

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

Forty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Lisbon (Portugal), 28 September-1 October 1999

Finance and administration

PERMIT CONFIRMATION

1. At its 41st meeting (Geneva, February 1999), the Standing Committee discussed the work that is done by the Secretariat to confirm the validity and authenticity of permits and certificates (further referred to here as permit confirmation). The Committee took into account the costs and benefits of this work and the workload of the Secretariat.
2. Having considered possible future approaches to permit confirmation, the Committee expressed a general preference that routine requests to the Secretariat for such confirmation should cease. There was some concern about the short-term effects of taking this approach. However, the Committee agreed that only one post at the Secretariat should be involved with permit confirmation for the time being. It also agreed to reconsider this issue at its 42nd meeting.
3. On 12 March 1999, the Secretariat distributed Notification to the Parties No. 1999/27, which provided guidance for the submission of requests to the Secretariat for permit confirmation. The Notification also reviewed previous Notifications and other communications relating to permit confirmation.
4. To enable permit confirmation work, other than that of a routine nature, to be carried out, the Secretariat employed one support staff member to assume such duties on the basis of a short-term contract.
5. It has been noted that, by July 1999, requests for permit confirmation had reduced to approximately one third of the number for the same period in 1998. The Secretariat is now concentrating its efforts on assisting Parties to answer technical questions and to identify shipments taking place contrary to the provisions of the Convention.
6. No adverse comments relating to the practices introduced since the 41st meeting of the Standing Committee have been received by the Secretariat.
7. The Secretariat recommends that the current practice be continued and that the work, undertaken by a temporary staff member, be placed on a permanent basis and that the work of this person should include other duties relating to the Enforcement Assistance Unit. The position is described in greater detail in document Doc. 42.4.