop; and
- the Tiger Enforcement Task Force, together with CITES Enforcement Experts Group and in consultation with tiger range states, shall establish an illegal-trade monitoring mechanism.

ELEPHANTS: Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens: On Tuesday, 12 June, in Committee I, TRAFFIC presented the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) report (CoP14 Doc.53.2), noting that the ETIS database contains 12,378 seizure records from 82 countries and territories since 1989, totaling 322 tonnes of ivory. He said the analysis shows a decline in illicit ivory trade from 1999-2004, followed by a sharp increase since 2005, and identified the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Thailand, Nigeria, Cameroon and China as countries of major concern. He also underscored that ETIS data does not support a correlation between changes to the CITES-listing of elephant populations or the resumption of legal ivory trade, and an increase in poaching and illegal trade. Instead, he identified unregulated domestic ivory markets, organized crime, and poor governance as key drivers of illegal trade.

During the ensuing discussion, China stated that information in the ETIS report relating to his country's national legislation and trade controls is misleading and does not concur with the Secretariat's assessment following its mission to China. He expressed concern that not designating China as a trading partner in the one-off ivory sale would lead to a reemergence of illegal trade. Nigeria and DRC reported on improvements in national legislation and enforcement to address illegal wildlife trade. Several others supported the ETIS findings. CoP14 noted the report.

Monitoring of illegal hunting in elephant range states: On Tuesday, 12 June, in Committee I, the Secretariat reported on the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme (CoP14 Doc.53.3), noting, *inter alia*: SC55's adoption of MIKE baseline information; recent establishment of the MIKE Central Coordination Unit; range state initiatives on applying the MIKE approach to other species; and funding requirements for phase II of the programme, particularly its Asian component.

Many stressed the need to ensure financial viability of the MIKE programme, with the US encouraging consideration of new sources of funding, the EU announcing France's contribution of US\$50,000 to MIKE's South Asia subregional unit, and Botswana and South Africa urging range states to include MIKE activities in their national budgets. Zimbabwe and Zambia emphasized political will, law enforcement and strengthened management to combat elephant poaching. CoP14 noted the report.

Elephant annotation proposals: Discussions on elephant-related proposals (CoP14 Prop.4 by Botswana and Namibia; CoP14 Prop.5 by Botswana; CoP14 Prop.6 and CoP14 Inf.55 by Kenya and Mali; CoP14 Inf.53 by South Africa; and CoP14 Inf.54 by the EU) took place from 2-14 June, in the African Elephant Range States Dialogue, a Friends of the Chair group facilitated by SC Chair Maquieira, and in informal ministerial consultations facilitated by Francis Nheme, Minister of

Environment and Tourism, Zimbabwe. The consensus proposal of African countries was adopted by acclamation on Thursday, 14 June, in Committee I, and formally adopted in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

During initial negotiations in the regional dialogue format, participants considered several documents that attempted to combine the original proposals, which ranged from establishing annual ivory export quotas to imposing a 20-year moratorium on ivory trade.

Updating Committee I on the status of negotiations on Tuesday, 12 June, South Africa reported a lack of regional consensus but highlighted common ground reached on: conservation of elephants and their role in economic development; the need to address illegal trade and ivory stockpiles; and monitoring illegal trade through MIKE and ETIS. She then presented a combined proposal which authorized a one-off ivory sale of a maximum of 70,000 kg for Botswana, 50,000 kg for Namibia, 40,000 kg for South Africa and 15,000 kg for Zimbabwe, in addition to the quantities agreed at CoP12, and included a provision that no further trade can take place before CoP16, with the SC mandated to take a further decision on export quotas and continuity of trade.

During the ensuing discussions, Namibia highlighted the livelihoods and conservation benefits of ivory trade, stressing that southern African elephant populations are robust and should be treated under CITES provisions for trade in Appendix-II species, and urged development of a decision-making mechanism for ivory trade. Kenya called for a continent-wide solution rather than applying different solutions in different parts of Africa and, supported by the EU, proposed to continue negotiations.

After compromise was reached in the informal ministerial consultations in the early morning hours of Thursday, 14 June, Zambia presented the African region's proposal to amend the existing African elephant annotations, including a one-off ivory sale and a nine-year "resting period" for trade. Many commended the compromise reached by the African region. Japan proposed separating the shipment of the one-off sale of ivory agreed at CoP12 from the proposed new shipment, but withdrew his amendment following objections from the EU, Kenya and China. The US expressed concern about including Zimbabwe in the ivory sale, and called for identifying innovative funding sources for the African elephant fund. Kenya advocated monitoring the impacts of the one-off ivory sale.

Following the approval of Africa's proposal by consensus, the EU, Botswana, South Africa and Kenya formally withdrew their respective proposals.

Final Outcome: The new African elephant annotation (CoP14 Inf.61) authorizes a one-off sale of raw ivory originating from government stocks registered by 31 January 2007, from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, in addition to quantities agreed at CoP12, subject to verification of trading partners.

It also states that: no further ivory trade proposals shall be submitted to the CoP for nine years after the one-off sale; and the SC may decide to stop trade in case of non-compliance or proven detrimental impacts on other elephant populations.

The proposal also contains decisions for, *inter alia*: the SC to propose a decision-making mechanism for ivory trade by CoP16, and to review the status of elephants; the range states to develop an African elephant action plan; and the Secretariat to establish an African elephant fund administered by the SC. It finally specifies that all other elephant specimens will be treated under the provisions for Appendix-I species.

Illegal ivory trade and control of internal markets: On Thursday, 14 June, Kenya withdrew its joint document with Mali (CoP14 Doc. 53.4), following the adoption of the compromise proposal on the African elephant by the African countries.

Trade in elephant specimens: On Thursday, 14 June, the Secretariat presented the report (CoP14 Doc.53.1), noting the need to update the Action Plan for the Control of Trade in African Elephant Ivory adopted at CoP13. Many parties expressed their support. Kenya, opposed by Namibia, outlined an alternative action plan (CoP14 Inf.56) and proposed harmonizing the two plans. Chair Leach disagreed, noting time constraints. Committee I then approved the Secretariat's renewed and updated Action Plan, which was subsequently adopted in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

Final Outcome: The Action Plan (CoP14 Doc.53.1), *inter alia*, calls on:

- range states to prohibit the unregulated domestic sale of ivory, enforce existing and new legislation, and promote public awareness;
- all parties to report ivory seizures, changes in legislation and enforcement measures; and
- the Secretariat to provide technical assistance to African range states, undertake *in situ* verification missions when appropriate, and report on progress to the SC.

RHINOCEROSES: On Wednesday, 6 June, the Secretariat recommended three draft decisions and a proposed revision of Res. Conf.9.14 (Rev.CoP13) on conservation and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses (CoP14 Doc.54). Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland supported the recommendations, cautioning that information on stockpiles is sensitive and must be treated with confidentiality. TRAFFIC urged countries suffering from poaching to strengthen cross-border law enforcement and prosecution of smugglers. Nepal and China highlighted rhino conservation activities, including cross-border cooperation to control illegal trade in rhino horn. Kenya, opposed by many, proposed amendments calling for the destruction of rhino horn stockpiles except those used for educational or scientific purposes, and for range state comments to be included in reporting. The Secretariat's recommendations were agreed by consensus following a minor amendment from the EU and delegates adopted them in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.I.2), *inter alia*: directs African and Asian rhinoceroses range states and parties that have stocks of rhino horns and derivatives to declare the status of their stocks; directs the Secretariat to collaborate with the World Heritage Convention to address rhinoceros poaching and illegal trade issues in World Heritage sites in the DRC; and encourages relevant range states to link rhinoceros conservation actions where possible with the MIKE programme.

ANTELOPES: Tibetan antelope: On Tuesday, 12 June, the Secretariat summarized the SC's work on the Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) (CoP14 Doc.55 (Rev.1)), highlighting that population increases mark a success for CITES protection of Appendix-I species. Switzerland, Thailand and India shared experiences with national enforcement. The CoP noted the report on Thursday, 14 June.

Saiga antelope: On Tuesday, 5 June, in Committee I, the Secretariat introduced three draft decisions concerning conservation of and trade in the saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*) (CoP14 Doc.56), highlighting in particular the need to manage stockpiles of saiga parts and derivatives in trading and consuming countries. The EU praised collaboration between CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) on the issue. Mongolia urged importing countries to consider alternatives to saiga horn in traditional medicines. The Russian Federation announced its intention to sign the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope. Singapore questioned references to illegal export from Malaysia and Singapore, and proposed replacing "Malaysia and Singapore" with "saiga-trading countries." The Committee agreed on the draft decisions as amended by Singapore, which were then adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.I.5), *inter alia*: directs range states of *Saiga tatarica* to fully implement the measures in the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2007-2011); directs the Secretariat to cooperate with the CMS Secretariat on saiga issues; and encourages saiga consumer and trading states to manage and monitor saiga stockpiles.

TORTOISES AND TURTLES: Tortoises and freshwater turtles: On Tuesday, 12 June, in Committee I, the Secretariat proposed streamlining reporting requirements on the implementation of Res. Conf.11.9 (Rev. CoP13) (Tortoises and freshwater turtles) (CoP14 Doc.57). The EU and TRAFFIC voiced concerns about illegal trade in these species in Asia. Malaysia supported the proposal and Madagascar called for further cooperation to stop illegal trade. A small drafting group was established, which presented two draft decisions. The US introduced two further decisions, and all four were agreed by consensus and adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.I.12 and CoP14 Com. I Rep.15), *inter alia*:

- requests parties to liaise with the World Customs Organization to promote the establishment and use of specific headings within the standard tariff classifications of the Harmonized System for tortoises and freshwater turtles and for products thereof;
- requests the Secretariat to summarize the information on parties' implementation of Res. Conf.11.9 (Rev.CoP13) for CoP15 and, subject to external funding, contract the IUCN/Species Survival Commission Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Specialist Group to conduct a study with a view to assisting parties in the implementation of this resolution; and
- instructs the AC to review the study and make recommendations for CoP15.

Hawksbill turtle: Introducing the agenda item (CoP14 Doc.58) on Tuesday, 5 June, in Committee I, the Secretariat recommended no further action on the hawksbill turtle, noting: the limited response from range states; the lack of a regional strategy despite a number of national and bilateral initiatives; and the inability to hold a regional workshop, agreed to at CoP13, due to insufficient funding.

Some range states called for continued CITES involvement in the issue, while others highlighted regional initiatives. WWF and TRAFFIC said the regional workshop should not be held under the auspices of CITES. A working group chaired by Mexico was established. On Tuesday, 12 June, delegates approved by consensus the revised decision, which was subsequently adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.I.11) requests the Secretariat to:

- collaborate with the Inter-American Convention for Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, in raising funds for organizing a regional meeting on hawksbill turtle before CoP15;
- participate in the regional meeting as an observer and facilitate participation by CITES parties in the region; and
- request these organizations to include issues related to illegal trade in hawksbill turtle in the regional meeting's agenda, and report on its outcomes at CoP15.

SHARKS: On Wednesday, 6 June, AC Chair Althaus and AC intersessional Shark Working Group Chair Rod Hay (New Zealand) introduced several AC recommendations on sharks (CoP14 Doc.59.1). Australia introduced further recommendations (CoP14 Doc.59.2). A working group was established, chaired by New Zealand, to consolidate and simplify the two proposals.

On Thursday, 14 June, New Zealand presented the group's work, which featured draft decisions on: implementation and effectiveness; commodity codes; species-specific reviews and recommendations; South American freshwater stingrays (*Potamotrygonidae*); capacity building; the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks; and illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.

Parties broadly supported the draft decisions. However, Japan, China, Guinea and Suriname suggested deleting the section on IUU fishing, with China stating that addressing IUU fishing is beyond CITES' scope and expertise, and should be left to FAO. Argentina opposed the deletion, instead suggesting an amendment to include consultation with FAO on the topic. The EU and Australia agreed, with Australia noting that IUU fishing is linked to species trade.

The proposed deletion of text on IUU fishing was rejected, with 39 votes in favor and 48 against. The decisions were then passed by consensus, with Argentina's amendment and adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.I.16), *inter alia*, encourages:

- parties, when considering proposals to include shark species in the CITES appendices, to consider factors affecting implementation and effectiveness such as NDFs

for commercially-traded marine species, monitoring and enforcement practicalities, and the likely effectiveness of listing; and

- shark fishing and trading entities to improve, in cooperation with FAO and relevant fisheries management bodies, the monitoring and reporting of catch, bycatch, discards, market and international trade data, and to establish systems to provide verification of catch information.

The CoP further directs the AC, in consultation with FAO, to report on linkages between the trade in shark fins and meat and IUU shark fishing activities, including the main shark species taken by IUU fishing and the relative importance of fins compared to meat in trade arising from IUU fishing.

SHARK LISTING PROPOSALS: Porbeagle shark: The EU introduced its proposal to list porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.15). Israel supported the proposal, and WWF and TRAFFIC added that some porbeagle shark populations merit an Appendix-I listing. The EU emphasized CITES' role in complementing national and international activities to ensure conservation and sustainable use of the species, and added that the FAO Expert Panel, which did not support the listing, had not applied CITES listing criteria correctly. Greenpeace, on behalf of several NGOs, voiced concern over the global decline of sharks, and lamented continued resistance from some FAO members to CITES' involvement in fisheries.

Ecuador speaking for the Central and South America and the Caribbean region, Iceland, Canada, Qatar and Norway opposed the proposal, emphasizing: the Expert Panel's non-support for the proposed listing; the need to prioritize national and regional measures; and the role of RFMOs. Japan stressed that the proposed Appendix-II listing would not control trade within the EU. Two industry associations argued that the listing would create perverse incentives and distort international markets.

The listing proposal failed to achieve a two-thirds majority, and was rejected with 54 votes in favor and 39 against. This decision was confirmed in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

Spiny dogfish: The EU proposed Appendix-II listing of *Squalus acanthias* (spiny dogfish) (CoP14 Prop.16), highlighting evidence of intense international trade in the species and noting biological data demonstrating its vulnerability. Many delegations supported the listing, with the US and many NGOs voicing concern about the ongoing serial depletion of shark stocks around the globe, and Mexico saying that the species satisfies the trade and biological listing criteria.

