

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-21 May 2005

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13), which establishes the CITES committees, notes in its preamble that Rules of Procedure common to all committees are an essential requirement for formal meetings and in order to apply this, its first RESOLVES paragraph e) stresses that as far as practicable, the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee should be followed by the Animals and Plants Committees.
3. At the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Chairman of the Animals and Plants Committees sought to change this situation by proposing, in document CoP13 Doc. 11.2, that the Conference of the Parties amend Resolution Conf. 11.1 to allow the Animals and Plants Committees to take the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Standing Committee into consideration when adopting their own Rules of Procedure. After due consideration, this proposed change was not agreed by the Conference.
4. Over time, the Rules of Procedure of the Animals and Plants Committee have altered from those of the Standing Committee for reasons other than practicability, making changes beyond the limit agreed by the Conference of the Parties. The comparative table in Annex 1 to this document shows the differences between the Rules of Procedure of the Committees. Such variations cause unnecessary complication and confusion for all concerned.
5. In Annex 2 to this document the Secretariat presents a draft of proposed Rules of Procedure for the Animals and the Plants Committee that is based on the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Standing Committee at its 52nd meeting (Bangkok, 2004), and depart from those of the Standing Committee only where the latter are not practicable for the Animals and Plants Committees. Differences from the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee are shown in ~~strike~~ or **bold** and are justified with a short explanation.
6. The Secretariat recommends that the Committee adopt the draft Rules of Procedure found in Annex 2 to this document.

Rules of Procedure

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
Representation and attendance	Representation and attendance	Representation and attendance
<u>Rule 1</u>	<u>Rule 1</u>	<u>Rule 1</u>
Each member of the Standing Committee shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Committee by a Representative and an Alternate Representative. Each member shall also designate a person with whom communications regarding the work of the Committee should be conducted between meetings of the Committee and an alternate.	The membership of the Committee shall consist of the regional representatives elected at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.	The membership of the Committee shall consist of the regional representatives elected at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
<u>Rule 2</u>	<u>Rule 2</u>	<u>Rule 2</u>
If a regional member is not represented at a meeting, its alternate member shall be entitled to represent the region.	If a member is not present at a meeting, his/her alternate shall be entitled to represent the region as a member and to vote in his/her place.	If a member is not present at a meeting, his/her alternate shall be entitled to represent the region as a member and to vote in his/her place.
<u>Rule 3</u>	<u>Rule 3</u>	<u>Rule 3</u>
The Representative shall exercise the voting right of a member or alternate member. In his/her absence, the Alternate Representative shall act in his/her place. Only members or alternate members representing the six regions shall have the right to vote, except in the case of a tie vote when the Depositary Government shall have the right to vote to break the tie.	Only members of the Committee have the right to vote.	Only members of the Committee have the right to vote.

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
<u>Rule 4</u>	<u>Rule 4</u>	<u>Rule 4</u>
Parties not members of the Committee shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Committee by observers who shall have the right to participate but not to vote.	Parties and alternate members shall be entitled to be present at meetings of the Committee as observers who shall have the right to participate but not to vote.	Parties shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Committee by observers who shall have the right to participate but not to vote. Alternate members shall be entitled to participate at meetings of the Committee as observers.
<u>Rule 5</u>	<u>Rule 5</u>	<u>Rule 5</u>
The United Nations, its specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State not a Party to the Convention may be represented at the meeting by observers who shall have the right to participate in meetings of the Committee but not to vote.	All observers should inform the Secretariat of their intention to participate in a meeting at least four weeks in advance.	All observers shall normally inform the Secretariat of their intention to participate in a meeting at least four weeks in advance.
<u>Rule 6</u>	<u>Rule 6</u>	<u>Rule 6</u>
1. The Chairman may, after consultation with members of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, invite any person or any body or agency technically qualified in protection, conservation or management of wild fauna and flora to be represented at meetings of the Committee by observers. These observers shall have the right to participate only during the discussion of specific agenda items determined by the Committee, but not to vote. However, the right of any such observer to participate shall be withdrawn if so agreed by the Committee.	The Chairman may invite any other person or a representative of any country or organization to participate in meetings of the Committee as an observer without the right to vote.	The Chairman may invite any other person or a representative of any country or organization to participate in meetings of the Committee as an observer without the right to vote.

