

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

78th Meeting of the Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora

Brussels, 22/06/2017

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of two items under agenda point 7 (*Makhor* hunting trophies from Tajikistan and import of *Afromosia* from DRC).

2. Update on on-going activities

3. Summary of conclusions of the 76th Committee meeting (SoC COM 77)

The summary of conclusions of the 77th meeting of the Committee held on 7/2/2017 was tabled for information.

4. Outstanding Actions Points

This list of outstanding action points was tabled for information.

Member States should submit any relevant information as appropriate.

The Commission stressed that it will verify the compilation of information on laboratories in the EU and make information available to the Committee.

5. Short report by the Commission on the outcome of the 79th meeting of the Scientific Review Group (SRG 79 of 21/06/17)

The Chair of the SRG informed the Committee about the main opinions that had been formed at the 79th meeting of the Scientific Review Group (SRG 79) on 21/06/2017.

Inter alia, the SRG confirmed negative opinions for the import of

- *Lamna nasus* from Norway and Faroe Islands,
- *Brookesia minima* and *Brookesia nasus* from Madagascar,
- *Swietenia macrophylla* from Brazil for all permits issued under court order, and
- *Testudo horsfieldii* from Uzbekistan (as agreed by written procedure on 28/3/17)

Following expert mission to Tanzania in 2016, the SRG confirmed negative opinion on imports of the African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) from all ecosystems in Tanzania except those from four ecosystems (Serengeti, Tarangire- Manyara, Katavi-Rukwa and Selous-Mikumi), provided that the following conditions are to be met:

- Only trophy animals taken from the following 'ecosystems': Serengeti [15], Tarangire- Manyara [10], Katavi-Rukwa [13] and Selous-Mikumi [36]

- quotas allocated at ecosystem level do not exceed >0.3% of managed population, and
 - trophy animals are male (tusks >20kg or 160cm in length), and
 - quota reviewed annually and adjusted, as necessary, to take into account most recent population data.
- Furthermore, the SRG confirmed positive opinions for
- *Varanus salvator* from Malaysia for the quota of 3000 specimen (W)
 - *Tridacna squamosal* from Australia
 - A number of coral species from Malaysia (Sarawak) (for these species, negative opinion will be removed)
 - Three species of cacti from Peru (*Corryocactus brevistylus*, *Echinopsis pachanoi*, *Echinopsis peruviana*) and *Swietenia macrophylla* from Peru,
 - *Pericopsis elata* from DRC from 10 companies / 12 forestry concessions for which management inventories were submitted by the companies to the DRC forestry administration for an overall quota up to 56 201 m³ (round wood equivalent) for 2016 and for 41 108 m³ for 2017
 - *Varanus rudicollis* from Indonesia
 - *Fungia spp.* from Indonesia
- The SRG confirmed a number of other positive opinions and no opinions for the import of species from certain countries based on consultation with third countries, proposals presented by the Member States and reports presented by WCMC,
- The SRG further discussed captive breeding issues and preparation for the upcoming international meetings – Animals and Plants Committees (Geneva, 18-27/7/2017).
- The Chair of the SRG informed about the training session on captive breeding which took place on 20/7/2017.

6. Short report by the Commission on the outcome of the 34th meeting of the Enforcement Group (EG 34 of 12-13/06/2017)

The Commission informed about the presentations made by Austria and Germany on important ivory seizures. Further presentations were made by Spain and the Netherlands on eels trafficking and illegal trade of parrots in the Netherlands. The chair outlined recent operations by Europol on eels and the related press release by Europol published on 23/6/2017.

The chair highlighted the dedicated session with representatives from the aviation sector (IATA, Air France, IAG and Schiphol airport) which was organised in the context of engaging more with the private sector aiming to identify effective ways of communication and cooperation between the wildlife enforcement community and the aviation sector.

In follow up to the last Enforcement Group on 29/11/2016, thematic working groups on eels, birds, ivory, reptiles, forensics, EU-Eastern border countries and timber were held to discuss future cooperation in operational terms.

A lot focus was given on ivory trafficking in the EU and the export form the EU to China and other Asian countries.

The next EG will take place from 6-9/11/17 at the Europol premises where a specific session will be held on illegal internet trade.

7. International issues

7.1 Lessons learnt from CITES CoP 17

Based on a non-paper on lessons learnt from CoP 17 circulated by the Commission, the Committee discussed best practises regarding the preparation and organisation of future CoP meetings.

The Committee made a number of suggestions notably in the areas of communication and meeting coordination with third countries. The importance of reaching out in time to the private sector was also discussed.

The Commission invited the Committee to send concrete suggestions by 25/08/2017. The item will be further discussed at the next Committee meeting.

7.2 Preparations for the meetings of the CITES Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Standing Committee in 2017

The Chair informed about the Commission's representation at the upcoming Animals/Plants Committees in July.

The Chair mentioned that the significant trade review and the (new) mechanism to review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity would be treated as priority at the Animals Committee. In relation to the Plants Committee, the implementation of the *Dalbergia* listing will be a priority for the EU.