Among delegations opposing the proposal: Canada preferred national and regional fisheries management measures to a CITES listing; New Zealand said spiny dogfish is abundant globally; Argentina argued that while European stocks are depleted, southern hemisphere stocks are managed sustainably; and China, Norway and the FAO noted that the FAO Expert Panel did not support the listing.

In Committee I, the proposal was rejected after narrowly failing to achieve a two-thirds majority, with 57 votes in favor and 36 against. On 15 June in plenary, the EU sought successfully to reopen debate, but the proposal was rejected in a secret ballot, with 55 votes in favor and 58 against.

Sawfish: The US and Kenya proposed listing *Pristidae* (sawfish) on Appendix I (CoP14 Prop.17). Kenya underscored sawfish species' vulnerability, and the US highlighted lack of bycatch management, and trade in rostral saws, saw teeth and fins. Australia proposed an amendment to list one species, *Pristis microdon* (freshwater sawfish), on Appendix II with an annotation allowing international trade in live animals to aquaria for primarily conservation purposes. Many parties supported Australia's amendment, with the EU noting that although *Pristis microdon* deserves an Appendix-I listing, the Australian population is well-managed. Norway, supported by Thailand, favored an Appendix-I listing with Australia applying for annual quotas. FAO said that the original proposal was supported by its Expert Panel, but did not comment on Australia's amendment. China opposed the proposal.

The proposal as amended by Australia (CoP14 Com.I Rep.9) was approved with 67 votes in favor and 30 against. This decision was confirmed in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

Trade measures regarding porbeagle shark and spiny dogfish: Committee I rejected the EU's proposed draft decisions on trade in porbeagle shark and spiny dogfish (CoP14 Doc.59.3), which failed by two votes to achieve the required two-thirds majority, with 58 votes in favor and 30 against. On Friday, 15 June, the CoP confirmed the rejection of these proposals.

STURGEONS AND PADDLEFISH: On Wednesday, 6 June, in Committee II, the Secretariat presented the report (CoP14 Doc.60.1), and urged sturgeon range states to contribute information to the recently created UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) database. China noted that the lack of data from range states is due to zero export quotas in 2006. The EU noted that the database should be limited to caviar trade information provided by all caviar-trading countries. TRAFFIC and WWF called for an independent and transparent process for quota setting, and advocated limiting the timeframe for exports to the catch year.

Iran presented the proposal of the SC54 Working Group on Sturgeons (CoP14 Doc.60.2.1), noting a lack of consensus on several issues, which, together with the Russian Federation's proposal (CoP14 Doc.60.2.2), was referred to a working group chaired by the EU.

On Thursday, 14 June, Germany, as Chair of the working group, introduced draft decisions and a draft amendment to Res. Conf.12.7 (Sturgeons and paddlefish) (CoP14 Com.II.25), noting, *inter alia*, a ceiling for 2008 quotas, and an amendment requesting the Secretariat to seek external funding. The EU, the Russian Federation, Canada, US and IWMC endorsed the document and provided minor amendments. SeaWeb, with SSN, voiced serious concerns about the lack of protection for sturgeon in the Caspian Sea, but supported the quota ceiling for 2008. FAO noted that its Technical Cooperation Programme is due to expire and encouraged parties to submit formal requests for its extension. The Secretariat stated concern about its reduced oversight role regarding establishment of export quotas. The draft resolution and decisions were agreed by consensus including all proposed amendments, and adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.II.25 and CoP14 Com.II Rep.13), *inter alia*:

- requests Caspian Sea sturgeon range states to participate in the FAO's two-year Technical Cooperation Programme;
- recommends to range states that share stocks that total export quotas for 2008 should be no higher than those agreed in 2007 for each species, and should be set on the basis of scientific information; and
- encourages parties to report on export permits and certificates, and to participate in the UNEP-WCMC caviar-trade database.

TOOTHFISH: Report of CCAMLR: On Tuesday, 12 June, in Committee II, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) reported on legal and illicit trade in *Dissostichus* spp. (toothfish) (CoP14 Doc.61). The EU and Australia called on parties to implement Res. Conf.12.4 (Cooperation between CITES and CCAMLR), while Singapore and Norway noted that toothfish are not CITES-listed species. The CoP took note of the report on Thursday, 14 June.

SEA CUCUMBERS: On Tuesday, 5 June, AC Chair Althaus introduced the agenda item (CoP14 Doc.62), including four draft decisions concerning sea cucumbers in the families *Holothuriidae* and *Stichopodidae*. Following a number of proposed amendments from parties, a working group was established, chaired by the EU, which presented revised decisions (CoP14 Com.I.1) to Committee I on Tuesday, 12 June, including components on livelihoods and cooperation with FAO. Ecuador and others supported the proposal, while Norway opposed, cautioning that it would expand CITES' scope to species management. The proposal was agreed with 77 votes in favor and four against and adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

TRADITIONAL MEDICINES OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES: On Tuesday, 12 June, in Committee II, Australia, supported by New Zealand, introduced a proposal to address trade in traditional medicines containing CITES-listed species (CoP14 Doc.63), which was supported by Ecuador, Indonesia, India, WWF and others. The Philippines opposed the proposal, as did China, who underscored the Secretariat's negative assessment of the proposal. The EU welcomed the proposal but proposed amendments deleting references to the development and use of alternative ingredients in preference to captive breeding. TRAFFIC highlighted recent research indicating that trade in traditional medicines containing endangered species derivatives could affect wild populations.

Delegates voted and accepted the EU's amendments, and agreed on the decision by consensus. The decision was adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP recommends (CoP14 Com.II.22) that parties, *inter alia*:

- work with traditional-medicine practitioners and consumers towards eliminating the illegal use of endangered species and reducing over-exploitation of other wild species;
- promote the development of techniques for identifying parts and derivatives used in traditional medicines;
- facilitate, encourage and investigate the use in traditional medicines of alternative ingredients to specimens of threatened wild species, while ensuring that other species do not become threatened as a result; and

consider, where appropriate and with sufficient safeguards, the application of artificial propagation, and, in certain circumstances, captive breeding, to meet the needs of traditional medicines where this would relieve pressure on wild populations.

BIGLEAF MAHOGANY: Report of the working group:

On Tuesday, 5 June, in plenary, PC Chair Clemente reported on intersessional activities on bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) (CoP14 Doc.8.3 (Rev.1)), including a range state workshop in July 2006, and noted PC16's decision not to subject the species to an RST.

On Tuesday, 12 June, in Committee I, PC Chair Clemente and Mexico, as Chair of the intersessional Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (BMWG), introduced draft decisions contained in the BMWG report (CoP14 Doc.64 (Rev.1)) on: NDFs for tree species; annotations for tree species on Appendices II and III; and the action plan for the control of international trade in bigleaf mahogany. The Committee agreed on the annexed action plan with minor amendments and on the decision by consensus, and both were adopted in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.I.17), *inter alia*, directs the PC to:

- develop principles, criteria and indicators for making NDFs for high-priority taxa, such as timber species, *Prunus africana* and other medicinal plants;
- support the organization of a workshop on NDFs for tree species before CoP15; and
- review and propose amendments for annotations to the Appendix II and III-listed species and prepare clear definitions for the terms used in those annotations.

The annexed Action Plan for the Control of International Trade in Bigleaf Mahogany contains eight sections directed at range states, importing and exporting parties, the SC, the PC and the Secretariat.

Actions by range states include: developing a regional strategy with timelines; establishing inter-institutional committees and working groups; giving CITES species special treatment in forest management plans; and facilitating the making of NDFs through forest management plans and inventories, capacity-building programmes and progress reports.

Importing and exporting countries are called upon to reject exports without proof of legal origin of the timber and to share information and experiences in the Action Plan implementation.

The CoP further requests:

- the SC to discuss compliance and enforcement with regard to bigleaf mahogany; and
- the PC to continue working through the BMWG, analyze progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan, review the need to include bigleaf mahogany in the RST at PC17, and report to CoP15.

BUSHMEAT: Report of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group:

On Tuesday, 12 June, in Committee I, the Secretariat introduced the working group's report, which highlights that a lack of funds has prevented the group from taking substantial initiatives; notes that the Secretariat has fulfilled its obligations on liaising with the CBD and FAO in

line with Decision 13.103 (Bushmeat); and liaising with the CBD Liaison Group on Non-timber Forest Resources rather than extending the working group's mandate.

The EU, with TRAFFIC and WWF, supported this recommendation, noting concerns over persistent illegal bushmeat trade, and delegates agreed to the proposal, which was adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Doc.65 (Rev.1)) encourages the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group to collaborate with the CBD and FAO in its work, in particular with the CBD Liaison Group; and invites the group to report to the SC on progress and deliver a report on bushmeat to CoP15.

AMENDMENT OF THE APPENDICES

PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE APPENDICES:

On Thursday, 7 June, in Committee I, AC Chair Althaus presented a proposal aimed at streamlining the procedure for periodic review of the appendices (CoP14 Doc.66). Mexico proposed specifying species selection criteria, Canada emphasized scientific basis for decision-making, and Australia advocated a simplified and transparent process. Delegates also debated the SC's role in the selection process. A working group, chaired by the US, was established, which presented a revised draft resolution that was adopted by consensus, and adopted in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.I.14 (Rev.1) and Com. I.Rep.15) instructs the AC and PC to establish a schedule for the periodic review, including identifying taxa proposed for review during the next two intersessional periods. The annex of the resolution contains a step-by-step protocol for the assessment of taxa for consideration in the periodic review. Species excluded from the review are those: subject to listing proposals at the last two CoPs (whether or not the proposals were adopted); listed under the new criteria in the last ten years; or subject to ongoing reviews, such as RST or periodic reviews conducted within the last ten years, or other reviews targeted by valid decisions and resolutions.

USE OF ANNOTATIONS FOR PLANTS IN APPENDIX II AND ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN APPENDIX III:

On Wednesday, 6 June, Committee I agreed by consensus to the US proposal (CoP14 Doc.67) to amend Res. Conf.11.21 (Rev. CoP13) (Use of annotations in Appendices I and II) and Res. Conf.9.25 (Inclusion of species in Appendix III). The proposal was adopted in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP amends Res. Conf.11.21 to clarify that CITES-listed species without annotations shall be deemed to include all parts and derivatives (CoP14 Com.I Rep.4).

PROPOSALS TO AMEND APPENDICES I AND II

Committee I considered proposals to amend Appendices I and II (CoP14 Doc.68) from 6-14 June. Proposals on the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) are summarized in the Elephants section above.

PRIMATES: Slow lorises: Cambodia's proposal to transfer the genus *Nycticebus* (slow lorises) from Appendix II to Appendix I (CoP14 Prop.1) was agreed by consensus. The uplisting was adopted in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

FELINES: Bobcat: On Friday, 8 June, the US proposed deleting *Lynx rufus* (bobcat) from Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.2), stating that the species is thriving and that look-alike issues are no longer a concern due to improved identification techniques. Canada and Qatar supported the proposal. Range state Mexico opposed and, with HSI, highlighted a lack of up-to-date information on bobcat populations and problems differentiating bobcat parts from those of more endangered lynx species, and noted that the AC periodic review of Felidae is still ongoing. The EU, Serbia, Norway and India also opposed the proposal, highlighting look-alike issues. The proposal was rejected, with 28 votes in favor and 63 against. Delegates then approved a draft decision to extend the deadline for the periodic review of Felidae (CoP14 Doc.8.2), which was adopted in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP extends the deadline for the periodic review of Felidae until CoP15.

CAMELIDS, DEER AND GAZELLE: Vicuña: The CoP agreed by consensus to amend the annotation for Bolivia's population of vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) (CoP14 Prop.8), to allow international trade in wool sheared from live animals.

Red deer and gazelles: On Friday, 8 June, Committee I considered four proposals by Algeria, approving by consensus the inclusion of *Gazella leptoceros* (slender-horned gazelle) in Appendix I (CoP14 Prop.12), and rejecting the proposed listings of *Cervus elaphus barbarus* (Barbary red deer) (CoP14 Prop.9) and *Gazella cuvieri* (Cuvier's gazelle) (CoP14 Prop.10) in Appendix I. Several parties pointed to the lack of evidence of international trade in these species, while range states stressed the difficulty in obtaining data on illegal trade. Algeria then withdrew its proposal to list *Gazella dorcas* (Dorcas gazelle) in Appendix I (CoP14 Prop.11).

In plenary on Friday, 15 June, the CoP confirmed the inclusion of slender-horned gazelle in Appendix I. Algeria successfully sought to reopen the proposal on Cuvier's gazelle, and other range states and the EU supported, highlighting additional trade data provided by Algeria. The proposal was then adopted by consensus.

REPTILES: Black caiman: The CoP agreed by consensus to Brazil's proposal (CoP14 Prop.13 (Rev.1) to transfer its population of *Melanosuchus niger* (black caiman) from Appendix I to II.

Guatemalan beaded lizard: The CoP agreed by consensus to Guatemala's proposal (CoP14 Prop.14) to transfer the subspecies *Heloderma horridum charlesbogerti* (Guatemalan beaded lizard) from Appendix II to Appendix I.

MARINE SPECIES: Listing proposals on sharks are summarized in the Shark section above.

Eel: Committee I agreed by 93 votes to nine on EU's proposal (CoP14 Prop.18) to list *Anguilla anguilla* (eel) on Appendix II. Delegates adopted the listing in plenary.

Banggai cardinalfish: The US withdrew its proposal to list Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) on Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.19) following opposition from several parties, including the only range state, Indonesia, who underscored ongoing conservation efforts, and implications of the proposed listing for local livelihoods.

Spiny lobster: Brazil withdrew its proposed Appendix-II listing of its populations of *Panulirus argus* (Caribbean spiny lobster) and *Panulirus laeviscauda* (smoothtail spiny lobster) (CoP14 Prop.20).

Corals: The US proposal to list all species in the genus *Corallium* (pink and red corals) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.21) was considered in Committee I and a drafting group from 11-13 June. The proposal and associated decisions were accepted. The CoP overturned Committee I's decision by rejecting the proposal in a secret ballot in plenary on Friday, 15 June.

