

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



Fifty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Doha (Qatar), 12 March 2010

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Regional matters

STRUCTURE OF REGIONAL REPORTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Standing Committee.
2. In Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14), Annex 1, the Conference of the Parties resolves that the duties of the regional representatives in the Standing Committee are as follows:
 - a) *regional representatives should maintain a fluid and permanent communication with the Parties of their region and the Secretariat;*
 - b) *before the meetings of the Standing Committee, the representatives should communicate to the Parties of their region the items on the agenda, to request their opinions, preferably on matters specifically relevant to the countries or the region. They should also inform them of the results of the meeting. At least two regional meetings should take place between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, one of which should be specifically to deal with proposals to be submitted to the Conference at its next meeting. The regional representatives should convene these meetings; and*
 - c) *the regional representatives should report in detail on their activities, initiatives and achievements at the regional sessions that are taking place during meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The Parties may make comments on these reports, which should be included in the proceedings.*
3. The Standing Committee itself has added to these duties by requesting that the regional representatives present, at each regular meeting, a report of the CITES-related activities in the region. This has been a regular agenda item since the 37th meeting of the Committee, held in Rome in December 1996.
4. At its 58th meeting (Geneva, July 2009), the Committee reaffirmed its wish to retain the subject 'Reports of regional representatives' on the agenda of future meetings, and requested the Secretariat to develop a template to be used for the presentation of such reports.
5. The Secretariat has considered this issue, keeping in mind that CITES Management Authorities have already a responsibility to produce an annual report on trade that has been authorized, a biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures, and, in many cases, one or more special reports, as called for by the Conference of the Parties or by the Standing Committee. There is, quite understandably, a move within CITES to reduce the burden of reporting for Parties.
6. Therefore, in responding to the request of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat has prepared a short list of topics that could or should be covered in each regional report to the Committee, and has excluded subjects that are already covered in other reports or in the Secretariat's own documents prepared for discussion of specific subjects.
7. The Secretariat offers the list in the Annex for consideration by the Standing Committee.

**Draft template of reports of regional representatives
to the Standing Committee**

Introduction

A statement about the number of Parties in the region; new Parties; representatives in the Standing Committee.

Overview of major developments

The regional representatives' comments on the most important policy-related developments – if any – of which the Standing Committee should be aware in Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and law-enforcement authorities of the region.

Activities of the regional representatives

Since regional representatives are supposed to maintain a permanent communication with the Parties of the region, and to discuss matters to be considered by the Standing Committee, they should summarize their activities in this regard. Participation of the representatives in CITES meetings and other relevant international meetings can be included.

Regional cooperation

Cooperative activities within the region should be reported, such as regional meetings, efforts to improve control of cross-border trade, and efforts to deal with excessive or illegal trade in specific species.

Meetings and workshops

A list can be provided of the main CITES-related meetings and workshops held within the region, whether national or international in nature.

Problems faced by the regional representatives

If regional representatives face particular problems in fulfilling their duties, it would be useful to describe these and also to propose solutions.