Delegates met in Plenary to hear the President of Chile and statements on cooperation with the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Committee I continued deliberations on elephant proposals and other amendments to the Appendices. Committee II discussed, inter alia, national laws for implementation, budget and financing, and species trade and conservation issues.

PLenary

Chilean President Ricardo Lagos highlighted his country’s biodiversity, and said environmental protection, particularly of migratory marine species, should be addressed at the multilateral level. On CITES cooperation with the IWC, IWC Chair Bo Fernholm highlighted his note on progress towards finalizing a revised management scheme (RMS) for commercial whaling (Inf.12). NORWAY and JAPAN did not endorse the note and questioned progress on the RMS. ICELAND said opposing commercial whaling under any circumstance breaches CITES principles. ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA stressed that cooperation with the IWC should be based on sustainable international trade, and with DOMINICA, called for the IWC Chair to apologize for expressing his personal views rather than the views of IWC member states. NEW ZEALAND, the UK, AUSTRALIA and the EU opposed the personal attacks on the IWC Chair, and, with GERMANY, MEXICO and the NETHERLANDS highlighted progress in the IWC framework. IWC Chair Fernholm said the debate reflects polarized views in the IWC, but noted progress achieved at the RMS intersessional Camillian Session meeting.

COMMITTEE I

PROPOSITIONS TO AMEND THE APPENDICES: Trade in Elephant Specimens: BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA, ZAMBIA and ZIMBABWE presented revisions to the amendment of their proposals regarding the African Elephant (Loxodonta africana) (Prop.12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.9 and 12.10 Amendment). They highlighted that requests for annual quotas had been removed, and that trade in registered raw ivory would be allowed only after: verification by the Secretariat of prospective importing countries; reporting by MIKE on established baseline information; and agreement by the Standing Committee that all conditions have been met. Revisions for non-ivory products included trade allowance in live animals for “in situ conservation programmes,” rather than “re-introduction,” and in leather goods only “for non-commercial purposes.” GERMANY indicated that it would review funding support for MIKE if the elephant proposals were accepted. BOTSWANA’s proposal was accepted through a secret ballot, with 59 in favor, 26 against and 21 abstentions.

Supporting Namibia’s proposal, CUBA underscored sustainable management of resources by developing countries. KENYA expressed concern regarding poaching by Angola. In a secret ballot, Namibia’s proposal passed with 65 in favor, 28 against and 22 abstentions. BOTSWANA, QATAR, CUBA, NAMIBIA, CAMEROON, TANZANIA and ZIMBABWE supported South Africa’s proposal. IFAW expressed concern regarding its implementation, and the FUND FOR ANIMALS predicted that detrimental effects would outweigh economic benefits. The proposal passed by secret ballot, with 65 in favor, 24 against and 25 abstentions.

SOUTH AFRICA, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA and CUBA supported Zimbabwe’s proposal. KENYA and the US raised concerns regarding its current ability to adequately enforce laws, manage wildlife, and control the domestic ivory trade. The proposal was rejected in a secret ballot, with 60 in favor, 45 against, and 10 abstentions.

Introducing its proposal, ZAMBIA indicated lack of financial support and underscored the need to raise revenue from ivory sales. MALAWI, CUBA, JAPAN, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA and others supported the proposal. The US stated that Zambia’s elephant population fails to meet downlisting criteria, and together with KENYA, noted its decline. KENYA and the EU highlighted deficiencies in monitoring of illegal poaching. The proposal was rejected by secret ballot, with 57 in favor, 54 against and 7 abstentions.

Stating that they did not wish to target Zimbabwe, INDIA and KENYA withdrew their joint proposal on uplisting the African Elephants to Appendix I (Prop.12.11).

Color Morphs: SWITZERLAND introduced amendments to its proposal to exclude certain captive-bred color morphs from CITES provisions (Prop.12.2 Amendment). Delegates rejected the proposal with 21 in favor and 31 against.

Yellow-Naped Parrot: COSTA RICA introduced its proposal to transfer Amazona auropalliata from Appendix II to I (Prop.12.16). Following assurance that proper identification material for juveniles would be provided, the Committee accepted the proposal.

Blue-Headed Macaw: The EU introduced its proposal to transfer Ara couloni from Appendix II to I (Prop.12.18), indicating that the species has a low reproductive rate and faces increased legal and illegal trade. Delegates approved the proposal by consensus.

Cape Parrot: SOUTH AFRICA withdrew its proposal to transfer its population of Poicephalus robustus from Appendix II to I (Prop.12.19).
Delegates adopted future budget strategies, with minor changes. Regarding the scale of contributions for the triennium 2003-2005 (Doc.9.1 (Rev.1)), ARGENTINA suggested, and delegates agreed, to take note of serious economic difficulties experienced by individual Parties and of the need for flexibility regarding the UN assessment scale.

**Externally Funded Projects:** The Secretariat introduced a new procedure for approval of externally funded projects (Doc.9.2), and the Committee approved the draft with two amendments suggested by SAINT LUCIA.

**VERIFICATION OF CITES PERMITS:** CHILE presented its proposal (Doc.29), requesting: a study on the false use of CITES permits and certificates; and proposals to minimize such acts. The Committee accepted the draft resolution as amended by Fiji and the EU.

**CITES IMPLEMENTATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:** The EU noted adoption of appropriate legislation to implement CITES at the EU level and the national levels. He proposed a draft decision (Doc.30), urging Parties to accept before COP-13 the Gaborone Amendment, which allows accession by regional economic integration organizations. Delegates agreed by consensus.

**BEARS:** The Secretariat introduced the document on trade in bear specimens (Doc.31), encouraged Parties’ actions to conserve bears populations and combat illegal trade of species, its parts and derivatives, and proposed deletion of numerous COP-11 decisions on the issue. GEORGIA suggested a new draft decision and a small drafting group was formed to discuss the proposal.

**LEOPARDS:** INDIA presented amendments to its proposal on leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard (Doc.32). The issue will be revisited.

**TIGERS:** The Secretariat introduced the document (Doc.33) and delegates discussed the annexed report of the CITES Tiger Mission Technical Team. THAILAND expressed willingness to follow the recommendations and report on improvement. The Committee accepted the report and will resume discussion on the document.

**RHINOCEROSES:** The Secretariat presented the document on the conservation of and trade in rhinoceros species, its parts and derivatives, and proposed deletion of numerous COP-11 decisions on the issue. GEORGIA suggested a new draft decision and a small drafting group was formed to discuss the proposal.

**MUSK DEER:** The Secretariat introduced, and the Committee approved, the report and its recommendations on musk deer (Doc.36).

**TIBETAN ANTELOPE:** The Secretariat introduced the document (Doc.37) and withdrew a recommendation urging the State of Jammu and Kashmir in India to halt the processing of Tibetan Antelope wool. CHINA introduced various textual amendments and discussion was postponed.

**IN THE CORRIDORS**

There was mixed reaction following the long, and often emotional discussion on elephants. Some delegates expressed disappointment with the outcome of several range States being allow one-off sales of their ivory stockpiles, saying it may send the wrong message that ivory trade has been re-opened. Others noted that the ivory sales are not automatic and that the measures included in the proposals had been one of the most precautionary approaches ever taken by CITES on ivory trade. Meanwhile, others expressed some relief that the elephant debate was behind them for the time being and could now get back to the numerous agenda items and other species proposals still on the table.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY**

Committees: Committee I will meet to further consider amendments to the Appendices, while Committee II will meet to consider trade control and marking issues, and exemptions and special trade provisions.