In Committee I, the US noted large volumes of trade in these slow-growing corals, lamenting destructive harvest techniques and adding that few range states have coral populations large enough to support commercial harvest. The EU, Mexico, Israel and Qatar supported the listing, with the EU highlighting the recent dramatic decrease in coral output and productivity. Japan, Morocco, IWMC and Assocoral opposed the listing, with Morocco saying that Mediterranean coral is already protected. FAO stated that its Expert Panel did not support the listing. Many NGOs supported the listing, with Swan International saying that the listing would encourage governments to take immediate action to regulate coral trade, and Earthtrust pointing out that *Corallium* harvesting in the Pacific is poorly monitored. SeaWeb stated that FAO's analysis was flawed as it considered the remaining number of coral colonies but not their size.

Following further discussion, a drafting group was established, and as a result of deliberations, the US proposed: an annotation delaying the listing's entry into effect by 18 months to permit implementation measures to be put in place; and an amendment allowing an exemption for personal and household effects of up to seven pieces per person weighing no more than one kilogram in total, including any ancillary mountings. The US also proposed a draft decision for two implementation workshops for parties involved in harvesting and trade of *Corallium* (CoP14 Com.I.15). The EU supported the proposed listing and decision, adding a further amendment to exempt fossil corals. Mexico supported the listing but opposed the weight and fossil coral exemptions. Japan and Saint Kitts and Nevis suggested holding the workshops first and considering the listing proposals later.

The proposal, with the annotation on delaying implementation and the amendment on fossil corals, was adopted by 62 votes to 28 in Committee I, which also adopted by consensus the decisions on implementation workshops, and an amendment to the annotation on *Corallium* spp. relating to personal and household effects (CoP14 Com.II Rep.13).

In plenary on Friday, 15 June, Tunisia sought successfully to reopen debate, and the listing proposal was defeated in a secret ballot, failing to achieve a two-thirds majority with 61 votes in favor and 55 against. Delegates also agreed that this result constituted a rejection of the associated implementation workshops and the annotation on personal and household effects.

PLANT SPECIES: The CoP approved by consensus plant listing proposals on: removing *Agave arizonica* (Arizona agave) from Appendix I (CoP14 Prop. 22 by the US); transferring *Nolina interrata* (Dehesa bear grass) from Appendix I to Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.23 by the US); deleting *Pereskia* spp. and *Quiabentia* spp. from Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.24 by

Argentina); deleting *Pereskopsis* spp. from Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.25 by Mexico); and removing *Shortia galacifolia* (Oconee bells) from Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.28 by the US).

ANNOTATIONS FOR PLANT SPECIES: Committee I considered proposals on annotations for plant species from 6-13 June. Switzerland introduced its proposal to merge and amend annotations on Cactaceae spp. (#4) and Orchidaceae spp. (#8) in Appendix II, and all taxa annotated with #1 (CoP14 Prop.26). The US opposed the proposal, and TRAFFIC highlighted several inconsistencies, urging parties to refer the proposal to the PC for review. Delegates adopted a revised decision referring the issue to the PC, following the withdrawal of earlier proposals by Switzerland (CoP14 Prop.26, CoP14 Prop.29 on including *Euphorbia* spp. in Appendix II, and CoP14 Doc.31 on annotations to *Euphorbia* spp. and Orchidaceae spp.).

A proposal to amend annotations for various taxa (CoP14 Prop.27 by Switzerland at the request of the PC), (*Adonis vernalis*, *Guaiaacum* spp., *Hydrastis canadensis*, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Panax ginseng*, *Panax quinquefolius*, *Picrorhiza kurroo*, *Podophyllum hexandru*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Rauvolfia serpentina*, *Taxus chinensis*, *T. fuana*, *T. cuspidata*, *T. sumatrana*, *T. wallichiana*, *Orchidaceae* spp. in Appendix II, and all Appendix-II and -III taxa annotated with annotation #1) was adopted by consensus with an amendment removing references to Appendix-III species.

Orchids: Switzerland's proposal to amend the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II for the genera *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium* (CoP14 Prop.34) was rejected, failing to achieve a two-thirds majority, with 45 votes in favor and 40 against. The Committee subsequently accepted by consensus two draft decisions on monitoring issues concerning implementation of the annotation for Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II (CoP14 Doc.8.3 (Rev.1)).

A proposal by Switzerland as Depository Government to amend the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II for hybrids of the genera *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda* (CoP14 Prop.35) was adopted by consensus.

Yew: Committee I referred the US proposal to amend annotations for *Taxus cuspidata* (Japanese yew) (CoP14 Prop.36) to a drafting group. Following consultations, the US withdrew its proposal, replacing it with a draft decision to discuss issues of hybrids and cultivars in the PC, which was approved by consensus.

Switzerland, as Depository Government, introduced a proposal to Committee I to delete an annotation on yew species *Taxus chinensis*, *T. fuana* and *T. sumatrana* from Appendix II, and amend the annotation to *T. cuspidata* (CoP14 Prop.37). He explained that the SC had deemed that the earlier annotations contravened CITES, which does not allow the exclusion of any live or dead plant of a listed species, and that this proposal would solve the problem while retaining the original intent. Supporting the proposal, Canada said the amendment would help develop *Taxus* plantations and reduce threats to wild species, while Japan opposed, suggesting that the PC discuss the issue. Following an amendment by China to refer solely to artificially propagated "live plants," the proposal was adopted by consensus.

On Friday, 15 June, the CoP adopted all these proposals.

Final Outcome: The CoP requests the PC to, *inter alia*:

- analyze the amendments of annotations #1, #4 and #8 proposed in CoP14 Prop.26 on *Euphorbia* spp. in order to decide whether there is merit in further developing and refining them (CoP14 Com.I.Rep.10);
- monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation for Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II (CoP14 Doc.8.3 (Rev.1)); and
- discuss issues of hybrids and cultivars in the PC (CoP14 Com. I Rep.13).

Brazil wood: On Thursday, 7 June, Brazil introduced its proposal to list *Caesalpinia echinata* (Brazil wood) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.30), with a new annotation that seeks to exempt finished products such as bows for stringed musical instruments. Several delegates supported the proposal, while the US said the annotation needs to conform to harmonized customs codes. The proposal (CoP14 Com.I Rep.10) was referred to a small drafting group to finalize the annotation, and was subsequently adopted by the CoP.

Cedar and rosewood: On Thursday, 7 June, the EU introduced its proposal to list *Cedrela odorata* (cedar) in Appendix II (CoP14 Prop.33) with additional amendments, including a provision for an 18-month delay in implementation. Underscoring cedar's vulnerability to overexploitation, he noted that the EU was prepared to provide support and capacity building to assist range states with implementation of the listing. Many range states opposed the proposal, highlighting its insufficient scientific basis as well as potential livelihood impacts, with some suggesting an Appendix-III listing instead. Other parties noted the lack of range state support and highlighted difficulties faced by range states in implementing CITES listings of timber species. ITTO urged parties to consult its experts when developing timber listing proposals.

Following informal consultations, the EU withdrew its proposal and delegates agreed to establish a working group to draft a decision mandating the PC to advance the issue before CoP15. The EU then withdrew its proposals for listing rosewood (*Dalbergia retusa* and *Dalbergia granadillo* (CoP14 Prop.31) and *Dalbergia stevensonii* (CoP14 Prop.32), on the condition that these species also be considered by the working group addressing cedar. The Committee agreed, and the revised decision on both cedar and rosewood was approved by consensus on Tuesday, 12 June, and adopted in plenary on Thursday, 14 June.

Final Outcome: The CoP (CoP14 Com.I.10) adopted a plan of action to complete knowledge on the conservation status, trade in and sustainable use of *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*.

Actions set out for range states include: completing and updating the available information on these species; reporting on existing forest plantations and export volumes, including the percentage from plantations; and considering the inclusion of their populations of *Cedrela odorata* in Appendix III.

Other parties are requested to report on imports and exports and existing forest plantations of these species. The CoP further mandates the Secretariat, *inter alia*, to request technical and financial support from ITTO, and to promote capacity building in range states.

CLOSING PLENARY

On Friday, 15 June, delegates adopted all outstanding agenda items, reported in the relevant sections of this summary. After adopting the budget, delegates viewed a video announcement of Australia committing approximately US\$200,000 to fund two posts in the Secretariat to address illegal timber trade. Qatar offered to host CoP15 in Doha, Qatar, in 2010 and presented a video about his country. Delegates accepted the offer by acclamation.

CoP14 President Verburg expressed satisfaction with the meeting's results, highlighting the agreement reached on the African elephant. She thanked all participants and declared the meeting closed at 5:45 pm.

A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF COP14

CITES CoP14 will be remembered as the meeting that chartered the Convention's future by strategically positioning this well-established treaty within new global priorities and realities such as globalization, biodiversity loss and natural resource depletion, and the fight against poverty, while building upon its mandate and core competencies. The inaugural ministerial-level meeting held in parallel with the CoP was also intended to boost political will for implementing CITES, strengthen the Convention's role within the broader development agenda, and consider appropriate protection for commercially-exploited timber and fisheries species. Indeed, opponents of many of the new species listing proposals that were put before CoP14 argued that listing would have a direct impact on major industrial sectors such as logging, fisheries, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, music and jewelry, which sustain millions of livelihoods worldwide. Supporters pointed out that listing could ensure protection and better-controlled trade in those species, sustaining both the species and the livelihoods that depend upon them.

This brief analysis will examine the key drivers for policy decisions within CITES, illustrated by negotiations on the Strategic Vision, elephants, and the listing of marine and timber species, and their implications for the future role of the Convention.

CITES STRATEGIC VISION – A SIX-YEAR ROADMAP

Perhaps less dramatic than debates on proposed species listings, negotiations on CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013 took place mainly behind the scenes but were nonetheless central to determining the Convention's future direction, as the document is intended to serve as a CITES "roadmap" for the next six years. Discussions focused on the following three key arguments.

The first argument focuses on defining what constitutes "sustainable trade" and whether CITES' ultimate conservation purpose includes or, in fact, requires, addressing not just the international trade component, but a more holistic approach to the management of commercially-exploited species, in particular timber and fisheries.

The second argument involves incorporating broader sustainable development objectives, or in the words of one developing country delegate, "bringing the Rio perspective" into the debate. The difference in opinions was patently clear when delegates found it hard to agree on how to reflect the Millennium Development Goals and World Summit on Sustainable

Development objectives in the development of the new Strategic Vision, some embracing them, while others insisting the Convention's role in the broader agenda should be narrower. Ultimately a cautious compromise was reached that firmly links any such role to reducing the rate of biodiversity loss.

The third argument is over the relationship between CITES and other international forums dealing with environment and trade issues, such as UNCLOS, IWC, FAO and ITTO, with parties seeming to have strong disagreements on whether the relationship should be one of kinship and mutual support, or subordination and respect.

During discussions on the Strategic Vision, the view that CITES should ensure "sustainability of trade" was ultimately defeated, with parties opting to place the onus on biodiversity conservation in the vision statement. The debates on timber and marine species, as well as on ivory trade, however, showed that these arguments are far from settled, and form the basis of country positions at CITES.

BETWEEN THE FOREST AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA

According to TRAFFIC, international wildlife trade is estimated at US\$240 billion a year, with over 80% of this total generated through trade in timber and fisheries. Following the trend since CoP12, proposals for the listing of these commercially-valuable species continued to be high on the CoP's agenda. Eleven marine and timber proposals were put before parties at CoP14, including cedar, rosewood, sharks, eels and corals. Of these, only Brazil wood, sawfish and eels entered the Convention's appendices, while other proposals, albeit unsuccessful, generated heated debate on the best ways of ensuring sustainable management of those species, and ultimately to ensure the sustainability of their international trade. For instance, during the heated debate on the proposed listings of shark species, several fishing nations asserted that stocks are healthy in southern and northwestern Atlantic, in contrast with heavily depleted stocks in northeastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, arguing that overall, trade was still "sustainable." Others warned that such a view ignores the ongoing trend of "serial depletion" whereby fishers systematically exhaust a stock, only to move on to exploit other regions or species. This debate highlights the philosophical divide over what is the core purpose of CITES interventions – simply preventing already endangered species from going extinct, or ensuring long-term sustainable harvesting.

Some read CoP14's rejection of the majority of proposed timber and marine listings as a suggestion that the "tide may be turning" compared to CoP12, which listed seahorses, basking and whale sharks, and mahogany on Appendix II, and CoP13, which put the humphead wrasse and the great white shark and ramin on Appendix II. EU proposals to list cedar and rosewood on Appendix II at this CoP were met with staunch opposition from Latin American range states, who emphasized potential livelihoods impacts as well as difficulties in implementing CITES listings of timber species. As for corals, their listing was opposed by several parties and the industry involved, who claimed that livelihoods and artisanal traditions would be jeopardized. The proposal's dramatic rejection in the closing plenary and CoP14's decision to take note of livelihoods

considerations in making non-detriment findings testifies to the prominence of socioeconomic and cultural considerations in parties' decision-making.

Another new feature at CoP14 with regard to marine species was the FAO Expert Panel's assessment of marine proposals made in parallel, and some say in competition with, that of the Secretariat. Out of seven marine species proposals assessed according to identical criteria, FAO and the CITES Secretariat disagreed on four, with FAO recommending only two species – sawfishes and eels – for inscription on CITES appendices. While CoP14's decisions followed FAO's recommendations, its assessment did not go down well with many parties – all the shark and coral listings opposed by FAO came close to winning the necessary two-thirds majority during the CoP. As a result, some underscored FAO's guiding role pursuant to the recent CITES-FAO Memorandum of Understanding and cautioned that unless its advice was adhered to, "the whole system may collapse before it even started working." Given the steady drive by CITES parties to ensure coherence with other forums addressing fisheries and timber trade and management, the forest community and ITTO will no doubt continue to keep "a watching brief" on developments in the marine realm and their future implications for timber species issues.

In spite of the Ministerial Roundtable's focus on timber and marine species, CoP14 sent mixed messages on CITES' continued expansion into these areas. In the long term, however, the push to control international trade in these valuable resources is likely to continue. As one delegate who opposed marine listings at this CoP reflected, his side "may have won the battle, but is losing the war."