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
<p>2. Any person or body wishing to participate in a meeting of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 1 shall submit a request to the Secretariat at least one month before the meeting, or in the case of an emergency meeting at least seven days prior to that meeting. This request shall be accompanied by relevant information with regard to the technical qualifications of the person or body and proof of the approval of the State in which the body is located. The Secretariat shall forward this request and relevant information to the Chairman and the members of the Committee.</p>		
<p>Credentials</p>	<p>Credentials</p>	
<p><u>Rule 7</u></p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>The Representative or, in his/her absence, the Alternate Representative of a member shall, before exercising the voting rights of the member at a meeting have been granted powers by or on behalf of a proper authority enabling him or her to represent the member at the meeting.</p>		
<p><u>Rule 8</u></p>	<p><u>Rule 7</u></p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Any observer representing a Party or an organization in a meeting, shall have been granted powers by or on behalf of a proper authority enabling him or her to represent the Party or organization.</p>	<p>Any observer representing a Party or an organization shall, before making any intervention in a meeting, have been granted powers by a proper authority enabling him or her to represent the Party or organization at the meeting.</p>	

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
<u>Rule 9</u>	-	-
<p>The credentials required under Rules 7 and 8 shall be presented to the Secretariat of the Convention in one of the working languages of the Convention. The Secretariat shall review the credentials and report to the Committee at the earliest opportunity, indicating whether credentials have been presented for each participant and the form of the credentials received, drawing attention to any potential problems.</p>		
<u>Rule 10</u>	-	-
<p>On the basis of the report of the Secretariat, the Committee shall decide whether to accept the credentials presented and whether any of them require further review by members of the Committee. In the latter case, a Credentials Committee of not more than three Representatives of members, or their Alternates, shall examine the credentials requiring further review and shall report thereon at the meeting. Credentials in the form of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs or the Minister responsible or the Director of the Management Authority or a <i>note verbale</i> from a permanent mission may be accepted. Verifiable copies of credentials may also be accepted. Credentials shall however not be accepted if they have been signed by the person whom they accredit. Credentials may be valid for more than one meeting if this is specified in the text thereof.</p>		

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
<u>Rule 11</u>	-	-
Pending a decision on their credentials, representatives of members and observers may participate provisionally in the meeting.		
Officers	Officers	Officers
<u>Rule 12</u>	<u>Rule 8</u>	<u>Rule 7</u>
During each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the regional members of the Committee shall elect its Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Alternate Vice-Chairman from among the regional members.	After election of the members at each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties or at the beginning of the first meeting of the Committee thereafter, the members of the Committee shall elect the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman.	After election of the members at each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties or at the beginning of the first meeting of the Committee thereafter, the members of each Committee shall elect their Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
<u>Rule 13</u>	<u>Rule 9</u>	<u>Rule 8</u>
The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Committee, approve the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat and maintain liaison with other Committees between meetings of the Committee. He/she shall represent the Committee and the Parties as required within the limits of the Committee's mandate, and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted to him/her by the Committee.	The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Committee, approve the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat and maintain liaison with other Committees between meetings of the Committee. He/she shall represent the Committee and the Parties as required within the limits of the Committee's mandate, and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted to him/her by the Committee and the Standing Committee.	The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Committee, approve the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat and maintain liaison with other Committees between meetings of the Committee. He/she shall represent the Committee and the Parties as required within the limits of the Committee's mandate, and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted to him/her by the Committee and the Standing Committee.
<u>Rule 14</u>	<u>Rule 10</u>	<u>Rule 9</u>
The Vice-Chairman and the Alternate Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman in his/her functions, and shall act on his/her behalf at meetings in the absence of the Chairman.	The Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman in his/her functions, and shall act on his/her behalf at meetings in the absence of the Chairman.	The Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman in his/her functions, and shall act on his/her behalf at meetings in the absence of the Chairman.
<u>Rule 15</u>	<u>Rule 11</u>	<u>Rule 10</u>
The Secretariat of the Convention shall service and act as secretary for meetings of the Committee. However, in the event of a closed session, the meeting shall provide for its own rapporteur, if needed.	The Secretariat of the Convention shall service and act as secretary for meetings of the Committee. However, in the event of a closed session, the meeting shall provide for its own rapporteur, if needed.	The Secretariat of the Convention shall service and act as secretary for meetings of the Committee. However, in the event of a closed session, the meeting shall provide for its own rapporteur, if needed.

