

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

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Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Ottawa (Canada), 12 to 24 July 1987

PERMANENT CITES COMMITTEES

Discussion

CITES, after ten years, has matured and there is a need to review our past decisions and, where necessary, update and reconfirm certain Resolutions. Of particular concern is the Committee structure presently in place. We have Committees with mandates and Committees, Sub-committees and Working Groups without mandates that have developed to meet specific needs. Mandates, membership, and reporting lines, where they exist, are sometimes unclear as are the Rules of Procedure under which groups operate.

There is now an urgent need to develop structures and procedures to ensure that meetings of the Conference of the Parties operate in an efficient and effective manner. There is an even greater need for CITES to operate effectively and efficiently between these meetings when the Secretariat and various Committees, Sub-committees and Working Groups must function smoothly. As both Party and non-Party representatives participate in most Committees and Working Groups, it is essential that all concerned clearly understand the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure applicable to them.

The Governments of Canada, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe have reviewed the existing Committee structure and submit the attached proposed draft resolution "Establishment of Committees" for consideration by the Parties.

The draft resolution proposes criteria for the re-establishment of existing Committees and the creation of new committees and sub-committees.

It is not intended that these committees operate during meetings of the Conference of the Parties, when "sessional committees" will be formed to further the work of the Conference. The proposal further suggests renaming existing Committees to more accurately reflect the roles of the Committees.

There may be strong concerns expressed by Committee members of some Committees that are now proposed as Sub-committees of other Committees. We believe the role and mandate of Committees and Sub-committees and their reporting structures should be of paramount importance for the long-term good of CITES. While the viewpoints and opinions of present members of Committees and Sub-committees are of importance and must be considered, it must be remembered that Committee members change. Hence, the need for a cold, hard look at future needs and efficiency in the long-term which may mean overruling objections to changes in status by present Committee members.

The following is a brief discussion on the proposal and on each of the Annexes.

The draft resolution seeks to establish the ground rules and procedures under which committees and working groups shall be established as Annexes to the draft resolution. It provides for four permanent Committees with the Finance and Administration Committee being the senior Committee, the acceptance of rules of procedure and the payment of travel expenses for core members of specific Committees.

In order for Committees to operate effectively, to fulfil their respective mandates and to allow for regional representation, it is essential that provision be made for the payment of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses for designated members. These include regional representatives, the Depositary Government representative (Finance and Administration Committee), the past host and the next host government representatives (Finance and Administration Committee) and the Chairpersons of other Committees (Management Committee, Scientific Committee and Identification and Education Committee) attending Finance and Administration Committee meetings, and the Chairpersons of Committees and Sub-committees when such persons are required to travel on behalf of the Conference of the Parties or on behalf of the Secretariat.

While payment of expenses of core members of the Finance and Administration Committee, the Management Committee and the Scientific Committee will result in increased Secretariat's expenditures, the amount will be insignificant compared to the benefits gained by having full regional representation on essential Committees. Quite obviously, meetings should not be called unless there is a clearly defined need.

Annex 1 is the re-establishment of the present Standing Committee as the Finance and Administration Committee. This Committee is designated as the senior Committee and will act on behalf of the Parties between regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties. While membership remains the same, the mandate has been expanded to provide advice and policy direction to the UNEP Executive Director, and guidance and advice to the Secretariat. It will oversee the execution of the Secretariat's budget as derived from the Trust Fund and all aspects of fundraising, and expenditure of such funds, by the Secretariat. Between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, this Committee will receive reports from other Committees. The proposed name change is to more accurately reflect the role of the Committee.

Annex 2 re-establishes the present Technical Committee as the Management Committee. The proposed name change reflects the Convention requirement that all Parties have Management and Scientific Authorities to perform certain functions within their respective jurisdictions. The new name of Management Committee reflects the Party requirement at the international level. The mandate of the Committee remains basically unchanged. Provision is, however, made for regional representation to ensure that all regions are represented at Committee meetings.

Annex 3 establishes the Scientific Committee of the Parties. This is a new Committee that will continue the work of the 10-Year Review Committee (Resolutions Conf. 3.20 and Conf. 4.26), and assist the Secretariat in reviewing proposals to amend the appendices, criteria for taking specimens from the wild, biological aspects of ranching and captive breeding operations, and generally assist the Secretariat and the Parties in solving scientific problems. This Committee should have regional representation in the same way as does the Finance and Administration Committee and the Management Committee. As for the Management Committee, the name of the Scientific Committee reflects Convention national requirements at the international level.

Annex 4 re-establishes the Identification Manual Committee as the Identification and Education Committee. The Committee will provide guidance and co-ordination in the preparation of identification manuals for animal and plant species, assist Parties in the development of national and regional manuals, assist the Secretariat in reviewing proposals to amend the appendices with regard to identification problems and act as referee when disputes arise between Parties and the Nomenclature Sub-committee concerning terminology. The proposal also provides for the publication of appropriate identification manuals.

Annex 5 is an expansion of Resolution Conf. 4.2 and makes provisions for the payment of expenses for regional representatives, the Depositary Government representative and the two host government representatives of the Finance and Administration Committee, the Regional co-ordinators and the Depositary Government representative of the Management Committee and the Scientific Committee, the Chairperson of the Identification and Education Committee and the Chairpersons of all Sub-committees for a specified number of meetings per calendar year.

Annex 6 re-establishes the Nomenclature Committee as a Sub-committee of the Identification and Education Committee. The mandate of the Sub-committee includes developing and maintaining nomenclatorial standard references for animals and plants, on behalf of the Secretariat reviewing the existing appendices with regard to the correct use of nomenclature and proposals to amend the appendices to ensure the correct names are used and ensuring that changes in nomenclature proposed by a Party will not alter the scope of protection of the taxon concerned. This Annex makes provisions for funding from outside sources to cover costs of publications prepared by the Sub-committee.

While there may be discussion on whether or not the nomenclature group should be a full committee or a sub-committee, we support the concept that nomenclature is an essential part of identification and as such the group should be a Sub-committee of the Identification and Education Committee.

Annex 7 re-establishes the Plant Working Group as a Sub-committee of the Scientific Committee. The Sub-committee will provide advice and guidance to the Scientific Committee on all scientific aspects for plant species included in or proposed for the appendices. It will assist the Nomenclature Sub-committee in the development and maintenance of a standardized plant name list and assist the Identification and Education Committee in the preparation of an identification manual for plant species. This Annex makes provision for funding from outside sources for production costs of publication prepared by the Sub-committee.