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Another battle that has raged almost since the Convention's inception is that over ivory trade, closely linked with the concern about the survival of elephants in the wild. SC55's decision to finally give a go-ahead to the one-off sale of ivory stockpiles from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, set the tone for CoP14's discussions.

Following several days of suspense, in keeping with the tradition of previous CITES CoPs, the predicted "big elephant show" did arrive, culminating in a "grand finale," with African countries reaching consensus on the future of ivory trade – identified by many participants as the conference's major outcome. Many felt that good progress was made on this longstanding issue, highlighting that consensus among African countries was reached "for the first time in a long time." Some said that the arrival of the political muscle that enabled the deal should be credited to the Dutch hosts' idea to convene a ministerial-level roundtable.

In many ways, elephants have been the "poster child" and forerunners of the arguments on sustainable use and livelihoods within CITES. At CoP14, the debate conformed to well-rehearsed statements on the benefits of ivory trade from sustainably-managed populations on the one hand, and the potential adverse impacts of trade on elephant conservation on the other. In the end, as in every true compromise, both sides claimed a victory. Some felt that treating trade in ivory products from Appendix-II elephant populations in a similar way to other species in the same appendix is long overdue, advocating a

new decision-making mechanism for ivory trade, while others believed that the nine-year resting period has bought precious time for some of Africa's less robust elephant populations. Many therefore hoped that this outcome would put the issue to rest for the foreseeable future, and allow CITES to devote more attention to "other species lurking in the forest."

AN AMBULANCE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF?

Ultimately, ensuring that no species is endangered as a result of international trade results in a constant tension between those preferring CITES to have a role in species management and those sticking to a more limited definition of conservation. While there has been demonstrable success on some Appendix I species that have been downlisted, like black caimans and vicuñas, for others, such as tigers, which have been on Appendix I for almost thirty years, the situation remains dire. Some attribute this to factors beyond trade, such as habitat loss. Yet others point out that allowing "some trade" would provide economic incentives for the protection of CITES-listed species and may become a driver for increased enforcement and conservation measures, illustrated, for example, by sturgeon management in the Caspian Sea. Still others contend that where to draw the line depends upon the species in question, saying that while some trade may help elephants, tigers are in too critical a condition to allow any trade at all.

Such arguments center around the question of when CITES' involvement is most effective, or in the words of one delegate, how to ensure that it is not just "an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff." In the minds of a few observers, some parties seem to only revert to CITES trade regulations when the species is on the brink of collapse, exemplifying the "too little, too late" approach. In the case of mahogany and sturgeons, two intensely-traded species, members of the Animals and Plants Committees have expressed hopes that they may become examples of species addressed "just in time" to guarantee their long-term sustainability.

CITES' biggest challenge therefore remains ensuring that the ambulance remains at the top of the cliff. If the Convention is restricted to being a last-resort mechanism after management systems collapse, its hard-won reputation will suffer. At the same time, as was clear from budget discussions, competition for financial resources in today's globalized world requires CITES to showcase its value and relevance, by incorporating outcome-oriented objectives, good governance and transparent mechanisms. To what degree this will be achieved by the new Strategic Vision is yet unclear, as a new costed work programme and indicators remain to be developed by the SC.

With the upcoming CITES CoP15 likely coinciding with the 2010 global target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, pressure is mounting for this mature Convention, often hailed as a flagship example of international environmental problem-solving, to demonstrate its continued ability to lead conservation efforts in the twenty-first century.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA: This meeting will take place from 25-29 June 2007, at UN headquarters in New York. UNICPOLOS-8 will focus its discussions on the topic of marine genetic resources. For more information, contact: UNDOALOS; tel: +1-212-963-3962; fax: +1-212-963-2811; e-mail: doalos@un.org; internet: http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm

FIRST MEETING OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODIES OF BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS: This meeting will take place on 1 July 2007, in Paris, France, and aims to strengthen the cooperation among the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions, and further improve the scientific advice available to these bodies. For more information, contact: CBD Secretariat; tel: +1-514-288-2220; fax: +1-514-288-6588; e-mail: secretariat@cbd.int; internet: <http://www.cbd.int>

CBD SBSTTA-12: The twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity will take place from 2-6 July 2007, in Paris, France. For more information, contact: CBD Secretariat; tel: +1-514-288-2220; fax: +1-514-288-6588; e-mail: secretariat@cbd.int; internet: <http://www.cbd.int>

SECOND MEETING OF THE CBD OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION: The second meeting of the CBD's Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention is scheduled for 9-13 July 2007, in Paris, France. For more information, contact: CBD Secretariat; tel: +1-514-288-2220; fax: +1-514-288-6588; e-mail: secretariat@cbd.int; internet: <http://www.cbd.int>

ITTO LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT: This workshop, scheduled for 10-13 July 2007, in Medellín, Colombia, is one of three regional workshops organized by the International Tropical Timber Organization in each ITTO tropical timber-producing region to exchange experiences on the implementation of sustainable forest management. For more information, contact: Heliodoro Sanchez; e-mail: heliosanchez@etb.net.co; or the ITTO Secretariat at tel: +81-45-223-1110; fax: +81-45-223-1111; e-mail: itto@itto.or.jp; internet: <http://www.itto.or.jp>

FIRST INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES: This conference, to be held in Interlaken, Switzerland, from 1-7 September 2007, will seek to address priorities for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources. For more information, contact: FAO Animal Production Services Secretariat; tel: +39-6-570-54698; fax: +39-6-570-53927; e-mail: Interlaken-AnGR@fao.org; internet: <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2007.html>

STRATEGIES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF TIMBER TREE SPECIES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE: This Southeast Asian regional technical workshop will take place from 5-7 September 2007, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. For more information,

contact: Harriet Gillett, UNEP-WCMC; tel: +44-1223-277-314; fax: +44-1223-277-136; e-mail: harriet.gillett@unep-wcmc.org; internet: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/timber/index.htm>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES: This conference will take place from 19-21 September 2007, in Beijing, China, and will be convened by ITTO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China, to consolidate lessons learned among ITTO members on promoting the development of non-timber forest products and services. For more information, contact: ITTO Secretariat, Forest Industry Division; tel: +81-45-223-1110; fax: +81-45-223-1111; e-mail: fi@itto.or.jp; internet: <http://www.itto.or.jp/>

THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ACCOBAMS: This meeting will be held from 22-25 October 2007, in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and is organized by the Secretariat to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area. For more information, contact: ACCOBAMS Secretariat; tel: +377-9898-2078; fax: +377-9898-4208; e-mail: mcvanklaveren@accobams.net; internet: <http://www.accobams.org/2006.php/parties/show/5>

FIFTH TRONDHEIM CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY: This conference is scheduled for 29 October - 2 November 2007, in Trondheim, Norway. Hosted by the Norwegian Government in cooperation with UNEP, the conference aims to provide input to CBD and its preparations for COP9 in 2008. For more information, contact: Norway's Directorate for Nature Management; tel: +47-7358-0500; fax: +47-7358-0501; e-mail: postmottak@dirnat.no; internet: <http://www.dirnat.no/>

THIRTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE CMS STANDING COMMITTEE: The 32nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) will take place on 8-9 November 2007, in Bonn, Germany. For more information, contact: CMS Secretariat; tel: +49-228-815-2401; fax: +49-228-815-2449; e-mail: secretariat@cms.int; internet: <http://www.cms.int/>

MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATORY SHARKS UNDER THE CMS: This meeting will take place from 11-13 December 2007, in Mahé, Seychelles. For more information, contact: CMS Secretariat; tel: +49-228-815-2401; fax: +49-228-815-2449; e-mail: secretariat@cms.int; internet: <http://www.cms.int/>

CITES AC23/PC17: The 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee and the 17th meeting of the Plants Committee of CITES will take place in April 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland (exact dates to be determined). For more information, contact: CITES Secretariat; tel: +41-22-917-8139; fax: +41-22-797-3417; e-mail: info@cites.org; internet: <http://www.cites.org>

CBD COP9: The ninth Conference of the Parties to the CBD will take place in Bonn, Germany, from 19-30 May 2008. For more information, contact: CBD Secretariat; tel: +1-514-288-2220; fax: +1-514-288-6588; e-mail: secretariat@cbd.int; internet: <http://www.cbd.int/>

RAMSAR COP10: The tenth Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance will take place from 28 October - 4 November 2008,

in Changwon, Republic of Korea. For more information, contact: Ramsar Secretariat; tel: +41-22-999-0170; fax: +41-22-999-0169; e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org; internet: http://www.ramsar.org

CMS COP9: The ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species will take place from 9-21 November 2008, in Rome, Italy. For more information, contact: CMS Secretariat; tel. +49-228-815-2401; fax: +49-228-815-2449; e-mail: secretariat@cms.int; internet: http://www.cms.int/

XIII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS: This conference will be held from 18-25 October 2009, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to address a wide range of issues related to forests, biodiversity and development. For more information, contact: e-mail: info@wfc2009.org; internet: http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/37075/en/page.jsp or http://www.wfc2009.org

CITES CoP15: CITES CoP15 will be held in 2010, in Doha, Qatar (exact dates to be determined). For more information, contact: CITES Secretariat; tel: +41-22-917-8139; fax: +41-22-797-3417; e-mail: info@cites.org; internet: http://www.cites.org

GLOSSARY

AC	CITES Animals Committee
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
ETIS	Elephant Trade Information System
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organization
Expert Panel	FAO <i>Ad hoc</i> Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species
GRASP	UNEP/UNESCO Great Apes Survival Project
HSI	Humane Society International
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IWMC	World Conservation Trust
IWC	International Whaling Commission
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
MIKE	Monitoring of illegal trade and killing of elephants
NC	CITES Nomenclature Committee
NDFs	Non-detriment findings
PC	CITES Plants Committee
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
RST	Review of significant trade
SC	CITES Standing Committee
SSN	Species Survival Network
UNCLOS	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre



IISD Reporting Services brings you MEA Bulletin, a publication that provides updated information focused specifically on the activities of key multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and their secretariats. It contains details of new reports, announcements, meetings (both large and small), implementation activities and other news.

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MEA-L

A list for exclusive distribution of the MEA Bulletin.

NZZ Online
Friday, June 15, 2007

Swiss hail "important progress" on ivory trade

Swissinfo

The Swiss delegation at a heated two-week conference on protecting endangered species has welcomed an agreement on elephant ivory exports.

The 171-member Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) endorsed a compromise by African ministers on halting poaching while letting local communities benefit from ivory sales in regions where elephant numbers are rising.

In the early hours of Friday, the last day of the conference in The Hague, African nations agreed to a massive ivory sell-off and a nine-year freeze on further sales, in a move conservationists hoped would mean a reprieve for elephant herds from poachers and smuggling syndicates.

Switzerland supports the opening of a limited ivory trade, under certain conditions, according to the Federal Veterinary Office, who described the agreement in a statement as "important progress".

The issue of elephant ivory has dominated every meeting of Cites, for whom Switzerland is the depositary country, for decades.

Delegates said the compromise, reached after days of disputes, would now allow the regulatory body to focus its energies on other species facing heightened threats from globalisation, climate change and diseases such as bird flu.

In addition to the progress made on ivory at the conference, the Federal Veterinary Office also welcomed future tests on the sustainability of red coral and the freshwater eel.

Milestone

The compromise on the trade of ivory effectively called a truce in the recurring tussles between those African countries wanting to cash in on stocks of accumulated tusks and those who fear that easing Cites' 1989 trade ban would put more pressure on their dwindling elephant herds.

Cites approved the deal in what the European Union called a milestone for the wildlife trade organisation.

The arrangement allows South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe to empty government inventories in a single sale to Japan, which guaranteed not to re-export the raw ivory. Revenues from the sale are earmarked for conservation programmes.

With careful management, herds in the southern African states have rebounded over the past 18 years, but poaching has plagued countries in West and Central Africa where plundered natural resources have fuelled civil wars.

"This African solution to an African problem marks a great step forward for wildlife conservation," said Cites secretary-general Willem Wijnstekers. African nations had never before agreed a common ivory front at Cites, which meets every three years.

"It's good news for the elephant, good news for the people who live alongside them and good news for regional cooperation in Africa," added Wijnstekers.
"Poachers' charter"

However, some environmentalists worried the one-time sale would stimulate a demand that could not be legally met.

"It will encourage the illegal market, and that's what kills elephants," said Michael Wamithi, a Kenya-based elephant expert for the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

It also sends a signal to consumers "that ivory is back in style," he said.

The Lausanne-based IWM World Conservation Trust branded the deal a "poachers' charter", saying it would deprive African nations doing most to conserve elephants of export revenues for nine years.

However, Cites chief enforcement officer John Sellar said the legal trade could ease the pressure for smuggled ivory.

SwissInfo
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swissinfo with agencies

CITES AGREEMENT

Cites was set up in 1973. It is an international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It has 171 members, who meet every two to three years.

Around 30,000 types of plants and animals are offered varying degrees of protection by the accord.

The international trade in wildlife is estimated to be worth billions of dollars annually and to involve more than 350 million plant and animal specimens every year.

Switzerland is the depositary state of Cites and the Cites secretariat is in Geneva.

HOW CITES WORKS

Cites provides three regulatory options in the form of Appendices.

Appendix I: animals and plants are excluded from international commercial trade except in very special circumstances. Includes great apes, big cats such as cheetahs and tigers, and some orchids. Covers 530 animals and more than 300 plants.

Appendix II: trade is permitted but strictly controlled on the basis of Cites permits. Covers more than 4,460 animals and 28,000 plants.

Appendix III: includes species that are protected in a member country's borders. By listing a species, a country calls for help in regulating the trade in the species. Covers more than 290 species.

KEY FACTS

- * The Cites conference took place in The Hague, the Netherlands, from June 3-15.
- * The Swiss delegation comprised two people from the Veterinary Office, and one each from the Foreign Ministry and Environment Office.
- * In addition, the Veterinary Office's director, Hans Wyss, attended Cites's first ministerial debate, organised by the Dutch government, on June 13.