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
Meetings	Meetings	Meetings
<u>Rule 16</u>	<u>Rule 12</u>	<u>Rule 11</u>
The Committee shall normally meet at least once every year.	The Committee shall normally meet at least once every year.	The Committee shall normally meet at least once every year.
<u>Rule 17</u>	<u>Rule 13</u>	<u>Rule 12</u>
Meetings of the Committee shall be called at the request of the Chairman or of a simple majority of the members.	Meetings of the Committee shall be called at the request of the Chairman or of a simple majority of the members.	Meetings of the Committee shall be called at the request of the Chairman or of a simple majority of the members.
<u>Rule 18</u>	<u>Rule 14</u>	<u>Rule 13</u>
The time and place of meetings shall be determined by the Chairman.	The time and place of meetings shall be determined by the Chairman.	The time and place of meetings shall be determined by the Chairman.
<u>Rule 19</u>	<u>Rule 15</u>	<u>Rule 14</u>
Notice of meetings shall normally be given by the Secretariat at least 75 days, and in case of emergency meetings at least 14 days, in advance of the meeting.	Notice of meetings shall normally be given by the Secretariat at least 105 days, and in case of emergency meetings at least 14 days, in advance of the meeting.	Notice of meetings shall normally be given by the Secretariat at least 105 days, and in case of emergency meetings at least 14 days, in advance of the meeting.
	<u>Rule 16</u>	<u>Rule 15</u>
	Documents to be considered at a meeting shall normally be provided to the Secretariat by Parties only, or by members of the Committee. These documents should also be submitted to the Chairman and the Regional Representative(s) of the Party concerned.	Documents to be considered at a meeting shall normally be provided to the Secretariat by Parties only, or by members of the Committee. These documents should also be submitted to the Chairman and the Regional Representative(s) of the Party concerned.