It was decided to create an electronic working group with scientific and management authorities from the MS to define the EU position on annotation 15 in relation to the listing of *Dalbergia*, in preparation of the discussions on this issue at upcoming CITES meetings.

The Commission and Member States would also prepare a document on *Dalbergia* listing for submission to the Standing Committee.

7.3 Correspondence with the CITES Secretariat and with third countries

The Chair informed the Committee about various exchanges between the Commission and third countries, as well as with the CITES Secretariat.

The Commission reminded the Member States to reply to a number of ongoing CITES Notifications recently sent by the CITES Secretariat as well as in view of the upcoming CITES Standing Committee.

7.4 Mexico-EU project on cooperation on legal and illegal wildlife trade

The chair informed the Committee on a Mexico-EU project on the cooperation on legal and illegal wildlife trade which is at the stage of identifying species and for which the Enforcement Group had been invited to provide their priorities to the Commission.

7.5 Report from the mission to Colombia on trade in Crocodilian species

Spanish and French representatives presented their mission to Colombia on trade in Crocodilian species. A full report will be following in the coming months.

7.6 *Makhor* hunting trophies from Tajikistan

One Committee member reported about concerns relating to *Makhor* hunting trophies from Tajikistan.

7.7 Import of *Afromosia* from DRC

One Committee member informed the Committee about possible attempts to circumvent CITES requirements for the import of *Afromosia* from DRC, through the pseudo processing of wood so that the specimens imported would fall outside the scope of the annotation and escape CITES controls.

8. Revision of the Implementing Regulations of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97

Based on a document circulated by the Commission on the implementation of the decisions adopted at the last CoP, the Committee discussed the need to amend the Implementing Regulations of Council Regulation 338/97.

The Chair concluded that after a first assessment there seemed to be no compelling grounds to support a revision of the Commission Regulation in the near future. The Committee was invited to provide further suggestions in view of eventual amendments by 20/07/2017. The Commission will look into the new specimen's codes adopted in the CITES context in relation to the codes listed in the EU Regulation.

The Committee also discussed the suggestion from a member of the Committee according to which all imports of appendix B hunting trophies into the EU should be subject to the issuance of an import permit.

The Chair recalled that changes to Commission Regulation 865/2006 were introduced in 2015 on this issue, based in particular on the findings contained in dedicated studies¹. He stressed that any further change would need to be based on adequate data, showing in particular their benefits in terms of species conservation.

Member States were invited to provide further feedback and the proponent to consider the comments received.

¹ See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/reports/SRG65_Part1.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/reports/SRG%2065_7%20Hunting%20trophies%20report_2.pdf

Other issues discussed included the possibility to change Commission Regulation 865/2006 so that worked specimens from *Dalbergia nigra* could be traded within the EU without a certificate given that risk for illegal trade would be a minimum.

The Chair referred to a 2012 report on Trade in *Dalbergia nigra* and the European Union² and it was suggested that this issue could also be included in the mission to Brazil to be undertaken at the end of August 2017 by SRG experts.

The implementation of the listing of the African grey parrot was also discussed and it was suggested that data should be further gathered on the extent of legal and illegal trade in this species in the EU, as well as to look at marking techniques.

9. Any other business

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² http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/Dalbergia%20Report_FIN%2020%2012%202012.pdf

ATTENDANCE LIST
of the
78th MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON CITES

Brussels, 22 June 2017

MEMBER STATE	ORGANISATION	PARTICIPANTS
BELGIUM	Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain and Environment	2
BULGARIA	Ministry of Environment and Water	1
CROATIA	Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	Ministry of the Environment	1
	Permanent Representation of CZ to the EU	0
	Agency for Nature Conservation	0
CYPRUS	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	0
DENMARK	Ministry of Environment	1
GERMANY	Bundesamt für Naturschutz	1
	Federal Ministry for the Environment	1
ESTONIA	Ministry of Environment	2
IRELAND	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	1
GREECE	Ministry of the Environment and Energy	1
SPAIN	Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad	2
FRANCE	Ministère de l'écologie, de l'Énergie et de la Mer	3
	Ministère des Affaires étrangères	0
ITALY	Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare	2
	Arma dei Carabinieri	1
LATVIA	Nature Conservation Agency	1

LITHUANIA	Environmental Protection Agency	1
LUXEMBOURG	Ministry for sustainable Development and Infrastructures - Environment department	1
HUNGARY	Ministry for Rural Development	2
MALTA	Environment & Resources Authority	2
NETHERLANDS	Ministry of Economic Affairs	2
AUSTRIA	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management	1
POLAND	Ministry of Environment	2
PORTUGAL	Instituto da Conservação da Natureza	2
ROMANIA	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	0
SLOVENIA	Ministry of Environment	1
SLOVAKIA	Ministry of Environment	1
FINLAND	Finnish Environment Institute	2
	Ministry of Environment	0
SWEDEN	Swedish Board of Agriculture	1
	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	0
UNITED KINGDOM	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	2