RELATED SITES

- * Federal Veterinary Office: Cites
(http://www.bvet.admin.ch/themen/handel_wild/index.html?lang=en)
- * Cites (<http://www.cites.org/>)
- * Cites conference in The Hague (<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/index.shtml>)
- * IWMC World Conservation Trust (<http://www.iwmc.org/>)

URL of this

story:<http://www.swissinfo.org/eng/swissinfo.html?siteSect=105&sid=7928997>

Reuters
Sunday, June 3, 2007

U.N. urges protection of animals from climate change

By Anna Mudeva

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - A senior United Nations official urged a 171-nation U.N. wildlife forum on Sunday to take action to help protect animals from climate change.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) will also discuss measures at its two week-week meeting to help commercially valuable animal and tree species threatened by over-use.

A U.N. report has said human activities were wiping out three animal or plant species every hour and has urged the world to do more to slow the worst spate of extinctions since the dinosaurs by 2010.



Global warming, blamed mainly on human use of fossil fuels, is widely expected to add to existing threats and wreck habitats like the Amazon rain forest.

"CITES is not a forum for discussing climate change but decisions taken here do have an impact on species in a climatically challenged world," Shafgat Kakaklhel, deputy head of the U.N. Environment Programme, told the opening session.

"We will need robust species populations if they are to survive rising temperatures and more extremes," he said.

RAPID DEPLETION

Many of the 37 proposals to be discussed at the meeting in The Hague reflect growing concern about rapid depletion of marine and forest resources.

Commercially valuable species like the spiny dogfish, the porbeagle shark and the European eel -- all threatened by over-use -- feature high on the agenda.

The focus will also be on coral jewellery, wooden musical instruments and furniture. Threatened species like pink or red coral and rosewood and cedar trees are facing tighter trade regulations.

Elephants are expected to trigger heated debate. African countries are split over the protection of the elephant, with some saying elephant populations have grown at an unsustainable rate.

CITES is widely credited with stemming the slaughter of the African elephant by imposing a ban on the international ivory trade in 1989.

But scientists say the killing of elephants for their tusks, mainly in central Africa, has reached levels not seen since 1989 because of Asian-run crime syndicates.

The talks will also help shape the future of CITES, which has banned trade in 530 animal species and more than 300 plant species.

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Scotsman
Sunday, June 3, 2007

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Elephants cool off at the river in Addo elephant park outside Port Elizabeth February 27, 2007. A senior United Nations official urged a 171-nation U.N. wildlife forum on Sunday to take action to help protect animals from climate change. REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko

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Environment News Service
Tuesday, May 29, 2007

U.S. Backs Tiger, Elephant, Whale Conservation at CITES

WASHINGTON, DC, May 29, 2007 (ENS) - The United States will support strong conservation measures and international trade protections for tigers, elephants and whales at the upcoming 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, CITES, in The Hague, Netherlands, June 3 to 15.

"CITES has proven to be a powerful tool to prevent the extinction of species such as tigers, elephants and whales and we intend to work with other countries to support the continued protection and conservation of these species," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Todd Willens, the head of the U.S. delegation.

At the CITES meeting, the United States is proposing new restrictions on international trade in sawfish and pink and red coral.

At the same time, the U.S. is seeking to lift trade restrictions on the bobcat, a species that is "abundant throughout its range," Willens said.

The United States will work closely with European nations to determine if two shark species – the spiny dogfish and the porbeagle – require CITES protection.

Willens says the U.S. delegation will hold consultations with range countries and other nations before deciding whether to support proposals to list several Central and South American timber species.

CITES is an international agreement signed by 171 nations that is designed to control and regulate global trade in certain wild animals and plants that are or may become threatened with extinction due to commercial trade.

The United States will publish its tentative negotiating positions for the CITES meeting in the Federal Register before the start of the conference.

But Willens says the United States has not yet taken final positions on many of the 40 proposals on the CITES agenda because of the desire to hold discussions with and work with range states and other parties during the conference.

U.S. Gains Passage Of Proposal To Protect Rare Corals At International Convention On Trade In Endangered Species

THE HAGUE, Netherlands -- The 171 nations of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) today passed a proposal offered by the United States to put in place international trade restrictions to protect a group of increasingly rare corals from over-harvest.

As a result of the vote, pink and red corals will be listed in Appendix II of the convention, which means that any international shipment must be accompanied by an export permit affirming that it was legally harvested in a way that is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

"Over-harvest of red and pink corals for commercial trade threatens their survival in the wild," said Todd Willens, head of the U.S. delegation to CITES' 14th Conference of the Parties meeting in The Hague through June 15th. "With this listing, we can be sure that any harvest of these corals will be managed to ensure that it is sustainable and does not threaten the continued existence of the species."

Red and pink corals are the most valuable precious coral, widely traded as jewelry and souvenirs. They are extremely slow-growing and long-lived, and occur primarily in deep water. Most known populations have been significantly degraded by harvest to meet the demands of international markets.

"The destruction we've witnessed is the equivalent of old-growth forests being reduced to grass plains, eliminating the vital role red and pink corals play in providing habitat for a variety of species," said Andy Bruckner, an expert on corals who is part the U.S. delegation.

Before official adoption, the listing must be reaffirmed at the conference's plenary session, expected on Friday.

CITES is an international convention signed by 171 nations that is designed to control and regulate global trade in certain wild animals and plants that are or may become threatened with extinction due to commercial trade.

A CITES-regulated species may be included in one of three appendices to the convention:

* Appendix I includes species for which it is determined that any commercial trade is detrimental to the survival of the species. Therefore, no commercial trade is allowed in Appendix-I species. Non-commercial trade in such species is allowed if it does not jeopardize the species' survival in the wild. Permits are required for the exportation and importation of Appendix-I species.

* Appendix II includes species for which it has been determined that commercial trade may be detrimental to the survival of the species if that trade is not strictly controlled. Trade in these species is regulated through the use of export permits.

* Appendix III includes species listed by a range country that requires the assistance of other parties to ensure that exports of their native species are legal. Permits are used to control and monitor trade in native species. Any CITES Party may place a native species in Appendix III.

Any listing of a species in either Appendix I or II requires approval by two-thirds of the CITES party countries that vote on the proposal.

Contact: Hugh Vickery, (in The Hague) 065 126 7500 Lesli Gray, (in The Hague) 065 169 8052

States News Service
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

U.S. GAINS PASSAGE OF PROPOSAL TO PROTECT RARE CORALS AT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of the Interior:

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Appendix II includes species for which it has been determined that commercial trade may be detrimental to the survival of the species if that trade is not strictly controlled. Trade in these species is regulated through the use of export permits.

Appendix III includes species listed by a range country that requires the assistance of other parties to ensure that exports of their native species are legal. Permits are used to control and monitor trade in native species. Any CITES Party may place a native species in Appendix III.

Any listing of a species in either Appendix I or II requires approval by two-thirds of the CITES party countries that vote on the proposal.

The Repository
Sunday, June 10, 2007

U.S. hopes to protect coral species, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen

By MIKE CORDER, ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands The U.S. is leading a push to protect a type of red coral that grows deep in the world's oceans and seas, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen who have harvested the species for generations to make artwork and jewelry.

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The proposal is expected to come up for a vote next week, worrying the fishermen and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, who harvest the coral for their livelihood in the town in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

The U.S. is the world's biggest market for corallium products, importing more than 26 million pieces from 2001 to 2006, according to the Washington-based environmental group SeaWeb.

Arizona Daily Star
Sunday, June 10, 2007

U.S. pushes to protect coral from extinction

The Associated Press

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KTVU.com
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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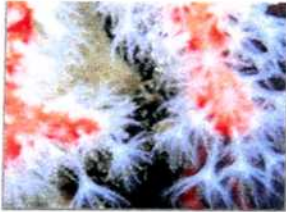
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Red coral species, Corallium rubrum polyyps from California are shown on this undated photo provided by G. Marola, 2007, Friday, June 8, 2007. Red coral decorates pockets [more...](#) (G. Marola, 2007) EDITORIAL USE ONL / AP)



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Red coral species are shown on this undated photo provided by Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL), Friday, June 8, 2007. Red coral decorates pockets of the [more...](#) (HURL) EDITORIAL USE ONL / AP)

U.S. pushes to protect red coral species

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press
Last updated: 1:22 p.m., Saturday, June 9, 2007

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On the Net:

Seaweb coral protection campaign: <http://www.tooprecioustowear.com>

Ciro Conditto of Assocoral: <http://www.assocoral.it>

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U.S. pushes to protect red coral species

By MIKE CORDER -- Associated Press Writer
Published: June 9, 2007
Last Modified: June 9, 2007 at 09:20 AM

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- AP

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Jewelry made of red coral is shown on this undated photo provided by SeaWeb 2007/Manne Photobank. Friday, June 8, 2007 Red coral decorates pockets of the world's seas and oceans from the Mediterranean to the Pacific. It also adorns the necks and arms of the rich and fashion conscious. The harvest and trade are now so widespread and the coral so slow-growing that there are fears for its survival. The United States is leading a push to have the coral, whose scientific name is corallium, protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a global conservation body meeting until June 15 in The Hague, the Netherlands. (AP Photo/ SeaWeb 2007/Manne Photobank) EDITORIAL USE ONLY

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U.S. pushes to protect red coral species

By MIKE CORDER -- Associated Press Writer

(Updated Saturday, June 9, 2007, 10:20 AM)

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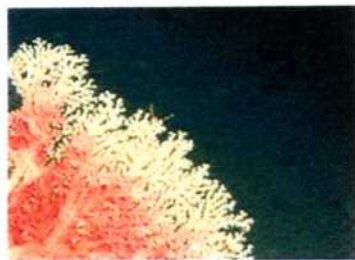
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By MIKE CORDER -- Associated Press Writer -- Updated 06/09/07 - 1:20 PM

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U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species



By MIKE CORDER

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Source: Associated Press/AP Online

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U.S. pushes to protect red coral species

By MIKE CORDER - Associated Press Writer

Last Updated 3:09 pm PDT Saturday, June 9, 2007



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USA Today
Friday, June 8, 2007

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Mike Corder, Associated Press Writer



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am New York

AM New York
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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Biloxi Sun Herald
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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Centre Daily Times
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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Columbus Ledger-Enquirer
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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The Denver Post
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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- On the Net:

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Forbes Magazine
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Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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The News~Sentinel

The Fort Wayne News-Sentinel
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

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FOX News
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Houston Chronicle

chron.com

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KSTP.com - 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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KTAR.com
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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LAS VEGAS SUN

Las Vegas Sun
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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Leading the Charge
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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Los Angeles Times

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Newsday
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The Olympian
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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AP
Red coral species, *Corallium rubrum* polyps from Calafuria are shown on this undated photo provided by G. Marola, 2007, Friday, June 8, 2007. Red coral decorates pockets of the world's seas and oceans from the Mediterranean to the Pacific. It also adorns the necks and arms of the rich and fashion conscious. The harvest and trade are now so widespread and the coral so slow-growing that there are fears for its survival. The United States is leading a push to have the coral, whose scientific name is corallium, protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a global conservation body meeting until June 15 in The Hague, the Netherlands. (AP Photo/ G. Marola, 2007) EDITORIAL USE ONLY

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Philadelphia Daily News
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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MIKE CORDER, The Associated Press

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Ciro Condito of Assocoral: <http://www.assocoral.it>

San Francisco Chronicle

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

San Francisco Chronicle
Saturday, June 9, 2007

U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species

By *MIKE CORDER, Associated Press Writer*

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) -- The U.S. is leading a push to protect a type of red coral that grows deep in the world's oceans and seas, putting it at odds with Italian fishermen who have harvested the species for generations to make artwork and jewelry.

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The proposal is expected to come up for a vote next week, worrying the fishermen and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, who harvest the coral for their livelihood in the town in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

"We started 800 years ago and we want to continue," said *Ciro Condito* of *Assocoral*, a lobbying group representing the craftsmen in the Mediterranean town. "We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life."

The U.S. is the world's biggest market for corallium products, importing more than 26 million pieces from 2001 to 2006, according to the Washington-based environmental group *SeaWeb*.

The value of corallium is boosted by the fact it is difficult to gather because it grows as deep as 3,280 feet. It is also rare because it grows so slowly — in some cases, just 0.06 inches or less per year — and takes up to seven years to reach maturity, with low reproduction rates.

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Newspaper of the Central Coast

THE TRIBUNE

San Luis Obispo Tribune
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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By MIKE CORDER - Associated Press Writer

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Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Seattle Post Intelligencer
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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EDITORIAL USE ONLY

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AP
Red coral species, Corallium rubrum polyps from Calabria are shown on this undated photo provided by G. Marola, 2007, Friday, June 8, 2007. Red coral decorates pockets of the world's seas and oceans from the Mediterranean to the Pacific. It also adorns the necks and arms of the rich and fashion conscious. The harvest and trade are now so widespread and the coral so slow-growing that there are fears for its survival. The United States is leading a push to have the coral, whose scientific name is corallium, protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a global conservation body meeting until June 15 in The Hague, the Netherlands. (AP Photo/G. Marola, 2007) EDITORIAL USE ONLY

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Town Hall
Saturday, June 9, 2007

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Tuscaloosa News
Friday, June 9, 2007

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The Washington Post

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Saturday, June 9, 2007

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

The Philadelphia Inquirer
Sunday, June 10, 2007

U.S. pushes to protect red coral

The Associated Press

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Akron Farm Report
Monday, June 11, 2007

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The Benton Crier
Monday, June 11, 2007

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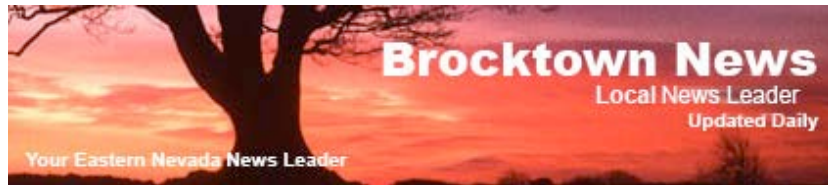
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Brocktown News
Monday, June 11, 2007

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Chandler News-Dispatch
Monday, June 11, 2007

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Dunton Springs Evening Post
Monday, June 11, 2007

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The value of corallium is boosted by the fact it is difficult to gather because it grows as deep as 3,280 feet. It is also rare because it grows so slowly — in some cases, just 0.06 inches or less per year — and takes up to seven years to reach maturity, with low reproduction rates.

