

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

Forty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 22-25 April 2003

Reports

REPORT OF UNEP

The Annex to this document contains the UNEP report to the CITES Standing Committee. As it was submitted after the deadline, it is only provided in English (the language in which it was submitted).

**UNEP REPORT TO THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE (SC.49)
GENEVA, 22-25 APRIL 2003**

A. CITES ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Personnel Issues

The post of the Head, Scientific Support Unit (P-5) and that of Information Network Officer, classified at the (P-3) level, have been advertised under the New Galaxy System.

The 13 per cent Programme Support Cost on Voluntary Contributions

It was reported to the 46th session of the Standing Committee that procedures to allocate funds received as PSC levied on voluntary contributions in support of the CITES Trust Fund for funding substantive backstopping CITES projects, would be established by UNEP/UNON. This has been done and agreed upon by UNEP, UNON and the CITES Secretariat. The job description for a post to be funded under this arrangement has been classified at P-3 under the functional title of Information Network Officer, mentioned above.

IT Services

It has been agreed that funding for IT Services of CITES will be provided from the 13% Programme Support cost charged to CITES Trust Fund in the amount based on 2002 CITES share of UNOG IT Services provided to all UNEP units located in Geneva.

Study by OIOS of Administrative Services provided by UNEP to Conventions and the relationship between UNEP and the Conventions

UNEP has recently commissioned the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to carry out an evaluation of the type, level and adequacy of administrative services provided to UNEP-administered Secretariats of Conventions, i.e. including CITES, CBD, CMS, the chemical conventions and the relevant atmosphere-related conventions. The study should reveal the level of administrative responsibility placed on UNEP and UNON and the extent to which this responsibility is implemented. A key objective of the evaluation in which OIOS are acting as consultants, is to develop an improved system of delegation in order to strengthen efficiency. The findings of the study will be discussed with the heads of the Secretariats of the Conventions before any decisions are made and the process will also reflect our existing agreement with the CITES Standing Committee.

Agreement between CITES Standing Committee and UNEP

The findings and recommendations of the OIOS evaluation will be relevant to the process of updating the existing Agreement, but initial work can be done in parallel. The timing of the OIOS Evaluation should ensure that the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee is in a position to consider and hopefully agree on an updated text of the Agreement.

B. SUBSTANTIVE/PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT

Outcome of relevant global meetings

A series of meetings are taking place to follow up the targets for biodiversity and sustainable development set by WSSD. UNEP including the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) are taking a full and active role in this process. It is suggested that the key MEAs, including CITES, should also participate to the extent possible, particularly in advising on the use that can be made of existing CITES resource management and data systems to attain and monitor targets.

Another recurrent theme is the WSSD call for the urgent need to promote collaboration and enhance synergies among and between activities of the three Rio Conventions (CBD, UNCCD & UNFCCC) and those of other biodiversity related global MEAs (e.g. WTO, CITES, CMS, RAMSAR, WHC, UNCLOS), as well as regional MEAs (e.g., Regional Seas Conventions & Action Plans; FAO's regional fisheries management bodies etc) in order to effectively address the issues of biodiversity loss, sustainable use of ecosystems and their biological/genetic resources, with a focus on poverty alleviation worldwide.

Other issues

These were covered in recent UNEP reports to the Standing Committee and CoP in 2002. A verbal update can be provided.