Annex 8 re-establishes the Transportation Working Group as the Transportation Sub-committee of the Management Committee. The mandate includes the reviewing of all aspects of the international transportation of live animals and plants, co-ordinating CITES transportation requirements with the Live Animals Regulations of the Live Animals Board of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and drafting guidelines for the terrestrial (road and rail), marine and air transportation of live animals and plants. Provision is made for funding from outside sources to cover the costs of publications prepared by the Sub-committee.

Annex 9 re-establishes the Significant Trade in Appendix II Species Working Group as a Sub-committee of the Scientific Committee. The mandate of the Sub-committee is to establish a list of Appendix II taxa considered as possibly being impacted by trade and to review and assess all available

biological and trade information, including comments from range states, to formulate recommendations for remedial measures for those species for which trade is having, or not having, a detrimental effect on the population, to establish priorities for the collection of information for those species for which there is insufficient information to base a judgement and to make available advice on management techniques and procedures for Parties requesting such assistance.

In conclusion, we the Governments of Canada, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe respectfully request the Parties to examine our proposal and, if found appropriate, to approve the establishment of Committees as proposed. We believe that a solid Committee structure is vital to the operation and success of CITES and believe our proposal meets those needs.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Establishment of Committees

NOTING that at all previous regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties various Committees have been established;

NOTING that while precise Terms of Reference have been established for some Committees, other Committees have operated and are operating on vague or very generalized Terms of Reference;

NOTING that while "core" membership of regional representatives has been established for some Committees, memberships of other Committees have not been given consideration;

NOTING that while reimbursement of travel expenses for members of the Standing Committee has been approved by the Parties (Resolution Conf. 4.2), similar arrangements have not been made for the attendance of core members of other Committees to attend Committee meetings;

NOTING that Rules of Procedure have not been established for Committees, and APPRECIATING that such Rules of Procedure are an essential basic requirement for formal meetings;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

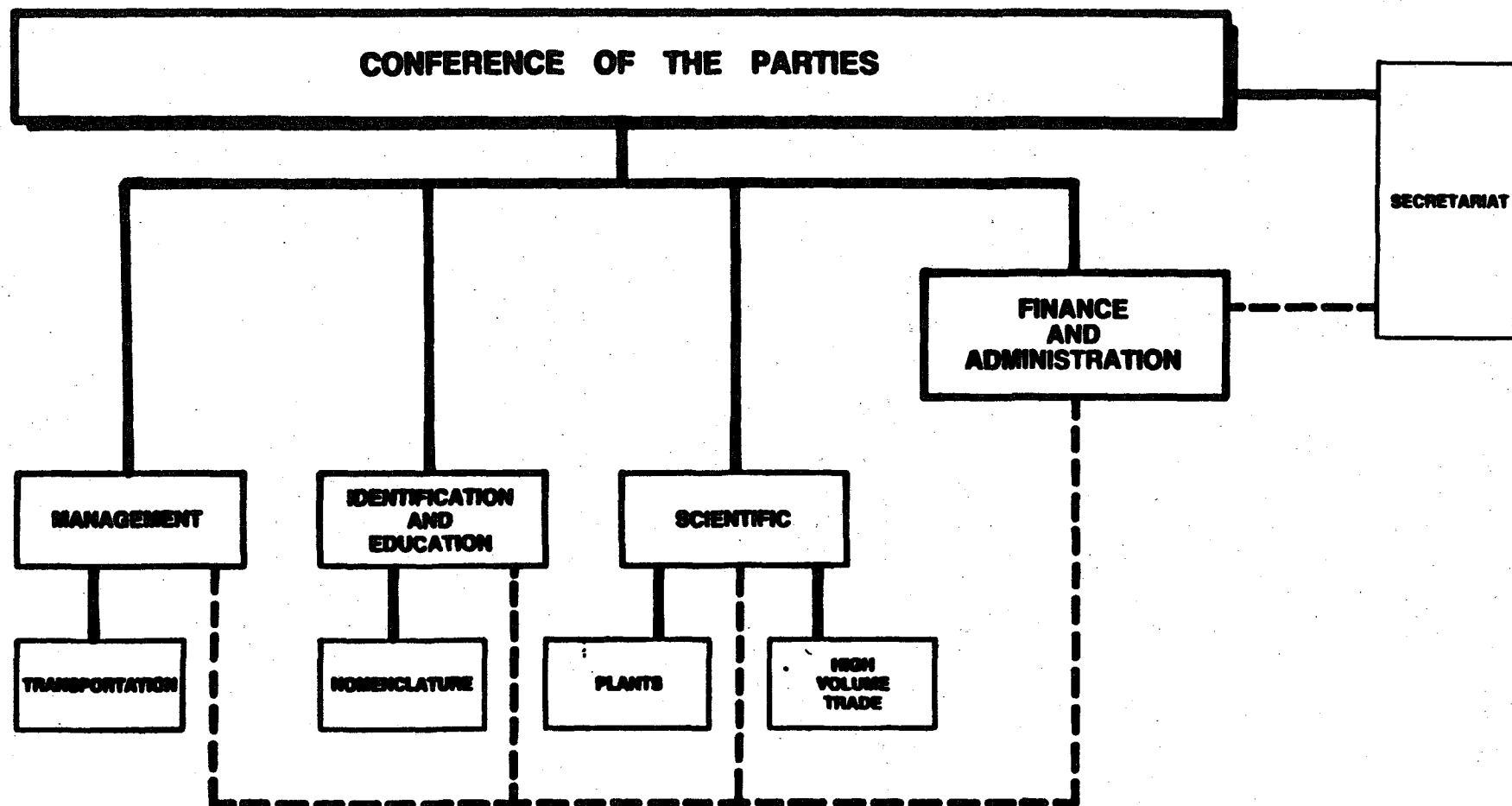
RECOMMENDS to formalize a system for the appointment of committees of the Conference of the Parties and to establish procedures to be followed when committees are created;

DECIDES

- a) that there shall be four permanent Committees of the Conference of the Parties; being, a Finance and Administration Committee, a Management Committee, a Scientific Committee and an Identification and Education Committee that will report to the Conference of the Parties at its meetings; and
- b) that the Finance and Administration Committee shall be the senior Committee;

AGREES

- a) that any other committees appointed by the Conference of the Parties shall be sub-committees of one of the permanent Committees, and that such sub-committees shall report to or through the "parent" Committees;
- b) that the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties shall apply to Committee meetings;
- c) that regional representatives be appointed as the core members for the Finance and Administration Committee, the Management Committee and the Scientific Committee; and



————— REPORTING AT MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

- - - - - REPORTING BETWEEN MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