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Seaweb coral protection campaign: <http://www.tooprecioustowear.com>



Ely Times & County
Monday June 11, 2007

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By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press Writer

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Herald News Daily
Monday, June 11, 2007

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Jackson News-Tribune
Monday, June 11, 2007

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Jordan Falls News
Monday, June 11, 2007

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The Kindred Times
Monday, June 11, 2007

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Meadow Free Press
Monday, June 11, 2007

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Pioneer Times-Journal
Monday, June 11, 2007

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Prescott Herald
Monday, June 11, 2007

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Sky Valley Journal
Monday, June 11, 2007

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White Rock Reviewer
Monday, June 11, 2007

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FOX News
Saturday, June 9, 2007

U.S. Pushes to Protect Red Coral Species, Often Used by European Jewelers

The Associated Press

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AP/SeaWeb 2007/Marine Photobank

The United States is leading a push to have red coral, whose scientific name is corallium, protected.

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The proposal is expected to come up for a vote next week, worrying the fishermen and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, who harvest the coral for their livelihood in the town in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

"We started 800 years ago and we want to continue," said Ciro Conditto of Assocoral, a lobbying group representing the craftsmen in the Mediterranean town. "We are not an industry;

Raw coral can sell for about \$400 per pound at auction, and artworks or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$20,000, depending on the size and quality.

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"Until we are convinced that coral harvesting is sustainable and does not threaten marine ecosystems, we believe this cautionary principle should continue to apply," the company says on its Web site.

In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed — a practice that devastates the coral and threatens other marine wildlife that use coral colonies as a place to feed, mate and escape predators.

"It is like clear-cutting a forest — it pulls everything up, there's a lot of loss and you remove the large colonies, the small colonies and cause a lot of damage to the habitat," said Andy Bruckner of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In the Mediterranean, trawl fishing has been replaced by scuba-diving harvesters and some countries have imposed quotas and minimum size limits. But the coral is still struggling.

"We're afraid that if things continue the way they are it could lead to species being depleted from large areas," Bruckner said.



The North County Times
Saturday, June 9, 2007

U.S. pushes to protect red coral species, putting it at odds with European jewelry makers

By: MIKE CORDER - Associated Press

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On the Net:

Seaweb coral protection campaign: www.tooprecioustowear.com

Ciro Conditto of Assocoral: www.assocoral.it



The San Diego Union-Tribune
Saturday, June 9, 2007

U.S. pushes to protect red coral species, putting it at odds with European jewelry makers

By Mike Corder, ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada East Online
Monday, June 11, 2007

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MIKE CORDER

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Sun-Sentinel
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Sunday, June 10, 2007

U.S. seeks to regulate red corral harvesting

WIRE REPORTS

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Russia



Khaleej Times
Friday, June 15, 2007

UN curbs trade in species from eels to elephants

Reuters

HAGUE - A UN wildlife conference in The Hague ending on Friday decided measures to curb international trade in species including elephants, corals, eels and timber.

Following is a summary of the main decisions at the 171-nation meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) from June 3-15.

Elephants

A 1989 ban on elephant ivory exports will be extended for nine years, after a sale from stockpiles by Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The deal was a compromise between nations wanting a 20-year ban and the four southern African nations who say their elephant numbers are rising.

Tigers

The conference rebuked China for breeding about 5,000 tigers in farms, roughly the total left in the wild worldwide. China has said it is considering whether to overthrow a 1993 ban on domestic trade in tiger parts, using farmed tigers. The conference said: 'Tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts or derivatives.'

Timber

Brazilwood, used to produce violin bows, won tighter protection after Brazil sought trade curbs on the species. The European Union withdrew bids to curb logging of South and Central American cedar and rosewood trees, the source of some of the world's most valuable timber used in furniture and musical instruments. Latin American nations were opposed.

European Eels

Delegates agreed to regulate trade in European eels, worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year, because of overfishing and loss of habitats. Baby eels sold to Japan can sometimes cost, for the same weight, more than caviar and stocks have tumbled by 95 percent in a few decades.

Corals

Trade in red and pink corals prized as jewelry for 5,000 years will be regulated for a first time to help the species recover after drastic over-exploitation. Corals are now harvested

mainly in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific in a million dollar business. Necklaces of the corals, collectively known as Corallium, can cost up to \$20,000.

Sawfish

The conference voted to outlaw trade in sawfish, a type of ray related to sharks which brandish a toothed snout that can grow up to almost two metres. Sawfish stocks are down 90 percent after decades of overfishing. Australia got an exemption to allow exports of live fish to aquariums abroad.

Sharks

The forum rejected a European Union and US bid for controls on a multi-million dollar trade in two types of sharks, prized for their meat and fins. The spiny dogfish, also known as rock salmon, and the porbeagle shark failed to get protection. Dogfish is widely used in the British dish fish and chips.

Whales

The conference rebuffed a Japanese bid to review protection for whales.

THE VANCOUVER SUN

The Vancouver Sun
British Columbia
Thursday, June 14, 2007

UN moves to restrict trade in red and pink corals

THE HAGUE -- Trade in red and pink corals prized as jewelry for 5,000 years will be restricted to try to help the species recover after drastic over-exploitation, a UN wildlife conference agreed Wednesday. Countries at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) voted 62 to 28 to start regulating export of corals, now harvested mainly in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific in a business worth millions of dollars. Necklaces made of the red and pink corals, collectively known as Corallium, can cost up to \$20,000. Many other species of coral are already protected by CITES. The decision, imposing restrictions on international trade, will take effect in 18 months' time.



France 24
Monday, June 11, 2007

'UN of wildlife trade' may throw lifeline to marine species

Agence France Presse

Sawtooth sharks, pink coral and the globe-trotting European eel are slated for a hearing Monday at the 171-nation body that regulates trade in wildlife teetering at the edge of biological viability.

The population of all these marine fauna has plummeted in recent decades, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, will decide whether to grant a reprieve from the commercial exploitation that has drastically reduced their numbers.

The outcome is anything but certain, say delegates and a small army of conservationists lobbying on the sidelines of the two-week meeting.

While assessments by CITES are made on scientific grounds, political and economic imperatives can weigh heavily when the fate of a particular fauna or flora comes up for a vote, participants say.

"There is a lot of horse-trading between nations," said an expert on biodiversity at one of the non-governmental conservation groups that monitor negotiations and make recommendations.

Two other ocean predators similarly decimated by over-hunting, the porbeagle shark and the spiny dogfish, were refused entry Friday into CITES' "Appendix II," which imposes strict restrictions on international trade on some 30,000 plants and animals.

More than 600 animals and plants -- including elephants, tigers, whales and pandas -- threatened with extinction are protected by total or near-total commercial bans under Appendix I.

The United States, Kenya and Nicaragua have nominated sawfish -- which have experienced historic declines of greater than 90 percent, according to the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) -- for inclusion in Appendix I.

Prized for their meat and especially their fins, considered a delicacy in Chinese cuisine, all species are listed on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Redlist as critically endangered. There are currently no restrictions on their commercial exploitation or trade.

The European eel has been in sharp decline since the 1980s and is now "outside its safe biological limits," according to Stephane Ringuit, a biologist affiliated with conservation group TRAFFIC.

The European Union, represented at CITES by Germany, has proposed listing the species -- which, at a hatchling stage of development, can fetch up to 240 euros (280 dollars) per kilo in Asia -- on Appendix II.

The industry employs some 25,000 people in Europe and generates nearly 200 million euros annually in revenue.

"Over-exploitation is not the only threat to the European eel," said Ringuit. "But it is the one we have the most control over."

The trade restrictions on red and pink coral, proposed by the United States and opposed by Italy, would cover some 30 species in the genus *corallium* threatened by global warming and commercial harvesting to make jewelry and art objects as well as homeopathic medicines.



The Raw Story
Monday, June 11, 2007

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Forests.com
Friday, June 15, 2007

UN talks aid eels, elephants to ease extinctions

Alister Doyle, Reuters

Elephants and eels may find life slightly easier after trade curbs imposed by U.N. talks ending on Friday that are a pinprick to slow what may be the worst wave of extinctions since the dinosaurs.

The June 3-15 meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) also agreed trade restrictions for commercial species including Brazilwood timber, used in violin bows, some fish and corals.

"We have listings of commercial fish species, commercial timber species and I think that should continue," CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers told a news conference at the 171-nation talks. He said that CITES, set up in 1975 with powers to ban or restrict trade in endangered species, had spent its early years monitoring sales of exotic parrots or snakes while avoiding battles over species in a billion-dollar wildlife trade.

"We have always been kept away from commercial fish and commercial timber but that is now slowly disappearing," he said. There were few exceptions, he said, such as sturgeon overfished for caviar that have had trade protection since 1975.

Among commercial fish species, the conference voted to restrict trade in the European eel after stocks crashed due to over-fishing. Baby eels can sometimes be more expensive than caviar, for the same weight.

Some efforts to list commercial species failed, such as a European Union drive to restrict trade in Latin American cedar and rosewood trees used in furniture and musical instruments.

The WWF and Traffic wildlife monitoring network hailed some of the decisions but said they rued some other "missed opportunities" on timber and fisheries.

In the most hard-fought decision, the conference agreed to extend a 1989 ban on elephant ivory exports for nine years, after a sale from stockpiles by Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe as part of a plan to end poaching.

The deal was a compromise between nations wanting a 20-year ban to try to crack down on poaching and the four southern African nations who say that farmers and villagers are suffering from conflicts with rising elephant populations.

The talks are part of global efforts to slow what the United Nations says is the worst extinction crisis since the dinosaurs were wiped out 65 million years ago, caused by loss of habitats, pollution, rising human populations and climate change.

The U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity said last month that species are disappearing at a rate of three an hour. By that reckoning, about 1,000 species vanished during the talks.

"Where are the problems of biological diversity? It's clear it's in the forests, it's clear that it's in the marine. And then you run into huge economic interests," said Jochen Flasbarth, the German official who heads the EU delegation.

CITES, which has just 24 staff, merely looks at species affected by trade while other U.N. agencies have more power over other areas such as loss of habitats, Wijnstekers noted. "Three species an hour is not caused by trade."

Delegates said the decision on the elephant export ban might help put the spotlight on other species.

"At these meetings it's always elephants, elephants, elephants," said Zimbabwe's Environment and Tourism Minister Francis Nhema. "Maybe other species will get more attention in future," he said, mentioning, lions, leopards and even beetles.

Originally posted at: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L15793926.htm>



Plenty Magazine
Monday, June 4, 2007

UN urges forum to protect animals from climate change

Anna Mudeva, Reuters

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - A senior United Nations official urged a 171-nation U.N. wildlife forum on Sunday to take action to help protect animals from climate change.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) will also discuss measures at its two week-week meeting to help commercially valuable animal and tree species threatened by over-use.

A U.N. report has said human activities were wiping out three animal or plant species every hour and has urged the world to do more to slow the worst spate of extinctions since the dinosaurs by 2010.

Global warming, blamed mainly on human use of fossil fuels, is widely expected to add to existing threats and wreck habitats like the Amazon rain forest.

"CITES is not a forum for discussing climate change but decisions taken here do have an impact on species in a climatically challenged world," Shafgat Kakaklhel, deputy head of the U.N. Environment Programme, told the opening session.

"We will need robust species populations if they are to survive rising temperatures and more extremes," he said.

RAPID DEPLETION

Many of the 37 proposals to be discussed at the meeting in The Hague reflect growing concern about rapid depletion of marine and forest resources.

Commercially valuable species like the spiny dogfish, the porbeagle shark and the European eel -- all threatened by over-use -- feature high on the agenda.

The focus will also be on coral jewellery, wooden musical instruments and furniture. Threatened species like pink or red coral and rosewood and cedar trees are facing tighter trade regulations.

Elephants are expected to trigger heated debate. African countries are split over the protection of the elephant, with some saying elephant populations have grown at an unsustainable rate.

CITES is widely credited with stemming the slaughter of the African elephant by imposing a ban on the international ivory trade in 1989.

But scientists say the killing of elephants for their tusks, mainly in central Africa, has reached levels not seen since 1989 because of Asian-run crime syndicates.

The talks will also help shape the future of CITES, which has banned trade in 530 animal species and more than 300 plant species.

CITES also regulates trade in 4,460 animal species and 28,000 plant species.



EiTB
Sunday, June 3, 2007

UN urges protection of animals from climate change

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) will also discuss measures at its two-week meeting to help commercially valuable animal and tree species threatened by over-use. See also factbox.

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Scientific American
Sunday, June 3, 2007

UN urges protection of animals from climate change

By Anna Mudeva, Reuters



UN urges protection of animals from climate change A three-day old African Elephant stands next to its mother Pori at the 'Tierpark' zoo in Berlin in this May 23, 2007 file photo. A senior United Nations official urged a 171-nation U.N. wildlife forum on Sunday to take action to help protect animals from climate change. REUTERS/Tobias Schwarz

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News Blaze
June 2007

United States to Support Conservation of Tigers, Elephants, Whales, and Others

U.S. Department of Interior

The United States will continue to support strong conservation measures and international trade protections for tigers, elephants and whales at the upcoming 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in The Hague, Netherlands, June 3 to 15.

Meanwhile, the United States is proposing new restrictions on international trade in sawfish and pink and red coral, while asking the conference to lift trade restrictions on bobcat, a species that is abundant throughout its range, said Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Todd Willens, the head of the U.S. delegation.

The United States will also work closely with European nations to determine if two shark species - the spiny dogfish and the porbeagle - require CITES protection. The U.S. delegation also will hold consultations with range countries and other nations before deciding whether to support proposals to list several Central and South American timber species.

CITES is an international agreement signed by 171 nations that is designed to control and regulate global trade in certain wild animals and plants that are or may become threatened with extinction due to commercial trade.

"CITES has proven to be a powerful tool to prevent the extinction of species such as tigers, elephants and whales and we intend to work with other countries to support the continued protection and conservation of these species," Willens said.

The United States will publish its tentative negotiating positions for the conference in the Federal Register before the start of the conference. However, as often has been the case in the past, the United States has not yet taken final positions on many proposals on the agenda because of the desire to hold discussions with and work with range states and other parties during the conference.

