

Working Group on improving Regional Communication

Participants: Thomas Althaus (Chairman AC), Che Jumat Ahmad, Quentin Luke, Irawati, N.P. Singh, Enrique Forero, Giuseppe Frenguelli, Tom De Meulenaer (Secretariat), David Morgan, Mike Griffin (Rep. in AC), Chris Schürmann (Chair).

Proposed recommendations of PC14:

1. To amend Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP12) on the Establishment of Committees, as follows:

- a) The proposals for candidates as representatives should be supported by the relevant their governments and/or institutions in a formal commitment in order to ensure as far as possible that they will obtain the necessary means (Covering financial needs, office, equipment, communication facilities email and internet) to undertake their activities;

Clarification: regional reps need full support of their government and/or institutions to fulfill their tasks.

2. To amend Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP12) on the Establishment of Committees, as follows:

- b) The names of the proposed candidates, their formal commitment to fulfill the job, and their *curricula vitae*, should be circulated to the Parties of the region concerned at least 120 days before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the representatives will be elected;

3. The functioning of the Regional Representatives will be evaluated at regular intervals by the Committee.

In case of non performance, of a specific Regional Representative, he or she will be replaced by an interim Representative.

A (postal) procedure be developed for interim follow-up of the sacked representative until the next Conference.

4. PC and AC need to produce a document for CoP13 to make Parties aware of the urgency of developing another mechanism, including a budget line, to support the chairs and vice-chairs of PC and AC in order to enable their adequate functioning.

Clarification: we will never have a Chairman from a developing country for PC and AC if the Conference does not provide the means (financial, time-compensating, e.o.). It is the responsibility of the Parties / Conference to enable the proper functioning of the chairs and vice-chairs.

5. Parties must assign a contact person for PC and a contact person for AC to respond to regional communications, as required in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP12), under Resolves c).

The Secretariat shall issue a notification as soon as possible that all Parties must inform the Secretariat of the name and address of the contact person for PC and the contact person for AC before CoP13. The Secretariat shall compile a separate register of contact persons and publish this on the website.

6. The Secretariat shall verify whether the level of communication of information from the Secretariat to the Regional Representatives is sufficient for every Representative. The Secretariat will ensure that all relevant information on CITES issues, including all documents, will be send directly to all Representatives, either in hard copy or by email, as requested by the specific Representative.

7. A joint Drafting Group of PC and AC will develop a Manual or Instruction Book, and a generic time table, to be presented at CoP13, specifying:

- a) the tasks of a Regional Representative

b) the tasks of the contact persons for PC and AC.

The manual must be applicable under different cultural conditions.