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
	<u>Rule 17</u>	<u>Rule 16</u>
	Non-governmental organizations may provide documents through the CITES Authorities of the Party where they are located. However, international non-governmental organizations, recognized under the provisions applied at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, may send documents to the CITES Secretariat. In both cases the decision to distribute these documents shall be taken by the Secretariat in consultation with the chairman. These documents should also be submitted to the Chairman and the Regional Representative(s) of the Party concerned.	Non-governmental organizations may provide documents through the CITES Authorities of the Party where they are located. However, international non-governmental organizations, as recognized under the provisions as applied at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, may send documents to the CITES Secretariat. In both cases the decision to distribute these documents shall be taken by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairman. These documents shall also be submitted to the Chairman and the Regional Representative(s) of the Party concerned where applicable.
<u>Rule 20</u>	<u>Rule 18</u>	<u>Rule 17</u>
Documents to be considered at a meeting shall normally be provided to the Secretariat at least 60 days before the meeting where they are to be discussed.	Documents to be considered by the Committee shall normally be provided to the Secretariat at least 90 days before the meeting where they are to be discussed.	Documents to be considered by the Committee shall normally be provided to the Secretariat at least 60 days before the meeting where they are to be discussed.
<u>Rule 21</u>	<u>Rule 19</u>	<u>Rule 18</u>
All documents submitted to the Secretariat by a Party, or submitted by an observer at the request of the Chairman, shall be placed on the Secretariat's website as soon as possible after they are received in the original language in which they have been submitted. The Secretariat shall distribute printed documents for any meeting at least 45 days before the proposed date of the meeting where they are to be discussed. The documents shall be provided to all members of the Committee, to all Parties that may be directly affected by any discussion of the documents and to all Parties that have informed the Secretariat of their intention to be represented at the meeting.	All documents submitted by the Secretariat or to the Secretariat by a Party, or submitted by an observer at the request of the Chairman, shall be placed on the Secretariat's website as soon as possible after they are received in the original language in which they have been submitted. All available documents shall be posted on the website no later than two weeks before the start of a meeting. The Secretariat shall distribute printed documents for any meeting at least 40 days before the proposed date of the meeting where they are to be discussed. The documents shall be provided to all members and alternate members of the Committee, and to Parties on request.	All documents submitted by the Secretariat or to the Secretariat by a Party, or submitted by an observer at the request of the Chairman, shall be placed on the Secretariat's website as soon as possible after they are received in the original language in which they have been submitted. The Secretariat shall distribute printed documents for any meeting at least 40 days before the proposed date of the meeting where they are to be discussed. The documents shall be provided to all members and alternate members of the Committee, to Parties that are significantly affected by discussion of the documents and to any other Parties that have informed the Secretariat of their intention to be represented at the meeting.

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
<u>Rule 22</u>	<u>Rule 20</u>	<u>Rule 19</u>
A quorum for a meeting shall consist of Representatives or Alternate Representatives of seven regional members or alternate regional members from at least four regions. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.	A quorum for a meeting shall consist of six members from at least four regions. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.	A quorum for a meeting shall consist of six members from at least four regions. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.
<u>Rule 23</u>	-	-
1. The right to speak shall extend to all participants whose credentials are under consideration or have been accepted, and to observers who have been admitted to the meeting in accordance with Rule 4, 5 or 6, as well as to the Secretariat.		
2. The Chairman shall, as a general rule, call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak and shall give precedence to the members of the Committee. Amongst observers, precedence shall be given to representatives of Parties, non-Party States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, in this order. However the Chairman may depart from this general rule and call on speakers in the order that he/she judges appropriate to ensure the timely progress of the debate.		
3. Participants shall speak only if called upon by the Chairman, who may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.		

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
4. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a point of order. He/she may, however, with the permission of the Chairman, give way during his/her intervention to allow any other participant to request elucidation on a particular point.		
5. The Chairman of a committee or working group may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by that committee or working group.		
6. The Committee may, on a proposal by the Chairman or by a Representative, limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times the members of a delegation or the observers may speak on any question. When the debate is subject to such limits, and a speaker has spoken for his/her allotted time, the Chairman shall call him/her to order without delay.		
7. During the course of a debate the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Committee, declare the list closed. He/she may, however, accord the right of reply to any participant if an intervention delivered after he/she has declared the list closed makes this desirable.		
<u>Rule 24</u>	<u>Rule 21</u>	<u>Rule 20</u>
Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chairman or by Representatives or Alternate Representatives of regional members or alternate regional members from two regions.	Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chairman or by members from two regions.	Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chairman or by members from two regions.