"As the top importer of wildlife, plants, and their products, the United States has both a significant stake and a significant role in decisions made under CITES," Willens said. "In the past, we have played an important role in bringing countries to the table to develop proposals that protect species while promoting conservation in range countries. We intend to continue that tradition at the upcoming Conference of the Parties."

A CITES-regulated species may be included in one of three appendices to the Convention:

Appendix I includes species for which it is determined that any commercial trade is detrimental to the survival of the species. Therefore, no commercial trade is allowed in Appendix-I species. Non-commercial trade in such species is allowed if it does not jeopardize the species' survival in the wild. Permits are required for the exportation and importation of Appendix-I species.

Appendix II includes species for which it has been determined that commercial trade may be detrimental to the survival of the species if that trade is not strictly controlled. Trade in these species is regulated through the use of export permits.

Appendix III includes species listed by a range country that requires the assistance of other parties to ensure that exports of their native species are legal. Permits are used to control and monitor trade in native species. Any CITES Party may place a native species in Appendix III.

Any listing of a species in either Appendix I or II requires approval by two-thirds of the CITES party countries that vote on the proposal.

Major issues and resolutions to be discussed at the upcoming conference include:

Tigers: The United States has long been at the forefront of promoting the conservation of tigers. There are no listing proposals related to tigers on the agenda at the conference, but there will be a discussion of the problem of illegal trade in tigers and other Asian wild cats. The United States is concerned about reports that China may soon lift its domestic ban on trade in tigers and tiger parts. This would promote the spread of tiger farms, which the United States believes would provide a cover for trade in illegally poached tigers. At the upcoming conference, the United States will strongly encourage China to retain its domestic ban and will discuss ways of improving cooperative law enforcement efforts with India and other range countries.

Elephants: Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa are included in a proposal to establish annual quotas for export of raw ivory from elephants that have died of natural causes or have been culled as part of managing herds. The funds raised by these sales would be used to support elephant conservation. In addition, even if the proposal for all four countries is not approved, Botswana is asking for permission for annual sales of up to eight tons of ivory per year, plus sale of hides, leather goods, and live elephants for commercial purposes.

The United States has not supported annual export quotas in the past. However, it did support a one-time sale of ivory from Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa at the 12th Conference of the Parties 2002 when specific conditions were met. Those conditions, which included the establishment of an international monitoring system for elephant populations and controls in importing countries to prevent the re-export of ivory, have not yet been met and the sale has not taken place, although it may finally be approved at a meeting of the CITES Standing Committee which takes place just before the start of the Conference of the Parties.

The United States has not taken a formal position on the proposals but is concerned that the pending one-time sale be held and its impact on elephant populations determined before any other sales are approved. The United States also is concerned about the inclusion of Zimbabwe in the proposal because of reports of poaching and lack of protection for elephants in that country.

"We will be paying close attention in the meeting of the African elephant range states that will take place before the Conference of the Parties," Willens said. "We want to work closely with range states to come up with the right course of action for the elephants."

The United States also will emphasize the conservation of Asian elephants, which are threatened by poaching and illegal trade, Willens said.

"We will work to ensure that Asian elephants are considered during the discussion of a number of issues on the conference agenda, including poaching of elephants and trade in ivory, the need for enhanced law enforcement, and the importance of better compliance with CITES requirements for trade control and reporting of illegal activities," he said.

Whales: While there are no proposals related to delisting of whales on the agenda, the United States is committed to supporting the International Whaling Commission's current moratorium on commercial whaling, which is also supported by many other countries. Japan has proposed a new CITES review which it hopes will eventually lead to delisting of whales. The United States will also be paying close attention to a report from the International Whaling Commission on the results of its annual meeting, which takes place in Alaska just before the CITES Conference.

Sharks: Germany, on behalf of the European Union, has proposed to list the spiny dogfish and the porbeagle under Appendix II. Both species are harvested for food. The spiny dogfish is a primary source for the fish in "fish and chips." The United States is concerned that a CITES listing might have an undo impact on commercial fishing on the Atlantic coast, where populations of both fish are managed by the federal government and the states and currently are healthy. Populations in the north-eastern Atlantic do not have a management plan and have been significantly reduced by over-harvest.

"The United States has long been a strong advocate of shark conservation. However, we are concerned that a CITES listing for spiny dogfish and porbeagle would impose a paperwork burden for our fishermen while not guaranteeing that European nations would begin to properly manage populations off their shores, which is what is needed if range states are genuine about helping the species recover in the northeast Atlantic," Willens said. "We intend to hold discussions with the European Union countries on the issue during the conference."

Sawfish and pink and red corals: The United States is proposing to list sawfishes under Appendix I. These species have been over-harvested for both their rostra, or saw, and their fins. It is already illegal to land sawfishes on all U.S. coasts under the Endangered Species Act.

The United States also is proposing to list 26 species of pink and red corals under Appendix II. The United States is the leading importer of these corals, which are being over-harvested in many places. The listing will allow for better monitoring of commercial trade to ensure that it is sustainable and does not cause the species to become extinct.

Bobcat: The United States is proposing to remove the bobcat from Appendix II. The species is healthy throughout its range and is only listed because of the similarity of its appearance to other listed species such as lynx. The United States decided to propose the delisting after studies showed that the ready differentiation of bobcat skins in the

international fur market was, in fact, possible because the majority of trade involves full skins, including the cats' distinctive markings.

Timber: A number of Latin American timber species are proposed for inclusion in Appendix II, including Spanish cedar, a furniture wood similar to mahogany, and Brazilian pernambuco, the primary wood used to make fine bows for stringed instruments. The United States will engage in discussions with range states in Central and South America before determining whether to support these proposals and if so, whether there should be exemptions from trade controls for limited numbers of bows and other finished products.

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INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune

International Herald Tribune
Saturday, June 9, 2007

Wildlife conference to consider protection for deep sea coral

THE HAGUE, Netherlands: Like miniature forests of richly colored trees, red coral decorates pockets of the world's seas and oceans from the Mediterranean to the Pacific. It also adorns the necks and arms of the rich and fashion conscious.

The trade in the slow-growing, deep sea coral is now so widespread that there are fears for its survival.

The United States is leading a push to have the coral, whose scientific name is corallium, protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a global conservation body meeting until June 15 in The Hague. The U.S. proposal will be debated and put to a vote next week.

That has worried the fishers and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, a town in the shadow of Mt. Vesuvius volcano on Italy's Mediterranean coast, who have harvested the coral for generations and turned it into art works and jewelry.

"We started 800 years ago and we want to continue," said Ciro Conditto of Assocoral, a lobby group representing the craftsmen. "We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life."

Under the U.S. proposal up for debate at the CITES meeting, trade in several species of corallium would be regulated for the first time to ensure harvesting and global sales do not threaten their survival.

In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed — a practice that devastates the coral.

"It is like clear-cutting a forest — it pulls everything up, there's a lot of loss and you remove the large colonies, the small colonies and cause a lot of damage to the habitat," said Andy Bruckner of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

That affects not just the coral but also other marine wildlife that use coral colonies as a place to feed, mate and hide from predators.

The United States, the world's biggest market for corallium products, imported more than 26 million pieces from 2001-2006, says environmental group SeaWeb. The group has launched a campaign, "Too Precious to Wear," aimed at raising awareness of the coral's vulnerability.

Its value is boosted by its rarity and the fact that it is hard to gather because it grows as deep as 1,000 meters (3,280 feet). Raw coral can sell for US\$900 (€670) per kilogram at auction and finished works of art or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from US\$20 (€15) to US\$20,000 (€15,000) depending on their size and quality.

It is also rare because it grows so slowly — in some cases just 1.5 millimeters (0.06 inches) or less per year — takes up to seven years to reach maturity and has low reproduction rates.

One place you can no longer buy corallium jewelry is a Tiffany and Co. store. The high-end U.S. jeweler no longer sells any coral products.

"Until we are convinced that coral harvesting is sustainable and does not threaten marine ecosystems, we believe this cautionary principle should continue to apply," the company says on its Web site.

In the Mediterranean, trawl fishing has been replaced by scuba divers harvesting the coral and some countries have imposed quotas and minimum size limits. But the coral is still struggling.

"We're afraid that if things continue the way they are it could lead to species being depleted from large areas," said Bruckner.

Coral jewelry was popular in the 1980s and went out of fashion in the 1990s. But it is now making a comeback, increasing pressure on stocks.

"I love coral pieces and jewelry, it's beautiful," said Elizabeth Neeley of SeaWeb. "But the unfortunate reality is that what's going on underneath the sea is not."

On the Net:

<http://www.tooprecioustowear.com>

<http://www.assocoral.it>

Wildlife conference to consider protection for deep sea coral

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By MIKE CORDER - Associated Press
Writer © AP

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«Until we are convinced that coral harvesting is sustainable and does not threaten marine ecosystems, we believe this cautionary principle should continue to apply,» the company says on its Web site.

In the Mediterranean, trawl fishing has been replaced by scuba divers harvesting the coral and some countries have imposed quotas and minimum size limits. But the coral is still struggling.

«We're afraid that if things continue the way they are it could lead to species being depleted from large areas,» said Bruckner.

Coral jewelry was popular in the 1980s and went out of fashion in the 1990s. But it is now making a comeback, increasing pressure on stocks.

«I love coral pieces and jewelry, it's beautiful,» said Elizabeth Neeley of SeaWeb. «But the unfortunate reality is that what's going on underneath the sea is not.

On the Net

www.tooprecioustowear.com

www.assocoral.it

The China Post
Front Page
Sunday, June 10, 2007

Wildlife Conference to Mull Protection for Deep Sea Coral

By Mike Corder, The Hague, Netherlands, AP

Like miniature forests of richly colored trees, red coral decorates pockets of the world's seas and oceans from the Mediterranean to the Pacific. It also adorns the necks and arms of the rich and fashion conscious.

The trade in the slow-growing, deep sea coral is now so widespread that there are fears for its survival.



The United States is leading a push to have the coral, whose scientific name is corallium, protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a global conservation body meeting until June 15 in The Hague. The U.S. proposal will be debated and put to a vote next

week.

That has worried the fishers and craftsmen of Torre del Greco, a town in the shadow of Mt. Vesuvius volcano on Italy's Mediterranean coast, who have harvested the coral for generations and turned it into art works and jewelry. "We started 800 years ago and we want to continue," said Ciro Condito of Assocoral, a lobby group representing the craftsmen. "We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life."

Under the U.S. proposal up for debate at the CITES meeting, trade in several species of corallium would be regulated for the first time to ensure harvesting and global sales do not threaten their survival.

In some parts of the world, corallium is still harvested using trawl nets dragged along the seabed -- a practice that devastates the coral.

"It is like clear cutting a forest -- it pulls everything up, there's a lot of loss and you remove the large colonies, the small colonies and cause a lot of damage to the habitat," said Andy Bruckner of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

That affects not just the coral but also other marine wildlife that use coral colonies as a place to feed, mate and hide from predators.

The United States, the world's biggest market for corallium products, imported more than 26 million pieces from 2001-2006, says environmental group SeaWeb. The group has launched a campaign, "Too Precious to Wear," aimed at raising awareness of the coral's vulnerability.

Its value is boosted by its rarity and the fact that it is hard to gather because it grows as deep as 1,000 meters (3,280 feet). Raw coral can sell for US\$900 (euro670) per kilogram at auction and finished works of art or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from US\$20 (euro15) to US\$20,000 (euro15,000) depending on their size and quality.

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Pravda
Friday, June 15, 2007

Wildlife trade conference brings results in wildlife protection

Associated Press

Elephants emerged safer and tigers got some support, but sharks and corals failed to win protection at a two-week wildlife trade conference that ended Friday.

The conference also saw a shift in conservation politics with ministers throwing their weight behind negotiations.

China emerged for the first time as a major player at the triennial meeting of the Convention on Trade in Endangered species, or CITES, surprising delegates with its activism.

The signatories of the CITES treaty, adopted in 1975 to rescue rare plants and animals threatened with extinction, turned their attention as never before to common timber and fish vital to the economies of many nations.

And critics worried about the increasing role of politics as the 171-nation CITES met to review its lists of tens of thousands of threatened species, with the first ministerial-level meeting at a CITES conference.

"The ministerial forum has added a strong political dimension," said Will Travers, head of the Species Survival Network, a coalition of about 80 nongovernmental agencies. "It's too early to say whether this is good or bad, but I am concerned."

The ministers were credited with breaking an 18-year deadlock over the sale of ivory by southern African countries, which were allowed a one-time sale of accumulated tusks to Japan, the only authorized buyer. In exchange, the nettlesome elephant and ivory issues would be taken off the CITES agenda for nine years.

The conference ended in disappointment for environmentalists. An earlier committee decision was overturned by the full plenary which would have regulated the trade in pink and red coral used for jewelry.

Renewed proposals to control the trade in spiny dogfish sharks, widely fished for fast food, also fell.

South American and Asian countries with powerful timber industries helped defeat proposals to regulate trade in Spanish cedar and rosewood species, which conservationists say are being stripped from rain forests.

But big-money fisheries and timber were put on notice, and those species that failed to win protection were certain to come up again in future meetings.

Not all commercial varieties lost. Among newly regulated species were the European eel, considered a delicacy in much of the continent, and the pau brasil tree of Brazil, the source of top quality bows for stringed musical instruments.

The conference also increased scrutiny in the caviar trade - long plagued by a booming black market - to help save the Caspian Sea sturgeon.

"We have listed new species that have been outside the scope of the convention for economic reasoning rather than scientific," said CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers. "I think that should continue."

Conservationists said trade considerations overwhelmed scientific criteria in many instances, with countries still voting in favor of short-term economic growth.

"It's sad to see, because this is one of the more progressive conventions we have," said Peter Pueschel, of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Delegates spent the final day snared in a budget fight, spending more than four hours debating whether to raise the US\$4.6 million (3.5 million EUR) budget of the CITES secretariat by 7.5 percent, or US\$340,000 (255,370 EUR). The United States, which pays 22 percent of the budget, objected. In the end, a 6-percent increase was approved.