ACKNOWLEDGING with gratitude and satisfaction the work accomplished by the Standing Committee established by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting (San José, 1979) and revised by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting (New Delhi, 1981);

CONSIDERING the experience of the present Standing Committee in matters of advice to the Secretariat and representation of the Parties between meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

CONSIDERING that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme now holds direct responsibility for the operation of the Secretariat and that the provision of a Secretariat is no longer contracted for by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;

APPRECIATING the very specialized and complicated requirements of the Convention and the need for the Conference of the Parties to advise the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme of the concerns and needs of the Conference of the Parties;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES to re-establish the Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties as originally set out in Resolution Conf. 2.2 and revised in Resolution Conf. 3.1 as the Finance and Administration Committee, and establish Terms of Reference as follows:

within the policy agreed to by the Conference of the Parties, the Finance and Administration Committee shall:

- a) provide advice and policy direction to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning Convention matters and the operation of the Convention Secretariat;
- b) provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of the Convention, on the preparation of agendas and other requirements of meetings, and on any other matters brought to it by the Secretariat in exercise of the Secretariat's function;
- c) oversee, on behalf of the Parties, the execution of the Secretariat's budget as derived from the Trust Fund and also all aspects of fundraising undertaken by the Secretariat in order to carry out specific functions authorized by the Conference of the Parties, and to oversee expenditures of such fundraising activities;
- d) provide co-ordination and advice as required to other Committees and provide direction and co-ordination of any Sub-committees appointed under the Finance and Administration Committee;
- e) carry out, between one meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the next, such interim activities on behalf of the Conference as may be necessary;

- f) draft resolutions on any of the functions entrusted to it for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;
- g) report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference;
- h) act as the Bureau at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure; and
- i) perform any other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties;

#### DETERMINES

- a) the following principles for the composition of the Finance and Administration Committee:
  - i) the Finance and Administration Committee shall consist of:
    - A) to the extent possible, a Party nominated from each of the six major geographic areas consisting of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South and Central America and the Caribbean, and Oceania;
    - B) the Depositary Government; and
    - C) the past host Party and the next host Party;
  - ii) the membership of the Committee shall be reviewed at every regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. The terms of office of the members nominated on a geographical basis shall expire at the close of the second regular meeting following that at which they were nominated; and
- b) the following principles for voting procedures to be followed by the Finance and Administration Committee:
  - i) all Committee members may participate in Committee business but only the regional representative members shall have the right to vote except in the case of a tie vote, when the Depositary Government representative shall have the right to vote to break the tie;
  - ii) the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and any other necessary executive officers shall be elected by and from the regional representatives;
  - iii) if an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties is held between two regular meetings, the host Party of that meeting shall participate in the work of the Committee on matters related to the organization of the meeting;
  - iv) meetings of the Committee shall not be open to observers except by written invitation by the Chairperson; and
  - v) the Secretariat shall inform all Parties of the time and venue of Finance and Administration Committee meetings; and

#### DECIDES that the Resolutions listed hereunder be repealed:

- a) Resolution Conf. 2.2 (San José, 1979) - Establishment of the Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties;



- b) Resolution Conf. 3.1 (New Delhi, 1981) - The Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) Resolution Conf. 4.1 (Gaborone, 1983) - The Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties.

# ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

ACKNOWLEDGING with gratitude and satisfaction the work accomplished by the Technical Committee established by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting (San José, 1979) and revised by the Conference of the Parties, at its third and fourth meetings (New Delhi, 1981 and Gaborone, 1983);

RECALLING the functions that have been assigned to the Technical Committee by Resolutions Conf. 3.17, Conf. 4.7, Conf. 4.14, Conf. 4.20, Conf. 5.16, Conf. 5.18 and Conf. 5.21 by the Conference of the Parties;

MINDFUL that there is a continuing need for a Committee to address problems of management, implementation and enforcement of the Convention;

RECOGNIZING that a considerable amount of preparatory work is necessary between meetings of the Conference of the Parties for efficient and successful meetings of the Conference;

## THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES to re-establish the Technical Expert Committee of the Conference of the Parties as originally set out in Resolution Conf. 3.5 and renamed in Resolution Conf. 4.4 as the Technical Committee, as the Management Committee, and establish Terms of Reference as follows:

within the policy agreed to by the Conference of the Parties, the Management Committee shall:

- a) review the implementation of the Convention by the Parties and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for harmonization of documents and procedures;
- b) identify, by means of the continual review of the annual reports of the Parties and other techniques, problems with enforcement of the Convention and provide guidance to the Secretariat and Parties on measures that may be undertaken to remedy such problems;
- c) draft resolutions on any of the functions entrusted to it for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;
- d) provide guidance to and receive reports from Sub-committees which report to the Committee as established by the Conference of the Parties, or Sub-committees appointed by the Committee; and
- e) hold:
  - i) regional committee meetings, convened by the Regional Co-ordinator, of Parties within the region;
  - ii) working group meetings, convened by the Chairperson of a working group, in agreement with the Chairperson of the Management Committee; and
  - iii) general meetings in which representatives from all Parties may participate;

- f) report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out, or supervised, between meetings of the Conference; and
- g) perform any other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Finance and Administration Committee, the Scientific Committee, the Identification and Education Committee or the Secretariat;

#### DETERMINES

- a) the following principles for the composition of the Management Committee:
  - i) the Management Committee shall consist of:
    - A) to the extent possible, a Party nominated from each of the six geographic areas consisting of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South and Central America and the Caribbean, and Oceania to be known as Management Committee Regional Co-ordinators;
    - B) a representative of the Depositary Government; and
    - C) the Parties to the Convention;
  - ii) a Chairperson and a Vice-chairperson and any other officers as appropriate shall be appointed by the Regional Co-ordinators and representative of the Depositary Government; and
  - iii) the membership of Regional Co-ordinators shall be reviewed at every regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. The term of office of the Co-ordinators nominated on a geographical basis shall expire at the close of the second regular meeting following that at which they were appointed; and
- b) the following principles for voting procedures to be followed by the Management Committee:
  - all Committee members may participate in Committee business and shall have the right to vote with one vote per Party present; and

DECIDES that the Resolutions listed hereunder be repealed:

- a) Resolution Conf. 2.5 (San José, 1979) - Harmonization of Permit Forms and Procedures;
- b) Resolution Conf. 3.5 (New Delhi, 1981) - Technical Expert Committee;
- c) Resolution Conf. 3.10 (New Delhi, 1981) - Review and Harmonization of Annual Reports - Recommendation c);
- d) Resolution Conf. 3.16 (New Delhi, 1981) - Implementation of Guidelines on Transport of Live Specimens - Recommendation c);
- e) Resolution Conf. 4.4 (Gaborone, 1983) - Amendment to the name of the Technical Expert Committee; and
- f) Resolution Conf. 4.5 (Gaborone, 1983) - Appointment of Technical Committee Regional Co-ordinators.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