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
<u>Rule 25</u>	<u>Rule 22</u>	<u>Rule 21</u>
In the case of a vote, the decision of the Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of the regional members or alternate regional members voting. In the case of a tie, the motion shall be considered as rejected unless the tie is broken by the vote of the Depositary Government.	In the case of a vote, the decision of the Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of the members voting. In the case of a tie, the vote of the Chairman shall be decisive.	In the case of a vote, the decision of the Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of the members voting. In the case of a tie, the vote of the Chairman shall be decisive.
<u>Rule 26</u>	<u>Rule 23</u>	<u>Rule 22</u>
At the request of the Chairman or of any Representative or Alternate Representative the Committee shall decide by a vote whether the discussion of any particular subject shall be held in closed session; any such vote shall be decided by a simple majority. Parties represented at the meeting by observers shall be entitled to be represented at closed sessions.	At the request of the Chairman or of any member the Committee shall decide by a vote whether the discussion of any particular subject shall be held in closed session; any such vote shall be decided by a simple majority. Parties, alternates and inter-governmental organizations present at the meeting as observers shall be entitled to be present at closed sessions.	At the request of the Chairman, or of any member, the Committee shall decide by a vote whether the discussion of any particular subject shall be held in closed session; any such vote shall be decided by a simple majority. Alternate members, Parties and intergovernmental organizations present at the meeting as observers shall be entitled to be present at closed sessions.
<u>Rule 27</u>	<u>Rule 24</u>	<u>Rule 23</u>
A concise executive summary of the decisions of the Standing Committee shall be prepared by the Secretary and endorsed by the Standing Committee before the closure of each meeting.	A concise executive summary of the decisions of the Committee shall be prepared by the Secretary before the closure of each meeting of the Committee that will include reports of the working groups in the language in which they were produced.	A concise executive summary of the decisions of the Committee shall be prepared by the Secretary before the closure of each meeting of the Committee.

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
<u>Rule 28</u>	<u>Rule 25</u>	<u>Rule 24</u>
A summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretary and sent to the Parties represented at the meeting within 40 days. This shall be presented in the order of the agenda and comprise three parts for each agenda item: a short statement indicating the main points of the discussion (without reference to any particular Party); the text indicating the decision that was made, as it appears in the executive summary; and the text of any statement provided by the representative of any Party that was read into the record during the meeting. The Secretary shall take into account the comments received within 20 days of the circulation and shall communicate the final summary record to all Parties after it is approved by the Chairman.	The summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretary and sent to the Parties represented at the meeting within 60 days. The Secretary shall take into account the comments received within 20 days of the circulation and shall communicate the final summary record to all Parties after it is approved by the Chairman.	A summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat and sent to the regional representatives of the Plants committee and to the observers of the Parties present at the meeting within 60 days. The Secretary shall take into account the comments received within 20 days of the circulation and shall communicate the final summary record to all Parties after it is approved by the Chairman, preferably at least one month before the next meeting.
<u>Rule 29</u>	<u>Rule 26</u>	<u>Rule 25</u>
The working languages of the meetings of the Committee shall be English, French and Spanish.	The working languages of the meetings of the Committee shall be English, French and Spanish.	The working languages of the meetings of the Committee shall be English, French and Spanish.
Communication procedure	Communication procedure	Communication procedure
<u>Rule 30</u>	<u>Rule 27</u>	<u>Rule 26</u>
Any member may submit a proposal to the Chairman for a decision by postal procedure. The Chairman shall send the proposal to the Secretariat for communication to the members, who shall comment within 40 days of the communication of the proposal; any comments received by the Secretariat within this time limit shall also be so communicated to the members.	Any member may submit a proposal to the Chairman for a decision by postal procedure. The Chairman shall send the proposal to the Secretariat for communication to the members, who shall comment within 40 days of the communication of the proposal; any comments received by the Secretariat within this time limit shall also be so communicated to the members.	Any member may submit a proposal to the Chairman for a decision by postal procedure. The Chairman shall send the proposal to the Secretariat for communication to the members, who shall comment within 40 days of the communication of the proposal; any comments received by the Secretariat within this time limit shall also be so communicated to the members.

