

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

Thirty-fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee
Fort Lauderdale (United States of America), 18 November 1994
17h15 - 18h00

SUMMARY REPORT

Members:

Asia:	M. I. Umezu (Japan) Chairman M. Komoda H. Tsubata H. Yoshii S. Takagi N. Okuda
Africa:	P. Thanadka (Thailand) H. Rumpf (Namibia) M. A. Kane (Senegal) A. M. Elobeid (Sudan)
Europe:	R. Smith (United Kingdom) S. Tveritinov (Russian Federation)
North America:	E. Ezcurra (Mexico)
Oceania:	M. N. Raga (Papua New Guinea)
South and Central America and the Caribbean:	V. Lichstchein (Argentina) N. Nathai-Gyan (Trinidad and Tobago) Alternate Vice-Chairman
Depositary Government:	P. Dollinger (Switzerland)
Previous Host Country:	M. P. Jones (USA) S. Lieberman
Next Host Country:	R. Martin (Zimbabwe)

Observers:

Bulgaria:	G. Spiridonov
Burkina Faso:	K. Koalo
Canada:	D. Brackett
France:	J.-J Lafitte
Pakistan:	A. Ullah J.
Saint Lucia:	H. D. Walters
South Africa:	P. Mulder
United Republic of Tanzania:	B. Moshi B. Andulege

UNEP: R. Olembo

Secretariat: I. Topkov
J. Berney

1. Opening of the meeting and remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming all participants and asking for their co-operation in proceeding through the agenda. He stated that Ambassador Akao, the Chairman of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, had agreed to be the Chairman of the Committee, beginning at its next meeting. He stated that the agenda of the current meeting would consist of the following five points:

- Time and venue of the next meeting of the Committee;
- Guidelines for accepting donations from the international non-governmental organization SWAN;
- Procedures concerning the establishment of the study on how to improve the effectiveness of the Convention;
- Extension of the contract of the Deputy Secretary General of the Secretariat; and
- Other business.

2. Time and venue of the next meeting of the Committee

The Committee agreed that its next meeting would take place in Geneva from 14 to 17 March 1995. The Secretary General reminded the Committee that, unless a regional representative was absent from the meeting, an alternate wishing to attend could not be funded by the Trust Fund. He also said that for 1995 the Trust Fund did not provide any money for the newly added members and for interpretation, but the Secretariat would do its best to ensure either simultaneous or consecutive interpretation.

3. Guidelines for accepting donations from the international non-governmental organization SWAN

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had met the representatives of SWAN International before the Standing Committee meeting. They informed him that SWAN International withdraws for the time being its request to be approved by the Standing Committee as a donor. Thus the issue was closed.

4. Procedures concerning the establishment of the study on how to improve the effectiveness of the Convention

The Chairman suggested that a committee be established to determine the direction the Committee should take concerning the establishment of the project, in accordance with document Com. 9.10. He suggested that Japan be the Chair of the committee with Argentina, the United Kingdom and Namibia as its other members, and Canada and New Zealand as non-voting advisors to this committee (hereinafter referred to in these minutes as "the selection committee").

Responding to a question from the regional representative of South and Central America and the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago), the Chairman stated that the work programme of the selection committee had not yet been decided. However, he envisaged asking the Secretariat to advertise the review project in December 1994 (perhaps in the magazine "The Economist"), asking that tenders be received by the end of January 1995, in accordance with document Com. 9.10. He stated that the selection committee would meet in February 1995 to determine a short list of 2-3 candidates for the project. During the meeting of the Standing Committee in March, candidates would be interviewed and a final decision made.

The Committee agreed to the suggestions made by the Chairman. The representative of the Previous Host Country suggested that, at the time of advertisement, the Parties should also be notified. This was agreed by the Committee.

The observer from Canada announced that Canada was prepared to contribute about 50,000 Canadian dollars for the project, which he believed could be made available in the next few weeks and would adequately cover the initial steps of advertising and the travel and other work of the selection committee. In response to a question from the regional representative of Europe (the United Kingdom) the Secretary General confirmed that no funds had been allocated to the project from the Trust Fund but that there would be an opportunity to review the status of the budget in March, since it was too early to produce the flow of contributions. The Chairman therefore reminded the Committee that Parties should submit any funds available for the project as soon as possible.

The Committee agreed that, considering the limited funds currently available, it would be best not to establish firm procedures by which the project should be implemented, and that a fuller discussion on this and other points should take place in March.

It was further agreed that the Secretariat should advise the Standing Committee of all decisions made at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties that would affect the work of the Committee, and should provide to the Committee the text of such decisions.

5. Extension of the contract of the Deputy Secretary General of the Secretariat

The Chairman reminded the Committee that there had been a decision of the Conference of the Parties to pursue with the Executive Director of UNEP the extension of the contract of the Deputy Secretary General until the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties (document Com. 9.22). The Chairman asked that the representative of UNEP consult with the Executive Director on this decision and report back to the Committee the results of that discussion. The representative of UNEP stated that, the text of the decision of the Conference was clear and very positive. He stated however that the Secretariat is administered by UNEP and that UNEP policy is set by the UN General Assembly. He said that, in the absence of having a meeting with the Executive Director, he would meet initially with the Director of the Office of Human Resources. Because the contract of the Deputy Secretary General ended in February, he would do everything possible to ensure that the decision-making process moved along rapidly. When the representative of UNEP asked for a contact point on the matter, the Chairman replied that UNEP should deal directly with the Chairman of the Committee. The Committee, agreed through the Chairman, to send a formal request to the Executive Director for the extension of the contract of the Deputy Secretary General, asking for a response as soon as possible. The observer from UNEP asked that no pressure should be applied on UNEP in this area, as this would be counter-productive.

6. Other business

The observer from UNEP raised concerns about the dates of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties conflicting with those of the meeting of the Governing Council. The Committee agreed that the tenth meeting should take place during the first half of 1997. The representative of the Next Host Country stated that his Government would propose the dates as soon as possible.

The representative of the Previous Host Country stated that, because the decision recorded in document Com. 9.32 directed the Standing Committee to establish a working group on timber species, perhaps this should be done immediately. The representative of the Depositary Government stated that it was the responsibility of the Chairman of the Plants Committee to produce initial proposals. The Committee agreed that the Chairman should discuss the matter with the Chairman of the Plants Committee and request that proposals

for terms of reference and membership be submitted for consideration at the Thirty-fifth meeting.

All business being concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 18h00.