

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



Fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement

COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTIES AND PROMOTION OF MULTILATERAL MEASURES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 14th meeting (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following decision directed to the Standing Committee:
 - 14.29 *The Standing Committee shall establish at its 57th meeting a working group which, operating by electronic means, should:*
 - a) *review and, if necessary, revise any consultancy report produced under Decision 14.30;*
 - b) *organize, with the help of the Secretariat, a meeting with representation from all CITES regions to discuss the above report; and*
 - c) *based on the report of the meeting mentioned above, consider the need to draft for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties any revised or new resolutions.*
3. Decision 14.30, also adopted at CoP14, states that the Secretariat shall, if external funds are made available for the purpose:
 - a) *hire a consultant to prepare a report on ways to assess whether:*
 - i) *the Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties are implemented by all Parties as consistently as possible and whether there is a need to clarify, revise or repeal them; and*
 - ii) *the scope for multilateral CITES processes that reduce the need by Parties for recourse to stricter domestic measures and reservations should be further developed; and*
 - b) *assist the Standing Committee in organizing the meeting mentioned in Decision 14.29.*
4. As of 15 April 2008, the Secretariat had not received any expression of interest from potential donors to provide the external funds envisaged under Decision 14.30.
5. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and an international environmental lawyer from New Zealand have communicated to the Secretariat their interest in undertaking the consultancy envisaged under Decision 14.30.

Recommendations

6. The Standing Committee is invited to establish a Working Group on Multilateral Measures and to designate its chairman.
7. In addition to fulfilling the terms of reference provided in Decision 14.29, the working group may be able to assist the Secretariat in identifying external funds for the consultancy and for organizing of a meeting to discuss the resulting report. The working group may also wish to seek from Parties any experience that has been gained so far under Decision 14.28, which provides that:

Parties with stricter domestic measures and reservations should review them, as and when appropriate, in order to determine whether they are effective in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention to ensure that trade in wild fauna and flora species is not detrimental to their survival.