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
<u>Rule 31</u>	<u>Rule 28</u>	<u>Rule 27</u>
If no objection from a regional member to a proposal is received by the Secretariat within 25 days of the date when the results of the consultation on the proposal were communicated to the members, the proposal shall be considered as adopted, and notice of the adoption shall be given to all members.	If no objection from a member to a proposal is received by the Secretariat within 25 days of the date when the results of the consultation on the proposal were communicated to the members, the proposal shall be considered as adopted, and notice of the adoption shall be given to all members.	If no objection from a member to a proposal is received by the Secretariat within 25 days of the date when the results of the consultation on the proposal were communicated to the members, the proposal shall be considered as adopted, and notice of the adoption shall be given to all members.
<u>Rule 32</u>	<u>Rule 29</u>	<u>Rule 28</u>
If any regional member objects to a proposal within the applicable time limit, the proposal shall be put to a vote. The proposal shall be considered as decided by a simple majority of the regional members. If no majority is achieved, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.	If any member objects to a proposal within the applicable time limit, the proposal shall be put to a vote. The proposal shall be considered as decided by a simple majority of the members. If no majority is achieved, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.	If any member objects to a proposal within the applicable time limit, the proposal shall be put to a vote. The proposal shall be considered as decided by a simple majority of the members. If no majority is achieved, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.
Final provisions	Final provisions	Final provisions
	<u>Rule 30</u>	<u>Rule 29</u>
	Any working document submitted for consideration by the Committee may be marked as “Restricted” or “Confidential” by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairman, when it determines that the document contains information that might be detrimental if disclosed to non-Parties or to organizations; Parties should use their best efforts to maintain such restriction or confidentiality unless the classification has been removed by the Secretariat or the Committee.	Any working document submitted for consideration by the Committee may be marked as “Restricted” or “Confidential” by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairman, when it determines that the document contains information that might be detrimental if disclosed to non-Parties or to organizations; Parties should use their best efforts to maintain such restriction or confidentiality unless the classification has been removed by the Secretariat or the Committee.

SC (adopted at its 47th meeting, Santiago, November 2002)	AC (adopted at its 20th meeting, Johannesburg, 2004)	PC (adopted at its 14th meeting, Windhoek, 2004)
<u>Rule 33</u>	<u>Rule 31</u>	<u>Rule 30</u>
In matters not covered by the present Rules, the Rules of Procedure as adopted by the last regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be applied <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .	In matters not covered by the present Rules, the Rules of Procedure as adopted at the last regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be applied <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .	In matters not covered by the present Rules, the Rules of Procedure as adopted at the last regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be applied <i>mutatis mutandis</i> .
<u>Rule 34</u>	<u>Rule 32</u>	<u>Rule 31</u>
These Rules shall come into force on adoption by the Committee, and shall remain valid for each of its meetings unless amended by decision of the Committee.	These Rules shall come into force on adoption by the Committee, and may be amended by the Committee as required.	These Rules shall come into force on adoption by the Committee, and may be amended by the Committee as required.

CITES Animals/Plants Committee Rules of Procedure

Representation and attendance

Rule 1

Each member of the ~~Standing~~ Committee shall be entitled to be represented **his/her region** at meetings of the Committee ~~by a Representative and an Alternate Representative~~. Each member shall also designate a person with whom communications regarding the work of the Committee should be conducted between meetings of the Committee ~~and an alternate~~.

Rule 2

If a regional member is not represented at a meeting, ~~its~~ **his/her** alternate member shall be entitled to represent the region.

Rule 3

~~The Representative shall exercise the voting right of a member or alternate member. In his/her absence, the Alternate Representative shall act in his/her place. Only members or alternate members representing the six regions shall have the right to vote, except in the case of a tie vote when the Depositary Government shall have the right to vote to break the tie.~~

Rule 4

Parties ~~not members of the Committee~~ **and alternate members not replacing a member** shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Committee ~~as by~~ observers who shall have the right to participate but not to vote.

Rule 5

The United Nations, its specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State not a Party to the Convention may be represented at the meeting by observers who shall have the right to participate in meetings of the Committee but not to vote.