RECOGNIZING that states, attending the 1973 Conference to prepare and adopt an international convention to regulate the international trade in certain species of wild animals and plants, included species in Appendices I and II on the basis of scientific knowledge at the time;

RECALLING that criteria for the addition to and deletion from Appendices I and II were developed and approved by the Parties attending the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Berne, 1976, Resolutions Conf. 1.1 and Conf. 1.2);

RECALLING that the criteria were clarified by the Parties at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (San José, 1979, Resolutions Conf. 2.19 and Conf 2.23);

NOTING that the number of species added to the appendices between 1973 and 1985 has greatly increased the number of regulated species;

RECOGNIZING that an effective method of evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention on international trade in species is a periodic trade and biological review of the status of a listed species;

RECALLING that the Conference of the Parties recommended at its third meeting (New Delhi, 1981) that a Ten-Year Review of the Appendices be conducted (Resolution Conf. 3.20);

NOTING that the first Ten-Year Review of the Appendices remains incomplete;

NOTING Article XV, paragraph 2(b) and (c), of the Convention requiring the Secretariat to make recommendations to the Parties for amendments proposed for Appendices I and II;

RECOGNIZING problems encountered by the Secretariat in obtaining acceptable data on which to base the recommendations;

CONSIDERING that all Parties have designated Scientific Authorities in accordance with Article IX of the Convention;

DESIRING and ACKNOWLEDGING the essential need to maintain scientific integrity in the procedure for considering amendments to the appendices;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES to establish a Scientific Committee and establish Terms of Reference as follows:

within the policy agreed to by the Conference of the Parties, the Scientific Committee shall:

- a) establish a schedule for reviewing the biological and trade status of species included in the appendices to the Convention;

- b) identify, by means of the continual review of annual reports of the Parties and other techniques, problems or potential problems concerning the biological status of species being traded;
- c) inform the Parties of the need to review specific species and to take an active part in such reviews;
- d) assist the Parties, at the regional level, in the review of designated species;
- e) on behalf of the Secretariat, review all proposals put forward by the Parties for amendments to the appendices, and make recommendations to the Secretariat on the compliance of such proposals with the "Berne Criteria", and such criteria as may from time to time be established;
- f) upon request from a Party, provide scientific advice on the management and trade requirements of species included in the appendices;
- g) provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on scientific matters concerning species regulated by the Convention by:
  - i) reviewing the criteria for the taking of specimens from the wild; and
  - ii) reviewing the biological aspects of ranching operations and captive breeding operations;
- h) provide guidance to and receive reports from Sub-committees which report to the Committee as established by the Conference of the Parties or Sub-committees appointed by the Committee;
- i) draft resolutions on scientific matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;
- j) report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out, or supervised, between meetings of the Conference; and
- k) perform any other scientific functions that may be entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Finance and Administration Committee, the Management Committee, the Identification and Education Committee or the Secretariat;

#### DETERMINES

- a) the following principles for the composition of the Scientific Committee:
  - i) the Scientific Committee shall consist of:
    - A) to the extent possible, a Party nominated from each of the six geographic areas consisting of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South and Central America and the Caribbean, and Oceania to be known as Scientific Committee Regional Co-ordinators;
    - B) a representative of the Depositary Government; and
    - C) the Parties to the Convention;

ii) a Chairperson and a Vice-chairperson and any other officers as appropriate shall be appointed by the Regional Co-ordinators and representative of the Depositary Government; and

iii) the membership of Regional Co-ordinators shall be reviewed at every regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. The term of office of the Co-ordinators nominated on a geographical basis shall expire at the close of the second regular meeting following that at which they were appointed; and

b) the following principles for voting procedures to be followed by the Scientific Committee:

all Committee members may participate in Committee business and shall have the right to vote with one vote per Party present; and

DECIDES that the Resolutions listed hereunder be repealed:

a) Resolution Conf. 3.20 (New Delhi, 1981) - Ten-Year Review of the Appendices; and

b) Resolution Conf. 4.26 (Gaborone, 1985) - Ten-Year Review of the Appendices.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IDENTIFICATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

CONSIDERING that the identification of specimens of species listed in the appendices to the Convention is of critical importance in the effective enforcement of the Convention;

APPRECIATING that a standard work of reference is urgently needed for use by the Parties;

AWARE of the potential need to develop educational and publicity material concerning the Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES

- a) to re-establish the Identification Manual Committee of the Conference of the Parties as originally set out in Resolution Conf. 2.4 as the Identification and Education Committee, and establish Terms of Reference as follows:

within the policy agreed to by the Conference of the Parties, the Identification and Education Committee shall:

- i) provide guidance and co-ordination in the preparation of an Identification Manual for animal species;
- ii) in co-operation with the Plant Sub-committee of the Scientific Committee, provide guidance and co-ordination in the preparation of an Identification Manual for plant species;
- iii) provide assistance to Parties in the development of national or regional identification manuals;
- iv) upon request from a Party, provide advice on the identification of specimens;
- v) assist in the preparation of seminars for enforcement officers concerning the identification of species and specimens;
- vi) on behalf of the Secretariat, review all proposals to amend the appendices put forward by Parties with regard to identification problems;
- vii) request from Parties having successfully submitted proposals to include new species in the appendices, the preparation of appropriate data for inclusion in the Identification Manuals within one year after acceptance of such additions; and
- viii) when disputes arise between Parties or between Parties and the Nomenclature Sub-committee, provide a decision on the terminology to be used by the Parties; and

b) that, to the extent possible, the membership of the Identification and Education Committee shall be on a voluntary basis subject to endorsement by one or more Parties;

a Chairperson and Vice-chairperson shall be appointed by the Committee from Committee membership and shall be subject to re-appointment at every second regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

DIRECTS the Secretariat to publish, within its financial capacity, the Identification Manuals;

APPEALS to Parties and organizations to provide funds to ensure the production of the Manuals;

REQUESTS the Parties to promote the use of the Identification Manuals; and

DECIDES that the Resolutions listed hereunder be repealed:

- a) Resolution Conf. 2.4 (San José, 1979) - Project Proposal to the United Nations Environment Programme for the Development of an Identification Manual;
- b) Resolution Conf. 3.10 (New Delhi, 1981) - Review and Harmonization of Annual Reports - Recommendation d);
- c) Resolution Conf. 3.18 (New Delhi, 1981) - Identification Manual;
- d) Resolution Conf. 4.19 (Gaborone, 1983) - Identification Manual; and
- e) Resolution Conf. 5.17 (Buenos Aires, 1985) - Identification Manual.



PAYMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR COMMITTEE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND  
CO-ORDINATORS AND COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

RECOGNIZING the importance of the roles undertaken by the Finance and Administration Committee, the Management Committee and the Scientific Committee on behalf of the Conference of the Parties between meetings;

RECOGNIZING the value of the services provided by Sub-committees on behalf of the Conference of the Parties between meetings;

ACKNOWLEDGING the services and assistance provided by members of Committees and Sub-committees to the Secretariat and NOTING with sincere appreciation the funding provided by the Secretariat for travel expenses for the Standing Committee (1983-1987);

ACKNOWLEDGING with appreciation the considerable expenses incurred by other Committee and Sub-committee members and absorbed by the Parties appointed to the Committees and Sub-committees;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

DIRECTS the Secretariat to make provisions in the 1988-1989 and future budgets for the payments, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of:

- a) Regional Representatives, the Depositary Government representative, and the past host and next host Party representatives to the Finance and Administration Committee;
- b) Regional Co-ordinators and Depositary Government representative to the Management Committee and the Scientific Committee; and
- c) the Chairperson of the Identification and Education Committee and the Chairpersons of all Sub-committees established by the Conference of the Parties, or appointed by Committees.

Within the policy agreed by the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat:

- a) shall make provisions, effective 1 January 1988, for the payment of travel expenses for:
  - i) the six Regional Representatives, the Depositary Government representative and the past host and the next host Party representatives to the Finance and Administration Committee to attend a maximum of two Finance and Administration Committee meetings per calendar year;
  - ii) the six Regional Co-ordinators and the Depositary Government representative to the Management Committee to attend a maximum of one Management Committee meeting per calendar year;
  - iii) the six Regional Co-ordinators and the Depositary Government representative to the Scientific Committee to attend a maximum of two Scientific Committee meeting per calendar year;

- iv) the Chairperson of the Identification and Education Committee to attend a maximum of two Identification and Education Committee meetings per calendar year; and
  - v) the Chairpersons of all Sub-committees to attend a maximum of one Sub-committee meeting and a maximum of one "parent" Committee meeting per calendar year;
- b) shall refund travel expenses, if a refund is requested by the Party representative, for:
- i) not more than one Representative from each region, the Depositary Government representative and the two host Party representatives per Finance and Administration Committee meeting;
  - ii) not more than one Regional Co-ordinator from each region, the Depositary Government representative and the Chairperson of each Sub-committee of the Management Committee per Management Committee meeting;
  - iii) not more than one Regional Co-ordinator from each region, the Depositary Government representative and the Chairperson of each Sub-committee of the Scientific Committee per Scientific Committee meeting;
  - iv) the Chairperson of the Identification and Education Committee per Identification and Education Committee meeting; and
  - v) the Chairperson of each Sub-committee per Sub-committee meeting;
- c) may refund to the Chairperson of the Finance and Administration Committee all reasonable and justifiable travel expenses for travel undertaken on behalf of the Conference of the Parties or on behalf of the Secretariat;
- d) shall receive claims for refunds, supported by receipts, which must be submitted to the Secretariat within thirty calendar days from the completion of the travel;
- e) may pay refunds in U.S. dollars or Swiss francs; and
- f) shall ensure that, to the extent possible, re-imbursement for travel expenses be made from external funding; and

DECIDES that the Resolutions listed hereunder be repealed:

- a) Resolution Conf. 4.2 (Gaborone, 1983) - Payment of Travel Expenses for Standing Committee members; and
- b) Resolution Conf. 5.1 (Buenos Aires, 1985) - Financing and Budgeting of the Secretariat and of Meetings of the Conference of the Parties - Amendment to Resolution Conf. 4.2.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NOMENCLATURE SUB-COMMITTEE  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

RECOGNIZING that biological nomenclature of species may differ from country to country;

NOTING that such biological nomenclature is not static;

RECOGNIZING that the taxonomy used in the appendices to the Convention will be most useful to the Parties if standardized by a nomenclatorial reference;

RECALLING that Recommendation Conf. S.S. 1.7 adopted by the special working session of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 1977) recognized the need for the standardization of appendices' taxonomy;

ACKNOWLEDGING that on the recommendations of the previous Nomenclature Committee, the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting (Gaborone, 1983), resolved that Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference be adopted as the standard nomenclatorial reference for mammals, and urged the Parties, as an interim aid, to follow the taxonomy of A Reference List of the Birds of the World for avian species;

ACKNOWLEDGING further that the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting (Buenos Aires, 1985) recommended that Amphibian Species of the World be adopted as the standard reference to amphibian nomenclature;

RECALLING that the Conference of the Parties has also adopted the Dictionary of Flowering Plants and Ferns as the standard reference to generic nomenclature for plants;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES

- a) to establish the Nomenclature Sub-committee of the Conference of the Parties, and establish Terms of Reference as follows:
  - i) to develop and maintain nomenclatorial standard references for animals and plants, where necessary to the level of subspecies;
  - ii) to review the existing appendices with regard to the correct use of zoological and botanical nomenclature;
  - iii) on behalf of the Secretariat, to review proposals to amend the appendices to ensure that correct names for the species and other taxa in question are used;
  - iv) to ensure that changes in nomenclature recommended by a Party do not alter the scope of protection of the taxon concerned; and
  - v) to make recommendations on nomenclature to the Conference of the Parties, to the Scientific Committee, to the Identification and Education Committee and to the Secretariat;

- b) that, to the extent possible, the membership of the Sub-committee be on a voluntary basis subject to the voluntary Chairperson being endorsed by the Chairpersons of the Finance and Administration Committee and the Identification and Education Committee;
- c) that the Nomenclature Sub-committee be a Sub-committee of the Identification and Education Committee; and
- d) that the Chairperson of the Nomenclature Sub-Committee report to the Chairperson of the Identification and Education Committee and through that Committee to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference;

DIRECTS the Secretariat, to the extent possible, to provide funding from outside sources to cover the production costs of publications prepared by the Sub-committee; and

URGES the Nomenclature Sub-committee to draft resolutions for consideration by the Identification and Education Committee and by the Conference of the Parties concerning implementation of proposed nomenclatorial changes to species listed in the appendices.

# ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PLANT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

RECALLING document Doc. 4.17 being the Report on Implementation of CITES for Plants prepared by the Threatened Plants Unit of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources discussed at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gaborone, 1983);

RECALLING further that the Conference of the Parties accepted that a Plant Working Group be established;

NOTING that the Plant Working Group met in Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A., early in 1984 and extensively reviewed the implementation of the Convention for plants, and made comprehensive recommendations to the first meeting of the Technical Committee (Brussels, 1984; document Doc. TEC. 1.11);

NOTING that the Conference of the Parties, at its fifth meeting (Buenos Aires, 1985), adopted the recommendations tabled by the Plant Working Group (Resolutions Conf. 5.14 and Conf. 5.15);

REALIZING the many problems faced by the Conference of the Parties and individual Parties concerning the lack of data and expert knowledge of plant trade and management;

## THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

### RESOLVES

- a) to establish the Plant Sub-committee of the Conference of the Parties, and establish Terms of Reference as follows:
  - i) to provide advice and guidance to the Scientific Committee on all scientific aspects for plant species included in the appendices;
  - ii) to provide guidance to the Management Committee on all management aspects of international trade in plant species included in the appendices;
  - iii) to assist the Nomenclature Sub-committee in the development and maintenance of a standardized plant names list;
  - iv) to assist the Identification and Education Committee in the preparation of an identification manual on plant species; and
  - v) to assist and advise Parties in the preparation of publicity material for Convention listed plants;
- b) that, to the extent possible, the membership of the Sub-committee include representatives from all regions on a voluntary basis, subject to the voluntary Chairperson being endorsed by the Chairpersons of the Finance and Administration Committee and Scientific Committee;
- c) that the Plant Sub-committee shall be a Sub-committee of the Scientific Committee; and

- d) that the Chairperson of the Plant Sub-committee report to the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee and through that Committee to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference; and

DIRECTS the Secretariat, to the extent possible, to provide funding from outside sources for the production costs of publications prepared by the Sub-committee.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

NOTING that Article III, paragraphs 2(c) and 4(b), Article IV, paragraphs 2(c) and 5(b), and Article V, paragraph 2(b), of the Convention require "that any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment";

NOTING that Resolutions Conf. 3.16, Conf. 4.20 and Conf. 5.18 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its third (New Delhi, 1981), fourth (Gaborone, 1983) and fifth meetings (Buenos Aires, 1985) expressed the need for guidelines for the transportation of live specimens;

RECALLING that the transportation of living specimens has been subject to considerable discussions at meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

ACKNOWLEDGING the great interest and co-operation shown by the Live Animals Board of the International Air Transport Association;

ACKNOWLEDGING further the offer of the Live Animals Board of the International Air Transport Association to co-operate with the Parties by considering proposed amendments to the Live Animals Regulations put forward by the Parties;

ACKNOWLEDGING the investigations undertaken by previous working groups established by the Conference of the Parties and the reports and recommendations made by such working groups;

RECALLING that the Conference of the Parties has accepted the Live Animals Regulations as the Convention Transportation Guidelines for the air transportation of live animals;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES

- a) to re-establish the Transportation Working Group of the Conference of the Parties as originally set out pursuant to Resolution Conf. 5.18 as the Transportation Sub-committee, and establish Terms of Reference as follows:
  - i) to review recommendations made by previous working groups of the Conference of the Parties concerning the international transportation of live specimens;
  - ii) to review the Live Animals Regulations of the International Air Transport Association and make recommendations to the Live Animals Board for changes to meet Convention requirements;
  - iii) to co-ordinate international air transportation requirements of live animals between the Live Animals Board and the Convention;
  - iv) to prepare proposed international transportation guidelines for consideration of the Conference of the Parties concerning:
    - A) the terrestrial (road and rail) transportation of live animals;

- B) the marine transportation of live animals; and
- C) the air, terrestrial and marine transportation of live plants; and
- v) to prepare draft resolutions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;
- b) that, to the extent possible, the membership of the Transportation Sub-committee include Parties from all regions on a voluntary basis, subject to the voluntary Chairperson being endorsed by the Chairpersons of the Finance and Administration Committee and Management Committee;
- c) that the Transportation Sub-committee be a Sub-committee of the Management Committee; and
- d) that the Chairperson of the Transportation Sub-committee report to the Chairperson of the Management Committee and through that Committee to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference;

DIRECTS the Secretariat, to the extent possible, to provide funding from outside sources to cover the production costs of publications prepared by the Sub-committee; and

DECIDES that the Resolutions listed hereunder be repealed:

- a) Resolution Conf. 4.20 (Gaborone, 1983) - Implementation of the Guidelines for Transport of Live Animals; and
- b) Resolution Conf. 5.18 (Buenos Aires, 1985) - Air Transport of Live Wild Animals.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANT TRADE IN APPENDIX II SPECIES  
SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 4.7, adopted at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gaborone, 1983), recommended that the Technical Committee identify those Appendix II species that are the subject of significant international trade for which scientific information on the capacity of the species to withstand such levels of trade is insufficient to satisfy the requirements of Article IV, paragraph 3, of the Convention;

RECALLING further that Resolution Conf. 4.7 recommended that the Technical Committee develop measures to ensure that continued trade in these species is within the terms of Articles IV, paragraph 3, of the Convention;

NOTING that the Technical Committee at its first meeting (Brussels, 1984) established a Working Group to perform the functions recommended in Resolution Conf. 4.7;

NOTING that the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting (Buenos Aires, 1985) approved the procedure and timetable proposed by the Technical Committee in document Doc. 5.26 for the implementation of Resolution Conf. 4.7 and instructed the Technical Committee to implement the proposed procedure and timetable (Resolution Conf. 5.3);

ACKNOWLEDGING with appreciation the report submitted by the Working Group to the second meeting of the Technical Committee (Lausanne, 1986);

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES

- a) to establish the Significant Trade in Appendix II Species Sub-committee of the Conference of the Parties, and establish Terms of Reference as follows;
  - i) to establish a list of those taxa included in Appendix II which are considered as possibly being affected by trade; including those taxa traded in numbers greater than 100 individuals per calendar year that the Sub-committee could not conclude were not being detrimentally affected by trade;
  - ii) to review and assess all available biological and trade information including comments by the range states on the taxa identified in paragraph i); and
    - A) to exclude all species for which there is adequate information to conclude that trade is not having a significant detrimental effect on the population;
    - B) to formulate recommendations for remedial measures for those species for which trade is believed to be having a detrimental effect; and
    - C) to establish priorities for projects to collect information for those species for which there is insufficient information available on which to base a judgement as to whether the level of trade is detrimental;