"There are so many things they want CITES to do, but nobody is willing to pay for it. It's pitiful," said Susan Lieberman, of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

CITES veterans said they noted a shift of power among the parties.

China, an importer of tropical timber and a major investor in Africa, was at the center of several contentious issues, but its record was mixed. In one of the more significant showdowns, it failed to block a resolution urging it to maintain a 1993 ban on the sale of tiger parts for traditional medicine and warning it to rein in its program of breeding tigers.

In other power shifts, the European Union swung many issues and aroused some anger for voting as a 27-member bloc. Japan was less aggressive than it had been in previous meetings. And the United States "was not the powerhouse it was 15 years ago," said Travers, of the pro-wildlife coalition.



The Raw Story
Monday June 11, 2007

Wildlife trade experts to decide on trade in rare marine species

Agence France Presse

Sawtooth sharks, pink coral and the European eel are now so endangered they need a near total ban on trade to survive as a species, a wildlife conference here will be told Monday.

The population of all these marine fauna has plummeted in recent decades, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, will decide whether to grant a reprieve from the commercial exploitation that has drastically reduced their numbers.

The outcome is anything but certain, say delegates and a small army of conservationists lobbying on the sidelines of the two-week meeting.

While assessments by the 171 nation-body CITES are made on scientific grounds, political and economic imperatives can weigh heavily when the fate of a particular fauna or flora comes up for a vote, participants say.

"There is a lot of horse-trading between nations," said an expert on biodiversity at one of the non-governmental conservation groups that monitor negotiations and make recommendations.

Two other ocean predators similarly decimated by over-hunting, the porbeagle shark and the spiny dogfish, were refused entry Friday into CITES' "Appendix II," which imposes strict restrictions on international trade on some 30,000 plants and animals.

More than 600 animals and plants -- including elephants, tigers, whales and pandas -- threatened with extinction are protected by total or near-total commercial bans under Appendix I.

The United States, Kenya and Nicaragua have nominated sawfish -- which have experienced historic declines of greater than 90 percent, according to the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) -- for inclusion in Appendix I.

Prized for their meat and especially their fins, considered a delicacy in Chinese cuisine, all species are listed on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Redlist as critically endangered. There are currently no restrictions on their commercial exploitation or trade.

The European eel has been in sharp decline since the 1980s and is now "outside its safe biological limits," according to Stephane Ringuet, a biologist affiliated with conservation group TRAFFIC.

The European Union, represented at CITES by Germany, has proposed listing the species -- which, at a hatchling stage of development, can fetch up to 240 euros (280 dollars) per kilo in Asia -- on Appendix II.

The industry employs some 25,000 people in Europe and generates nearly 200 million euros annually in revenue.

"Over-exploitation is not the only threat to the European eel," said Ringuit. "But it is the one we have the most control over."

The trade restrictions on red and pink coral, proposed by the United States and opposed by Italy, would cover some 30 species in the genus *corallium* threatened by global warming and commercial harvesting to make jewelry and art objects as well as homeopathic medicines.



MSNBC
Friday, June 15, 2007

**Wildlife trade talks end with surprises
Red, pink coral won't get protections; some see politicized process**

The Associated Press

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Coral decision overturned

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Trade vs. science

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URL: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/19252028/>



Associated Press
Worldstream
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Wildlife trade watchdog regulates trade in red coral

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press Writer

The global wildlife trade watchdog agreed Wednesday to regulate sales of red coral, which conservationists say is under threat from overfishing for the jewelry industry.

"This is the best possible decision to start getting the trade in these corals under some form of international control," said Ernie Cooper, a coral trade expert from wildlife monitoring network TRAFFIC.

Delegates at the triennial meeting of the 171-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species put the coral on a list of protected wildlife, meaning exporters will now have to prove that the coral was harvested without threatening the species' survival before they can sell it.

Red coral, also known by its Latin name corallium, is a slow-growing deep-sea coral that grows all over the world but is harvested mainly in the Mediterranean and parts of the Pacific.

In the Mediterranean, it is gathered by scuba divers but in some other parts of the world fishermen still use trawl nets dragged along the seabed a practice that devastates the coral.

Andy Bruckner of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who drafted the U.S. proposal adopted at the conference, welcomed its acceptance.

"Red coral is the most valuable and widely traded out of all the coral species, and CITES protection will help ensure the future of the species and the red coral industry," he said. "We are pleased that the international community has recognized the threats corallium face, and is taking the necessary steps to safeguard these species."

The United States, the world's biggest market for corallium products, imported more than 26 million pieces from 2001-2006, says the environmental group SeaWeb, which lobbied for the CITES protection.

Raw coral can sell for US\$900 (euro670) per kilogram (2.2 pounds) at auction and finished works of art or pieces of jewelry can cost anywhere from US\$20 (euro15) to US\$20,000 (euro15,000) depending on their size and quality.

Part of the reason the coral is so vulnerable is that it grows so slowly in some cases just 1.5 millimeters (0.06 inches) or less per year takes up to seven years to reach maturity and has low reproduction rates.

Italian craftsmen from the town of Torre Del Greco near Naples had lobbied against CITES regulating the trade, saying that they had been harvesting it in a sustainable way for 800 years and would continue to do so to preserve their livelihoods.

"We are not an industry; this is our tradition, our culture. Coral is our life," **Ciro Conditto** of **Assocoral**, a lobby group representing the craftsmen, said before Wednesday's decision.

INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune

International Herald Tribune
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PR Inside
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Fox News
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San Diego Union Tribune
Friday, June 15, 2007

Winners and losers at Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A list of the winners and losers at the two-week meeting of the 171-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in The Hague.

WINNERS:

African elephants: Four southern African countries' can sell their ivory stockpiles. No more ivory sales allowed for nine years.

Asian tigers: CITES pressed China not to reopen domestic tiger bone trade and said tigers should not be bred in captivity for their body parts.

Sawfish: Trade regulated in the shark-like ray with its distinctive tooth-studded snout, which is coveted by collectors.

Brazilwood tree: Trade regulated in timber from the tree that provides wood for high-end stringed instrument bows.

European eels: Trade regulated in this European delicacy.

Sturgeon: More transparency and scientific scrutiny in the process of granting export quotas for caviar.

Rhinos: Better protection of wild rhinos and improved enforcement on the illegal trade in rhino horn.

LOSERS:

Sharks: The spiny dogfish and porbeagle, fished for fast food and gourmet shark fin soup, rejected for protection.

Red coral: Decision to regulate trade in the coral prized by jewelry makers is adopted but later overturned.

Spanish cedar: South American countries defeat regulations on their hardwood.

Rosewood: Proposals to regulate two species from South America were withdrawn.

CITES: Delegates argued for hours Friday over the CITES budget and approved only a 6 percent budget increase.

INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune

International Herald Tribune
Friday, June 15, 2007

Winners and losers at the 12-day CITES meeting

The Associated Press

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PR Inside
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The Advocate
Saturday, June 16, 2007

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CCNMatthews
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

WWF/TRAFFIC: CITES Backs Red, Pink and Other Corals

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS - Red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium* will be better protected from over-exploitation after CITES today adopted a proposal from the US to list *Corallium* in Appendix II of the Convention. Appendix II allows trade in a species under strict conditions.

Red and pink corals and other lesser-known species of *Corallium* are used mainly for the manufacture of jewellery and art. They are found throughout the world's tropical and temperate seas and are harvested in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific.

"This is the best possible decision to start getting the trade in these corals under some form of international control," said Ernie Cooper, a coral trade expert and Director, TRAFFIC and Wildlife Trade for WWF-Canada. "Until now most species of *Corallium* have been over-harvested as a result of a free-for-all situation."

There are no international trade controls in place, nor any consistent management plan, TRAFFIC and WWF say. And the life histories of most *Corallium* species, such as late maturation, slow growth and low fecundity make them particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation, according to both organizations.

Corallium populations off parts of the Italian, French and Spanish coasts are no longer commercially viable, while in the Western Pacific they have been depleted within five years of their discovery and harvest is shifting to newly discovered populations.

Corallium products reach high prices on the market and are traded worldwide. It is also very difficult to identify which species of coral is used in the finish products.

"CITES listed all the hard corals in Appendix II more than a decade ago, and we are pleased to see the Convention protect these precious corals as well," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF's Global Species Programme. "Now, consumers of these beautiful items will be part of the solution, and not part of the problem."

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Marketwire
Wednesday, June 13, 2007

WWF/TRAFFIC: CITES Backs Red, Pink and Other Corals

World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF-Canada); Traffic International

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS--(Marketwire - June 13, 2007) - Red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium* will be better protected from over-exploitation after CITES today adopted a proposal from the US to list *Corallium* in Appendix II of the Convention. Appendix II allows trade in a species under strict conditions.

Red and pink corals and other lesser-known species of *Corallium* are used mainly for the manufacture of jewellery and art. They are found throughout the world's tropical and temperate seas and are harvested in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific.

"This is the best possible decision to start getting the trade in these corals under some form of international control," said Ernie Cooper, a coral trade expert and Director, TRAFFIC and Wildlife Trade for WWF-Canada. "Until now most species of *Corallium* have been over-harvested as a result of a free-for-all situation."

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Marketwire/CCNMatthews
Thursday, May 17, 2007

WWF's Top Ten List of Traded Species

WWF Canada

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA-- Ahead of the world's major international meeting on wildlife trade, WWF releases its top ten list of species needing global action now to reduce threats from trade.



Some of the species on WWF's top ten priority list are among the world's most endangered. For example, the tiger and the Asian rhino have required constant and urgent action for decades because of ever-present, pervasive threats to their survival, including poaching and illegal trade. Others, particularly marine species, are on the list because their populations have declined massively in recent years due to global market demand.

From June 3-15, delegates from 171 countries are expected to attend the Conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in The Hague, The Netherlands and make key decisions to protect endangered wildlife from trade.

"The decisions made at CITES are critically important for species threatened by illegal or unsustainable trade," said Ernie Cooper, director of WWF-Canada's Wildlife Trade Program. "The priority species listed here cannot sustain the current levels of harvest and trade. If uncontrolled, this trade could drive some of these species to extinction. The CITES Conference is an opportunity for the world's governments to work together to protect these species, and Canada has a major role to play in this effort."

WWF's top ten "to do" list for the world's governments includes the following species:

Spiny dogfish - The spiny dogfish is a small, slender, shark that grows to about one metre long and travels in schools. It lives in cool, coastal waters worldwide. Although naturally abundant, it is vulnerable to over-exploitation by fisheries because of its late maturity, low reproductive capacity, longevity, and very low rate of population increase. Dogfish meat is highly valued, especially in Europe. Canada has spiny dogfish fisheries on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and is the biggest exporter of dogfish meat to Europe. WWF calls upon governments to include the species in CITES Appendix II. Canada in particular needs to step up and lead the effort to include the species in CITES.

Porbeagle - The porbeagle shark is a powerful, medium-sized, highly migratory shark. There is international demand for, and trade in, its high-value meat and fins. Canada has a targeted porbeagle shark fishery on the Atlantic coast. WWF calls upon governments to include the species in CITES Appendix II.

Sawfish - Populations of the seven species of sawfish have drastically declined. They are traded as live animals for public aquariums, and also for their fins and meat. Their distinctive saw-like snouts are sold as souvenirs and ceremonial weapons, while other body parts are used for traditional medicines. WWF calls upon governments to include these species in CITES Appendix I.

Tigers - In addition to continuing threats from poaching and habitat loss, tigers face the potential re-opening of trade in tiger parts from tiger 'farms' in China which would put the last remaining wild tigers at risk. WWF calls upon governments to take concerted action to stop all trade in tigers, particularly in China, and to improve global enforcement efforts.

Asian rhinos - Historically hunted for their horn, a prized ingredient in traditional Asian medicines, and devastated by the destruction of their lowland forest habitat, Asian rhino populations are now distressingly small. An upsurge in poaching over the last few years is taking its toll even on populations that were thought to be stable. WWF calls upon governments to step up enforcement efforts, and assist countries such as Nepal to stop the poaching.

Red and pink coral - Collected from reefs and atolls, they are the most valuable of all the precious corals. Red coral has been fished for over 5,000 years in the Mediterranean and used for jewellery and decoration. Over-harvesting and the destruction of entire colonies by bottom trawls and dredges have led to dramatic population declines. WWF calls on governments to include all species of red and pink coral in CITES Appendix II.

European eel - The European eel comes from coastal and freshwater ecosystems throughout Europe, including Mediterranean countries. Stocks have declined dramatically over the past several decades due to over-fishing and poaching. There is significant international demand for this species, both for live juvenile eels (shipped from Europe to Asia) for rearing in aquaculture and for the highly valued meat of adults. WWF calls on governments to include this species in CITES Appendix II.

Elephants - The ongoing poaching of elephants and illegal international trade in ivory is stimulated by rampant ivory sales in some countries, particularly in Africa and Asia. These markets persist despite previous CITES decisions and the valiant efforts of many countries. The time has come to put political will behind serious efforts to close down these illegal and unregulated ivory markets, the true driver of elephant poaching.

Great apes - Wild populations of great apes (gorillas, chimpanzees and orang-utans), continue to decline drastically and are threatened by the combined effects of illegal trade in live animals, poaching for meat, disease and habitat disturbance, fragmentation and destruction. WWF calls on governments and CITES to stop this trade by adequately enforcing existing laws and imposing stiff penalties to deter would-be traders.

Bigleaf mahogany - This highly valuable South and Central American rainforest tree species was listed in CITES Appendix II in 2002, in response to population declines and high levels of illegal logging and trade. After five years, these problems continue, and

concerted action is needed by the world's governments to ensure a legal, sustainable trade.

Editors notes:

- For information on all of WWF's positions go to www.panda.org/species/cites

- Species are listed on one of three Appendices according to the level of threat they face:

Appendix I bans international commercial trade in species.

Appendix II regulates international trade in species that may be threatened without regulation of the level of trade. Commercial trade is allowed on the condition that specimens are legally obtained and that the trade is not detrimental to the wild population.

Appendix III lists species that are protected in at least one country, where that country has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the species trade.

- This is the first time the CITES Conference has been held in the European Union, and will see the largest-ever such gathering devoted to the trade in endangered species.

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