Rule 6

1. The Chairman may, after consultation with members of the ~~Standing~~ Committee and the Secretariat, invite any person or any body or agency technically qualified in protection, conservation or management of wild fauna and flora to be represented at meetings of the Committee by observers. These observers shall have the right to participate only during the discussion of specific agenda items determined by the Committee, but not to vote. However, the right of any such observer to participate shall be withdrawn if so agreed by the Committee.
2. Any person or body wishing to participate in a meeting of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 1 shall submit a request to the Secretariat at least one month before the meeting, or in the case of an emergency meeting at least seven days prior to that meeting. This request shall be accompanied by relevant information with regard to the technical qualifications of the person or body and proof of the approval of the State in which the body is located. The Secretariat shall forward this request and relevant information to the Chairman and the members of the Committee.

Credentials

Rule 7

~~The Representative or, in his/her absence, the Alternate Representative of a member shall, before exercising the voting rights of the member at a meeting have been granted powers by or on behalf of a proper authority enabling him or her to represent the member at the meeting.~~

Rule 8

Any observer representing a Party or an organization in a meeting, shall have been granted powers by or on behalf of a proper authority enabling him or her to represent the Party or organization.

Rule 9

The credentials required under Rules ~~7 and~~ 8 shall be presented to the Secretariat of the Convention in one of the working languages of the Convention. The Secretariat shall review the credentials and report to the Committee at the earliest opportunity, indicating whether credentials have been presented for each participant and the form of the credentials received, drawing attention to any potential problems.

Rule 10

~~On the basis of the report of the Secretariat, the Committee shall decide whether to accept the credentials presented and whether any of them require further review by members of the Committee. In the latter case, a Credentials Committee of not more than three Representatives of members, or their Alternates, shall examine the credentials requiring further review and shall report thereon at the meeting.~~ Credentials in the form of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs or the Minister responsible or the Director of the Management Authority or a *note verbale* from a permanent mission may be accepted. Verifiable copies of credentials may also be accepted. Credentials shall however not be accepted if they have been signed by the person whom they accredit. Credentials may be valid for more than one meeting if this is specified in the text thereof.

Rule 11

Pending a decision on their credentials, ~~representatives of members and~~ observers may participate provisionally in the meeting.

Officers

Rule 12

~~During~~**After election of the members at each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties or at the beginning of the first meeting of the Committee thereafter,** the regional members of the Committee shall elect its Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Alternate Vice-Chairman from among the regional members.

Rule 13

The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Committee, approve the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat and maintain liaison with other Committees between meetings of the Committee. He/she shall represent the Committee and the Parties as required within the limits of the Committee's mandate, and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted to him/her by the Committee.

Rule 14

The Vice-Chairman and the Alternate Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman in his/her functions, and shall act on his/her behalf at meetings in the absence of the Chairman.

Rule 15

The Secretariat of the Convention shall service and act as secretary for meetings of the Committee. However, in the event of a closed session, the meeting shall provide for its own rapporteur, if needed.

Meetings

Rule 16

The Committee shall normally meet at least once every year.

Rule 17

Meetings of the Committee shall be called at the request of the Chairman or of a simple majority of the members.

Rule 18

The time and place of meetings shall be determined by the Chairman.

Rule 19

Notice of meetings shall normally be given by the Secretariat at least 75 days, and in case of emergency meetings at least 14 days, in advance of the meeting.

Rule 20

Documents to be considered at a meeting shall normally be provided to the Secretariat at least 60 days before the meeting where they are to be discussed.

Rule 21

All documents submitted to the Secretariat by a **member or a Party**, or submitted by an observer at the request of the Chairman, shall be placed on the Secretariat's website as soon as possible after they are received in the original language in which they have been submitted. The Secretariat shall distribute printed documents for any meeting at least 45 days before the proposed date of the meeting where they are to be discussed. The documents shall be provided to all members of the Committee **and to all Parties that may be directly affected by any discussion of the documents and to all Parties that request them have informed the Secretariat of their intention to be represented at the meeting.**

Rule 22

A quorum for a meeting shall consist of ~~Representatives or Alternate Representatives of seven~~ **six** regional members or alternate regional members from at least four regions. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.