- iii) to assess information on those species for which there is evidence of a change in the volume of trade or for which specific information is available to indicate the necessity for review;
  - iv) to assess biological and trade information on all species added to Appendix II at the next to last meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - v) to review progress reports on recommendations and projects initiated as a result of the Sub-committee's previous work; and
  - vi) to make available advice on management techniques and procedures for range states requesting such assistance;
- b) that, to the extent possible, the membership of the Sub-committee shall be on a voluntary basis subject to the voluntary Chairperson being endorsed by the Chairpersons of the Finance and Administration Committee and the Scientific Committee;
  - c) that the Significant Trade in Appendix II Species Sub-committee shall be a Sub-committee of the Scientific Committee; and
  - d) that the Chairperson of the Significant Trade in Appendix II Species Sub-committee report to the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee and through that Committee to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference;

DIRECTS the Secretariat, to the extent possible, to provide funding from outside sources to cover the production costs of reports prepared by the Sub-committee;

URGES the Significant Trade in Appendix II Species Sub-committee to draft proposals for amendments to the appendices for consideration by the Scientific Committee and the range states for submission by the range states to the Conference of the Parties for consideration; and

DECIDES that the Resolutions listed hereunder be repealed;

- a) Resolution Conf. 4.7 (Gaborone, 1983) - Regulation of Trade in Appendix II Wildlife and Implementation of Article IV, paragraph 3, of the Convention; and
- b) Resolution Conf. 5.3 (Buenos Aires, 1985) - Significant Trade in Appendix II Species.

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

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Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Ottawa (Canada), 12 to 24 July 1987

Permanent CITES Committees

CURRENT SITUATION OF CITES COMMITTEES

The Annex to this document has been prepared and is submitted by Switzerland as a background paper for the discussion of document Doc. 6.7 on Permanent CITES Committees.

Permanent CITES Committees

CURRENT SITUATION OF CITES COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHED BY

the Conference of the Parties at its second regular meeting, San José, 1979 (Conf. 2.2)

PRE-HISTORY

Steering Committee established by the Conference of the Parties at its first regular meeting, Berne, 1976 (Conf. 1.7)

FUNCTION

first regulated by Conf. 2.2., superseded by Conf. 3.1:

to carry out, between one meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the next, such interim activity on behalf of the Conference as may be necessary, subject to any such activity being limited to matters on which the Conference has previously recorded its agreement

to oversee, as a representative of the Parties, the execution of the Secretariat's budget

to act as bureau at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the rules of procedure

to provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of the Convention, on the preparation of meetings, and on any other matters brought to it by the Secretariat in exercise of its functions

to perform any other function as may be entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties

MEMBERSHIP

determined by Conf. 4.1:

6 regional representatives elected by the Conference of the Parties for four years

2 host countries for four years

1 Depositary Government, permanent

CHAIRMAN

and vice-chairmen elected by the Committee from the regional representatives (Conf. 4.1)

VOTING RIGHTS

regulated in Conf. 4.1

RULES OF PROCEDURE

established by the Committee (Conf. 2.2)

TERM OF MANDATE	no time limit (Conf. 4.1)
REPORTING OBLIGATIONS	to the Conference of the Parties (Conf. 3.1)
RE-INBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES	yes (Conf. 4.2)
MEETINGS OPEN TO	observers representing Parties (Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee)  invited observers (Conf. 2.2)

## IDENTIFICATION MANUAL COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHED BY	the adoption of Com. 2.15 by the Conference of the Parties at its second regular meeting, San José, 1979 (see Plen. 2.20), and by Conf. 2.4, confirmed by the Standing Committee at its 2nd meeting
PRE-HISTORY	Recommendation Conf. S.S. 1.3
FUNCTION	to guide the preparation of an identification manual (Conf. S.S. 1.3, Conf. 2.4)  to provide guidance on the appropriate classification of taxa and statistical data in the annual reports of the Parties (Conf. 3.10)
MEMBERSHIP	open to experts nominated by the Parties (Conf. S.S. 1.3)  currently 17 members from 15 Parties
CHAIRMAN	elected by the Committee, no vice-chairman
VOTING RIGHT	according to the Rules of Procedure of the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties
RULES OF PROCEDURE	not regulated, de facto the Rules of Procedure of the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties are applied
TERM OF MANDATE	limited to next meeting  extended by Conf. 3.18 Conf. 4.19 Conf. 5.17
REPORTING OBLIGATIONS	not regulated, de facto to the Standing Committee and to the Conference of the Parties (and to UNEP through the Secretariat)
RE-IMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES	no
MEETINGS OPEN TO	delegates and invited observers, according to the Rules of Procedure of the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

### ESTABLISHED BY

the Conference of the Parties at its third regular meeting, New Delhi, 1981 (Conf. 3.5) as "Technical Expert Committee"

### CHANGE OF NAME

to "Technical Committee" by Conf. 4.4

### PRE-HISTORY

de facto established as "Special Working Session", Geneva, 1977

formally established as "Technical Expert Committee on Harmonization of Permit Forms and Procedures" by the Conference of the Parties at its second regular meeting, San José, 1979 (Conf. 2.5)

### FUNCTION

to identify, by means of the continual review of the annual reports of the Parties and other techniques, problems with enforcement of the Convention and provide guidance to the Secretariat and the Parties on measures that may be undertaken to remedy these problems (Conf. 3.5)

to review the implementation of the Convention by the Parties and make recommendations for harmonization of documents and procedures (Conf. 3.5)

to draft resolutions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties (Conf. 3.5)

to undertake a periodic review of annual reports (Conf. 3.10)

to update the CITES Guidelines on Transport of Live Specimens (Conf. 3.16, Conf. 4.20)

to prepare recommendations on any further measures which may be required to improve the conditions in which live specimens are transported by air (Conf. 5.18)

to develop an international reporting system for specimens stressed during transport (Conf. 3.17)

to carry out, in co-operation with the Secretariat, the Significant Trade in Appendix II Species Project (Conf. 4.7, Conf. 5.3)

to draw up guidelines for controlling the trade in worked ivory (Conf. 4.14)

to establish reporting and monitoring procedures for ranching operations and captive breeding operations, and to review the adequacy of existing controls for regulating the trade in specimens of Appendix II species that are similar to Appendix I species (Conf. 5.16)

to develop recommendations for marking and other suitable methods of controlling trade in specimens of species subject to quotas, so as to ensure that such trade is effectively regulated, and to develop recommendations for addressing any infractions of the quota system (Conf. 5.21)

to discuss in detail how the monitoring and control of international trade in endangered wild-collected plants can be made more effective under CITES (PLANT WORKING GROUP, Doc. 4.17, see also Plen. 4.5)

to perform any other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties or by the Standing Committee (Conf. 3.5)

MEMBERSHIP

open to representatives from all interested Parties (Conf. 3.5)

CHAIRMAN

election not regulated, de facto elected by the Conference of the Parties [see Plen. 4.10 (Rev.)]

REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS

appointed by the Conference of the Parties (Conf. 4.5) for four years

VOTING RIGHTS

according to its own Rules of Procedure (Conf. 3.5)

RULES OF PROCEDURE

established by the Committee (Conf. 3.5)

TERM OF MANDATE

no time limit (Conf. 3.5)

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

not regulated, by implication to the Standing Committee and to the Conference of the Parties

RE-IMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

no, including not for regional co-ordinators (Conf. 4.5)

MEETINGS OPEN TO

observers representing non-Party states [Rule 2(1) of the Rules of Procedure, Doc. TEC. 1.3]

invited observers [Rule 2(2), Doc. TEC. 1.3]



## NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHED BY	adoption of Doc. 2.22 by the Conference of the Parties at its second regular meeting, San José, 1979 (see Plen. 2.9), approving the existence of the ad hoc "Committee on Standardized Taxonomy")
PRE-HISTORY	stipulated by Conf. S.S. 1.7, established as an ad hoc Committee on Standardized Taxonomy by the Special Working Session, Geneva, 1977.
CHANGE OF NAME	to Nomenclature Committee by Doc. 3.12 (but see also Plen. 2.9)
FUNCTION	<p>to draft a provisional standard taxonomy and to compile a list of taxonomic bibliographic source material for consideration and approval by the Parties (Doc. 2.22 Annex 1)</p> <p>to provide guidance on the appropriate classification of taxa and statistical data in the annual reports of the Parties (Conf. 3.10)</p> <p>to advise the Secretariat on the correct names to use for the species or other taxa in question (Conf. 4.23)</p> <p>to prepare a standardized nomenclatorial reference for mammals to the level of subspecies for all species in which subspecies are listed in the appendices to the Convention (Conf. 4.23)</p>
MEMBERSHIP	not regulated, de facto open to experts nominated by the Parties
CHAIRMAN	elected by the Committee according to the Rules of Procedure of the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see Plen. 4.13)
VOTING RIGHTS	by implication according to the Rules of Procedure of the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties
RULES OF PROCEDURE	not regulated, de facto the Rules of Procedure of the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties are applied
TERM OF MANDATE	originally not specified, then limited to next meeting (Conf. 5.19)
REPORTING OBLIGATIONS	not regulated, de facto to the Conference of the Parties
RE-IMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES	no
MEETING OPEN TO	delegates and invited observers, according to the Rules of Procedure of the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Rule 22, Doc. 5.3)

## TEN YEAR REVIEW COMMITTEES

### ESTABLISHED BY

the adoption of Conf. 3.20 by the Conference of the Parties at its third regular meeting, New Delhi, 1981

### PRE-HISTORY

### FUNCTION

#### REGIONAL AND SECRETARIAT COMMITTEES

to review the trade and biological status of all Appendices I and II species on a regional basis (Conf. 3.20)

#### CENTRAL COMMITTEE

to appraise and co-ordinate the regional and Secretariat reviews (Conf. 3.20)

to make recommendations for consideration by the Parties (Conf. 3.20)

### MEMBERSHIP

#### REGIONAL COMMITTEES

not regulated, de facto open to representatives of the Parties within each region

#### SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE

not regulated, de facto Secretariat staff plus invited experts

#### CENTRAL COMMITTEE

open to representatives from the Regional and Secretariat Committees and a representative of IUCN (Conf. 3.20)

### CHAIRMEN

originally elected by the Committees according to the Rules of Procedure of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

now not regulated due to lack of rules of procedure, de facto previous arrangements continued with the approval of the Conference of the Parties [see Plen 5.9 (Rev.)]

### VOTING RIGHTS

by implication according to the Rules of Procedure of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

### RULES OF PROCEDURE

not regulated, de facto the Rules of Procedure of the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties are applied

### TERM OF MANDATE

originally limited (Conf. 3.20) then extended without time limit (Conf. 4.26)

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS	to the Conference of the Parties
RE-IMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES	no
MEETING OPEN TO	invited observers, according to the Rules of Procedure of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

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

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Ottawa (Canada), 12 to 24 July 1987

Permanent CITES Committees

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat has been concerned, for a long time, about the present CITES Committee structure, as established by the Conference of the Parties or by the Committees themselves. To this effect, the Secretariat has exchanged views with the Depositary Government on how to improve the CITES Committee structure for greater effectiveness in the conduct of the affairs of the Convention.

While the Secretariat recognizes the importance of the work performed by Canada, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe in document Doc. 6.7 and is in agreement in principle with the need for a better Committee structure, the Secretariat has the following concerns about the proposal as put forward in the document.

1. Legal Concern

It appears to the Secretariat that the proposed structure might be in direct conflict with accepted international legal practice or with the provisions of the text of the Convention.

The document would appear to propose the creation of an "executive body" which would give a power of decision to a group of states on behalf of other states Parties to the Convention. In addition, some recommendations are in direct conflict with provisions of the Convention. As an example, paragraph e) of Annex 3, establishing a Scientific Committee, states that "on behalf of the Secretariat" the Scientific Committee will review all proposals put forward by the Parties for amendment to the appendices. This goes against the intent of Article XV, which provides that "the Secretariat... shall communicate... its own findings and recommendations", leaving it to the Secretariat to decide whom to consult for such recommendations.

2. Financial Concern

The operation of the Committee structure as suggested in document Doc. 6.7 will increase the budget of the Conference of the Parties by US\$ 205,600 per year or US\$ 411,200 for the biennium 1988-1989. As the funding of the activities of the various Committees is a prerequisite to efficient operation, this matter must receive the most serious attention from the Parties.

### 3. Practical Concern

The structure, as proposed, will call for a total of 9 meetings per year, thus forcing the Secretariat to spend a great deal of both financial and human resources on the organization of such meetings. In addition, the time frame provided for in the text of the Convention concerning submission of proposals to amend the appendices will make the work of a Committee such as the proposed Scientific Committee almost impossible, unless the Parties agree to have a meeting of the Scientific Committee a few weeks prior to a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Secretariat submits these considerations to the attention of the Parties with the hope that a more appropriate solution can be found to the restructuring of the Committees of the Convention, and emphasizes its support for the principle of maintaining permanent Committees with well-defined terms of reference.