

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

Forty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 8-12 February 1999

Planning

PREPARATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CONVENTION

At the 40th meeting of the Standing Committee, a working group was convened to consider a process for completing a Strategic Plan for the Convention following the decision to complete a Plan for consideration at COP11 (Doc 10.9).

Based on the recommendations of the working group, the Standing Committee approved a procedure requiring the Secretariat to develop a draft Framework Document from which the Strategic Plan would be developed and to conduct an analysis of alternative processes for its timely completion. After the vetting of both documents by the Standing Committee and the working group, the Secretariat was to report progress at the 41st meeting of the Standing Committee. The working group was delegated the responsibility of developing the procedure and was authorized to meet as needed to facilitate the development of the Strategic Plan.

As the Secretariat began to implement the request, it became apparent that it lacked sufficient guidance from the Standing Committee to develop a draft Framework Document, since this would involve the consideration of policies and priorities of the Parties that were clearly beyond the competence of the Secretariat. After consultation with members of the working group, it was decided that a meeting of the working group needed to be convened to consider the issues raised and to evaluate the proposed strategy. The working group met in Geneva, November 2-4, 1998 with representatives present from the Parties represented in the previous meeting of the working group.

In accordance with the mandate of the 40th meeting of the Standing Committee, the working group has developed a process and timeline that would enable a draft Strategic Plan to be presented at COP11 and that allows for adequate input and review by all Parties. To assist the Standing Committee, the working group also developed, with support from the Secretariat, a draft Framework Document that could be considered by the Parties through their regional representatives and discussed at the 41st meeting of the Standing Committee. This Framework Document could serve as the basis for development of the Strategic Plan.

The working group concluded that, given the remaining time available before COP11, the Strategic Plan could best be developed by a reconstituted and expanded working group with a mandate agreed to at the 41st meeting of the Standing Committee.

The working group proposes that the Strategic Plan focus on broad goals and objectives of the Convention and be supported by a more detailed Action Plan to be prepared by the Secretariat. Such an Action Plan would identify specific items of work and propose responsibility for their completion, e.g. Secretariat, permanent Committees of the Conference of the Parties (Standing, Plants, Animals), relevant NGOs, contracting Parties. The recommended process could allow for drafts of both the Strategic and Action Plan to be presented for consideration at COP11.

Furthermore, the working group agreed upon the importance of linking development and implementation of the Strategic Plan with the Secretariat's budget process to take into account the financial implications of implementation of the Strategic Plan. The working group has included consideration of this linkage in the proposed process and schedule, and has also taken into account a further revision of the Secretariat's work plan to reflect inputs from the Strategic Plan.

The working group requests that, before the 41st meeting of the Standing Committee, the regional representatives in the Committee consult with Parties in their regions on the draft Framework Document and present comments and suggested improvements to the document at the meeting. In particular, the working group requests specific guidance on how to proceed to achieve draft Goals numbers 5 and 6.

In order to complete the planning process, the working group recommends that the Standing Committee:

- 1) Expand and reconstitute the working group to include a representative from the Animals and Plants Committees and with a designated Chairman. While the working group shall be expanded, it is strongly recommended that the number of members be limited to no more than eight persons;
- 2) Review and adopt the recommended process and Framework Document;
- 3) Provide a mandate to the working group for completion of the draft Strategic Plan and to the Secretariat for completion of the draft Action Plan in accordance with the established schedule.