Rule 23

1. The right to speak shall extend to all **members and alternate members and to observers** ~~participants~~ whose credentials are under consideration or have been accepted, and to observers who have been admitted to the meeting in accordance with Rule 4, 5 or 6, as well as to the Secretariat.
2. The Chairman shall, as a general rule, call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak and shall give precedence to the members of the Committee. Amongst observers, precedence shall be given to representatives of Parties, non-Party States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, in this order. However the Chairman may depart from this general rule and call on speakers in the order that he/she judges appropriate to ensure the timely progress of the debate.
3. Participants shall speak only if called upon by the Chairman, who may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
4. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a point of order. He/she may, however, with the permission of the Chairman, give way during his/her intervention to allow any other participant to request elucidation on a particular point.

5. The Chairman of a committee or working group may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by that committee or working group.
6. The Committee may, on a proposal by the Chairman or by a **member Representative**, limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times the members of a delegation or the observers may speak on any question. When the debate is subject to such limits, and a speaker has spoken for his/her allotted time, the Chairman shall call him/her to order without delay.
7. During the course of a debate the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Committee, declare the list closed. He/she may, however, accord the right of reply to any participant if an intervention delivered after he/she has declared the list closed makes this desirable.

Rule 24

Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus unless a vote is requested by the Chairman or by ~~Representatives or Alternate Representatives~~ of regional members or alternate regional members from two regions.

Rule 25

In the case of a vote, the decision of the Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of the regional members or alternate regional members voting. In the case of a tie, the motion shall be considered as rejected unless the tie is broken by the vote of the ~~Chairman-Depositary Government~~.

Rule 26

At the request of the Chairman or of any ~~member Representative~~ or ~~Alternate member Representative~~ the Committee shall decide by a vote whether the discussion of any particular subject shall be held in closed session; any such vote shall be decided by a simple majority. **Alternate members and Parties** represented at the meeting by observers shall be entitled to be represented at closed sessions.

Rule 27

A concise executive summary of the decisions of the ~~Standing~~ Committee shall be prepared by the Secretary and endorsed by the ~~Standing~~ Committee before the closure of each meeting.

Rule 28

A summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretary and sent to the **members, alternate members and Parties** represented at the meeting within 40 days. This shall be presented in the order of the agenda and comprise three parts for each agenda item: a short statement indicating the main points of the discussion (without reference to any particular **participant Party**); the text indicating the decision that was made, as it appears in the executive summary; and the text of any statement provided by **members** or the representative of any Party that was read into the record during the meeting. The Secretary shall take into account the comments received within 20 days of the circulation and shall communicate the final summary record to all Parties after it is approved by the Chairman.

Rule 29

The working languages of the meetings of the Committee shall be English, French and Spanish.

Communication procedure

Rule 30

Any member may submit a proposal to the Chairman for a decision by postal procedure. The Chairman shall send the proposal to the Secretariat for communication to the members, who shall comment within 40 days of the communication of the proposal; any comments received by the Secretariat within this time limit shall also be so communicated to the members.

Rule 31

If no objection from a regional member to a proposal is received by the Secretariat within 25 days of the date when the results of the consultation on the proposal were communicated to the members, the proposal shall be considered as adopted, and notice of the adoption shall be given to all members.

Rule 32

If any regional member objects to a proposal within the applicable time limit, the proposal shall be put to a vote. The proposal shall be considered as decided by a simple majority of the regional members. If no majority is achieved, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Final provisions

Rule 33

In matters not covered by the present Rules, the Rules of Procedure as adopted by the last regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be applied *mutatis mutandis*.

Rule 34

These Rules shall come into force on adoption by the Committee, and shall remain valid for each of its meetings unless amended by decision of the Committee.